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Manila Bay rehab, estero declogging continues — Cimatú

Published November 18, 2020, 6:11 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Amid the recent massive flooding in Metro Manila, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) assured that it has been continuously cleaning up the Manila Bay and its tributaries to help prevent flooding due to clogged waterways.



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatú (RTVM / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

“As the rehabilitation of Manila Bay pushes forward, we have not waned in our efforts to declog esteros in Metro Manila to ensure that these are free of waste materials that choke rivers and river systems,” DENR Secretary Roy Cimatú said in a statement on Wednesday.

“Declogging these waterways bring back their depth to prevent overflow that inundate nearby communities and lead to loss of lives and property,” he added.

As of Oct. 29, the DENR cleanup activities within the Manila Bay region have covered a total of 51.88 kilometers of primary esteros and removed 526,477.58 cubic meters of garbage and silt.

Before emptying into Manila Bay, these esteros drain into primary river systems, such as Pasig, San Juan, Las Piñas-Zapote, Taguig-Pateros, Parañaque, Marikina, and Navotas-Malabon.

The DENR conducts regular cleanup activities in creeks leading to these river systems, which include clearing, desilting, grubbing, removal and hauling of submerged garbage in esteros.

These activities have also lowered the fecal coliform level in the Manila Baywalk area from 62,700 most probable number per 100 millimeter (mpn/100ml) in January 2019 to 9,200 mpn/100ml in September 2020, according to the DENR.

Cimatú, who chairs the Manila Bay Inter-Agency Task Force, said the cooperation of all stakeholders was essential and critical in restoring the water quality of Manila Bay.

“The DENR has been working with local government units and has entered into partnerships with the private sector to sustain the efforts initiated by the task force,” he said.

According to the DENR chief, “garbage-free waterways will help mitigate flooding as typhoons intensify and increase in number every year because of climate change.”



In partnership with the Department of Public Works and Highways, 78.34 percent or 656,180.72 cubic meters out of the targeted 837,572.42 cubic meters of dredged materials have been removed from creeks and rivers.

Other solid waste management interventions to clean Manila Bay include the installation of trash traps or trash screens in esteros to prevent trash from further flowing downstream, and the distribution of rolling trash bins and tri-bike or “habal-habal” in barangays for proper waste collection.



Villar, Cimatu mamumuno sa Build Better Task Force

By [Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 19, 2020 - 12:00am



Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, sina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu at Department of Public Works and Highways Mark Villar na ang hahawak sa task force. Senate PRIB/Cesar Tomambo

MANILA, Philippines — Hindi na si Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea ang mamumuno sa binuong “Build Back Better Task Force” ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na tututok sa rehabilitasyon ng mga lugar na sinalanta ng mga nagdaang bagyo at baha.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, sina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu at Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Mark Villar na ang hahawak sa task force.

Sinabi ni Roque na ibinase ng Pangulo ang desisyon sa Science.

“Not only this is based on science, but it also makes sense because when we talk of rehabilitation, we talk basically of roads and bridges and buildings destroyed which is the turf of the DPWH and you also talk about the scientific reasons why we have typhoons of this nature which is climate change and that is the rationale for the DENR co-heading the task force,” ani Roque.

Ayon kay Roque, tama lamang na ang dalawang opisyal ang mamuno sa task force dahil ang kailangang ayusin ay ang mga nasirang mga kalsada at tulay na dulot ng mga malalakas na nagdaang bagyo at baha na isinisasi sa climate change.



Cimatu, Villar to head typhoon rehab task force



By Keith Calayag

November 18, 2020

The task force on typhoon rehabilitation will be jointly headed by Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu and Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar, Palace spokesman Harry Roque said on Wednesday.

Malacañang earlier named Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea as the head of the “Build Back Better” task force that will focus on post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery of typhoon-hit areas.

“Instead of the Executive Secretary heading the task force, it will now be jointly headed by the Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources, Secretary Cimatu, as well as DPWH Secretary Mark Villar,” Roque said in an interview with CNN Philippines on Wednesday.

He said Cimatu and Villar leading the task force “makes sense” because the panel will be in charge of rebuilding infrastructures and addressing climate change problems.

“Not only is this based on Science, but it also makes sense because when we talk of rehabilitation, we talk basically of roads and bridges and buildings destroyed by calamity which is the turf of the DPWH and you also talk about the scientific reasons why we have typhoons of this nature which is climate change and that is the rationale for the DENR co-heading the task force,” he said.

DPWH Sec. Villar at DENR Sec. Cimatu, itinalagang bagong pinuno ng Task Force na mangangasiwa sa rehabilitation efforts ng pamahalaan

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) -Nov. 18, 2020 at 10:49am



COURTESY Mark Villar Facebook page and The Bohol Chronicle

Hindi na si Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea ang mamumuno sa Task Force na pinalikha ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na syang tututok sa ikakasang rehabilitation efforts ng pamahalaan.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque, sina Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark Villar at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu na ang mangangasiwa sa naturang Task Force.

Ito ay ayon kay Roque, ang ilan sa mga binago sa Executive Order na lumilikha sa “Build Back Better Task Force.”

Ang pagbabago aniya ay ginawa base na rin sa Siyensya.

Paliwanag ni Roque, marapat lamang naman na pamunuan ng DPWH ang rehabilitation efforts dahil ang pinag-uusapan dito ay pagkukumpuni at paggawa ng mga tulay, lansangan at mga gusali na winasak ng bagyo.

Habang nasa DENR naman aniya ang bola kung scientific reason ang pag-uusapan lalo na sa isyu ng climate change.

Source: https://rmn.ph/dpwh-sec-villar-at-denr-sec-cimatu-itinalagang-bagong-pinuno-ng-task-force-na-mangangasiwa-sa-rehabilitation-efforts-ng-pamahalaan/?fbclid=IwAR1R0W_4EGvDpLU72DEw0-vA69ptDELtapGCI6dWHZL7z7Q7aE7RTW0pjyY



Villar, Cimatú mamumuno sa ‘Build Better Task Force’

By **Bombo Reymund Tinaza**

-November 18, 2020 | 3:32 PM

Hindi na si Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea ang mamumuno sa Task Force na pinalikha ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na siyang tututok sa ikakasang rehabilitation efforts ng pamahalaan.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque, sina Public Works and Highways Sec. Mark Villar at Environment Sec. Roy Cimatú na ang mangangasiwa sa task force.

Ayon kay Sec. Roque, ito ay ilan sa mga binago sa Executive Order na lumilikha sa “Build Back Better Task Force.”

Ang pagbabago ay ginawa umano batay na rin sa siyensya.



Task force for rehab to be headed by DENR, DPWH: Roque

By Azer Parrocha **November 18, 2020, 3:50 pm**



MANILA – The task force in charge of rehabilitating typhoon-hit areas will be headed by the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Malacañang said Wednesday.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said that DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu and DPWH Secretary Mark Villar will be heading the task force. He earlier said Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea will be task force chair.

“Nabago na po iyong Executive Order (The Executive Order changed). Actually, when I announced it, the Executive Order had not yet been signed. But it has since been modified and it is now jointly headed by the DENR Secretary, as well as the DPWH Secretary. So hindi na po head ng task force si Executive Secretary (So the Executive Secretary will no longer be head of the task force),” he said in an interview over CNN Philippines’ The Source.

He said the changes to the executive order, which is currently being drafted, was “based on science”.

“Of course, not only it is based in science but it is also to make sense because when we talk of rehabilitation, you talk basically of roads and bridges and buildings destroyed by a calamity which is the turf of the DPWH; and you also talk about the scientific reasons why we have typhoons of this nature which is climate change, and that is the rationale of the DENR co-heading the task force,” he added.

Roque, meanwhile, confirmed that Duterte has officially placed the entire Luzon under state of calamity.

In a taped speech aired Tuesday night, Duterte said he signed the declaration on Monday.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) earlier recommended to the President to place the entire Luzon under a state of calamity.

Under a state of calamity, rescue, relief, and rehabilitation efforts of the government and the private sector, including any international humanitarian assistance will be hastened.

“The local governments can now spend their calamity funds without restrictions ‘no. So importante po iyan dahil, otherwise, magkakaroon ng (So that’s important because, otherwise, there will be) red tape in the release of these calamity funds,” Roque said.

The declaration of a state of calamity also effectively controls the prices of basic goods and commodities in the affected areas.

“There’s an automatic price freeze upon a declaration of a state of calamity. So magkakaroon po tayo ng mga (So we will have) price control on basic goods and commodities, lalung-lalo na po sa pagkain at sa tubig (especially food and water),” he added.



Successive Typhoons Quinta and Ulysses and Super Typhoon Rolly caused billions worth of damages in agriculture and infrastructure.

The death toll due to Typhoon Ulysses, the most recent typhoon to hit the country, has reached nearly 70 and thousands have been displaced. **(PNA)**



DENR, DPWH to lead typhoon rehab efforts, OP to act as oversight -Palace

Published November 18, 2020 6:19pm

Updated November 18, 2020 7:51pm

By VIRGIL LOPEZ, GMA News

Malacañang on Wednesday said the Environment and Public Works departments will lead the government's rehabilitation program for areas hit by the recent typhoons.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources will be the chairperson of the Build Back Better Task Force with the Department of Public Works and Highways as co-chair, said presidential spokesperson Harry Roque.

"The administration is considering a science-based approach in our rehabilitation and recovery efforts," Roque said. "The leadership role was given to [the] DENR and DPWH in recognition of their respective mandates and core competence."

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, who was previously named chairperson, will have an oversight function. The task force also has to give regular reports to the Office of the President through Medialdea.

The task force also has to give a quarterly report to the Office of the President through Medialdea, and publish an annual report on its accomplishments, including projects and programs implemented and budget utilized.

The other members of the task force include the secretaries of national defense, human settlements, socioeconomic planning, transportation, interior and local government, energy, trade and industry, agriculture, budget, finance, education, health, social welfare and development, science and technology and labor and employment.

President Rodrigo Duterte last week moved for the creation of the [Build Back Better Task Force](#) to speed up the rehabilitation of typhoon-ravaged areas, especially in Luzon provinces.

Under Duterte's Executive Order 120 signed on Wednesday, the task force shall serve as the overall body to ensure whole-of-government implementation and monitoring of post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation efforts.



The inter-agency body must also strengthen the institutional knowledge and expertise of the local government units on disaster recovery and rehabilitation and build safer sites for housing as well as restore or expand economic activities in typhoon-hit areas.

The body must ensure availability and adequacy of key lifelines such as basic needs, medical services, electricity, water, telecommunications, and transportation that can be mobilized immediately after the typhoon.

Consultations with affected communities and non-government, youth and civic organizations in the crafting, implementation and evaluation of programs and projects will also be conducted.

Duterte directed the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine Coast Guard and other uniformed personnel to provide logistical and technical assistance in the rehabilitation and recovery efforts.

He also ordered the Department of Budget and Management to prioritize the funding requirements for the components of the Post-Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery Program for areas affected by typhoons Rolly and Ulysses and other future typhoons, which have been endorsed by the task force. —**AOL/NB, GMA News**



Palace issues EO on typhoon rehab, recovery efforts

By Azer Parrocha **November 18, 2020, 9:10 pm**



MANILA – Malacañang on Wednesday released Executive Order (EO) No. 120 creating a "Build Back Better Task Force" for post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery efforts in areas affected by successive typhoons.

Under EO 120, which President Rodrigo Duterte signed on Wednesday, the task force will expedite and lead the preparation, implementation, and monitoring of a post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery program for typhoon-affected areas.

It will also be in charge of ensuring availability and adequacy of key lifelines such as basic needs, medical services, electricity, water, telecommunication and transportation that can be mobilized immediately after the typhoon.

In signing the EO, Duterte recognized that the current and future Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation demands and the realities in the bureaucratic framework warrant a high-level institutional platform and a more permanent body that will allow the national government to work in a sustained and integrated manner, with a clear unity of command, during a typhoon's post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation phase.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu will be the chair of the task force while Public Works Secretary Mark Villar will be co-chair.

Members of the task force include the chairperson of National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and secretary of Defense; secretaries of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, National Economic and Development Authority, Transportation, Interior and Local Government, Energy, Trade and Industry, Agriculture, Budget and Management, Finance, Education, Health, Social Welfare and Development, Labor and Employment, and Science and Technology; and General Manager of the National Housing Authority.

Administrators of the Land Registration Authority; Local Water Utilities Administration; National Electrification Administration; National Irrigation Administration; Philippine Coconut Authority; and Chair of the Cooperative Development Authority will also be among the members.

The NDRRMC, with the Office of Civil Defense with its implementing arm, will continue to pursue its mandates in all thematic areas of the DRRM system for other natural and human-induced disasters.

The task force may designate heads to lead recovery and rehabilitation efforts of the national government in a specific typhoon-affected area or region, without prejudice to the President's prerogative to make such designations.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine Coast Guard, and other uniformed personnel are directed to provide logistical and technical assistance in the rehabilitation and recovery efforts.

The task force must submit to the President, through the Executive Secretary, a quarterly report on the implementation of the order and publish an annual report on its accomplishments, including projects and programs implemented and budget utilized.



All government agencies, including government -owned and -controlled corporations and government financial institutions as well as state universities and colleges are directed and LGUs are enjoined to provide necessary support and assistance to the task force.

Funding of the program will be sourced from existing appropriations of the member-agencies of the task force, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund and other funding sources. **(PNA)**



MUNGKAHI NI CIMATU: AGARANG DREDGING SA CAGAYAN RIVER AT PAGTATANIM NG TREE SEEDLINGS



November 19, 2020 @ 12:20 AM 6 hours ago

IMINUNGKAHI ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatú ang agarang dredging sa Cagayan River at pagtatanim ng 200 milyong tree seedlings sa mga mabababang agricultural area sa Cagayan matapos makaranas ang probinsya ng malalang pagbaha dahil na rin sa matinding pag-ulan dala ng bagyong Ulysses.

Ipinahayag ni Cimatú ang dalawang mungkahi na ito sa ginanap na cabinet meeting na pinangunahan mismo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte sa Tuguegarao City noong Nobyembre 15.

Ang pangulo at ang kanyang gabinete ay nagtungo sa capital city ng Cagayan upang personal na malaman ang kalalagayan at pinsalang dulot ng bagyo.

“These are the interventions, which we can already start. I think if we do these, we can already make a difference, Mr. President,” pahayag ni Cimatú kay Duterte sa ginanap na cabinet meeting.

Sinuportahan naman ng Punong Ehekutibo ang panukalang ito ni Cimatú at sinabi pa nito na, “Go for it and I will support you all the way.”

Sinabi ni Cimatú na ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) noon pa ay nagsasagawa na ng reforestation sa Cagayan sa pamamagitan ng Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP) na nakatuon sa upland areas.

Aniya, ang mabababang pang-agrikulturang lugar, kasama na ang privately-owned na mga lupa, ay nararapat nang maisama sa sakop na programa ng ENGP.

Iniuugnay ni Cimatú ang lakas at dalas ng bagyo at ang dala nitong hindi pangkaraniwang dami ng tubig-ulan sa climate change o ang pagbabago ng klima.

Sinabi pa ng DENR chief na inaprubahan na niya ang hiling ni Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba na magkaroon ng dredging sa 30 kilometro ng Cagayan River.

Ayon kay Cimatú, ang dredging ang magbibigay-solusyon sa problemang masikip na bahagi ng Cagayan River na tinatawag na Magapit Narrows.

Ang Narrows na ito ay bumabaybay sa mga bayan ng Alcala, Gattaran at Lallo.



Idiniin pa nito na ang 18 major rivers sa Quirino, Nueva Viscaya, Isabela at Cordillera Administrative Region ay dumadaloy sa Cagayan River, dahilan kung kaya ang probinsya ay prone sa malawakang pagbaha.

Ipinaliwanag pa ni Cimatú na ang “bottleneck sites” sa Magapit Narrows ay nagpapabagal din sa daloy ng tubig baha na tumungo sa Aparri Delta hanggang sa Babuyan Channel.

Aniya, mapagaganda ng dredging ang volume capacity ng Cagayan River nang walang gagastusin ang gobyerno dahil ang provincial government ay kasalukuyan nang humahanap ng kontraktor.

Papayagan ang contractor na maibenta ang kanyang na-dredge na minerals, kung saan ay kumikita rin ang gobyerno mula sa revenues nito, base na rin sa nakasaad sa DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2020-07 na may pamagat na “Rationalizing Dredging Activities in Heavily-Silted River Channels Pursuant to the DENR-DPWH-DILG-DOTR Joint Memorandum Circular No.1 Series of 2019.”

Binibigyang katwiran ng DAO ang dredging activities sa “heavily silted river channels” sa bansa upang makatulong na maibalik ang kanilang natural na kalagayan at daloy, at mabawasan ang pagbaha.

Dito ipinaaako sa kontraktor ang lahat ng gagastusin sa dredging operation, kapalit ang anomang mineral na kanilang makukuha, ngunit kinakailangan pa rin nilang bayaran ang mga national at local taxes sa gobyerno.



Illegal wildlife trade blamed for diseases brought by animals

November 18, 2020 | 7:57 pm



THE ENVIRONMENT department would continue efforts to stem the illegal wildlife trade to prevent the spread of microbial infections from animals to humans, an official said on Wednesday.

“To help prevent the infection of people by microbes from animals, we have been cracking down hard on illegal trafficking of wildlife,” Environment Undersecretary Jonas R. Leones told an online news briefing.

He also said the agency supports the World Health Organization (WHO) in trying to cut cases of antimicrobial resistance, which happens when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites resist drugs.

Man-made activities that destroy the environment increase contact between humans and animals and may result in more diseases caused by germs from animals, according to an Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Regional Trends report released this month.

“Environmental damage through deforestation, logging and mining increases our exposure to diseases by increasing human-to-animal contact,” it said.

Citing an earlier study by Stanford University, APEC said increased interactions between animals and humans due to deforestation could cause the spread of new diseases such as the coronavirus.

“The study finds that about 60% of infectious diseases have zoonotic origins, that is, they are caused by the crossover of pathogens from animals to humans,” according to the report.

“The frequency of such occurrences is likely to continue increasing as people destroy more habitats through unsustainable practices,” it added.

In July, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu cited the need for heavier penalties to curb the illegal wildlife trade. — **Angelica Y. Yang**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/illegal-wildlife-trade-blamed-for-diseases-brought-by-animals/>



MGB: Parts of Cagayan River less than two meters deep

Published November 18, 2020 11:33pm

Some parts of the Cagayan River which were previously five to six feet meters deep now have a depth of less than two meters, causing easy flooding, the initial study of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has shown.

According to Jun Veneracion's report on "24 Oras," the MGB recommended authorities to conduct dredging to solve the problem. However, it was unable to start dredging activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Yung original capacity niya to drain, maybe limited by less. Baka more than half na 'yung ano na limit ng capacity niya. Assuming na same volume of water ang dadaan at meron na siyang material, mag overflow na 'yan," MGB director Atty. Wilfredo Moncano said.

However, Moncano said that even dredging may not have stopped the flooding in the Cagayan province. He added that the heavy rains brought by the typhoons made the land saturated and unable to absorb water.

"Makita ka ng sponge. Pagka may tubig diyan itra-trapo mo 'yung sponge na 'yan na wala pang laman, ah, hindi pa siya kwan, ma-absorn niya 'yung kwan. Malinis 'yung tubig... ma-absorb 'yan," Moncano said.

"Pero kung pino na ng tubig 'yung sponge na 'yon. Kahit anong ano mo pa, pahid nung sponge na 'yon, andyan pa rin 'yung tubig," he added.

President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources the illegal mining and illegal logging in Cagayan following the widespread flooding in the province.

However, the MGB has said that there were no big mines in Cagayan Valley.

It said that the areas with mines are Davao de Oro, Agusan del Sur, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Baguio, Masbate, and the Zamboanga Peninsula.

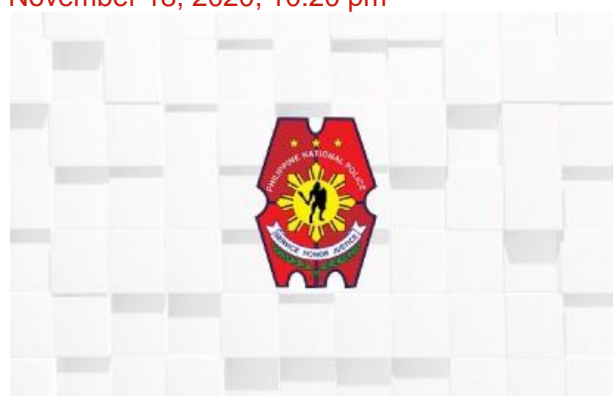
"Walang contribution ang mining diyan because una, ang malalaking minahan diya is not in Cagayan Valley but in Nueva Vizcaya," Moncano said. **-Joahna Lei Casilao/NB, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/764707/mgb-parts-of-cagayan-river-less-than-two-meters-deep/story/>



PNP orders crackdown on illegal mining, logging in Region 2

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan November 18, 2020, 10:20 pm



MANILA – Philippine National Police Chief, General Debold Sinas, on Wednesday ordered to intensify police operations against illegal mining and logging activities in Cagayan Valley after floods devastated the region due to the onslaught of recent typhoons

“*Sa kautusan ni Gen. Sinas to ensure yung mga ganyang violations of environmental laws mabigyan pansin. From the level of Chief of PNP, yung illegal logging part yan na discuss sa national headquarters (General Sinas ordered to look into illegal logging activities after a meeting at the PNP national headquarters),”* PNP spokesperson Brig. Gen Ildebrandi Usana told the Philippine News Agency in a phone interview.

He said the PNP will not hesitate to stop these activities if existing environmental laws are violated.

Usana said Police Regional Office (PRO) 2 Director, Brig. Gen. Crizaldo Nieves, has implemented measures by conducting an investigation in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

“We will be working with DENR as the premier enforcer *sa nangyayari sa bundok* (on activities in the forest) like illegal mining and logging. And this is implemented by police by conducting checkpoints,” he said.

DENR foresters, he said, monitor illegal logging activities.

Nieves said the PNP is serious in the anti-illegal logging campaign since February 2020 and has confiscated 177,000 board feet of illegal logs worth more than PHP5 million.

He added a total of 322 operations were conducted resulting in the arrest of 404 persons including three police officers and are now facing charges of violation of Presidential Decree No. 705 or the Anti-Illegal Logging Law.

“*Hindi lang illegal logging ang cause ng pagbaha , but maraming factors isa na dito mga* (Aside from illegal logging, there are other factors that cause floods like) tributaries leading to Cagayan River, long term rainfall that causes saturation of the soil, and not properly silted rivers. Illegal logging, since I assumed 4 months ago, is being addressed strictly with DENR. We created a task force composed of all law enforcement agencies,” Nieves said in a separate interview with reporters. **(PNA)**



Sinas orders crackdown on illegal mining, logging in Cagayan Valley after massive flooding

Published November 18, 2020, 8:30 PM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

General Debold Sinas, chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), has ordered a crackdown on illegal mining and logging activities in the Cagayan Valley following the widespread flooding in the region, especially in the provinces of Isabela and Cagayan.



PNP Chief Maj. Gen. Debold Sinas (MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

Sinas issued the order as local residents blamed mining and logging activities as one of the reasons behind the landslides and massive flooding that swept various areas in the region during the onslaught of Typhoon “Ulysses.”

PNP spokesman Brig. Gen. Ildebrandi Usana said Sinas has already directed Brig. Gen. Crizado Nieves, Cagayan Valley regional police director, to coordinate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“These are but some of the issues discussed at the National Headquarters. These environmental violations should be given focus,” said Usana.

“We will not hesitate to stop these activities if they violate existing environmental laws,” he added.

Scores of local residents died in Cagayan and Isabela due to the flooding and landslides while hundreds more were trapped in their homes at the height of the flooding.

Nieves, for his part, said they have been actively coordinating with the DENR even before to stop illegal logging activities in the region.

In fact, he said they were able to confiscate 177,000 board feet of illegally cut logs since February this year.

He added that three policemen were among the more than 400 illegal loggers who were arrested this year.

“Since I assume four months ago, it is being addressed strictly with DENR and we created a task force with all law enforcement agencies,” said Nieves.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/18/sinas-orders-crackdown-on-illegal-mining-logging-in-cagayan-valley-after-massive-flooding/>



Sa Cagayan at Isabela BLACK SAND MINING SINISI SA MASSIVE FLOODING

7 hours ago [jake](#)



ISINISI ng isang peasant group sa talamak na black sand mining na isa sa mga dahilan kaya dinanas ang “worst flood” sa Cagayan at Isabela sa pananalasa ng bagyong Ulysses.

Ayon sa grupong Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas(KMP) bukod sa black sand mining, talamak din ang illegal at legal logging sa lalawigan kaya hindi na nakapagtataka na ngayon ay nararanasan ang epekto nito.

Wala umanong dapat sisihin sa paglubog ng Cagayan at Isabela kundi ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na nagbibigay permit sa ganitong operasyon na may pag-apruba rin mula sa lokal na pamahalaan kapalit ng malaking kita.

Sinabi ni KMP President Danilo Ramos na matagal nang ipinanawagan ng mga mangingisda ang dredging sa Cagayan River subalit hindi ito binibigyang pansin at ngayong nagkaroon na ng pagbaha saka nakita ang kahalagahan nito at ipinag-utos ng DENR ang dredging sa may 30km ilog.

Hiniling ng grupo na kasabay ng gagawing dredging ay magkaroon ng batas para sa tuluyang pagbabawal ng black sand mining gayundin ang legal logging.

Ang black sand mining ay itinuturing na legal basta maisyuhan ng permit, wala pang batas na ipinagbabawal ito at tanging limitasyon nito sa Mining Act ay hindi dapat gawin ang dredging sa mga reservoir at protective areas subalit dahil sa epekto nito sa kalikasan ay naghigpit ang Mines and Geosciences Bureau sa pag-iisyu ng permit simula pa noong 2014 na nagresulta naman sa pag-usbong ng illegal black sand mining.

Inamin ni Ramos na bagamat naghigpit sa black sand mining ay marami pa rin silang nakikitang mga Chinese vessel na nagsasagawa nito at ikinukubli ang ilegal na operasyon sa dredging.

Ibinunyag pa nito na mismong mga kawani pa ng LGUs ang kanilang nakikitang nagbabantay sa mga Chinese vessel.

Sa mga nakalipas na taon ay nakapagsagawa ang Kamara at Senado ng imbestigasyon ukol sa black sand mining sa Cagayan subalit walang naparusahan dito, kaya naman apela ni Ramos sa liderato ni House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco na isama sa kanilang ginagawang House Inquiry sa dahilan ng massive flooding na nararanasan sa Bagyong Ulysses ang usapin ng illegal logging, Illegal mining at black sand mining.

Giit ng KMP, kung hindi isasama ang na mining at logging sa imbestigasyon ng Kamara ay mababalewala lamang at lalabas na moro-moro ang House Inquiry nito dahil hindi mareresolba ang ugat ng problema sa Cagayan.

“Comprehensive investigation ang dapat na gawin ng Kamara, dapat matapang nilang silipin ang mga nasa likod ng illegal logging at black sand mining na siyang talamak sa Cagayan, dahil ito ang siyang problema at dahilan ng paglubog ng lalawigan,” pagtatapos pa ni Ramos. (TJ DELOS REYES)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/sa-cagayan-at-isabela-black-sand-mining-sinisi-sa-massive-flooding/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR3ITkfIEkdSiNCwDH-zfHa_IzBWasFVPnPanQUYM_LfGjJK-AMqFD_5GUw



Albay governor denies quarrying spawned landslide, after Duterte orders probe

Jamaine Punzalan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 18 2020 05:36 PM



The governor of Albay denied Wednesday that quarrying caused the recent flooding in the province, which President Rodrigo Duterte ordered to be investigated.

"Hindi totoo iyan dumadaan muna iyan sa DENR para kumuha ng environmental certificate," said Albay Governor Al Francis Bichara.

(That is true because it passes environment department first so they)

It has been over a week since Duterte ordered a probe into the quarrying in [Guinobatan](#) town, after rains from super typhoon Rolly triggered landslides of volcanic ash from nearby Mt. Mayon, he noted.

"Nagpadala na sila ng investigative task force bakit hindi pa lumalabas iyong sa task force para iyon ang susundin namin. Eh matagal na iyon, more than one week na wala iyong investigation report," he said during a government public briefing.

(They have sent an investigative task force but why hasn't its finding been released so we could follow it? It has been more than one week, the investigation report is not yet here.)

Albay and Catanduanes bore the brunt of super typhoon Rolly in early November. Last week, typhoon Ulysses also hit Albay.

About 40 percent of the province has no power and some areas were still flooded as of Thursday, forcing residents to rely on water lorries and purifiers, said Bichara.

Video courtesy of PTV

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/11/18/20/albay-governor-denies-quarrying-spawned-landslide-after-duterte-orders-probe?fbclid=IwAR0yBbtRPgMhDLpEYNun15oNJUj_OPiL-X_xIA0yVeNIcU-NuW9LlwKJzTE



'Band-aid solution' ng Kamara sa baha inismol ng mga magbubukid MINING OPERATIONS IPASARA

16 hours ago jp admin



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 pagsisiyasat at hindi kasama ang illegal at legal logging 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 ay kumprehensibong investigation in aid of legislation ang dapat nitong 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 dam 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 malawakang pagbaha 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 siyang dapat 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 siyang dapat 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.

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

Duda naman si Act Teachers Party-list 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 siya 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 din ang may sala sa sinapit na pagbaha sa Cagayan dahil ang DENR na nasa ilalim ng ehekutibong sangay ang siya ding pumapayag na mag-operate ang mga mining at quarrying

activities na kalaunang nagresulta sa pagkakalbo ng kabundukan,” pagtatapos pa ni Castro.

Source: http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/band-aid-solution-ng-kamara-sa-baha-inismol-ng-mga-magbubukid-mining-operations-ipasara/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR1rrv7QYM2rYLoVCuW3-1iz0ot8SqPfrPKgHmEaxQ65xQIR9HFXm4nPInA



Yes, Mr. President, government has not done anything to stop illegal logging, mining

By [Rene E. Ofreneo](#)

November 18, 2020



Rene E. Ofreneo

LABOREM EXERCENS

IN a situation briefing on the large-scale flooding that hit Cagayan Valley and Isabela, President Duterte fumed: the government has not done anything to stop illegal logging and mining. He then ordered Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to investigate and stop the nefarious characters behind these criminal activities.

We agree with the President with his observation. We also hope General Cimatu, with his military background and discipline, can make a difference in the decades-long campaign of civil society organizations (CSOs), Church and concerned citizens to stop the mindless harvesting of our forests and extraction of our mineral resources not only by the small players but also, and more importantly, by the big corporations.

As a starter, Secretary Cimatu should inquire among his Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretaries and Regional Directors: what has happened to the “National Greening Program.” Under the Administration of President Benigno Aquino, the NGP was considered a “flagship” project. The DENR was allocated billions of pesos to implement the NGP in partnership with environmental groups across the country. The NGP target was ambitious: 1.5 billion trees to be planted on 1.5 million hectares in six years. Under the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 of the Duterte Administration, the NGP has been extended and “enhanced,” with an equally ambitious target area, 7.1 million hectares of deforested land to be “rehabilitated.”

What then is the scorecard on NGP? The targets of the original NGP program include the following: 12 percent increase in forest cover based on 2003 level, or 7.2 million hectares of reforestation, with 85 percent survival rate. Naturally, had the original NGP and the enhanced NGP programs been fully implemented, our forest lands would have larger holding capacity. There would be reduced downstream flooding and soil erosion that the country has witnessed with the arrival of Typhoon Ulysses.

Another area that Secretary Cimatu should investigate is the status of the different “Special Land Use Permits” that the DENR has been giving to projects of corporations and individuals that entail occupation and use of forest lands. Most of the wealthy applicants justify their projects by linking them to the government’s environmental programs, for example, establishing a mountain trekking project for the benefit of students and indigenous people who serve as guides. However, some of those given permits are reported to be using the privilege to occupy forest lands for highly questionable activities such as raising fighting cocks, establishing shooting ranges for gun lovers and so on.

The worst offenders are those who build permanent palatial homes in forest lands. There is even a report that one of the towns severely flooded in the boundary of Quezon and Camarines Norte was due to the road built by an influential family leading to their home right on top of the watershed area. Secretary Cimatu will do the nation a great service if he can publish who are the corporations and individuals given these special permits, what are the projects they have, the areas covered and what exactly is the status on the uses and possible mis-uses of forest lands by the lucky permit holders.



Another reality that Secretary Cimatú should reflect on: how to deal with the poor population living in forest lands. The truth is that almost all forest lands are populated. There are the indigenous peoples who have been fighting for the right to stay on what they consider as their ancestral lands. They have been the victims of land developers, dam builders, mining companies and other economic actors who have been driving them further and further from the lowlands.

There has also been a steady flow of migrant families, poor families who have difficulty surviving in the lowlands due to limited jobs available to the family breadwinners. Usually, these lowlanders build homes and farms without any legal titles or permits, only “posisyon’s” or occupation of small lots. Many of the migrant families are actually second and third generation families.

In recent years, the DENR, with the help of academic institutions such as the Visayas State University and CSOs like Haribon, have developed a win-win approach in dealing with the population living in the forest lands—“Transform the forest dwellers into forest keepers.” Give them financial assistance in keeping the forest. This is like the conditional cash transfer—except that cash for keeping the forest is real work.

This approach has been validated to be a good model in preserving, nurturing and yes, “growing” the forest. The problem happens when the DENR stops giving financial assistance, which means some of the forest keepers have no choice but to look for alternative sources of income.

This is why one of the tasks facing Secretary Cimatú is how to direct his Undersecretaries and Regional Directors to do wide consultations with all those living in the forests and come up with programs that are supportive of community development and sustainable forest management. The key is partnership building with the IPs, CSOs, Church and LGUs.

After all, rebuilding the nation’s forests is a task that should involve all citizens of this flood-prone country.



Quarry/mining operators panagutin sa ipininsala ng bagyong-baha!

Last Updated Nov 18, 2020



ARYA

Irwin Corpuz

Ito ang matinding hinanakit na halos ipagsigawan ng nawalan ng mga tahanan higit ang mga namatayan ng mga kapamilya sa biglaang pag-apaw ng tubig na may halong putik na idinulot ng bagyong ULYSSES nitong nagdaang linggo.

Ang matinding tubig-baha ay dinaig pa ang naging pagbaha sa bagyong ONDOY noong taong 2009 na mas maraming mga kabahayan partikular ang RELOCATION AREA sa MONTALBAN pababa sa SAN MATEO, RIZAL ang tuluyang nagpalubog sa maraming lugar sa Marikina City, mga katabing bayan at siyudad.

Ang bahang-tubig ay pangunahing nagmula sa WAWA DAM ng BRGY. SAN RAFAEL, MONTALBAN..., na bukod sa kalbo dahil halos wala nang mga puno ay sandamakmak pa ang mga QUARRY AREA at marami ring mga butas-butis na likha ng mga TREASURE HUNTING..., kaya, pag-apaw ng tubig ay kasama nang rumagasa sa agos ang mga nagsiguhong lupa.

Matinding pininsala ng rumagasang baha pababa mula sa mga kabundukan ay ang mga RELOCATION AREA ng mga mahihirap na pami-pamilya mula sa mga dinemolis sa lugar ng SAN JUAN CITY, QUEZON CITY at iba pang lugar..., na pawang mga pinangakuang mas gaganda ang kanilang kabuhayan dahil magkakaroon na sila ng sariling mga bahay. Marami sa mga ito ay nalubog din noong bagyong ONDOY at nitong ULYSSES naman ay tuluyang nagiba na ang pamamahay ng mga nakararaming RELOCATIONS na nabigo na naman sa inaasam na dapat ay magandang pamumuhay na ang kanilang kinalulugaran.

Bunsod nito ay marami sa mga naninirahan sa lugar ang nagngangalit sa kanilang kalooban dahil isinisasi sa mga QUARRY OPERATIONS ang masaklap nilang kinasapitan na halos buong kabuhayan nila ay natangay sa pagragasa ng tubig-baha.

Maging si MARIKINA CITY MAYOR MARCELINO "MARCY" TEODORO ay naghayag na ang pinsalang idinulot ng tubig-baha ay dahil sa walang habas na QUARRY OPERATIONS sa MONTALBAN, ANTIPOLO, SAN MATEO at iba pang bayan na aniya ay naipahinto ng DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) subalit muli na namang nakapagpatuloy ang operasyon ng mga TIBAGAN sa mga kabundukan ng RIZAL PROVINCE.

Maraming mga residente ang nagpupunto na ang mga pinsalang sinapit mula sa bagyong-baha ay kailangan umanong papanagutin ang lahat ng mga QUARRY OPERATORS at maging ang mga opisyal ng mga GOVERNMENT AGENCIES na responsable dapat sa pagprotekta ng kalikasan.

Gayunman, ipinunto naman ni dating SENATOR BONGBONG MARCOS na ang idinulot ng mga nakaraang delubyo dagdag na ang iba pang lugar tulad sa pagkalubog ng CAGAYAN, TUGUEGARAO at iba pang mga probinsiya ay kinakailangan aniyang ianalisa at mapag-aralan kung paano maresolba at makaagapay sa CLIMATE CHANGE.



Ang punto ni SEN. BONGBONG ay naihayag nito kahapon sa isinagawang BROADCASTER'S FORUM ONLINE VIA ZOOM na ang mediator ay ang batikang brodkaster at dating NATIONAL PRESS CLUB PRESIDENT ROLANDO "LAKAY" GONZALO; kung saan ay dapat umanong mapag-aralan ang lahat ng aspeto upang masolusyunan dahil sadyang nagbabago na ang sitwasyon ng panahon sa ating mundo.

KONSEHALA MASAMA ANG LOOB KAY SAN JUAN MAYOR ZAMORA!

Gustuhin mang makapag-ambag ng asiste sa mga nasalanta nitong nagdaang bagyong ULYSSES ay hindi lubusang naisagawa ni SAN JUAN CITY COUNCILOR JANA EJERCITO at sa halip ay naghinampo ito kay SAN JUAN CITY MAYOR FRANCIS ZAMORA dahil ito umano ang naging hadlang sa nais ng una na matulungan ang ilan nilang mga constituent.

Sa facebook account na ipinost ni COUN. JANA EJERCITO ay humihingi ito ng paumanhin sa mga taga-BATIS na nasalanta ng bagyong ULYSSES dahil hindi nito maipahatid ang kaniyang tulong.

Aniya, humiling siya sa pamunuan ng kanilang lungsod para mabigyan siya ng listahan ng mga evacuees gaya ng nakagawian na umano nila sa mga nakaraang administrasyon. Subalit, hindi umano siya binigyan ng listahan ng evacuees at sa halip ay kailangan daw dumaan sa MAYOR'S OFFICE na hindi rin daw pinagbigyan ang kaniyang request.

"NAKAKALUNGKOT na sa tagal ng aking panunungkulan ngayon lang ako nakaranas ng pagpigil sa pagtulong lalo na sa napakahirap ng panahon natin ngayon. SANA AY MAGING BUKAS ANG ISIP ng pamumunan ng ating bayan na hayaan ang pagtulong sa ating mga kababayang San Juaneño at huwag ipagkait ang kalayaang ito sa dahilang sila na lamang ang mabuting magpaliwanag. Samantalang sa ibang lungsod or municipality kapag ganitong may kalamidad ay bukas ang pagbigay ng listahan mapa sa public officials or private groups or individuals. Basta makakatulong sa kapwa," bahagi ng fb post ni COUN. JANA E.

PAGING MAYOR F. ZAMORA..., mas maganda kung lahat kayong mga CITY OFFICIALS ay nagkakatulungan sa pagbibigay asiste sa inyong mga constituent sa mga panahon ng kalamidad..., na isantabi muna ang partido politika para sa pagtulong sa inyong mga kalungsod..., pero siyempre, ang ARYA ay hindi po alam kung ano ang mga kadahilanan sa naging pagtanggap sa naging request sa inyong tanggapan ni COUN. JANA E..., kaya, ang ARYA ay bukas po ang espasyo sa inyong panig. Eto e kung hindi po kayo magtatampo sa pagkakakolum nito!

Kung may reaksiyon lalo na sa mga nakakanti ng ating kolum ay maaari po kayong mag-email sa corpuzirwin074@gmail.com o magtext sa 09085841303 para sa inyo pong mga panig.

Source: <https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/11/18/quarry-mining-operators-panagutin-sa-ipininsala-ng-bagyong-baha/?fbclid=IwAR2oUnVzpZi6GZA6Z1qHz70tmTAe3fRsFnbogIHkhLz2IsBAUox5xz1cyzk>



Lawmaker seeks stop to Kaliwa dam project, big mining



By Divina Nova Joy Dela Cruz

November 18, 2020

Bayan Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat on Wednesday sought to stop the proposed construction of Kaliwa Dam as well as large-scale mining operations, saying these will bring more calamities.

after 3 successive typhoons triggered massive flooding, landslides, fatalities and losses on livelihood and agriculture in various part of the country.

“Ang trahedya na 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 (The causes of these tragedies of massive flooding and landslides are the projects that are destructive to nature, such as large-scale mining that denude mountains and forests, and the gigantic dams that released large amounts of water),” she said. The lawmaker pointed out that the P18.7-billion Kaliwa Dam project would only cause more destruction.

“Hindi kaunlaran, kundi panganib ang idudulot nito sa taumbayan. Tumatambad na lamang sa atin ang mga delubyong dulot ng mga mapaminsalang proyektong ito pag tumama na sa atin ang kalamidad. Hindi solusyon ang mega dam, tulad ng Kaliwa Dam sa kahirapan ng pagkukunan ng tubig (This would bring danger, not progress. Mega dams such as the Kaliwa dam is not a solution to the scarcity of water),” she said.

Cullamat, a Lumad leader, also cited the impact of the project on indigenous peoples such as Dumagats in General Nakar, Quezon and Infanta, Quezon and Teresa and Tanay, Rizal.

“Sa simula pa lamang ng proyekto ay kahirapan na ang dulot nito sa mga katutubo. Ang pagpigil ng pagdaloy ng tubig sa ilog ay makakadulot lamang ng pagkawala ng kabuhayan ng mga Dumagat. Ang pagkamkam ng kabundukan ay magsisilbi lamang sa interes ng mga dayuhan, at malalaking kumpanya (Even at the onset of the project, it has caused suffering to the indigenous peoples. Restraining the flow of the river would only cause the loss of livelihood to the Dumagat. Usurping the mountains would only serve the interest of foreign entities and large companies),” she said.

The lawmaker urged the government to reallocate the funding for the dam for the immediate aid and rehabilitation of affected communities.

The Department of Agriculture said on Wednesday that Typhoon Ulysses caused at least P3.8 billion in agricultural damage.



Solon: Kaliwa Dam may bring harm instead of progress

posted November 18, 2020 at 12:53 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

BAYAN Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat on Wednesday pushed to stop the construction of the Kaliwa Dam and all large-scale destructive mining operations in the wake of the onslaught of typhoons in the country.

"Sa loob ng dalawang buwan, nanalasa sa ating bansa ang tatlong bagyo na nag-iwan ng mga malalaking pinsala sa iba't ibang bahagi ng kapuluan ng ating bansa na nagdulot ng matinding pagbaha, landslide, pagkuha ng buhay ng ating pamilya, pagkawasak sa agrikultura at mga kabahayan at iba pang mga pinsala nito," the Lumad solon lamented in a Facebook post.

"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," she said.

Cullamat said the Kaliwa Dam project and other large-scale destructive mining operations should be stopped as they might bring harm instead of progress.

"Kaya dapat nang ihinto ang mga mapanirang proyektong ito. Hindi kaunlaran, kundi panganib ang idudulot nito sa taumbayan. Tumatambad na lamang sa atin ang mga delubiyong dulot ng mga mapaminsalang proyektong ito pag tumama na sa atin ang kalamidad. Hindi solusyon ang mega dam, tulad ng Kaliwa Dam sa kahirapan ng pagkukunan ng tubig," said Cullamat.

She stressed that the Lumad would be gravely affected by the projects.

"Sa simula pa lamang ng proyekto ay kahirapan na ang dulot nito sa mga katutubo. Ang pagpigil ng pagdaloy ng tubig sa ilog ay makakadulot lamang ng pagkawala ng kabuhayan ng mga Dumagat. Ang pagkamkam ng kabundukan ay magsisilbi lamang sa interes ng mga dayuhan, at malalaking kumpanya," the solon added. Cullamat called to prioritize people's welfare amid the pandemic and disaster. She asserted the continuing need for immediate relief and reconstruction of destroyed houses of thousands of families.

"Bilang isang Lumad at dumedepensa ng kalikasan, muli akong nananawagan sa taong bayan na magkaisa sa pagpapatigil ng mga nakakasirang proyekto. Bagkus, itong bilyon-bilyong pondo sa mga nakakasirang proyekto ay dapat ilaan na lang sa mas nangangailangan ngayon ng tulong na mga biktima ng nasalanta ng bagyong Quinta, Rolly at Ulysses," said Cullamat.

Typhoon Ulysses has so far left over P2 billion in agricultural damage, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said.

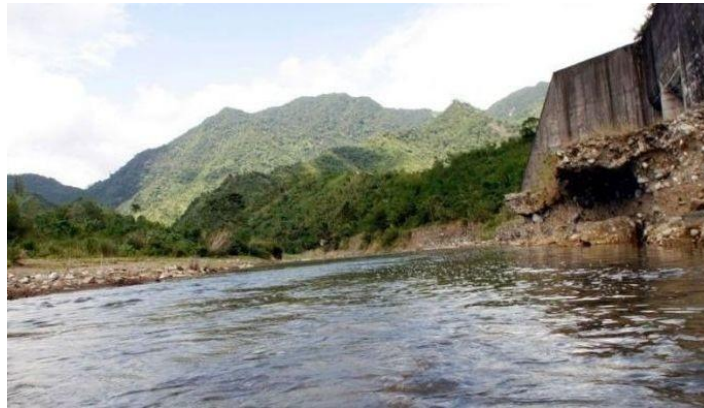
The damage to crops and other agricultural products, which had been estimated to be P2.14 billion so far, was inflicted on the regions of Ilocos, Cagayan, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Bicol and Cordillera.



Kaliwa Dam magdudulot ng pinsala kaysa biyaya – solon

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

- November 19, 2020 - 12:00am



Ito ang binigyang diin kahapon ni Bayan Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat kaya ipinanawagan niya na itigil na ng pamahalaan ang konstruksyon ng natu-rang dam at maging ang lahat ng mga large-scale na mapaminsalang mining operations sa gitna na rin ng pananalasa ng malalakas na bagyo sa bansa.
dof.gov.ph

MANILA, Philippines — Sa halip umanong biyaya o kaunlaran ay pinsala lamang ang idudulot ng konstruksiyon ng Kaliwa Dam.

Ito ang binigyang diin kahapon ni Bayan Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat kaya ipinanawagan niya na itigil na ng pamahalaan ang konstruksyon ng natu-rang dam at maging ang lahat ng mga large-scale na mapaminsalang mining operations sa gitna na rin ng pananalasa ng malalakas na bagyo sa bansa.

“Sa loob ng dalawang buwan, nanalasa sa ating bansa ang tatlong bagyo na nag-iwan ng mga malala-king pinsala sa iba’t ibang bahagi ng bansa na nagdulot ng matinding pagbaha, landslide, pagkawasak ng agrikultura, imprastruktura, kabahayan habang marami rin ang nasawi,” sabi ni Cullamat.

Ayon sa solon, sa kabila ng trahedyang idinulot ng mapaminsalang mga aktibidades ay nagpapatuloy pa rin ang mga proyektong sumisira ng kalikasan partikular na ang pagmimina na nagkagalbo sa mga kabundukan at kagubatan.

Idinagdag pa dito ang mga dambuhalang dam na nagpapakawala ng napakaraming tubig na naglulubog sa maraming bayan,” pahayag ng Lumad solon.

“Kaya dapat nang ihinto ang mga mapanirang proyektong ito. Hindi kaunlaran, kundi panganib ang idudulot nito sa taumbayan,” ani Cullamat.

Ipinunto ni Cullamat na hindi solusyon ang mega dam tulad ng Kaliwa dam sa kahirapan ng pagkukunan ng tubig kung saan ay labis na maapektuhan ang mga Lumad sa nasabing proyekto.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/11/19/2057916/kaliwa-dam-magdudulot-ng-pinsala-kaysa-biyaya-solon/amp/>



Go: Centralize dam control

Published 6 hours ago on November 19, 2020 12:40 AM

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



President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday signed a declaration of a state of calamity for the entire island of Luzon following a series of typhoons which triggered massive flooding.

Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, meanwhile, said the national government should remain in charge of the management of dams, especially during typhoons, in coordination with the local government units (LGU) to avert future flooding and calamities.

“It should be the national government managing the dams,” Go said as he declared his support to Duterte’s signing of the state of calamity for the entire major island.

Duterte’s declaration was expected after three typhoons — “Quinta,” “Rolly” and “Ulysses” — triggered calamities in the provinces they hit in the last three weeks.

While Cagayan and Isabela were not in the path of “Ulysses,” continues rains in the nearby provinces caused the Magat Dam to spill, prompting the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) which manages the dam to release excess water that contributed to the flooding in the two provinces.

The NIA said proper protocols were followed in the opening of seven gates of the Magat Dam.

The PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration) — the national meteorological and hydrological services agency — said 15 percent of the water which inundated the two provinces were from the Magat Dam. The rest was caused by rain.

“There’s no time for blame games,” Go said. “It should be coordinated the next time we release water from dams.”

Meanwhile, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Public Works Secretary Mark Villar will jointly spearhead the government’s newly-created task force for post-typhoon rehabilitation efforts. Malacañang earlier announced that the task force would be led by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said the two officials will co-chair the “Build Back Better Task Force,” the special body that still needs the issuance of an executive order from the Office of the President.

Roque explained that the changes are necessary since the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is responsible for research and initiatives to mitigate the impact of climate change, while the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is mandated to rebuild infrastructure damaged by recent typhoons.



“Not only is this based on science, but it also makes sense because when you talk of rehabilitation, you talk basically of roads and bridges, and buildings destroyed by calamity, which is the turf of the DPWH,” Roque said in an interview with CNN Philippines.

“You also talk about the scientific reasons why we have typhoons of this nature, which is climate change, and that is the rationale for the DENR co-heading the task force,” he added.

Earlier this week, President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the creation of an inter-agency task force that will streamline rehabilitation efforts and fast-track assistance in typhoon-ravaged areas.

The formation of the task force was met with criticisms and doubts, since the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council already exists.

Roque, however, justified the formation of the new task force, saying this will “stress that someone has to be in charge” of disaster preparedness and recovery efforts in calamity-stricken areas.

The official also appealed to the public to give the upcoming task force a chance to prove itself.

If the Palace pushes through with the creation of the special body, it will be Duterte’s sixth task force this year.

The “Build Back Better Task Force” will follow the task forces on campaign against zero hunger, animal-borne diseases, the coronavirus pandemic, irregularities in PhilHealth, and recently, corruption in all government agencies.

with MJ Blancaflor



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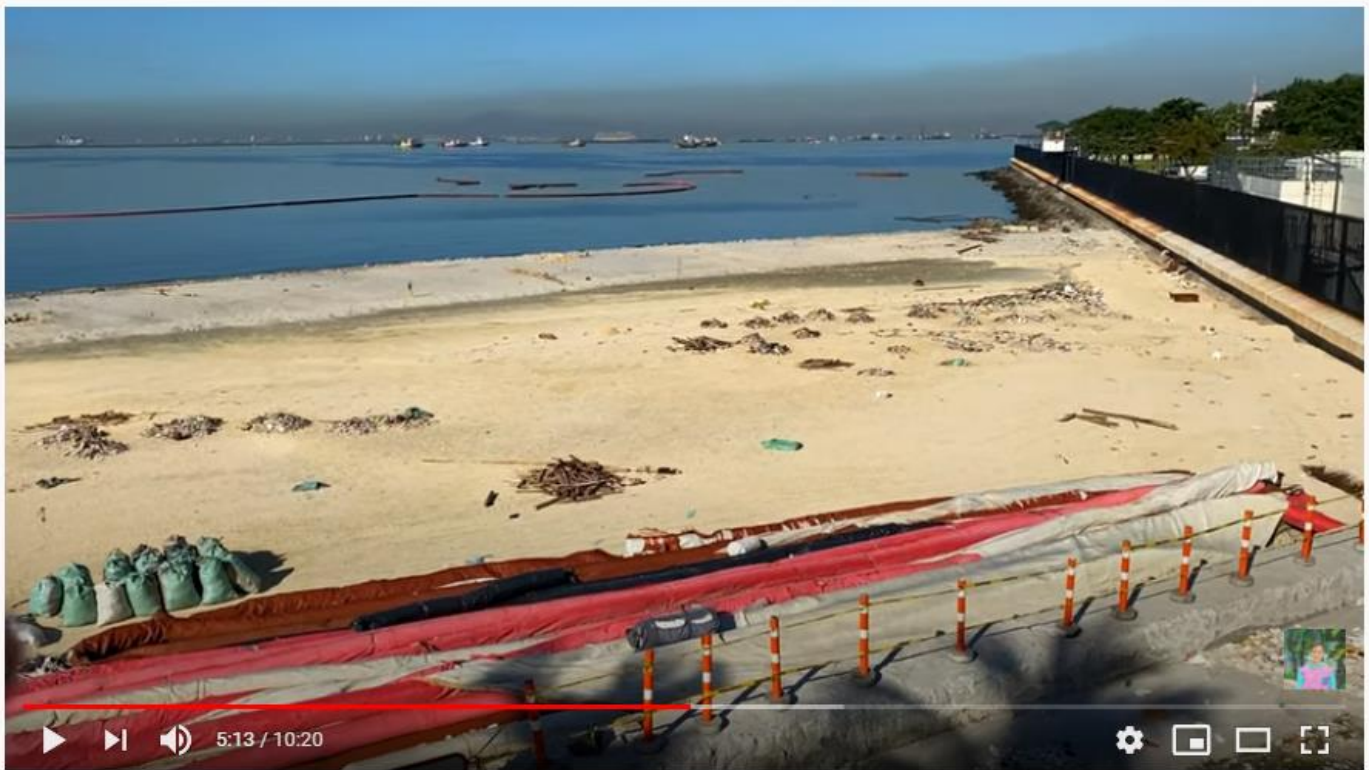
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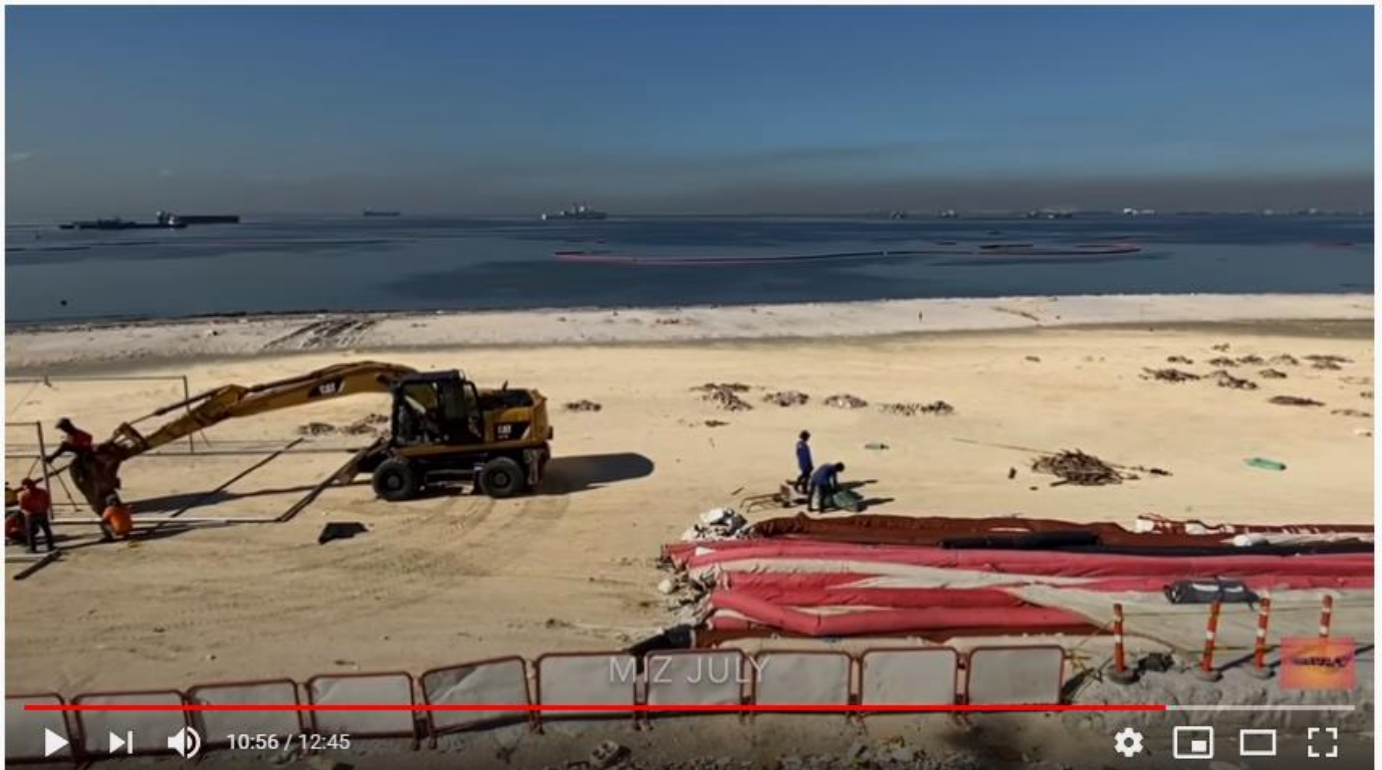


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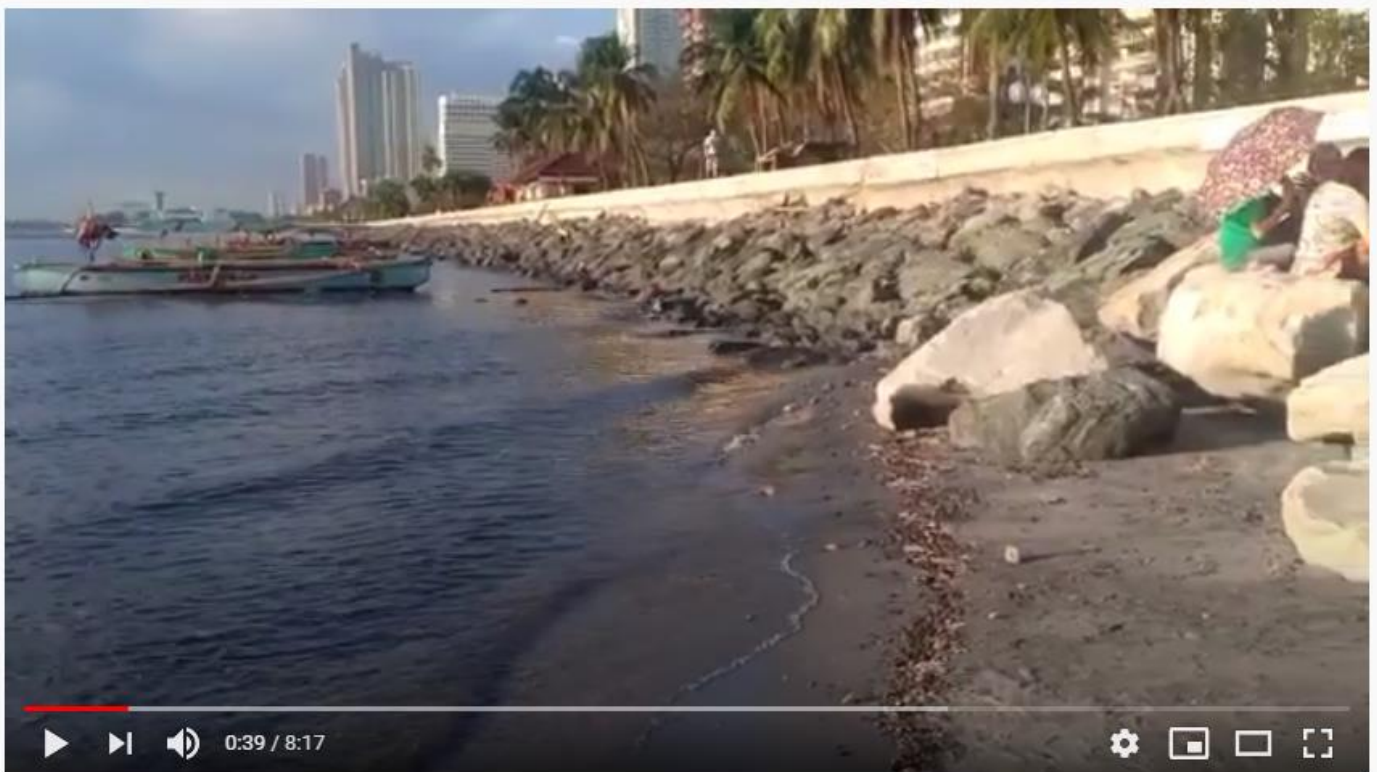
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Save Manila Bay award

posted November 18, 2020 at 10:38 pm



Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) President Robert Lim Joseph (right) receives from RCM Immediate Past President Jackie Rodriguez the RCM Award for his successful 'Save Manila Bay' program during his stint as Commodore of the Manila Yacht Club. The event was held Wednesday during the RCM Handover, Induction and Awarding ceremonies at the Heritage Hotel.

PRRD to push for climate justice at the APEC Summit

November 18, 2020



Photo courtesy of King Rodriguez/Presidential photo

President Rodrigo R. Duterte is expected to discuss the issue of climate change at the 2020 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit.

According to Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, the President firmly believes in the need to achieve climate justice.

“Ang pangyayari nga po rito sa ating bayan ay nagpapakita na kinakailangan po natin ng climate justice na tinatawag. It remains a top priority of the President dahil alam po natin na may mga pag-aaral na nagsasabi na top five countries of the world po na ang Pilipinas ay amongst the top five most susceptible to climate change (The occurrences here in our country show our need for climate justice. It remains a top priority of the President because we know that there are studies that say the Philippines is amongst the top five most susceptible to climate change) .”

The APEC Summit hosted by Malaysia will be conducted via video conferencing on Friday, November 20 and will be attended by more than 20 world leaders. – *Report from Mela Lesmoras*



Climate change, not dam protocol, caused flooding: Bulacan gov

By Manny Balbin November 18, 2020, 6:56 pm



BOCAUE, Bulacan – Governor Daniel Fernando said on Wednesday the vast flooding experienced by some provinces, including Bulacan, after the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses can be rooted in climate change and not in the water management protocol of the dams.

Fernando said the changing climate caused by human activities and disregard for the environment is the real cause of the widespread flooding.

“The release of water from the dams was not the only reason for floods. If the dam water management protocol is not implemented, more lives will be at risk,” the governor said.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) said releasing water from the dams is for the safety of the people.

The governor expressed the belief that it is high time to have a thorough discussion of local climate change mitigation and adaptation.

“While there is still time, I call on everyone, let us act to protect our natural resources - the land, the mountains, and the waters. The government must take the lead in coordinating policies and measures to maintain the cleanliness of the environment, reduce reckless dispersal, combat pollution, and be adequately prepared for the problems of climate change such as sudden storms, heavy rains, and floods,” Fernando said in Filipino during an interview.

He also called on his fellow public servants to take action and stop finger-pointing as to the cause of disasters because ensuring that citizens’ welfare should be the most important part of government service.

As of 6 p.m. Tuesday, there were 54 barangays in Bulacan that are still flooded. **(PNA)**



Salceda calls for declaration of climate and disaster emergency

posted November 18, 2020 at 02:55 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

The government should heed the mounting call for a national declaration of climate and disaster emergency in the country, a lawmaker said Wednesday.

This is in the light of the massive destruction and misery left by the devastating winds and floods of Typhoons "Rolly" and "Ulysses" which struck the country successively.

Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, said such call has assumed the urgency of "championing climate justice for the poorest of the poor who bear the brunt of the damage brought by these catastrophes" amid the continuing misery of many communities that have overstretched the response capacity of government.

He said these disasters have further aggravated the situation under the obtaining COVID-19 pandemic, which has paralyzed the economy for almost a year now and rendered a great number of people jobless or without a source of income.

Salceda said scientists and environmentalists, as well as world leaders and policymakers have already warned about the spectre of climate-related disasters and emergencies, "and the recent calamities that struck the country, most certainly, will not be the last."

Rolly and Ulysses struck Luzon just one week apart and left 119 casualties as of recent count, and billions of pesos worth of damages in agriculture, industries and personal properties.

Many people in Cagayan Valley continue to suffer in floodwaters to date, Salceda noted.

As the United Nations Senior Global Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Change Adaptation, Salceda has already issued the same call in November last year, embodied in House Resolution 535, asking Congress to declare 2020 as Disaster and Climate Emergency Awareness Year.

The resolution, approved and endorsed by the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction, urged "continuous public caution on dangers brought about by increasing deadly weather events spawned by climate change before, during and after they strike."

The declaration aims to highlight the role of local government units in leading transformation and adaptation to climate change and disaster resilience initiatives, along with business communities, individuals and other stakeholders, and employ "a whole-of-government and whole-of-nation policy response to anticipate, halt, reduce, reverse, address and adapt to its impacts, consequences and causes."

Under HR 535, Salceda also urged fellow legislators to conduct continuous inquiries in aid of legislation and in relation to its oversight functions, on measures being implemented by all concerned national agencies and local government units to address the impacts of disasters and climate change on the fundamental rights of Filipinos.

The lawmaker said the declaration aims to ensure the full integration and convergence of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts through the passage of the Department of Disaster Resilience bill, now pending in the Senate, as an urgent policy response.

Salceda also said a declaration should enjoin a whole-of-government, whole-of-nation and whole-of-society mobilization on disaster and climate emergency, on behalf of climate-vulnerable communities, LGUs and other stakeholders in the country.

He said the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in its 2016 Paris Agreement, had recognized that climate change adaptation, designed to ensure global responsiveness and societal resilience for a sustainable future, is a global challenge.



“These require urgent policy responses, particularly to assess whether the institutional mechanisms, national government agencies and local government units created by Congress are up to the task of addressing climate and disaster impacts, and whether our national and local budget allocations and expenditures are climate and disaster responsive,” he added.

The Philippines has already suffered tremendous losses, damages and disruptions due to strong typhoons. Aside from Ulysses, Rolly and Quinta this year, there were Typhoons Reming in 2006 -- the devastation of which was compounded by mudslides and rockslides in Albay due to previous eruptions of Mayon Volcano -- Ondoy and Pepeng in 2009, which devastated Metro Manila, and key regions of Luzon.

He also cited Super Typhoon Yolanda in 2013 which left over 6,000 casualties, and affected about 16 million Filipinos; Pablo and Sendong, which ravaged Mindanao, previously regarded as typhoon-free; and the El Niño phenomenon in 2015-2016 which devastated Mindanao, with billions of pesos damage to agriculture, forest fires, and even triggered the Kidapawan massacre.

Salceda noted the mass casualties inflicted by Typhoons Urduja, Vinta, Rosita, Ompong, Usman, and the Naga landslides in Cebu which all happened between December 2017 and December 2018.

He pointed out that despite the efforts by various national agencies tasked to confront disasters, even up to now, the country is still grappling with institutional issues on climate and disaster



Greenpeace: Addressing climate crisis needs strategy beyond disaster response

Published November 18, 2020 4:39pm

Environmental organization Greenpeace Philippines on Wednesday said addressing the climate crisis requires a "coherent strategy" that does not only focus on disaster response.

Calling on President Rodrigo Duterte to declare a climate emergency, Greenpeace said climate interventions must be mainstreamed in all government policies, plans, and projects, such as city planning, infrastructure, large-scale industrial activities, and fisheries and agriculture.

On top of this, the group suggested a strengthened implementation of environmental policies, saying a healthy environment helps mitigate climate impacts on communities.

"What the country needs is a coherent strategy to address the climate crisis. It should be rooted in policies that protect people and climate on the basis of climate justice," Greenpeace said.

"A Climate Emergency Declaration places addressing the climate crisis as the foremost national priority and puts a climate lens on all policy and decision making and implementation," it added.

The group made the call after a series of typhoons battered several parts of Luzon, causing widespread floods and displacing thousands of Filipinos, driving them towards packed evacuation centers amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Duterte, for his part, has called on Southeast Asian countries to [demand developed nations to take the lead in drastically cutting down their carbon emissions](#).

With Duterte announcing the creation of a task force to "streamline" disaster response, and with bills for the establishment of a Department of Disaster Resilience, Greenpeace said disaster preparedness is "vital" but that broader issues have to be addressed.

The group said flooding, deaths, and the loss of jobs have been caused by several factors beyond climate change.



"Denuded watersheds, heavily silted rivers, and decades of short-sighted planning and governance amplify the effects of more intense and more frequent extreme weather brought on by the climate crisis," the group said.

A climate emergency declaration, it said, will cover calling on industrialized nations to enhance their emission reduction targets to meet the Paris Agreement, an accord in which world leaders committed to cut greenhouse gas emissions to limit the rise in global temperatures to below two degrees Celsius.

In addition, declaring a climate emergency will also call for the establishment of a "whole-of-government" and "whole-of-society" approach to strengthen climate response, Greenpeace said.

This will include adopting policies and enacting laws to protect climate, direct public and private entities to align their practices with the Paris Agreement, and holding fossil fuels accountable, and ensuring the Philippines' transition to using renewable energy, it added.

"Climate change is part of our new normal. It is already affecting our lives—stripping the poor of livelihood and safe living conditions. Without long-term solutions, it will continue to haunt us, especially the most vulnerable sectors," Greenpeace Philippines campaigner Virginia Benosa-Llorin said. — **Nicole-Anne C. Lagrimas/RSJ, GMA News**



Climate change worse than COVID-19

[FROM THE STANDS](#) - [Domini M. Torrevillas](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 19, 2020 - 12:00am

The continuing surge of COVID-19 cases is alarming. Latest world figures from Worldometer show 55,928,371 coronavirus cases; 1,342,840 have died; 38,929,811 have recovered and 15,655,719 people are currently infected. In the United States, by far there have been 11,693,789 cases, 7,077,846 have recovered, but 254,251 have died. In the Philippines, there have been 410,718 cases; 374,543 have recovered and 7,862 have died.

But climate change is a bigger threat than COVID-19.

This we learned after reading the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies (IFRC) report that global warming “poses a greater threat than COVID-19.”

The alarming figures, the tumbling down of economies and livelihoods, the grieving of people over the loss of loved ones, the fear and anxiety about being infected and the uncertainty over the discovery of the vaccine to prevent infection by the coronavirus seem to be playing second fiddle to a greater calamity – climate change.

“Even as the pandemic rages, climate change is not taking a break from wreaking havoc,” says the IFRC report. It says that on global catastrophes since the 1960s, the world has been hit by more than 100 disasters, many of which are climate-related.

More than 50 million people have been affected by the pandemic, and claimed more than one million lives, says IFRC Secretary General Jagan Chapagain in the report.

But, Chapagain says, IFRC expects “climate change will have a more significant medium- and long-term impact on the human life and on earth.”

While it looks increasingly likely that one or several vaccines would soon become available against COVID-19, Chapagain stresses that “unfortunately there is no vaccine for climate change.” When it comes to global warming, “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 have already increased considerably in recent decades, the IFRC says. In 2019 alone, the world was hit by 308 natural disasters, 77 percent of which were 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, says the IFRC report. Disasters of this kind have killed more than 410,000 people over the past decade, most of them in poorer countries, with heat waves and storms proving the most deadly.

* * *

In a separate report, the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) said that the potential future effects of global climate change include more frequent wildfires, longer period of drought in some regions and an increase in the number of such incidents.

The Philippines, according to Worldometer, ranks No. 2 among countries most affected by climate change, with Japan as No. 1, Germany and Madagascar as No. 3 and 4.

NASA’s report cites the impact of climate change as due to ongoing effects including rising sea levels due to thermal expansion and melting of glaciers and ice sheets and warming of the ocean surface, leading to increased temperature stratification. Other possible effects include large-scale changes in ocean circulation.



* * *

The late senator Heherson Alvarez, who had convinced president Corazon Aquino to declare April 22, 1990 as Earth Day (this was followed by president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with another declaration), said that 194 countries had begun celebrating Earth Day to save Mother Earth from the ultimate disaster – climate change – unless mankind can rescue and finally remove carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) from the atmosphere.

The former secretary of energy and of the Climate Change Commission said the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) pointed out a concentration of 3,100 billion metric tons of GHGs in the atmosphere that brought about the overheating of the whole earth to an average 1.3 degree Celsius higher than before the Industrial Revolution. This overheating is melting the polar caps, the ancient glaciers of the Himalayas, causing the rising of the oceans and the severe and more frequent typhoons and storms, and great droughts.

“The global environment that we sought to enhance has deteriorated – much to the anguish of leaders – causing the suffering of populations across the world. Increasing carbon emissions, the result of uncontrolled use of coal and hydrocarbons, are creating climate impacts that are catastrophic.

“Prolonged drought and extreme temperatures are taking terrible tolls on food crops. In sections of Syria, Turkey, Iraq and Iran, severe drought has led to enormous crop failures and the loss of livestock. We have suffered intermittent droughts in Mindanao and the Cagayan Valley.

“Deforestation, removal of vegetation and exploitative agriculture had degraded lands, turning these into deserts. In China, the deserts have expanded by 21,000 square miles since 1975, crowding out cropland and producing devastating sandstorms. In our own country, this has led to typhoons and tropical storms that are becoming more intense, with higher loss to lives and properties.”

“Let us recognize that climate change is a threat multiplier,” Alvarez said on Earth Day 2017 – three years ago, though the warning continues to this day, after he passed on early this year. Climate change, he said, is “undermining the economic and political stability of nations. And ecological disasters are wreaking turmoil in many societies to the point where huge numbers of people are being displaced, becoming ‘environmental migrants’ or ‘climate refugees’.”

Alvarez called for people to keep their communities clean, to stop the pollution of our rivers and lakes, to grow trees or mangroves along our coastal areas and to teach our children to love and protect our environment.

“Unless we reduce CO₂, the overheating of the earth will continue and if it reaches 2 degrees, mankind cannot stop this heating anymore. It could mean the gradual destruction of our life-support system and eventually, the human civilization.”

* * *

Email: dominitorrevillas@gmail.com

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/11/19/2057871/climate-change-worse-covid-19>



Loopholes

[FIRST PERSON](#) - [Alex Magno](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 19, 2020 - 12:00am

The irony of it all is that we are now commemorating the 13th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week. The irresistible forces of nature have again wreaked havoc on our lives.

We have not only allowed our environment to degrade. We have also been importing “garbage technology” banned elsewhere to pollute our air and abet global warming.

Before the Duterte administration took office, for instance, five induction furnace (IF) steel plants were in operation here. Today, there are 13 such plants.

The loophole that allowed importation of obsolete steelmaking technology that produces inferior products for domestic consumption is so large a train could go through it. Yet these loopholes have been allowed to remain wide open.

IF steel plants caught the attention of China’s leaders when they had to shut them down to clear the air ahead of the Beijing Olympics. Finally, by 2017, these dirty and inefficient plants were banned in China. A total of 140 million metric tons of annual production capacity was mothballed because of this ban.

The dirty technology did not remain idle for too long. The banned steel plants were scuttled and transferred to Southeast Asia, in countries where lax regulations and weak enforcement allowed them to be used. 13 of them are now here and more will be imported if the loophole is not closed. They are a threat to our steel industry and a hazard for Filipino consumers.

A few months ago, news broke of the mistreatment of workers in a San Simon, Pampanga steel plant. That involved an IF plant run by engineers from China who treated their workers like slaves. Philippine authorities raided the plant but only to rescue the workers, not to inquire about the plant’s conformity with environmental regulations.

The Philippine Iron and Steel Institute (PISI) wrote the DENR to ask for the amendment of a provision in the 2014 Environmental Management Bureau circular that created a loophole for these banned plants to operate here. The circular ceded to local governments the power to grant permits to steel plants with an annual capacity of 30,000 metric tons or less.

By ceding that power to local governments, the DENR basically exempted these plants from strict environmental compliance verification. The local governments for their part had no technical capacity to examine these plants – or were vulnerable to the temptations unscrupulous businessmen offered.

To begin with, there are no 30,000-metric ton plants produced in the last century. They are simply uneconomical to operate and can only produce substandard products. The importers of these plants had obviously understated their actual capacity to exploit the loophole mentioned above.

Residents in the vicinity of these plants have complained of the acid rain produced by their dirty technology. PISI has conducted tests and found the output from these plants to be inferior, putting the lives and limbs of Filipino consumers in peril.

The DENR-EMB must act urgently to save Filipinos from garbage technology.



Secure

Expectedly, the severe recession we now endure puts great strain on our banking system. The peril of rising non-performing loan ratios forced banks to do more provisioning and thus operate with less capital to lend.

Unexpectedly, however, our banking system demonstrated impressive resiliency. Most of our banks continued to operate profitably under the severe conditions that pertained since lockdowns were enforced last month.

This is crucial to our recovery. The financial system is to the economy what the circulatory system is to the human body. The banks are the vessels that enhance circulation or block it. So far, the system is healthy despite the number businesses in distress.

For instance, Security Bank just reported a net income of P6.7 billion for the first nine months of 2020. This is on the back of increases in net interest income and trading gains. The bank's total revenues increased 66 percent to P40.2 billion. Excluding trading gains, total revenues grew by 22 percent to P27.9 billion over the same period last year.

The bank's non-performing loan ratio did rise to 4.03 percent in the third quarter from just 1.58 percent in the second quarter. This remains well within prudential levels and it is due in large part to the extended loan moratorium mandated by the Bayanihan II law. The emergency legislation, intended to cushion the impact of the pandemic on our businesses, commanded the banks to offer borrowers a two-month grace period on their repayments.

Bayanihan II, with its grace period for loan repayments, was expected to sharply reduce the profitability of banks. In the case of Security Bank, profitability was maintained through proactive measures including increased lending to momentarily distressed enterprises. When the economy begins growing again, this will reflect in stronger business for banks that carefully select the risks they assume.

The latest numbers show that it is unlikely that our economy could bounce back quickly in what is called a V-shaped recovery. Most economists expect that while a growth rate of 7 percent might be achieved in 2021, it might take us until 2023 to get back to the size of our economy pre-pandemic.

Considering the difficult path ahead, it should be reassuring that our banking system remains strong. Our banks have been among the most conservatively managed for many years. That has proven to be a strong point when the pandemic and its terrible economic fallout put our entire banking system through a severe stress test.

As we claw our way back to the path of rapid growth, the strength of our banks provides our economy a sturdy platform to rebuild from.



Coal moratorium, climate and flooding

November 18, 2020 | 6:01 pm

My Cup Of Liberty

By Bienvenido S. Oplas, Jr.

As of Nov. 18, 39 countries around the world have reported their third quarter (Q3) GDP 2020 and only the Philippines has had a double-digit contraction at -11.5%. The Q1-Q3 average is -9.7%, with Malaysia's -6.4%, Indonesia's -1.9%, Vietnam's +2.2%. The Philippine government, in particular the Department of Health, Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases and their consultants, should realize that their strict and indefinite lockdown policy is the main reason for this crippling of business.

At this rate, the Philippines should grow by at least 11% in 2021 just to be at the same GDP level of 2019 because of the low economic base in 2020.

Energy policies will greatly help or further cripple economic recovery. And last month the Department of Energy (DoE) issued a moratorium, a stoppage of greenfield new coal power plants. Only those coal plants under committed projects and indicative projects which have secured some financing can proceed.

There are two inconvenient truths that the recent DoE order does not recognize.

One, the Philippines' coal consumption is among the lowest in the emerging and developed economies, only 0.73 Exajoule (EJ) or 17.42 million tons oil equivalent (MTOE) in 2019 (conversion factor is 1 EJ =23.88 MTOE).

Two, cheap energy from fossil fuels, especially coal, is among the most important factors why many countries have developed and industrialized. Countries that expanded their coal use over the last 30 years showed faster growth and countries that reduced and shrank their coal use experienced slower growth. The data in the table is from the IMF World Economic Outlook (WEO) database October 2020, and the BP Statistical Review of World Energy (BP SRWE) database June 2020. I computed the yearly growth from BP SRWE then I took the averages in two groups of 15 years, 1990-2004 and 2005-2019.

Coal consumption, coal and GDP growth						
	COAL USE, EJ		COAL GROWTH, %		GDP GROWTH, %	
	1990	2019	1990-2004	2005-2019	1990-2004	2005-2019
Malaysia	0.06	0.90	182.3	8.6	6.6	4.9
Indonesia	0.14	3.41	97.2	10.1	4.8	5.6
Thailand	0.16	0.71	58.5	3.3	5.4	3.5
Philippines	0.04	0.73	54.5	10.4	3.3	5.8
Taiwan	0.44	1.63	20.2	0.8	5.9	3.5
Pakistan	0.09	0.55	16.5	11.9	4.4	4.3
South Korea	1.01	3.44	11.0	3.1	6.9	3.5
Vietnam	0.09	2.07	10.7	15.2	7.3	6.5
China	22.08	81.67	10.3	3.8	9.7	8.9
India	4.59	18.62	10.1	5.8	5.7	7.4
Japan	3.27	4.91	4.6	0.7	1.5	0.7
Turkey	0.67	1.70	11.0	4.4	4.2	5.0
South Africa	2.82	3.81	5.6	0.4	2.1	2.3
Australia	1.60	1.78	5.0	-1.7	3.3	2.7
US	19.22	11.34	2.7	-4.3	3.0	1.9
Canada	1.14	0.56	2.3	-5.0	2.6	1.8
Germany	5.51	2.30	-3.2	-2.6	1.8	1.5
UK	2.72	0.26	-4.1	-9.3	2.4	1.5

SOURCES: BP SRWE 2020, IMF WEO 2020, AUTHOR COMPUTATION.



The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's annual big meeting is coming soon and various climate alarms are being sounded because the various multilateral and national climate agencies desperately need that \$100 billion a year of climate money starting 2020 as promised by the rich countries in the Paris Agreement 2015.

So no rain for months, no flood, no storm are proof of "man-made" global warming and climate change. And lots of rains, lots of flood, lots of storms like Goni (local name: Rolly) and Vamco (local name: Ulysses) are also proof of "man-made" global warming and climate change. Whatever weather event, whatever climate, we should send more money to the UN, the various climate and environment agencies. This is similar to gambling in flipping a coin and declaring "heads I win, tails you lose."

We should prepare for the rising rivers, creeks, and lakes that are happening yearly, not a rising ocean. Rising rivers are actual while a rising ocean is fictional, a product of computer models based on unrealistic assumptions.

Dr. Renato Solidum, Jr., Phivolcs director, already made a simple proposal many years ago that the main solution to regular, annual flooding of Metro Manila, Central Luzon, Cagayan Valley, other areas is massive regular dredging of rivers, creeks and lakes. Costly but practical.

In the Central Luzon provinces, geological estimates show that lahar and sand from the Pinatubo eruption will continue to go down with flood waters for the next 30 years or more and hence, they will continue to cause more siltation and shallow rivers.

Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and Nueva Ecija provinces are huge rice-corn producing areas. Planting rice and corn needs land tilling two to three times a year, and tilling by tractors loosen the soil which then easily flows with flood water that goes to rivers, causing thick and high mud siltation.

But the government and Congress would rather spend big on climate agencies, climate junkets, and climate consultants, wasteful use of taxpayers money.

There are three ways to reduce the cost of dredging and dams construction via more involvement of private businesses.

One, invite real estate developers to participate in regular, large-scale dredging of rivers — they get the sand, mud, and other solid materials in river beds for their land reclamation projects in the sea.

Two, invite water companies, hydro-electric companies to build more dams, more weirs, more man-made lakes like Caliraya lake in Laguna.

Three, allow more open pit mining and, once mined out, leave these pits as man-made lakes to help store flood water. An open pit mine that became a lake that is now a tourist attraction in Toledo, Cebu.

Bienvenido S. Oplas, Jr. is the president of Minimal Government Thinkers

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Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/coal-moratorium-climate-and-flooding/>



Spratlys pushed as marine protected area

Published November 18, 2020, 5:40 PM

by [Roy Mabasa](#)

Former Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario called on the government and its neighbors in Southeast Asia to agree on declaring the Spratlys a marine protected area to protect and rebuild the remaining marine life in the South China Sea.



Former Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario
(AP Photo / Bullit Marquez / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

In a statement, Del Rosario cited the importance of the South China Sea being part of an area that has long been known to be the greatest concentration of marine life on the planet, where the highest concentration of biodiversity is in the Philippines.

He noted that the Spratlys are the breeding grounds of fish and other marine life that give food and sustenance to the people of Southeast Asia over centuries, adding that traditional fishermen and their families have lived throughout these years relying on their fish catch from these waters.

Citing the 2016 Arbitral Award of the United Nations-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, Del Rosario said the rich biodiverse region was “mercilessly destroyed” by China through its illegal reclamation and artificial-island building in the Spratlys.

The former DFA Secretary, who was among the architects of the successful arbitration case against Beijing, noted that since 2013, Chinese dredgers pulverized the coral reefs in the Spratlys and used these dead coral reefs and other sediments to create dry land.

Given the destruction of these fish sanctuaries in the Spratlys, he said scientists are now warning that this has accelerated one of the world’s worst fisheries collapse that may lead to mass starvation in the region.

Further, Del Rosario said it now seems obvious for the need to protect and rebuild the remaining marine life in the South China Sea, citing the suggestion of retired Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio and other marine biologists to immediately declare the Spratlys as a marine protected area.

“If countries bordering the South China Sea agree to declare the Spratlys a marine protected area, this will give the marine life in that area some breathing space to heal. We therefore urge our countrymen, the Philippine government and our ASEAN neighbors to help us in this endeavor,” the former envoy said.



Del Rosario referred to the study made by John McManus, a world-renowned marine scientist, who ominously warned of “worst fisheries collapses ever” putting at risk hundreds and hundreds of species in the South China Sea.

Equally important, he said, is to demand accountability from Beijing, “the main perpetrator of the environmental destruction in the South China Sea.”

“If we do not demand accountability, we embolden rogue countries like China to commit the same malevolent acts in the future, including China’s planned reclamation of Scarborough Shoal – another rich traditional fishing ground of Filipinos, the Vietnamese, and even the Chinese. It is imperative that we exert all efforts to prevent China from committing another disastrous crime by reclaiming Scarborough Shoal,” Del Rosario said.



SMC: Solar facility to help power international airport

By Lenie Lectura, November 18, 2020



The power arm of conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) will put up a 200-megawatt (MW) solar farm on the future site of its P740-billion New Manila International Airport (NMIA) project in Bulacan.

The solar power facility, SMC said on Wednesday, will be built on its 2,500-hectare property to help power the international airport.

Aside from the solar farm, San Miguel Global Power will also install a battery energy storage system (BESS) capable of storing power when generation is high but power consumption is low, and can be released when the demand is high.

SMC President Ramon S. Ang said the solar farm will be one of the facilities in the country.

“This battery storage will be a viable solution to balancing electricity loads and storing unstable energy supply coming from the sun and other renewable sources of energy which we are looking to utilize for the airport,” Ang said.

SMC is investing heavily in battery storage technology in various parts of the country to help stabilize power grids, minimize power wastage and provide reliable and affordable electricity coming from a mix of renewable and traditional sources.

BESS also encourages the use of more renewable energy (RE) in the long term, as storing power can address one of the main hindrances to wider adoption of RE, apart from high cost—that is, limited power source, such as sunlight or wind.

“Our approach has always been to use cutting-edge technology to shift sustainably to better fuels while balancing the needs of our country, economy, and people for affordable, reliable traditional fuel-based power. We continue to invest in technologies so that our power facilities would have as little impact as possible on the environment,” Ang said.

SMC maintains a mix of renewable and non-renewable facilities, with hydropower and natural gas facilities in its portfolio. Its brand new LNG (liquefied natural gas) plants are a first in the country and a viable alternative to fossil-based power generation, he said.

The circulating fluidized bed technology that SMC uses in its modern, state-of-the-art clean power plants ensures that emissions are way below both Philippine and international emission standards as it transitions to cleaner energy sources.



Meanwhile, its international gateway project in Bulacan is seen to not only solve the worsening airport and traffic congestion in Metro Manila but also give the Philippine economy a major boost.

The company said its airport project is projected to generate trillions of dollars in economic activity and job opportunities, potentially contributing about 9 percent to GDP by 2025. Estimated annual impact to the economy would amount to nearly P900 billion.

More than that, the airport project is also betting on a green economy to have a dominant role in building a sustainable economy past the pandemic.



Naiwang basura sa Marikina katumbas ng 1 taon na kalat – Mayor

On Nov 18, 2020



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

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

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

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

Kaya minabuti narin nilang paganahin ang heavy equipment ng MMDA.

Inaasahang matatanggal ang mahigit 100,000 toneladang basura na katumbas ng para sa isang taon na nahahakot na basura sa lungsod.

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 parin dapat ang pag-iingat laban sa leptospirosis at iba pang sakit.(PFT team)

Source: https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/11/18/naiwang-basura-sa-marikina-katumbas-ng-1-taon-na-kalat-mayor/?fbclid=IwAR004GO11NmW-GI7dB9X4fmT6Z3jkeKVvLv36_TzDIA6-W7RU11_ebw8nPY



NDRRMC: Damage to infra due to Ulysses reaches P5.7 billion

Published November 18, 2020 5:14pm

By ANNA FELICIA BAJO, GMA News

The cost of infrastructure damage caused by Typhoon Ulysses has reached P5,773,137,751.28, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said Wednesday.

The damage was recorded in Regions I, II, III, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, V, CAR and NCR, according to the NDRRMC in its latest report.

A total of 63,885 residences were also destroyed by the strong typhoon that crossed Luzon last week, which affected over three million individuals.

The Department of Agriculture has said the worth of damage in the sector has increased to P3.84 billion, affecting 104,733 farmers and fisherfolk and 101,904 hectares of agricultural areas with volume of production loss at 160,873 metric tons.

When it comes to casualties, the death toll remained at 73 while the number of wounded individuals was 24 and 19 others were still missing.

According to the NDRRMC, assistance worth P75,460,593.84 was already provided to the victims of the typhoon.

President Rodrigo Duterte has already placed the entire Luzon under state of calamity following the onslaught of strong storms in the previous weeks.

In areas declared under a state of calamity, the Quick Response Fund or stand-by fund may be utilized for relief and recovery programs in order that situation and living conditions of people in communities or areas stricken by disaster, calamities, epidemics or complex emergencies may be normalized as quickly as possible.

There shall also be no price increase among basic commodities as stated in Republic Act 7581.

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/764646/ndrrmc-damage-to-infra-due-to-ulysses-reaches-p5-7-billion/story/>

Clearing ops sa Rodriguez, Rizal nagsimula na matapos ang matinding pagbaha

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 18 2020 05:08 PM | Updated as of Nov 18 2020 07:20 PM



Patuloy na naghahanap ang ilang residente ng Kasiglahan Village sa Rodriguez, Rizal ng mga gamit na maaari pang maisalba matapos masalanta ng pagbaha dala ng bagyong Ulysses noong nakaraang linggo. *Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News*

Nagsimula na ang malawakang clearing operation sa Rodriguez, Rizal, halos isang linggo matapos makaranas ng matinding pagbaha ang bayan dulot ng bagyong Ulysses.

Tantiya ng mga taga-Rodriguez ay mahina ang isang linggo at baka abutin ng isang buwan ang clearing operation dahil mula tuhod hanggang baywang ang naipong tubig-baha na puno rin ng putik, basura, at patay na hayop.

Kaya nanawagan ang mga residente na sana'y madagdagan ang heavy equipment para malinis agad ang mga bahay nila.

Hirap ang mga taga-Rodriguez na magpabalik-balik sa kanilang lubog na mga bahay at evacuation center, kung saan namimigay ng relief goods.

"Sa ngayon, pahirap nang pahirap ang buhay... mahirap paglabas-labas para [kumuha] ng relief dito sa labas," anang residenteng si Joseph Priol.

"Malalim ang putik," sabi naman ni Nolan Derong, na nananatili sa lugar na hindi pa narating ng mga nag-clearing operation.

"Sana matulungan kami, kahit bigas at kumot," dagdag niya.

Ibang evacuees inilipat

Siksikan pa rin sa Kasiglahan Village Senior High School na ginamit na isang evacuation center kaya ang ibang lumikas ay inilipat sa Kasiglahan Village Elementary School.

Sa dami ng mga hindi pa nakababalik sa kanilang mga bahay, nagtatalo na ang mga evacuee kapag may dumarating na relief goods.

"Kami 'yong walang bahay, kami ang nahihirapan. Hindi kami masyado nabibigyan. Kailangan namin tubig, kumot," sabi ni Rosalie Perez.

Marami rin sa evacuees ang nagkakasakit at nagpapakonsulta sa mga doktor at nurse ng Department of Health.

Inii-screen muna at kinukuhanan sila ng temperatura bago mag-check up.



May mga batang sinisipon at inuubo at matatandang may alipunga at sugat sa paa. Mayroon ding evacuees na nanghihingi ng mga bitamina.

"Yong sa paa po namin kasi kadalasan po talaga mga alipunga po ta's namamaga na ang paa namin, tapos ang ayuda hindi nakakarating sa'min," sabi ni Nanette Sansan.

Kasal natuloy

Sa gitna ng trahedya, may bagong pag-asa para sa magkapareha na ikinasal sa Kasiglahan Village.

Para lang matuloy ang kasal, naghanap ang magkapareha ng kapalit na reception venue, na maputik din dahil sa baha.

-- Ulat ni Adrian Ayalin, ABS-CBN News

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/18/20/clearing-ops-sa-rodriguez-rizal-nagsimula-na-matapos-ang-matinding-pagbaha?fbclid=IwAR0kPDtabGCCPyUkqdaH2NcZ8KWtWliT_6Q591-sWkUAuW50860ttGO0u4Q



Zubiri: Who's in charge of disaster management?

November 18, 2020, 6:49 pm



Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri

MANILA – In the plenary session devoted to the 2021 budget deliberations on Wednesday, the Senate took on the budget for the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and its attached agencies.

Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri took to the floor to raise concerns regarding the government's disaster management-adjacent agencies, in the wake of destructive typhoons Rolly and Quinta.

He had traveled to the provinces of Catanduanes, Albay, Sorsogon, and Camarines Sur over the weekend to extend assistance to typhoon-struck communities and to hear out concerns raised by provincial and local government officials.

Zubiri brought up that the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is claiming that it needs a go signal from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) to release dam water ahead of time, which would have prevented the severe floods that inundated parts of Luzon after Typhoon Ulysses.

PAG-ASA officials, communicating through DOST budget sponsor Senator Joel Villanueva, refuted this, explaining that NIA remains in full control over dam discharge operations.

They said they did follow protocol by releasing a flood warning signal on November 8 but that they have no authority to order the release of dam water.

Zubiri also relayed questions from the government of Albay, particularly regarding the municipality of Guinobatan, which was ravaged by lahar flow.

The local government is claiming that it did not receive a warning from the proper agencies, and was unable to prepare for the disaster.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), meanwhile, is claiming to have followed protocol and to have issued bulletins to the proper offices ahead of time. It falls on the local government, it explained, to cascade this information down.

"Nagtuturuan po tayo (They're pointing fingers). We have no clue who is in-charge," Zubiri said. *"Don't you think it's about time that we have one agency that is supposed to take charge? Do all the planning, the preparation, the rehabilitation, and climate change mitigation efforts?"*

"I was always being asked the same thing, in Albay, in Catanduanes: Who's in charge? Sabi ko (I said) OCD, pero ang sagot nila, 'Sir, hindi po namin nakikita 'yung head ng OCD kasi head rin ng NDRRMC iyan.' At 'yung OCD, undersecretary ang head, awkward namang pag-utusan niya ang mga secretaries (but their answer, 'Sir we did not consult with the head of the OCD because he is also the head of the NDRRMC'. And the OCD, undersecretary is the head. It is awkward to order around the secretaries)," he said.

Zubiri promised that a hearing addressing the recent disasters, and disaster management problems, will be held in the Senate next week. **(PR)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1122271>



Magat Dam operators 'lacked anticipation' in releasing water ahead of Ulysses, says UP expert

Published November 18, 2020 10:24pm

There was a lack of anticipation on the part of the operators of Magat Dam when they started releasing water days before the heavy rains brought by Typhoon Ulysses, a University of the Philippines experts said on Wednesday.

Mahar Lagmay, Executive Director of the UP Resilience Institute, said PAGASA's forecast for Ulysses was "more or less accurate," thus, the country, including the dam management, had several days to prepare for the typhoon.

However, more than 6,000 cubic meters of water per second were released, which was "very different" from the 200 cubic meter per second announced for those residing in the low-lying areas.

"Because if you have a lot of discharge, that is what makes the rivers swell. So we have to release it slowly so that when the floods happen downstream, it wouldn't be that much. And we're still trying to find out how much the dam contributed to the increase in the flood scenario," Lagmay said on ANC.

"But what I know is that from the graphs that I have been looking at, the discharge was not very high days before, it was following the inflow or the input of water into the dam," he added.

"So that means, to me, although it needs to be checked and re-checked, this is very preliminary, to me, there was lack of anticipation," Lagmay said.

According to Lagmay, forecasts of rainfall amount could have been used to release a certain amount of discharge that could not reach more than 6,000 cubic meters per second.

Lagmay said there is a need for improvement of weather forecasts, and its use in order to plan ahead for dam discharges "and not during the time when water is already high."

Residents of Cagayan had to go their roofs after the release of water from Magat Dam [inundated most of the valley](#).

Cagayan officials over the weekend were reported to be looking at the possibility of suing the operator of Magat Dam for the yearly floods hitting the northern Luzon province.

For its part, the NIA said the gates of the Magat Dam [had to be opened since last week](#) amid heavy rains from Typhoon Ulysses to prevent from breaking and causing a bigger catastrophe.

This was [echoed by President Rodrigo Duterte](#) who said releasing water from dams was necessary to avoid a catastrophe. **-NB, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/764697/magat-dam-operators-lacked-anticipation-in-releasing-water-ahead-of-ulysses-says-up-expert/story/>



PAGTUTULUNGAN HIGIT NA MAHALAGA KAYSA SISIHAN



November 18, 2020 @ 11:35 AM 19 hours ago

KATAKOT-TAKOT na paninisi sa pamahalaan o sa mga ahensya nito o sa mga namumuno ang ibinabato ng mga kritikong makakaliwa at politiko bilang reaksyon sa mga naganap na krisis sa kasalukuyan.

At ang paninisi ay isinasagawa hindi lang sa social media at iba pang anyo ng media kundi maging sa loob ng Kongreso.

Sa Kongreso, nariryan ang sinasabing panukalang mga imbestigasyon sa mga naganap na kalamidad habang sa labas nito, nag-iingay ang iba sa social media at iba pa.

Suma total, nais palabasin ng mga kritiko na napakasama ang mga pangyayari dahil sa pag-upo ng kasalukuyang administrasyon at hindi magkakaganito kung silang mga kritiko ang nakaupo.

At higit na mas maayos ang kanilang mga tugon sa mga kalamidad kung sila ang nakaupo.

Talaga lang, ha?

NALIMUTAN ANG KASAYSAYAN

Heto ang ilan lang sa mga kalamidad na naganap sa panahon ng mga kritiko.

Dalawang super typhoon ang nanalasa sa Pinas noong panahon ni ex-President Benigno Aquino III.

Pumatay si Pablo ng 1,067 tao at sinira ang malaking bahagi ng Mindanao noong Nobyembre 25 – Disyembre 9, 2012.

Pumatay naman ng nasa 6,340 si Yolanda sa Samar-Leyte noong Nobyembre 3-11, 2013.

Noon namang Nobyembre 1, 1991 na nakaupo si ex-President Cory Aquino, naganap ang tinatawag na Ormoc tragedy sa Leyte at pumatay ng halos 5,000 katao.

Nauna rito, pumatay naman ng 1,621 katao sa Baguio City, Cabanatuan City at iba pa ang 7.7 magnitude na lindol, sa panahon pa rin ni ex-Pres. Cory.

Milyon-milyong katao ang nadamay at bilyon-bilyong piso ang halaga ng ari-ariang nasira.



Narito ang ilang katanungan kaugnay ng mga ito.

Una, nag-iingay ba ang mga kritiko at kumilos ba ang mga ito para panagutin ang mga namumuno noon na mga Aquino?

Ikalawa, sa palagay ba nila, naging maayos ang kanilang mga tugon sa mga kalamidad na ito?

Ikatlo, bakit naganap ang mga kalamidad na ito sa mga panahong nakaupo ang kanilang mga sinasanto?

O sadyang kinalilimutan nila ang mga kamalasang nalasap ng bayan sa panahong sila ang makapangyarihan at sinisilipan lang nila ng butas ang sinomang hindi nila kabagang para sila muli ang hahawak ng renda ng kapangyarihan.

MAHAHALAGANG TAGUMPAY

Isa sa malaking palatandaan ng tagumpay ng pamahalaang Duterte ang pagtitiwala ng higit na nakararaming mamamayan sa pamumuno ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte at performance o paggampan ng tungkulin ng kanyang pamahalaan gaya ng lumalabas sa mga sarbey.

Ngunit nababatay ito sa mga nagaganap at hindi sa kathang-isip lamang.

‘Yun bang === tunay na ramdam ng taumbayan ang pagmamalasakit ng Pangulo bilang lingkod-bayan at ng kanyang pamahalaan.

Kung ano-ano ang mga nagagawa ngayon ng Pangulo at kanyang pamahalaan, ang taumbayan na lang ang tanungin.

Subalit maaaring ilita natin ang mga agarang aksyon ng Pangulo at kanyang pamahalaan para sa mga nasasalanta sa mga kalamidad.

Sasabihin na lang natin na kung paano nagtatagumpay ang Pangulo at kanyang pamahalaan laban sa paglaganap, pamemeste at pagpapabagsak ng kabuhayan natin ng coronavirus disease o COVID-19, ipinagdarasal nating ganito rin ang magaganap sa mapanirang mga kalamidad na dala ng ngitngit ng kalikasan.

Kung magtatagumpay lang nang ganap sa mga panahong ito ang laban ng Pangulo at kanyang pamahalaan sa korapsyon at pandarambong na lumalamon sa kalahati ng salaping bayan, mapagsisilbihan ng buong pamahalaan nang maayos at mabunga ang mga mamamayan.

Nagaganap ang mga korapsyon mula sa paniningil ng mga buwis hanggang sa paggamit ng mga buwis sa iba’t ibang programa o proyekto.

Matagal nang kalamidad sa buwis ang switik na paniningil at ang switik ding paggastos ng nasingil na buwis sa anyo ng mga pork barrel, ghost o overpriced project at aktuwal na pagnanakaw.

Matagal na sana tayong napakaunlad na bayan at kayang gastusan nang buo ang pangangailangan ng mga mamamayan laban sa mga kalamidad kung nakontrol o natigil na ang mga korapsyon at pandarambong bago pa dumating ang panahon ni Pang. Digong.



MAGTULUNGAN AT HUWAG MAGSISIHAN

Sa kabuuan, mga Bro, ang kagyat na gawain dapat ng lahat ay unahin ang pagtutulungan at hindi ang sisihan at siraan kaugnay ng mga nagaganap na kalamidad.

Kalimutan nating papalapit nang papalapit ang halalang 2022 na isa sa mga dahilan ng mga siraan, partikular ang paninira sa kasalukuyang pamahalaan.

Ano-ano bang ang mga pupwede nating gawin bilang mga indibidwal, pamilya, komunidad at iisang bayan para sagipin sa gutom, hirap, kawalan ng tahanan at hanapbuhay ang mga biktima ng kalamidad?

Ano-ano ang mga pwede nating gawin para tayong lahat na mamamayan ay maging partner ng pamahalaan at pribadong sektor para ibangon ang ating bayan na sinasalanta ng mga kalamidad mula sa COVID-19 hanggang sa mga bagyo at baha?



NIA ADMINISTRATOR EXPLAINS MAGAT DAM WATER RELEASES



November 18, 2020 @ 6:49 AM 24 hours ago

RETIRED AFP Chief of Staff Ricardo “Bong” Visaya, National Irrigation Administrator since March 2017, on November 15, 2020, this statement (which I am writing verbatim and slightly edited for clarity) in his Facebook page, explaining the water releases of Magat Dam:

“Para po sa kaalaman ng lahat.

“Hindi po nagkulang ang NIA sa pag-manage ng water releases sa Magat dam sa San Ramon, Isabela.

“Meron po kaming sinusunod na protocol. As early as 09 Nov 2020, nag-umpisa na po mag-release ng tubig at ang ating dam operations division sa Isabela ay nagbibigay ng abiso sa mga tao at naiimpormahan ang PAGASA, OCD, PDRRMC at mga LGU.

“May lead time kaming binibigay na minimum of 6 to 10 hours bago mag-release ng tubig para makalikas ang mga tao na maapektuhan sa pagpapakawala ng tubig at wala pong mamatay sa mga nakatira along the waterways in Isabela.

“Sabi nga po ni Mr. Edgar Dela Cruz (ng) Hydrometeorology ng PAGASA during his interview with GMA 7 on 15 Nov 2020 at 5:45am, kahit Upper Cagayan was flooded and it was not caused by Magat dam water releases. Gawa po ng malakas ng ulan. Kahit sa ibang mayayaman na bansa, ‘di sila nakaliligtas sa pinsala na dinudulot ng matinding ulan.

“Ang Cagayan po ay nasa mababang lugar at para mabawasan ang pagbaha, we have to desilt Cagayan River which is already heavily silted due to soil erosion, though this is not the responsibility of NIA.



“Kinakailangan din pong matigil ang illegal logging sa mga bulubundukin na lugar at pag-aalaga sa ating mga watershed. Kailangan ng kooperasyon ng lahat para maiwasan ng sakuna.

“Maraming salamat po!”

Administrator Visaya has confirmed one of the primary suspicions of the public—that the flooding was caused also—perhaps even mainly—by illegal logging in the area.

Cagayan and Isabela have long been plagued by flooding.

It is time for government to strictly enforce its laws in the area.



Climate change mas malaking banta kaysa sa COVID-19 – Red Cross



November 18, 2020 @ 1:56 PM 16 hours ago

Genava – Inihayag ng Red Cross na dapat aksyunan ng buong mundo ang problema sa climate change katulad ng pagtugon sa coronavirus crisis dahil mas malaki pa ang banta nito kaysa sa COVID-19.

Sa bagong ulat ng International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, nakasaad na kahit sa kasagsagan ng pandemic, hindi pa rin tumitigil sa pamiminsala ang climate change.

Nakasaad sa ulat ukol sa global catastrophes na tinamaan ang buong mundo ng mahigit 100 sakuna na karamiha'y may kinalaman sa klima mula lang nang ideklara ng World Health Organization ang pandemic noong Marso 2020.

Sa virtual press conference, sinabi ni IFRC Secretary-General Jagan Chapagain na nahaharap ang mundo sa lubhang napakaseryosong krisis dahil sa pandemic na kumitil na ng halos 1.3 milyon katao at halos 50M na ang naapektuhan.

Subalit nagbabala siya na may mas mahalagang 'medium at long term impact' sa buhay ng tao at sa mundo ang climate change kaysa sa COVID-19.

Datapwat, mayroon na umanong mga posibleng bakunang lalabas laban sa COVID-19, wala namang bakuna laban sa climate change.

Mangangailangan umano ng mas 'sustained action at investment' para talagang maprotektahan ang buhay ng mga tao sa mundo.

Nabatid na noon lang nakaraang taon, tinamaan ang mundo ng 308 natural disasters, 77% sa mga ito ay may kinalaman sa klima o panahon na ikinamatay ng 24,400 katao.

Mahigit 410 katao na umano ang namatay sa weather at climate-related disasters sa loob ng nakaraang dekada, karamihan sa mga ito ay mula sa mahihirap na bansa na tinamaan ng heatwaves at mapaminsalang bagyo. RNT

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/climate-change-mas-malaking-banta-kaysa-sa-covid-19-red-cross/>

Climate change bigger threat than COVID: Red Cross

Agnès Pedrero, Agence France-Presse

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Residents carry relief packages provided by Red Cross as they walk through a collapsed bridge following a landslide in Quang Tri province, Vietnam October 21, 2020. *Yen Duong/International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC)/Handout via Reuters*

GENEVA - The world should react with the same urgency to climate change as to the coronavirus crisis, the Red Cross said Tuesday, warning that global warming poses a greater threat than COVID-19.

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 told 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."

And while it looked increasingly likely that one or several vaccines would soon become available against COVID-19, Chapagain stressed that "unfortunately there is no vaccine for climate change".

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.

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 most deadly, 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.

'PROTECT MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES'

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.

"Our first responsibility is to protect communities that are most exposed and vulnerable to climate risks," Chapagain said, warning though that "our research demonstrates that the world is collectively failing to do this."

"There is a clear disconnection between where the climate risk is greatest and where climate adaptation funding goes," he said.

"This disconnection could very well cost lives."

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Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/11/17/20/climate-change-bigger-threat-than-covid-red-cross?fbclid=IwAR1rm-vKSJInQXR2fbDK8EkjEBxfcPISvabtgp05fJbHwNSPhOu-r3anhDM>



Migratory species live fast, die young —study

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By ELEONORE HUGHES, Agence France-Presse

PARIS — Migratory birds and mammals that expend lots of energy travelling long distances to chase food or find a choice nesting spot tend to live fast and die young, scientists reported Tuesday.

In a study published in Nature Communications, researchers found that migratory animals have a shorter lifespan than their homebody counterparts.

But they compensate by having more offspring in less time.

Analyzing over 700 birds and 540 mammal species, the study determined that from an evolutionary standpoint, neither strategy is "better" than the other.

"These are just two different ways of solving life's problems," said UK Exeter University professor Stuart Bearhop, an author of the study.

"One way is to live fast and die young, the other way is to live slow" and produce offspring over a longer lifetime.

It balances out, otherwise one group—migratory or non-migratory species—would dominate over the other.

"An animal that has a shorter life but produces more offspring ultimately leaves as many copies of itself to reproduce as an animal that has a slower life and produces less offspring," Bearhop said by phone.

Some species can swing both ways.

Blackcaps—olive-grey warblers with distinctive splashes of black or brown on their heads—can be either resident or migratory.

Climate change

The ones that wander afield typically live a shorter life, reach maturity at a younger age and produce more chicks.



Migration can take place in the skies, underwater, or across different landscape.

Climate change could tilt the evolutionary tables against migratory species, which have "to cope with changes in multiple locations, as opposed to just one for residents," said Bearhop, who teaches Animal Ecology.

They travel between their breeding and non-breeding sites in accordance with the seasons, and depend on predictable weather patterns such as winds and ocean currents.

But global warming is disrupting these patterns, through rising temperatures, modified rainfall, and shifts in vegetation.

The Blue Whale travels between tropical calving grounds in winter and high latitude feeding grounds in summer.

As sea temperatures rise, the abundance and distribution of their food—plankton, fish and squid—changes, weakening females and increasing the intervals between the birth of offspring, earlier research has shown.

Size matters

"Climate change isn't happening evenly and its effects are already showing to be much worse at higher latitudes," Bearhop said.

The Arctic, favored by migratory birds, is one such area.

Scientists expect to see differences in reproductive and survival rates due to climate change.

The study also found that size matters.

"Migrant flyers such birds and bats tend to have smaller body sizes than residents, whereas in migrant walkers and swimmers—all mammals except bats—it tends to be larger," the authors said.

Only larger walkers and swimmers can store enough energy to complete long-distance migrations.

Larger birds face energetic problems when forced to use flapping flight, the authors added.

"That's why there are no migratory mice, for example," Bearhop said. "They simply cannot cover the ground in an efficient way." — **AFP**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/764708/migratory-species-live-fast-die-young-study/story/>