

21 DECEMBER 2020, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR gives Xmas gifts to 150 Aeta families in Pampanga

Sunday, December 20, 2020 Cory Martinez14

AS recognition for being considered as stewards of environmental protection, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently distributed Christmas gifts to at least 150 Aeta families from Bgy. Camias in Porac, Pampanga.

Benny Antiporda, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns, said the gift-giving dubbed as *"Sa Gitna ng Pandemya, Buhay at Kapaligiran ay Mahalaga,"* was conducted to give hope to the indigenous peoples (IPs) of Pampanga amid the pandemic.

"You deserve these gifts. We are simply giving them back to you," Antiporda told the recipients.

The IPs received groceries, vitamins, face masks, face shields, and alcohol. The gifts were received on their behalf by the barangay leaders and elders in compliance with social distancing protocols and mass gathering limitations.

"The DENR counts IPs among its valued stakeholders because they are considered stewards of environmental protection," Antiporda added.

For his part, Edwin Abuque of the Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representatives (IPMR) said: *"It is important that we protect the forest and trees because these are our first line of defense against floods. They help protect those who reside at the foot of the mountains."*

Abuque added that plants and trees have healing properties, which *"spared IPs from COVID-19."*

Antiporda urged the Aetas to plant rice and cacao in the land they are occupying for them to have a source of income.

The DENR official said he is ready to provide them with agricultural machineries to help them in farming. *"Nurture your land. We will not give you fish to eat but we will teach you how to fish,"* he added.

The Aetas said they were grateful for being chosen as beneficiaries and that the help came in time for Christmas. They committed to continue protecting the mountains which they consider their home.



Solid waste woes of 57 LGUs soon over

Saturday, December 19, 2020 Cory Martinez19

THE solid waste problems of at least 57 local government units (LGUs) will now be addressed appropriately with the approval of their solid waste management (SWM) plans.

Benny Antiporda, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns, said the approval of the plans by the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) is very significant in addressing the country's solid waste problems.

Antiporda, also an NSWMC alternate chair, said 114 SWM plans have already been approved for the year.

Of the 57 approved SWM plans, 32 are from the cities/municipalities of Luzon, 18 from Mindanao, and seven from Visayas. Regions 1 and 3 had the highest number of approvals at 10 each.

"The approval of this new batch of 10-year SWM plans proves that we are on track in instilling responsibility and accountability among LGUs in managing solid waste," Antiporda said.

"This will be a huge boost in our campaign to urge them to address the solid waste problem in their localities and to fully implement Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000," he added.

RA 9003 mandates all LGUs—province, city or municipality—to prepare and submit their 10-year SWM plans, anchored on the national SWM framework, subject to approval by the NSWMC. The plan shall include their strategies to address SWM, information campaigns and incentive programs.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, Antiporda said the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) has made possible the online submission and approval of SWM plans.

"The commission was in consensus of the adjustment I suggested, which is to do the approval online," Antiporda explained.

He added that the EMB regional offices conduct the screening of applications for validation by the EMB central office, and approval by the NSWMC.

"Due to the pandemic, we cannot do face-to-face deliberations and approvals. We do it through teleconferencing," Antiporda said.

He further explained that the NSWMC requires the mayor or governor to present the plan live to assure that the officials are involved in its crafting. Otherwise, he said, it will not be endorsed.

"We want our local chief executives to be really involved in creating their SWM plan. When they are involved, they will identify the needs of their respective LGUs, what could be improved, and what could be done to help the community in terms of SWM," Antiporda pointed out.

He said that while some SWM plans are still in the validation process, the LGU applicants could already start implementing them. He also encouraged those who have not submitted their plans to comply with the law.



DENR turns over papers, resource maps to BARMM

posted December 20, 2020 at 10:30 pm

by [Nash B. Maulana](#)

Cotabato City– The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has turned over all government documents and resource maps pertaining to protected areas located in the component provinces of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).



DENR TURNOVER. DENR Undersecretary for Enforcement, Mining and Muslim Affairs Jim O. Sampulna turns over to MENRE Minister Abdulraof Macacua national government documents and resource maps pertaining to protected areas in the provinces now constituting the BARMM. Looking on are DENR Region 12 Executive Director Felix S. Alicer, along with Ronald D. Gadot Assistant Director of Technical Services DENR Region 9, and OIC Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services Aldrich S. Resma, who also handed over their corresponding regional documents, survey maps and other assets to the MENRE chief.

Effectively, the BARMM’s Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE) now officially oversees protected areas, following the official turnover by DENR Undersecretary for Enforcement, Mining and Muslim Affairs Jim O. Sampulna to BARMM Executive Secretary Abdulraof A. Macacua.

“Now that Cotabato City and the 63 barangays of North Cotabato are officially part of the Bangsamoro community, we envision a society that features greener and more climate-smart values,” said BARMM Executive Secretary Abdulraof Macacua, during Friday’s turnover ceremonies. Macacua is concurrent BARMM Minister for MENRE.

“We are willing to provide guidance in the administration of ENR (environment and natural resources) projects in the BARMM. That is what DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu told me, ‘Tulongan’ (to help),” said Sampulna.

DENR Region 12 Executive Director Atty. Felix S. Alicer, along with Ronald D. Gadot Assistant Director of Technical Services DENR Region 9, OIC Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services Aldrich S. Resma, also handed over their corresponding regional documents, survey maps and other assets to the MENRE chief.

Prior to the creation of the autonomous region, resource-maps and other documents pertaining to the Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary in Tawi-Tawi, the Lake Lanao Watershed and the Liguasan Marsh as protected areas were respectively aligned with the natural resources maps of Region 9, Region 10, and Region 12.

Supervision and implementation of all national government undertakings in BARMM component geographic areas were also transferred to BARMM during the ceremonial turnover held at the Kalikasan Hall, MENRE Regional Office this city.

Administrative and operational supervision of the National Greening Program (NGP), Integrated Natural Resources and Environment Management Project (INREMP), Lake Buluan and Liguasan Marsh’s Protected Area Suitability Assessment (LBLMPASA) and other programs, have also been transferred to the BARMM-MENRE.

“As the Khalifa or stewards, we shall strengthen the implementation of the existing environmental laws and policies here in our growing Bangsamoro region,” Macacua added.



In a press statement, Minister Macacua acknowledged that “environmental issues are a major concern worldwide and emphasized that the BARMM is not immune to this.”

He assured MENRE-BARMM’s “commitment to keep its mandates in protecting and conserving the environment of the Bangsamoro through moral governance, heading towards clean, healthy, safe and resilient communities,” the statement added.



MAGSASAKA PINAG-AAPLAY NG DENR-LMB NG AGRICULTURAL FREE PATENT BAGO MAG- DISYEMBRE 31



December 21, 2020 @ 12:30 AM 6 hours ago

PINAALALAHANAN ang lahat ng magsasakang Filipino na nais makinabang sa agricultural free patent program ng gobyerno na mayroon na lang sila hanggang katapusan ng buwan upang magsumite ng kanilang aplikasyon sa lahat ng Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) sa buong bansa.

Ayon sa Land Management Bureau (LMB) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), hindi na muling tatanggap ang mga CENRO ng aplikasyon pagkatapos ng Disyembre 31, 2020 deadline base na rin sa nakasaad sa Republic Act 9176 o mas kilala sa tawag na Public Land Act of 2002.

Ayon sa LMB, “The law had extended the filing of applications for free patent and judicial confirmation of imperfect and incomplete titles to alienable and disposable lands of public domain, thus amending Commonwealth Act 141 or the original Public Land Act.”

Ang agricultural free patents ay ang mga lupang ibinigay sa natural-born Filipino citizen na may hanapbuhay na pagbubungkal ng lupa sa loob ng 30 taon at mayroong hindi tataas sa 12 ektarya at nakapagbabayad din ng karampatang real property tax.

“Our field offices continue to accept agricultural free patent applications to give those who have been cultivating their lots for a long time the chance to have the same titled in their names,” saad ni LMB Director Emelyne V. Talabis.

Sinabi pa ni Talabis, kabilang sa mga kinakailangan sa aplikasyon para sa agricultural free patents ay ang mga sumusunod:

- Duly accomplished application form;
- Tax Declaration, Deed of Sale, Extra-Judicial Settlement or Waiver of Rights;
- Certification from the Municipal Circuit or Regional Trial Court concerned that there is no pending land registration case involving the parcel being applied for;
- Approved Survey Plan with Technical Description or Form V37, if covered with isolated survey;
- Certification of status of land from the Land Registration Authority, if the municipality is under cadastral proceedings or if there is an old survey (Private and Original Survey);



- Certification that the land applied for is alienable and disposable; and
- Documentary stamp

Sa inilabas na Memorandum na may petsang Nobyembre 23, 2020 ni DENR Undersecretary for Legal Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr., nilinaw nito na ang mga aplikasyon na naisumite bago ang Disyembre 31, 2020 ay patuloy na ipoproseso para sa fiscal year 2021.

Ayon kay Adobo, ang “turn around time” ay 110 maximum days base na rin sa Citizen’s Charter No. RO-L-03 na may titulong Application for Free Patent (Agricultural), in compliance with RA 11032 or Ease of Doing Business Act.

Pagkatapos ng deadline, sinabi pa ni Adobo na ang mga regional office ay maaari pa ring magproseso para sa mga “subdivision of lots for titling purposes.”

Samantala, idinagdag pa nito na magpapatuloy ang pagtanggap ng aplikasyon para sa agricultural free patent sakaling magkaroon ng batas na nagpapalawig o nagtatanggal sa deadline para sa pagsusumite mula sa Kongreso.

Para sa karagdagang impormasyon, ang mga interesado ay maaaring bumisita sa CENRO na nakasasakop sa kanilang lupa.

Maaari ring tumawag sa LMB telepono bilang (02) 8255-4362, mobile number-0927-322-5474 o bisitahin ang LMB Facebook page na <https://web.facebook.com/LandMBOfficial>.



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2 bagong pamilya ng Philippine eagle natuklasan

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Dec 20 2020 06:59 PM



Dalawang bagong pamilya ng Philippine eagle ang nadiskubre sa Mount Apo at Davao Oriental. Magandang balita ito lalo't nanganganib na ang populasyon ng pambansang ibon. **Nagpa-Patrol, Hernel Tocmo. TV Patrol, Linggo, 20 Disyembre 2020**



Governor forms task force vs flooding in Oriental Mindoro

Published December 20, 2020, 2:24 PM

by [Jerry Alcayde](#)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro – Governor Humerlito A. Dolor has formed a special task force to directly address the problem on flooding that caused widespread destruction in several barangays, particularly in the first district, as an after-effect of the recent typhoons and monsoon rains that crossed the province.

Under Executive order No. 72 of Dolor, the Provincial Task Force Against Flooding was mandated to re-evaluate previous studies and identify solutions against floodings and to coordinate with concerned national agencies and the Regional Development Council of Mimaropa (Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) region about rehabilitation and development initiatives of the province.

Many areas in the province were submerged in floodwaters when typhoon Quinta hit Mindoro on October 25, followed by four more equally strong storms that turned rivers into seas of murky brown waters and set off deadly landslides.

Dolor said there was an urgent need for intervention to control the floods by initiating studies and identification of short term, medium term and long-term solutions against the natural calamity.

The governor also directed the provincial engineering office to conduct the dredging of a 1.5 kilometer stretch of river in Naujan town despite the absence of a permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The DENR has not yet acted on the permit as it was still waiting for the required resolution that has been reportedly pending for four months with the Sangguniang Panlalawigan concerning the dredging operations in Barangays Inarawan and Tagumpay in Naujan, the governor said.

“We cannot wait for another instance where our people will die or their crops will be damaged due to calamity,” the governor said in a recent meeting at the provincial capitol.

“Dudukalin na natin ito ngayon, may permit man o wala, huwag na nating hintayin ang requirement. Dahil lang sa isang papel, libu-libo ang mga taong naaapektuhan. Wala namang iligal o imoral sa gagawin natin,” Dolor said.

The five consecutive typhoons since October have caused massive and destructive floods in several barangays in Oriental Mindoro, most of them previously did not experience flooding.

Dolor appointed Provincial Engineer Edylou B. Tejido as chairman of the task force and the two district engineers, Nestor L. del Rosario (First District) and Annielyn E. Padullo (Second District) as co-chairpersons.



#NowPH

Dingdong Dantes, Atom Araullo, more environmental champions to talk about climate change on Facebook Live

Published December 20, 2020 11:20am

Dingdong Dantes will be joining environmental champions on a Facebook Live on Sunday, December 20, to talk about climate change.

With Filipinos in Mindanao this time, suffering from massive flooding due to Typhoon Vicky, the Kapuso Primetime King said the Facebook Live session will be a part of their youth-led climate action campaign that they launched five years ago.

"Its battlecry remains true, if not more significant, to this day," Dingdong wrote in the caption of his post.

He will be joining Atom Araullo, Kim Atienza, Climate Change Commissioner Rachel Herrera, former CCC Secretary Lucille Sering, Mayor Tin Antonio of Alcala, Cagayan, UNDP Country Representative Selva Ramachandran, and Jun Sabayton in an e-dialogue for "Now What? Climate Action #NowPH."

Ria Atayde, Founder of Communities Organized For Resource Allocation (CORA) Atoinette Taus, Jasmine Curtis-Smith, and Angel Locsin will also be joining the e-dialogue.

The e-dialogue will be streamed on the Facebook pages of Yes Pinoy, Fyt, and Medisure Plus on December 20 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Those who wish to be part of this action against climate change can also join the [NowPH Facebook group](#).

Back in 2015, [Dingdong gave a speech at the 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference](#), where he explained that "the #NowPH campaign aims to raise the voices of the Filipino youth on a global level, in lieu of the COP21."

"The movement used online and offline platforms to engage young people across the Philippines. Different initiatives were implemented such as group discussion, training, media promotions, workshops, and roadshows to encourage youth participation," he added.



Now What? Climate Action #NowPH!

Dumalo at alamin kung paano makakatulong sa pagsugpo ng climate change sa panahon ng pandemya via Facebook Live

YesPinoy FOUNDATION Aktor fyt Medisure

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As i post this, our fellow Filipinos in Mindanao are suffering from massive flooding due to Typhoon Vicky.

Sa gitna ng pandemya, patuloy na sinasalanta ang bansa ng sunod sunod na malalakas na bagyo.

It has been five years since we launched #NowPH, a youth-led climate action campaign. And its battlecry remains true, if not more significant, to this day.

Kaya sa darating na Linggo, December 20, samahan ninyo kami at ang ating environmental champions na pagusapan kung paano tayo makakatulong sa pagsugpo ng climate crisis.

Join our conversation at the 'Now What? Climate Action #NowPH' e-dialogue with Atom Araullo, Kuya Kim Atienza, Climate Change Commissioner Rachel Herrera, former CCC Secretary Lucille Sering, Mayor Tin Antonio of Alcala, Cagayan, UNDP Country Representative Selva Ramachandran, Jun Sabayton, Ria Atayde, Antoinette Taus, Jasmine Curtis-Smith and Angel Locsin.

Streaming live on @yespinoy, @fyt.ph, and @medisureplus Facebook pages on December 20, 2020, Sunday, 3-5 PM.

Be part of our community too:
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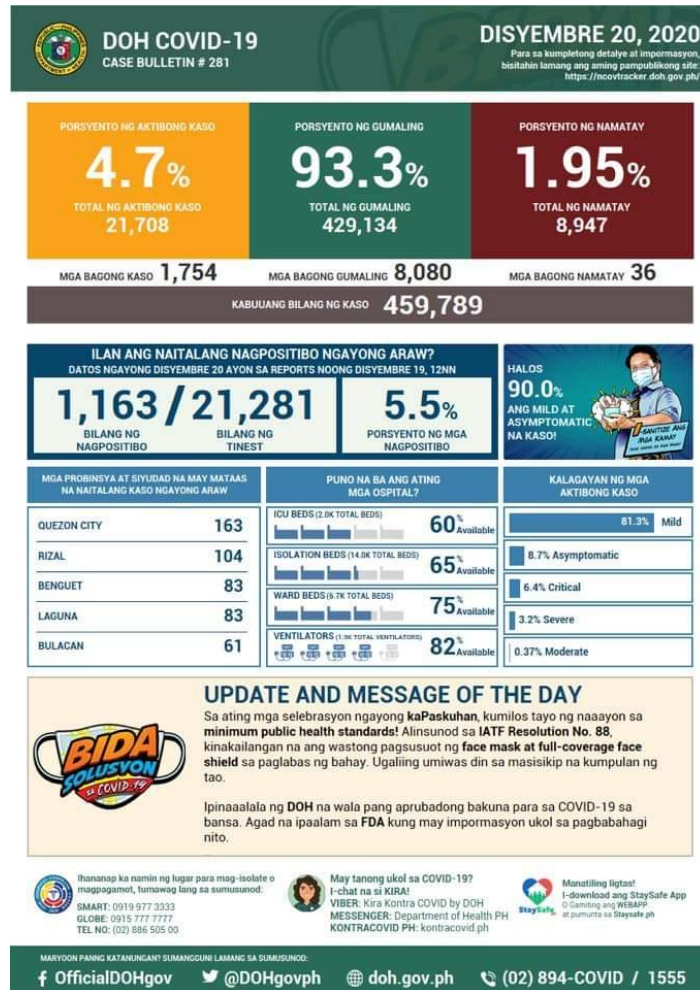
"Social media interactions were also put in place to gather and collate expressions of support and commitment from the different sectors."

— Jannielyn Ann Bigtas/LA, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/showbiz/chikamminute/768728/dingdong-dantes-atom-araullo-more-environmental-champions-to-talk-about-climate-change-on-facebook-li/story/>

BREAKING: Mga gumaling sa COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, sumampa na sa 429,134

By Angellic Jordan December 20, 2020 - 04:38 PM



Mahigit 1,000 muli ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Linggo (December 20), umabot na sa 459,789 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 21,708 o 4.7 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,754 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

81.3 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 8.7 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.37 porsyento ang moderate; 3.2 porsyento ang severe habang 6.4 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 36 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 8,947 o 1.95 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 8,080 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 429,134 o 93.3 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/280516/breaking-mga-gumaling-sa-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-sumampa-na-sa-429134>



HEADLINE

DU30 to clarify quarantine status

Published 6 hours ago on December 21, 2020 12:20 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#) [@tribunephil_MJB](#)



Crowd control Keeping safe is a gift we can give to ourselves and others. Just five days before Christmas, 75 members of SAF headed by MPD Dir. Pol. Gen. Leo Francisco are deployed in Divisoria to remind shoppers to observe physical distancing and follow health protocols. PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE [@tribunephil_bob](#)

President Rodrigo Duterte will meet with members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) after Christmas to determine the quarantine status of provinces across the country by January 2021, a senior Palace official said Sunday.

This, even as Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana denied rumors spreading online that Metro Manila will be placed anew under MECQ or modified enhanced community quarantine.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, who also serves as IATF co-chair, said the coronavirus task force will likely meet on 28 or 29 December to assess the Covid-19 data of all regions and to identify which areas will be placed under stricter quarantine status.

He added that the new lockdown classifications might be approved and announced by President Duterte on 31 December.

“After Christmas, the IATF will convene a meeting. Maybe on 31 December, the President will have a decision on quarantine status for the month of January,” Nograles told a radio interview.

The official also maintained that local government units can impose granular lockdowns in streets or barangays within their jurisdictions to contain the spread of Covid-19, provided they secure approval from the regional IATF.

Not true

Lorenzana, who is the chair of the National Task Force on Covid-19, said it has come to the attention of the IATF and the NTF Covid-19 the online rumors and quickly denied them. “This is not true,” Lorenzana said.

“As the President had earlier announced, Metro Manila shall remain under general community quarantine (GCQ) until the end of the year. Neither the IATF nor the mayors of Metro Manila recommended any shift in the quarantine status in this period,” he added.

Lorenzana, at same time, would also like to inform the public that the current situation in Metro Manila is stable and manageable and does not warrant a shift back to MECQ.



Nograles also belied the speculations and warned the public against the spread of false information.

Over the weekend, an unsigned document claiming that Metro Manila will revert to MECQ made rounds online. The supposed “confidential memorandum” contains a letterhead of the “Philippine National Police (PNP)-National Capital Region Police Office-Regional Intelligence Division.”

Nograles said the capital region will remain under GCQ — a status which has more relaxed quarantine protocols than MECQ — until the year-end.

As this developed, Lt. Gen. Cesar Hawthorne Binag, who leads the Joint Task Force Covid-19 shield, said the PNP will probe individuals behind the misinformation.

“It will be investigated, but we reiterate that it’s fake news,” Binag told a separate interview.

Concerns raised

Concerns were raised that the government will impose stricter quarantine measures after an uptick of new infections was observed in Metro Manila.

Health experts and government officials have repeatedly expressed fears that Covid-19 cases will increase in the coming days due to Christmas gatherings and celebrations.

According to analysts and statisticians from OCTA Research, an independent group monitoring Covid-19 data, coronavirus reproduction rate in Metro Manila spiked to 1.09 as of 17 December.

The group said it was a noticeable jump from the 0.90 reproduction rate on 1 December, which means that the virus “is spreading very fast.”

The World Health Organization has been advising countries to maintain the Covid-19 reproduction rate below one to prevent the healthcare system from being overwhelmed.

As of Saturday afternoon, the Philippines has recorded 458,044 coronavirus infections, in which 28,047 cases are active. **(With Francis Wakefield)**

Lorenzana says Metro Manila won't shift to MECQ

By Priam Nepomuceno December 20, 2020, 12:19 pm



Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary and National Task Force (NTF) Against Covid-19 chair Delfin Lorenzana (File photo)

MANILA – Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana denied reports claiming Metro Manila will revert to the stricter modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) starting Saturday.

"It has come to the attention of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) and the National Task Force against Covid-19 (NTF Covid-19) that rumors are spreading that Metro Manila will be placed under MECQ starting tonight, 19 December 2020. This is not true," Lorenzana, who is also NTF-Covid-19 chair, said in a statement.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte earlier retained Metro Manila under general community quarantine (GCQ) from Dec. 1 to 31.

"As the President had earlier announced, Metro Manila shall remain under GCQ until the end of the year. Neither the IATF nor the mayors of Metro Manila recommended any shift in the quarantine status in this period," Lorenzana said.

He said that the current Covid-19 situation in Metro Manila is stable and manageable and does not warrant a shift back to MECQ.

Despite stable situation, Lorenzana said the public must heed renewed appeals for cooperation in observing the health protocols the government put in place, such as wearing face mask and face shield in public, washing of hands and practicing safe physical distancing to prevent a coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) spike.

"Let us avoid going to crowded places and holding social gatherings in the meantime to help prevent a possible surge in cases during this holiday season," he added.

He said the Covid-19 pandemic is "still very much a threat to our health and safety" and urged the Filipinos not to be complacent and let their guard down.

For his part, Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año described such rumors of Metro Manila reverting back to MECQ as "fake news".

However, he said MECQ remains a possibility, especially if there will be a surge or spike of Covid-19 cases during the Christmas Holidays.

"That is not true. (That is) fake news. Pero kung magkakaroon tayo ng matinding surge or spike ngayong Christmas, possibleng mangyari yan (But if we will have massive surge or spike of Covid-19 during the Christmas holidays, that is possible)," he added in a message Saturday night. (With reports from Christopher LLoyd Caliwang/PNA)



WALA O KULANG SA DISIPLINA AT PASAWAY SA BATAS



December 21, 2020 @ 12:40 AM 6 hours ago

PINANONOOD natin ang mga video na lumalabas ukol sa ginagawa ng mga mamamayan sa Japan sa mga emergency at transportasyon.

Makaraang tamaan noong Marso 11, 2011 ng magnitude 9 na lindol at mahigit 33 piye na tsunami na may bilis na 800 kilometro kada oras ang ilang bahagi ng Tohoku Region na ikinatunaw sa apoy ng Fukushima Daichi nuclear power plant, lumabas na may 20,000 katao ang namatay at missing.

Daan-daang libo ang agad ding nawalan ng tahanan at makaraan ang apat na taon, may natira pang 230,000 katao na nasa evacuation center.

Umabot sa 10 taon ang programa para marehab ang lahat at binadyetan ito ng pamahalaang Japan ng \$155 bilyon, bukod pa ang inihatid na tulong ng iba't ibang bansa, kasama na ang International Red at Crescent Red Cross.

Matatapos ngayong 2021 ang rehabilitasyon ng buong lugar na tinamaan ng delubyo.

SUMUNOD SA PILA AT WALANG AGAWAN

Heto ngayon, mga Bro, ang nakikita natin sa mga video at larawan na disiplina at pagsunod sa batas ng mga nasa Japan sa mga panahon na nabanggit natin.

Makaraang maganap ang trahedyang noon ngang Marso 11, 2011 sumunod dito ang grabeng gutom sa daan-daan libong tao at kawalan na rin ng hanapbuhay at tahanan.

Mahigit apat na taon, mga Bro, ang inabot bago nakabalik lahat ang mga nabuhay na residente sa kani-kanilang lugar at tahanan at imadyinin natin kung gaano talaga kahirap ang naging kalagayan ng nasa 230,000 katao na huling nakatira sa mga evacuation center at siyempre, kasama ang higit na maraming biktima makaraan lang ang pangyayari.

Simple lang ang kontribusyon ng mga mamamayan.

Kitang-kita ang pagsunod nila sa pila na may social distancing sa mga rasyon sa pagkain at personal na pangangailangan.

Hindi nakitaan ang mga ito ng mga unahan, sikuhan, gitgitan at pandaraya sa mga rasyon.

Napakalaking kontribusyon ito ng mga mamamayan upang maging maayos ang pamamahala ng kanilang pamahalaan sa pamimigay ng mga rasyon o ayuda.



Maging ang mga may sasakyan na motorsiklo at 4-wheel, napakaayos din ang pila at walang agawang naganap sa mga u-turn, left at right turn at iba pang kanto at kalsada na may iba't ibang direksyon.

Ang mga nakamotorsiklo, pumipila na parang 4-wheel sa mga direksyon nila.

SA PINAS? DIYOS NA MAHABAGIN!

Delubyo rin na maituturing ang pagdating ng isang taon nang pandemyang dulot ng coronavirus disease o COVID-19 na ikinasakit na ng mahigit sa 450,000 katao at ikinamatay naman ng halos 9,000 na.

Pagkatapos, kinakambalan pa ang mga ito ng mga delubyo na gawa ng mga bagyong gaya nina Rolly, Ulysses, Vicky at mga pag-ulan na dala ng amihan at La Niña.

Kaya naman, milyon ang naghihirap sa kasalukuyan at daang libo at laging tumatakbo sa mga evacuation center, kalsada at iba pa.

Heto ngayon ang mga problema.

Sa pagpunta-punta natin nang personal sa mga hinahatiran natin ng relief goods, bibihira ang mga evacuation center at lugar na pinupuntahan natin na may disiplina at pagsunod sa batas.

Nariryan ang mga grabeng agawan sa pwesto, sikuhan, unahan, agawan ng relief goods, paglabag sa social distancing at pila.

May mga pangyayari pa nga na sine-xerox ang mga tiket kaya marami ang may hawak ng mga tiket na hindi kayang bigyan dahil sa limitasyon naman ng mga inihahatid na tulong.

May mga lugar nga na kahit nariryan ang mga pulis at tanod, binabalewala ng mga mamamayan at nakikita nating nagtitimpi na lang ang mga ito sa kasasaway sa mga pasaway.

Kung pupwede lang na itakbo at itakas na lang ang relief goods na ipinamimigay ay gawin ng mga mapagkawanggawa.

Sa mga oras ng paghahatid ng relief goods, alam ba ninyong natatrapik sila dahil sa singitan sa mga lansangan ng mga traysikel, motorsiklo, at iba pang sasakyan?

At may mga disgrasya pa dahil sa singitan at unahan na dahilan ng paghinto ng takbo ng mga sasakyan dahil kailangan pang tumawag ng pulis na imbestigador para mag-imbestiga bago mapakawalan o maitabi ang mga nasangkot na sasakyan sa mga disgrasya.

KAILAN TAYO MAGKAKADISIPLINA AT HINDI PASAWAY SA BATAS?

Kung iisipin, punom-puno tayo ng mga kaalaman ukol sa mga tamang pagpila, social distancing, pagbibigayan, pagsunod sa mga batas at iba pa sa mga oras ng emergency, delubyo at iba pa.

Alam nating lahat na para sa kapakanan ng lahat at indibidwal ang mga ito.



Sama-sama ang media, social media, simbahan, eskwelahan, mga local government unit, pambansang pamahalaan, pribadong organisasyon at iba pa sa pagsisiwalat ng mga ito.

Pero pagdating sa tunay na pangyayari, marami ang nakalilimot sa dapat nating gawin bilang mamamayan at marami ang pinaiiral ang mga pansariling interes.

Ang totoo, nakalulungkot na nasasaksihan natin ito sa gitna ng mga pandemya at delubyo.

Ayon sa ating Uzi, ang mga problemang nabanggit ang isa sa napakalaking dahilan ng hindi natin pag-usad bilang isang bansa tungo sa ninanais nating pagbabago at pag-unlad.

Kailan tayo magbabago bilang tulong sa pamahalaan na nagsusumikap na ayusin ang lahat sa kabila ng mga kakapusan nito?



TD Vicky affects 1.6K families, leaves P105-M infra damage

By Priam Nepomuceno December 20, 2020, 2:53 pm



MANILA – Around 1,590 families or some 6,702 persons residing in 57 barangays in Regions 11 (Davao) and 13 (Caraga) were affected by the heavy rains and flooding spawned by Tropical Depression Vicky, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Sunday.

The report, signed and released by NDRRMC executive director Ricardo Jalad, said around 1,328 families or 5,464 persons are now being sheltered in 58 evacuation centers while 43 families or 275 individuals are being aided outside.

It added infrastructure damage was placed at PHP105 million in the Caraga.

The agency also reported that six road sections and one bridge in Regions 8 (Eastern Visayas), 11, and the Caraga were affected by "Vicky".

Eighty-three houses were damaged -- 62 classified as "totally damaged" and 21 "partially damaged" in Cebu.

As this developed, NDRRMC deputy spokesperson Mark Cashean Timbal, in an interview over DZMM radio Sunday, said they are still awaiting official reports regarding the three alleged fatalities attributed to "Vicky" in Mahaplag, Leyte.

"Nakatanggap po tayo ng ulat na meron tayong tatlong kababayan na nasawi dyan sa Mahaplag, Leyte pero inaantay pa po natin yung official report mula sa DOH (Department of Health) at LGU (local government unit) for the cause of death ng mga kababayan natin dyan (We have received reports that three of our countrymen were reported killed in Mahaplag, Leyte but we are still waiting for the official report of the DOH and the LGU for their exact cause of death)," he added.

Timbal also said the same for the three reported dead and other casualties in Agusan Del Sur.

"Yun dyan for sa Agusan (Del Sur) we're waiting for the complete report din po kaya baka later po today ay magkaroon tayo ng adjustment sa count ng casualties natin (For Agusan Del Sur, we're waiting for the complete report, so maybe later we could have an adjustment on the count for the casualties)," he added. (PNA)



‘Vicky’ floods Visayas, Mindanao

By Arlie O. Calalo

December 20, 2020

TROPICAL Depression “Vicky” dumped rain in most parts of the country on Saturday, causing floods that initially affected more than 1,000 people in hard-hit Mindanao and prompting the government to abandon its short-lived respite from the previous typhoons to once again roll out its disaster response.



VICIOUS VICKY A general view of destroyed houses after Tropical Depression 'Vicky' hit Lapu-Lapu City in Cebu province on Dec. 19, 2020. AFP PHOTO

Vicky made landfall in Davao Oriental and Surigao del Sur on Friday and, as of press time, was forecast to cross the northern or central portion of Palawan by Saturday night, according to the 5 p.m. bulletin of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

A total of 338 families or 1,525 individuals from 13 villages in Northern Mindanao, Davao Region and Caraga were housed in nine evacuation centers, the National Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported on Saturday.

NDRRMC chief, Undersecretary Ricardo Jalad, directed local government units (LGUs) to prepare as it recorded nine incidents of flooding in Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur and a landslide in Bislig City in Surigao del Sur.

There were no casualties in the affected areas, so far, the NDRRMC said.

Aside from Vicky, Jalad said there were other weather systems in the country like the northeast monsoon (locally known as “Amihan”) and the tail end of a frontal system.

The NDRRMC said it was issuing regular rainfall warnings through mobile text alerts to various locations.

“LGU preparation is key to ensuring public safety against the threat of natural hazards, such as floods and landslides,” Jalad said in a statement.

Based on the Oplan Listo Manual of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the LGUs of the communities on the plains and banks of the Cagayan River and its tributaries, Agusan River all the way to Butuan City, and Bicol Region river systems must undertake the necessary preparations, Jalad said.

In a statement, Palace spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said the government has readied funds and relief supplies for the victims of Vicky and asked the public to stay vigilant.

Roque said President Rodrigo Duterte “continues to monitor tropical depression Vicky as concerned agencies of the government assist areas that are in its track and provide rescue and relief operations to affected residents.”

“We ask the public, especially those living in the affected areas to stay calm, remain vigilant and be ready to evacuate in case local authorities advise them to do so. Regularly monitor government advisories and weather updates for more information,” he added.



As of Dec. 18, 2020 at 6 p.m, Roque said the Department of Social Welfare and Development central office, field offices, and National Resource Operations Center have stockpiles and standby funds amounting to P778 million, including a total of 230,191 family food packs.

He said the Department of Health, Department of Public Works and Highways, and Philippine National Police have prepositioned medical supplies, teams for clearing operations and 1,590 Search and Rescue personnel.

Vice President Maria Leonor “Leni” Robredo responded to netizens’ queries by giving updates on social media through her trending #NasaanAngBisePresidente (Where is the Vice President).

Speaking in Filipino, Robredo said her office was ready to coordinate with authorities from the affected areas and asked for prayers for the residents of Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur. She posted on her Facebook page her appeal along with a photo of a meme of a netizen looking for her.

Duterte had criticized the vice president for alleged “grandstanding” and “competing” in the relief efforts. Robredo and the opposition was also blamed for allegedly starting the #NasaanAngPangulo (Where is the President) hashtag that trended at the height of Typhoon “Ulysses” (international name: “Vamco”). Robredo had denied these allegations.

Storm signals

Signal No. 1 remained up in parts of Luzon and was lowered in the Visayas and Mindanao as Vicky was forecast to exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility today, Sunday, Pagasa said.

Pagasa said on Saturday that Vicky moved generally west-northwestward over the Sulu Sea and was expected to intensify into a tropical storm once it reaches the West Philippine Sea.

It is, however, forecast to remain a tropical depression while crossing the Philippine archipelago, according to Pagasa.

The tropical depression was 135 kilometers east-southeast of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, and moved west-northwestward at a speed of 15 kilometers per hour (kph) on Saturday. It packed maximum sustained winds of 45kph near the center and gustiness of up to 55kph.

Moderate to heavy with at times intense rains were experienced over Bicol Region, Isabela, Aurora, Laguna, Rizal, Quezon, Marinduque and Palawan, including Calamian, Cuyo and Cagayancillo Islands.

Light to moderate with at times heavy rains were experienced over Metro Manila, the Visayas, Apayao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao, and the rest of mainland Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) and Cordillera Administrative Region.

Pagasa said heavy to intense rains were felt in the Bicol Region, Quezon, Aurora, Isabela, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya while moderate to heavy with at times intense rains were experienced over Apayao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Oriental Mindoro, Kalayaan Islands and the rest of mainland Cagayan Valley.

With reports from CATHERINE S. VALENTE and DIVINA NOVA JOY DELA CRUZ

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/12/20/news/top-stories/vicky-floods-visayas-mindanao/814053/>



At least 3,500 evacuated due to flooding in Cagayan, Isabela

Published December 20, 2020 12:46pm

Updated December 20, 2020 2:08pm

At least 3,500 individuals have been evacuated as of Sunday noon in Cagayan and Isabela due to flooding.

Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba told Super Radyo dzBB that around 2,500 individuals were evacuated in the province, of whom, 1,400 are in Tuguegarao City and the rest in Enrile and Solana.

Meanwhile, Isabela Governor Rodito Albano also told Super Radyo dzBB their evacuees are around 1,000 as of posting time.

Cagayan

"Dumadami ang aming mga evacuees," Mamba said.

"Medyo mabilis tumaas ang tubig galing sa Cagayan River," he added, noting that the level of the river was already at 11 meters as of 11 a.m. on Sunday.

"Last time, umabot tayo ng 13 meters," Mamba said.

"Kaya nag-aanticipate din kami na 'pag hindi humupa ang ulan, talagang mauulit ang nangyari sa amin one month ago," he said, referring to last month's situation wherein many residents had to seek refuge on their roofs as floodwaters continued to rise.



Mamba said the provincial government is already on red alert.

The 1,400 evacuees in Tuguegarao are from 15 barangays, he said.

"Ina-anticipate namin paglaki ng tubig hanggang mamayang gabi dahil open pa rin 'yung Magat Dam. Nag-aanticipate kami na lalaki pa ito lalong lalo na kung hindi pa huhupa ang ulan," Mamba said.

The governor said the affected communities are Tuguegarao, Enrile, Solana, and Amulung.

"Almost all the stretch of Cagayan River ... ay magkakaroon ng flooding," he said, "pero ang worst, dito sa Tuguegarao, Enrile, Solana, as far as Amulung."

Residents have expressed fears that there would be a repeat of the recent widespread flooding.

"Karamihan kasi may takot na, may phobia. Baka abutin sila ng gabi, tatakbo na 'yan sa mga evacuation centers at sa mga adopt-a-neighbor nila," Mamba said.

The governor said rain continues to pour over Cagayan as of midday.

"Nag-preprepare kami sa worst na scenario. Walang stop pa rin. Umuulan pa rin. Sa gabi, grabe ang ulan. Talagang nag-uulan pa. Hopefully diyan sa bandang Isabela, Vizcaya, hindi katulad dito," he added.

Isabela

At least one person was reported missing amid the flooding in Isabela, Albano said.

"May isa. Mataas ang ilog, rumaragasa, lumangoy pa, tumawid. Ayon, nawala," he said, adding that authorities are looking for that person.

Albano said they are monitoring not just Cagayan River but also Pinacanauan River which is one of the tributaries of Cagayan River.

"Yung tubig sa Pinacanauan River sa bandang Sierra Madre, mukhang rumagasa ang tubig. 'Pag 'yung tributary na 'yon namamaga, naaapektuhan ang Cagayan, nagkakaroon ng catch basin na naman," he said.

Albano also said a portion of the national highway in Cabagan was rendered impassable due to flooding.

"Nahati ang national highway," he said, but said there are alternate routes motorists could use.

Albano said ten towns have been affected by the flooding. Some bridges were flooded as well, rendering roads not passable.



The governor said they will resume the giving of cash subsidies under the Social Amelioration Program and the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged / Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program of the Department of Labor and Employment this week after the floods subside.

Red Cross

Senator Richard Gordon, chairman and CEO of Philippine Red Cross, said their volunteers and staff are helping families evacuate.

"Sila ngayon ay nasa Bgy. Lanna, Enrile at lilibot pa sa ibang parte ng probinsya," Gordon said on Twitter on Sunday.

The Cagayan River [reached the above critical level](#) on Sunday morning, and PAGASA warned of widespread flooding.

Both Cagayan and Isabela experienced widespread flooding in November amid heavy rains from Typhoon Ulysses (international name: Vamco).

Six gates of Magat Dam in Isabela were opened Saturday, and of these, [four remained open](#) as of 9 a.m. on Sunday.

PAGASA said [moderate to heavy rains](#) which may be intense at times will be experienced on Sunday over mainland Cagayan Valley, Apayao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Aurora, Quezon, Bicol Region and northern portion of Palawan including Calamian Islands, and Kalayaan Islands.

Light to moderate with at times heavy rains will be experienced in Babuyan Islands, Metro Manila, Northern Samar, and the rest of Cordillera Administrative Region, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, and Mimaropa.

These weather conditions are due to the combined effects of Tropical Depression Vicky, the tail-end of a Frontal System (Shear Line), and low pressure area, PAGASA said. —**KG, GMA**

News

5 reported dead as 'Vicky' triggers landslides, floods

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Dec 19, 2020 10:39:49 AM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 19) — A total of five people were reported dead on Saturday due to the onslaught of Tropical Depression Vicky.

A landslide triggered by heavy rains killed at least two people and caused a portion of a road to collapse in Mahaplag, Leyte, the town's Mayor Daisy Lleve said Saturday.

The fatalities from the landslide in Barangay Cuatro de Agosto were a 67-year-old woman and a 62-year-old woman, Lleve said in a Facebook post.

The Mahaplag mayor said two others survived, one of whom was brought to a hospital after sustaining injuries.

The mayor also reported the affected road, Mahaplag via Baybay, was impassable as of Saturday morning.

Mahaplag town was earlier placed under Signal No. 1 due to the strong winds and heavy rains caused by Tropical Depression Vicky.

Disaster management officials from Silago town in Southern Leyte also reported a landslide in Barangay Tubod on Friday, causing a part of a road embankment to collapse. There were no reported casualties. Only one lane is passable, and only for light vehicles.

Meanwhile, three people died of drowning in Surigao Del Sur according to Surigao Del Sur Governor Alexander 'Ayec' Pimentel.

A landslide in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur, also on Friday damaged a power substation in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur, affecting four transmission lines. Grid operator National Grid Corporation of the Philippines said Saturday it repaired the power lines.

Massive flooding, rescues, evacuations

Rains from Vicky also flooded areas in the Visayas and Mindanao, including Leyte, Southern Leyte, Agusan del Sur, and Surigao del Sur, and residents were rescued from their submerged homes.





In Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, and Lapu Lapu City in Cebu, a number of houses in coastal areas were damaged due to heavy rains and big waves.

About 50 houses were heavily damaged in Barangay Tinago in Dumaguete, Barangay Kagawad Paul Baybay said in an interview with CNN Philippines.



Meanwhile, big waves washed away more than 70 houses in Barangay Ibo in Mactan Island in Lapu Lapu, displacing more than 290 people, according to the city disaster management office. The city government said people were evacuated to nearby Ibo Elementary School.

Govt. response

Malacañang said on Saturday that national government agencies are providing assistance to affected communities.

The Philippine National Police deployed 1,590 search and rescue personnel, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said in a statement.

Teams from the Department of Public Works and Highways conducted clearing operations, he said.

He added the Department of Health prepositioned drugs and medicine in its regional and provincial offices.

CNN Philippines Correspondents Wil Mark Amazona, Dale Israel and Roy Bustillo contributed to this report

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/12/19/Vicky-impact-Visayas-Mindanao.html>



Daan-daang residente inilikas sa Palawan dahil sa baha, malalakas na alon

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Dec 20 2020 02:31 PM

Aabot sa halos 300 indibiduwal sa bayan ng Linapacan, Palawan ang inilikas gabi ng Sabado dahil sa masamang panahong dala ng Bagyong Vicky.

Nasa 61 pamilya o katumbas ng 293 indibiduwal mula Purok Amianan, Barangay San Miguel ang dinala sa evacuation center dahil sa high tide at malalakas na hampas ng alon, ayon sa Linapacan Municipal Police Station.

Patuloy namang naka-alerto ang emergency operations center sa Palawan para bantayan ang epekto ng bagyo sa lalawigan.

Inaasahang lalabas sa Philippine area of responsibility ngayong araw ang Vicky, na nagdulot ng matinding pagbaha sa ilang lugar sa Visayas at Mindanao.

-- **Ulat ni Rex Ruta**



Cagayan River nasa above critical level na, malawakang pagbaha posible



December 20, 2020 @ 10:26 AM 21 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nasa above critical level na ang Cagayan River ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Dahil dito posible ang malawakang pagbaha.

Sa huling ulat dakong 7:00 ng umaga, umabot na sa above critical level ang mababa, gitna, at mataas na bahagi ng Cagayan River.

Anila, maaari pa itong tumaas dahil sa pagtuloy na pag-ulang dulot ni Tropical Depression Vicky at the tail-end of a frontal system (Shear Line) sa Cagayan Valley, Apayao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Aurora, Quezon, Bicol Region, at Kalayaan Islands.

Samantala, patuloy ang pagpapakawala ng tubig sa Magat Dam. **RNT/ELM**



Nuclear project costing must reflect waste storage, decommissioning

December 20, 2020 | 6:36 pm



PHILSTAR

ANY FULL accounting of the affordability of nuclear power must include the costs to be incurred in storing nuclear waste and decommissioning power plants, according to an expert from the University of the Philippines (UP).

UP Diliman energy engineering professor Nicanor S. Villaseñor III said nuclear power proponents touting the energy source's affordability must account for costs across the whole life cycle of the power plant.

The Nuclear Energy Program Inter-agency Committee (NEP-IAC) is due to submit its policy recommendations to President Rodrigo R. Duterte this month.

“When we develop a power project, you take all things into consideration — the life of the project until decommissioning... (I hope) if they present a (recommendation for) nuclear, then please show us what is the real cost of setting it up, including waste disposal and decommissioning,” Mr. Villaseñor, the former president of renewable energy developer Philippine Hybrid Energy Systems, Inc. (PHESI), told BusinessWorld in a phone interview on Dec. 8.

He said the biggest concern with nuclear power is ensuring the safe disposal of the radioactive waste, which could have detrimental effects on communities and the environment if not stored properly.

“(The) waste disposal aspect issue of nuclear is not short-term. It's very long-term. We're talking about hundreds of years, and special infrastructure (is needed),” he said.

He added that the environmental consequences and safety aspects must also be included in computing the levelized cost of energy (LCOE) of nuclear power.

Mr. Villaseñor said the best way to compare various energy technologies is to look at their respective LCOEs, which should consider the construction, operation, maintenance, waste disposal and decommissioning.

Senator Sherwin T. Gatchalian, who chairs that chamber's energy committee, has said that initial estimates for nuclear power's affordability is still subject to debate.



“It’s debatable whether it’s really a cheap source of power. It’s debatable whether improving all the externalities, waste disposal and (de)commissioning will really bring out costs, and we need to study this very carefully, because at the end, this is the best selling point for nuclear power – it’s cheap,” he said in a Dec. 7 keynote presentation at the Philippine Nuclear Research and Development Conference.

During a visit to a nuclear power plant in Slovenia two years ago, he was briefed that the cost of running the plant – including capital expenditure and decommissioning – was the equivalent of P3.9 kilowatt per hour (kWh).

“We also have to take note that this is a completely depreciated plant already. So a brand new plant might go up in terms of cost,” Mr. Gatchalian said.

Earlier, the director of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) Dr. Carlo A. Arcilla said that nuclear power could address the country’s need for reliable baseload power. He added that nuclear could back up solar and wind more stably than coal. — **Angelica Y. Yang**



Biden unveils diverse team tasked with ambitious climate agenda

Reuters / 10:58 PM December 20, 2020



Congresswoman Deb Haaland, U.S. President-elect Joe Biden's nominee for the Interior Secretary, speaks after Biden announced her nomination among another round of nominees and appointees for his administration in Wilmington, Delaware, U.S., December 19, 2020. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

WILMINGTON, Delaware — President-elect Joe Biden introduced his climate and energy team on Saturday, a history-making group that will seek to advance an ambitious climate agenda that reverses many Trump administration policies.

Michael Regan would become the first Black man to run the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) if confirmed by the Senate, and U.S. Representative Deb Haaland, as interior secretary, would be the first Native American Cabinet member.

“This moment is profound when we consider the fact that a former secretary of the Interior once proclaimed it his goal to, quote, ‘civilize or exterminate’ us,” said Haaland, referring to comments made by Alexander H.H. Stuart in 1851. “I’m a living testament to the failure of that horrific ideology.”

Biden, a Democrat who will be inaugurated on Jan. 20, has vowed to make tackling climate change a top priority. But with a slim majority in the House of Representatives and control of the Senate still undecided, his agenda may see little success in Congress and instead rely on rules from his regulatory agencies to enact sweeping change.

Biden, who served as vice president to President Barack Obama, tapped Obama's EPA administrator, Gina McCarthy, to fill a new role as national climate adviser.

Former Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm will be Biden's energy secretary if confirmed. “Today's nominees are ready on day one, which is essential because we literally have no time to waste,” Biden said at a media briefing in his home state of Delaware.

Environmental groups have largely praised the team for its experience and diversity. But the powerful fossil fuel industry, which Biden has frequently criticized, has argued he must balance climate efforts with preserving jobs.

Biden wants the United States to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, which would require the world's second-largest emitter to transform its economy including transportation, power generation, and farming.



Michael Regan, U.S. President-elect Joe Biden's nominee for Head of The Environmental Protection Agency, speaks after Biden announced his nomination among another round of nominees and appointees for his administration in Wilmington, Delaware, U.S., December 19, 2020. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

He diverges sharply from President Donald Trump, who withdrew Washington from the Paris climate accord and softened or dismantled climate regulations the administration deemed harmful to the economy.

The president-elect on Saturday spoke with Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador about a "new approach" to regional migration and its causes in Central America, the Biden transition team said.

Trump on Saturday continued to falsely assert on Twitter that the election had been stolen from him through voter fraud.

The Republican president on Friday evening discussed with Sidney Powell, a lawyer formerly on his election challenge team, her potential appointment as a special government counsel to probe allegations of voter fraud, according to a source familiar with the meeting. Powell has promoted unproven conspiracy theories about rigged voting machines.

It was unclear whether Trump intended to move forward with the plan. Both White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and White House counsel Pat Cipollone strenuously objected to the idea, the source said.



Congresswoman Deb Haaland, US President-elect Joe Biden's nominee for the Interior Secretary, speaks after Biden announced her nomination among another round of nominees and appointees for his administration in Wilmington, Delaware, December 19, 2020. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

Biden introduces environment team to tackle 'existential threat'

Published December 20, 2020 5:45pm

WASHINGTON — President-elect Joe Biden on Saturday introduced key members of his environmental team and said his administration would make the fight against global warming a pillar of his drive to rebuild the pandemic-hit US economy.

Biden said these nominees will "lead my Administration's ambitious plan to address an existential threat of our time—climate change."

"Folks, we're in a crisis," Biden said at the event in Wilmington, Delaware. "Just like we need to be a unified nation to respond to COVID-19, we need a unified national response to climate change."

The nominees introduced Saturday include Representative Deb Haaland of New Mexico to be Interior Secretary.

Overseeing America's natural resources that include national parks and wildlife refuges, if confirmed by the Senate, Haaland would be the first Native American to hold a Cabinet position.

Biden said his administration will work to modernize water, transportation and energy infrastructure to make it better equipped to resist extreme weather conditions—and create many jobs along the way.

Biden also said he wants to build 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations and 1.5 million energy-efficient homes and public housing units.

He also said his administration will create a quarter million jobs "right away" by hiring people to plug millions of abandoned oil and gas wells that are deemed a health and safety risk.

Biden repeated that he will rejoin the Paris climate accord, which President Donald Trump abandoned, and restore a slew of Obama-era environmental regulations that Trump eliminated.



For other jobs, Biden said he has picked Gina McCarthy, Obama's Environmental Protection Agency administrator, to lead a new White House Office of Climate Policy.

Biden has also tapped Michael Regan, North Carolina's top environmental regulator, to run the Environmental Protection Agency and Brenda Mallory, an environmental attorney, to direct the Council on Environmental Quality.

Regan and Mallory are Black. Biden said that with Saturday's announcements, his Cabinet will feature six African Americans. — **Agence France-Presse**



Biden introduces his climate team, says ‘no time to waste’

By [Associated Press](#)

December 20, 2020

WILMINGTON, Delaware: Just as the United States has needed a unified, national response to coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), it needs one for dealing with climate change, President-elect Joe Biden said Saturday as he rolled out key members of his environmental team.

“We literally have no time to waste,” Biden told reporters as introduced his choices.

The approach is a shift from Donald Trump’s presidency, which has been marked by efforts to boost oil and gas production while rolling back government efforts intended to safeguard the environment. The incoming Biden team will try to undo or block many of the current administration’s initiatives. There also will be an emphasis on looking out for the low-income, working class and minority communities hit hardest by fossil fuel pollution and climate change.

In his remarks, Biden stressed the diversity of an emerging team that he described as “brilliant, qualified, tested and they are barrier-busting.”

“Already there are more people of color in our Cabinet than any Cabinet ever, more women than ever,” said the former vice president, who has promised to assemble a group of department leaders who reflect the diversity of America.

The nominees Biden introduced Saturday had compelling personal stories that they cited as guiding them if confirmed by the Senate.

New Mexico Rep. Deb Haaland would be the first Native American to lead the Interior Department, which has wielded influence over the nation’s tribes for generations. She said her life has not been easy. She struggled with homelessness and relied on food stamps at one point.

“This moment is profound when we consider the fact that a former secretary of the Interior once proclaimed his goal, was to quote, ‘civilize or exterminate’ us,” Haaland said. “I’m a living testament to the failure of that horrific ideology.”

Haaland was referring to Alexander H.H. Stuart, who said that in 1851.

Former two-term Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm is in line to be energy secretary. She described arriving in the US at age 4 and brought from Canada by a family “seeking opportunity.” She said her father found work as a bank teller and retired as head of the bank.

“It’s because of my family’s journey and my experience in fighting for hardworking Michigan families that I have become obsessed, obsessed with gaining good-paying jobs in America in a global economy,” Granholm said.

North Carolina official Michael Regan would be the first African American man to run the Environmental Protection Agency. Regan, the state environmental head since 2017, has made a name for himself by pursuing cleanups of industrial toxins and helping the low-income and minority communities significantly affected by pollution.



Regan said he grew up in North Carolina hunting and fishing with his father and grandfather and that he has great respect for the outdoors and the country's natural resources, but he also had a respiratory condition that required him to use an inhaler.

“Since the start of my career, my goals have been the same,” Regan said. “To safeguard our natural resources, to improve the quality of our air and water, to protect our families and our communities, and to help them see the opportunities of a cleaner, healthier world.”

Biden's nominee to oversee the Council on Environmental Quality is Brenda Mallory. The office oversees environmental reviews for virtually all major infrastructure projects and advises the president on major environmental issues. If confirmed, she would be the first African American to hold the position since it was created more than half a century ago.

Two other members of the team introduced Saturday do not need Senate confirmation. They are Gina McCarthy, to serve as national climate adviser, and Ali Zaidi, to serve as her deputy. McCarthy was EPA administrator from 2013 to 2017 during President Barack Obama's second term.



WWF says Asian bank portfolios at risk to risks from nature loss

By [Dennis Estopace](#)

December 21, 2020

Nonprofit group World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Inc. said its fourth assessment of environmental, social and governance (ESG) integration performance shows signs of progress.

However, the WWF said banks in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), Japan and South Korea must step up their ambitions to match global momentum.

WWF said its 2020 Sustainable Banking Assessment (Susba), which now includes five Japanese and five South Korean banks together with 38 Asean banks, finds that the banks assessed have made progress in integrating environmental and social considerations into their financing activities. However, the group said these banks still have “large gaps that leave their portfolios vulnerable to risks arising from climate change and nature loss.”

WWF said the assessment is based on a framework covering six aspects of overall ESG integration—purpose, policies, processes, people, products, portfolio—and a new “sectors and issues’ deep-dive analysis on sector policies.”

WWF said its Susba 2020 marks the fourth assessment and it has found a significant level of progress with over 75 percent of Asean banks making some improvement, and almost 30 percent improving on at least 10 percent of the assessment criteria from 2019. WWF said that while there was a doubling of Asean banks fulfilling at least half of the 70 criteria, from four to eight, this remains a small proportion.

WWF said about 45 percent of banks fulfilled less than a quarter of the criteria, compared to 51 percent last year.

Harmonized approach

According to the WWF, while Korean banks scored similar to the Asean average, Japanese banks performed above this average.

“Besides banks in Asean, this year’s assessment also includes major Japanese and South Korean banks,” WWF Senior Vice President of Asia Sustainable Finance Keith Lee was quoted in a statement as saying.

“They play a significant role in financing businesses not just in their home countries but in Southeast Asia as well,” Lee added. “The interdependence of Asia’s economies necessitates a harmonized approach to sustainable finance in which all banks contribute to sustainable development, and we hope to facilitate this by including these banks in Susba this year.”

WWF said the Philippine banks assessed all consider sustainable finance and/or climate change a material issue. It added that four out of seven local banks disclose offering green financial solutions.

“However, the said banks have yet to disclose any policies or requirements for specific sectors that are particularly sensitive to environmental and social (E&S) considerations,” the WWF said.

It added that with the new Sustainable Finance Framework of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in place, three Philippine banks are “well-positioned to meet new regulatory requirements in terms of having standardized frameworks for E&S due diligence.”

Water, coal

While all five Japanese banks recognize deforestation risks, none have made similar commitments to eradicating deforestation in their portfolios, the WWF assessment showed.



Only 21 percent of Asean banks and 20 percent of Korean banks recognize water risks beyond pollution. One Japanese bank and a few Asean banks recognize water pollution as a risk, but otherwise overlook the threats of water scarcity or flooding. No bank requires clients to conduct water risk assessments or practice water stewardship. However, water risks can be material to businesses, with up to \$425 billion of value at risk globally.

The “sectors and issues” analysis found that Korean and Japanese banks are taking steps to reduce coal-related financing.

However, 91 percent of Asean banks assessed continue to finance new coal-fired power plants. Continued financing of coal leaves banks exposed to climate-related transition risks, such as carbon taxes and technological obsolescence.

Encouragingly, 53 percent of ASEAN banks are now engaging with regulators on sustainable finance topics—a major increase over last year’s 31 percent.

Quantified targets

The WWF said about 35 percent of banks have set quantified targets to increase financing of more sustainable projects or businesses, including four Japanese and two Korean banks. Achieving these targets should help banks to generate positive impacts from their financing activities.

However, WWF said banks can adopt a “more strategic approach by setting science-based targets to decarbonize their portfolios, which will become ever more important as banks continue to face increasing pressure from investors to manage ESG risks.”

“Many banks made good progress this year. Maintaining this progress into 2021 will be challenging but crucial as the world grapples with the Covid-19 pandemic. Banks have an important role to play; just as they help businesses recover from the pandemic, they are pivotal to navigating the climate and nature emergencies,” Lee was quoted as saying. “This crisis has shown that society is more exposed to nature risk than ever, but with the right corrective actions, we can emerge stronger and more resilient.”



The world's most urgent mission

By: [António Guterres](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:02 AM December 21, 2020

As the world marks the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the landmark Paris Agreement on climate change, a promising movement for carbon neutrality is taking shape.

By next month, countries representing more than 65 percent of harmful greenhouse gases and more than 70 percent of the world economy will have committed to achieve net-zero emissions by the middle of the century.

At the same time, the main climate indicators are worsening. While the COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily reduced emissions, carbon dioxide levels are still at record highs—and rising. The past decade was the hottest on record; Arctic Sea ice in October was the lowest ever, and apocalyptic fires, floods, droughts, and storms are increasingly the new normal.

Biodiversity is collapsing, deserts are spreading, while oceans are warming and choking with plastic waste. Science tells us that unless we cut fossil fuel production by 6 percent every year between now and 2030, things will get worse. Instead, the world is on track for a 2 percent annual rise.

Pandemic recovery gives us an unexpected yet vital opportunity to attack climate change, fix our global environment, re-engineer economies, and reimagine our future. Here is what we must do.

First, we need to build a truly global coalition for carbon neutrality by 2050.

The European Union has committed to do so. The United Kingdom, Japan, the Republic of Korea and more than 110 countries have done the same. So, too, has the incoming US administration. China has pledged to get there before 2060.

Every country, city, financial institution, and company should adopt plans for net-zero—and act now to get on the right path to that goal, which means cutting global emissions by 45 percent by 2030 compared with 2010 levels.

In advance of next November's UN Climate Conference in Glasgow, governments are obligated by the Paris Agreement to be ever more ambitious every five years and submit strengthened commitments known as Nationally Determined Contributions, and these NDCs must show true ambition for carbon neutrality.

Technology is on our side. It costs more to simply run most of today's coal plants than it does to build new renewable plants from scratch. Economic analysis confirms the wisdom of this path. According to the International Labor Organization, despite inevitable job losses, the clean energy transition will create 18 million net new jobs by 2030. But we must recognize the human costs of decarbonization, and support workers with social protection, reskilling and upskilling so that the transition is just.

Second, we need to align global finance with the Paris Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals, the world's blueprint for a better future.



It is time to put a price on carbon; end fossil fuel subsidies and finance; stop building new coal power plants; shift the tax burden from income to carbon, from taxpayers to polluters; make climate-related financial risk disclosures mandatory; and integrate the goal of carbon neutrality into all economic and fiscal decision-making. Banks must align their lending with the net-zero objective, and asset owners and managers must decarbonize their portfolios.

Third, we must secure a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience to help those already facing the dire impacts of climate change.

That's not happening enough today: Adaptation represents only 20 percent of climate finance. This hinders our efforts to reduce disaster risk. Adaptation and resilience are especially urgent for small island developing states, for which climate change is an existential threat.

Next year gives us a wealth of opportunities to address our planetary emergencies, through major United Nations conferences and other efforts on biodiversity, oceans, transport, energy, cities, and food systems. One of our best allies is nature itself: Nature-based solutions could provide one-third of the net reductions in greenhouse gas emissions required to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Indigenous knowledge can help to point the way. And as humankind devises strategies for preserving the environment and building a green economy, we need more women decision-makers at the table.

COVID-19 and climate have brought us to a threshold. We cannot go back to the old normal of inequality and fragility; instead, we must step toward a safer, more sustainable path. We must make pandemic recovery and climate action two sides of the same coin. The Jakarta Post/Asia News Network

António Guterres is the United Nations secretary-general.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer is a member of the Asia News Network, an alliance of 22 media titles in the region.



These critical last few days of the year

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IN these last few days of the year, our officials will be closely watching the figures of COVID-19 infections and deaths in the country, to see the effects of the general easing of restrictions for the holiday season, particularly the gathering of people for the Simbang Gabi.

The officials know the figure is bound to go up, but it is hoped that it will not be so much that severe restrictions will have to be imposed again. It all depends now on the people themselves, whether they follow the few basic rules of wearing face masks and face shields, proper distancing, and frequent washing of hands.

The COVID-19 virus is still with us. Some countries like the United States and the United Kingdom have begun administering vaccines which, in due time, will create a “herd immunity” that will stop further spread of the virus. But that will take time, months, as there are hundreds of millions of people that need to be vaccinated.

The earliest we will get our share of the vaccines is in May next year. That is five months from now and even then, the vaccines we expect to have by that time will be good for only 30 million people – out of our total 110 million population.

We simply have to rely on what we now have. Our people must know that their safety lies in their own hands. The only mass gatherings we are now having are the Simbang Gabi and Church officials are doing their best to maintain proper distancing – one meter – in the churchyards.

But, as Bishop Broderick Pabillo, apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Manila, said after the first pre-dawn mass last Wednesday, “we can control the people in the church premises, but we do not have the authority to control people in the streets.”





There are three more pre-dawn masses of the nine-day Simbang Gabi left before Christmas Eve. The government has warned against other holiday gatherings, such as family reunions, small parties, people shopping in malls and supermarkets.

Our health officials will be closely watching the figures of COVID-19 infections and deaths in every one of these days, and in the rest of the year. If the figures start sweeping upwards, the officials will have to act and impose restrictions anew.

We hope it will not come to this. We have come a long way since March when Manila and the rest of Luzon were placed under Enhanced Community Quarantine. We have done much better than some other nations, like the US, India, Brazil, Russia, and France, the nations with the most COVID-19 infections today.

Our government has imposed restrictions but ultimately, it is the people following the restrictions that will keep infections down. We thus join in the appeal to everyone to follow the basic rules that will keep them safe and keep infections in the country down in these critical last few days of the year.