

21 NOVEMBER 2020, SATURDAY



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Pangulong Duterte nangako na lalabanan ang climate change



November 20, 2020 @ 6:42 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nangako ang Duterte administration na lalabanan ang climate change at ang epekto nito sa pagbubuo ng bagong task force na siyang titiyak ng rehabilitation at recovery sa mga nawasak na mga lugar ng nakalipas na bagyo.

Ayon kay Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, kasama si Public Works and Highway Secretary Mark Villar na itinalaga ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte para pamunuan ang “Build Back Better Task Force” na ginawa sa ilalim ng Executive Order (EO) 120.

“The creation of this body shows how central the imperatives of climate change are to the Duterte administration,” ayon kay Cimatu na siyang chair ng Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Ayon sa ulat ang inter-agency task force na pinamumunuan ng secretaries ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) ay magpo-pokus sa post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery phase ng bagyong naapektuhang mga lugar na sinalanta ng bagyong Rollys at Ulysses.

“With the DENR and DPWH at the helm of this very important body, the President has walked the fine line between giving immediate responses to disasters and the urgency of giving long-term measures on climate change adaptation and resiliency,” punto ni Cimatu.

Kabilang sa mga tungkulin ng task force ay itinalaga para mapabilis at pangunahan ang paghahanda, pagpapatupad at monitoring ng Post-Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery Program sa mga naapektuhan ng bagyong at nakahanay para sa Rehabilitation and Recovery Planning Guide (RRPG).



PAGSISIKAP AT HUSAY NG MAYNILA SA PAGLILINIS PINURI NG DENR



November 21, 2020 @ 12:25 AM 6 hours ago

PINURI ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pamahalaang lungsod ng Maynila dahil sa mahusay na pagpapatupad nito ng solid waste management at paglilinis sa lungsod sa kasagsagan ng bagyong Ulysses.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda, karapat-dapat na bigyan ng pagkilala si Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso at ang kanyang mga nasasakupan dahil na rin sa pagbibigay ng proteksyon sa kapaligiran.

“We wish to thank all Manileños led by Mayor Isko for their untiring efforts to manage solid waste disposal in the city and to sustain our Manila Bay rehabilitation efforts,” sabi ni Antiporda.

Kinilala rin ni Antiporda ang Manila Department of Public Services-Team Mandaragat dahil sa mabilis na pagresponde ng mga ito at agarang pag-aksyon para linisin ang makasaysayang baybayin bago, habang kasagsagan, at pagkatapos ng bagyong Ulysses.

“We are very happy that the honorable mayor and the people of Manila have given prime importance to the care of the environment,” saad pa ni Antiporda.

Pinasalamatan din ng DENR official si Domagoso sa pagpapaalala nito sa kanyang mga nasasakupan sa epekto ng ganitong uri ng bagyo na sanhi ng hindi tamang pagsasaayos ng basura, pagkaroon ng pagbaha, at banta sa buhay ng tao, kaya nararapat lamang na pangalagaan ang kapaligiran.

Bukod sa solid waste management at bay cleanup, nagsagawa rin ang Maynila ng iba’t ibang aktibidad tulad ng paggawa ng vertical at horizontal gardens at pagtalaga ng mas maraming open spaces na makatutulong sa pagsasaayos sa kalidad ng hangin.

Sa kanyang mensahe sa naganap na flag-raising ceremony noong Lunes (16 Nov.) na idinaos sa Kartilya ng Katipunan Park sa Maynila, inulit ni Domagoso ang kanyang panawagan sa lahat ng Manileños na linisin ang lahat ng kalsada at mga daluyan ng tubig.

“Linisin natin ang ating lungsod. Ang kalsada dapat malinis; ang ilog o creek dapat hindi basurahan; ang dagat, hindi tapunan. Pagmalasakitan ang lahat ng kapaligiran,” sabi ni Domagoso.



Pinuri rin ni Antiporda si Domagoso dahil sa pagbibigay nito ng importansya sa paglilinis at pagpapaganda ng tinaguriang “highly populated city” tulad ng Maynila.

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

Nagbigay ang DENR ng 100 piraso ng yellow trash bins para sa 100 barangays sa Maynila upang matugunan ang problema sa tamang pagtatapon ng face masks at personal protective equipment (PPE) o ang tinatawag na household healthcare waste.

Ang mga dilaw na trash bins na ito ay gagamitin lamang para mga nabanggit na uri ng waste.

“This is only an initial donation. Another 300 will be provided and a third batch will be coming until all the 800 barangays will have their own yellow trash bins to ensure that residents and businesses know where to throw these potentially infectious and contaminated COVID-19 related wastes,” dagdag pa ni Antiporda.

Ang mga trash bin ay ipinagkaloob kay Domagoso sa pagdaraos ng flag-raising ceremony ng lungsod.



SC: No violation of mandamus in dolomite dumping on Manila Bay

By Joel R. San Juan

November 20, 2020



Workers rehabilitate the Manila Bay “white sand” beach made of dolomite after Typhoon Ulysses flooded parts of Metro Manila and Northern and Central Luzon last week.

THE Supreme Court has junked the petition of the Akbayan Citizens’ Action Party seeking to intervene in the Manila Bay case, with a plea to cite the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in contempt for dumping dolomite sand—said to be hazardous to health and the environment —on Manila Bay.

In an En Banc resolution promulgated on November 17, 2020, the Court held that the case has been rendered final and executory and that its jurisdiction is limited only to the full implementation of the decision.

Despite the dolomite sand controversy, the Court insisted that it has not found any violation of the continuing mandamus it issued more than 10 years ago mandating concerned government agencies to rehabilitate the Manila Bay.

The Court held that it has not yet found any violation of the continuing mandamus amid the quarterly reports submitted by concerned agencies and the on-site ocular inspection conducted by the Manila Bay Advisory Committee (MBAC) chaired by Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta.

“The specific directive to the DENR and the concerned agencies and departments is simply to clean the waters of the bay and perform maintenance measures to keep it within the legal standards of cleanliness fit for recreation,” the SC said in a statement released by its Public Information Office (PIO).

“The contention is bred only when the alleged hazardous potential of the component dolomite enters the picture, whereby it becomes clear that the bone of contention all along is not the project per se but the material used to carry it out,” it added.

It said the petition by Anakbayan dwelt on the propriety of the use of dolomite for the project, “which is a factual issue not ordinarily entertained by the Court.”

The SC noted, “It is a challenge that properly lies in the realm of political questions which the Court may not venture into even incidentally in a contempt proceeding under the given circumstances.”

Furthermore, the SC said Anakbayan can no longer intervene in the Manila Bay case since it has long been concluded with finality and is now on execution, although it is under judicial supervision as a consequence of the standing mandamus.



In 2008, the Supreme Court ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other concerned government agencies to restore Manila Bay to a condition suitable for public bathing and swimming and for breeding bangus (milkfish) and similar fish species.

To ensure compliance with its ruling, the SC even issued a continuing mandamus—an order that compels the agencies of the government to perform acts which the laws specifically require them to do or to comply as duties emanating from the nature and mandate of their offices.

Aside from the DENR, the other agencies tasked to undertake immediate action on the Manila Bay problem are the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Budget and Management, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Philippine National Police Maritime Group, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the Philippine Ports Authority.

These government agencies were directed by the SC to submit a quarterly progressive report of the activities undertaken in line with the decision.

The petitioner claimed that dolomite contains varying levels of crystalline silica that can damage human lungs, cause cancer when breathed in, and irritate the skin and eyes.

It claimed the dumping of crushed dolomite boulders on the foreshore would destroy the Manila Bay ecological habitat that is home to various species of flora and fauna.

The petitioner also noted that building an artificial beach in Manila Bay is not in line with the duty of DENR in the continuing mandamus, as such artificial beach enhancement project is not in the Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan.

Image credits: [Bernard Testa](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/11/20/sc-no-violation-of-mandamus-in-dolomite-dumping-on-manila-bay/>



Petisyon ng Akbayan vs DENR sa dolomite project sa Manila Bay ibinasura ng SC



November 20, 2020 @ 12:20 PM 18 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Ibinasura ng Supreme Court ang petisyon ng Akbayan Citizen's Action Party na parusahan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa pagsira sa kalikasan sa pamamagitan proyektong dolomite sa Manila Bay.

Sa pahayag, sinabi ng SC sa desisyong en banc na walang karapatan ang nasabing grupo na lumahok sa kaso sa dahilang matagal nang “final and executory” ang desisyon para sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay.

Matatandaang noon pang 2008 nagbaba ang SC ng sinasabing landmark na desisyon na mandamus o nag-uutos sa lahat ng kaukulang ahensya ng pamahalaan, kasama na ang DENR, na linisin at ibalik sa dating ganda at kalinisan ng Manila Bay.

Sinabi pa sa pahayag na wala pang nakikitang paglabag sa nasabing kautusan o mandamus ang Manila Bay Advisory Committee o MBAC na sumusubaybay sa mga pag-uulat ng mga ahensya na kasama sa paglilinis at muling pagbibigay-buhay sa nasabing lawa.

Sinabi rin ng MBAC na maging ang DENR ay hindi nagkulang sa pag-uulat ng mga nagaganap sa pagpapatupad ng mandamus.

Pinamununan ni Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta ang MBAC at siya na lang ang mahistrado na natitira sa mga mahistradong naglabas ng desisyon sa mandamus.

Ukol naman sa dolomite kung hazardous o nakasasama sa kalikasan o kalusugan ng tao, sinabi ng SC na ito'y aktuwal na usapin na hindi sakop ng Hukuman.

“It is a factual issue not ordinarily entertained by the Court,” ayon sa SC at isa rin umano itong kwestiyong pulitikal na lalong hindi dapat pakialaman ng Hukuman.

Sa petisyon, hiniling ng Akbayan na dapat ma-contempt o disiplinahin ng SC ang DENR sa hindi pagsunod sa mandamus.

Iginiit ng Akbayan na bukod sa hindi nakagaganda ang dolomite, nakasasama pa ito sa Manila Bay mismo at sa kalusugan ng mga tao.

Dahil dito, nilalabag umano ng DENR ang mandamus na nag-uutos ng paglilinis, rehabilitasyon at pagmantina sa tamang kalagayan ng Manila Bay.



Kasabay naman nito ang sinasabi ng mga kritiko na nasasayang lang ang P389 milyong ginagastos para rito at dapat gamitin na lang umano laban sa coronavirus disease o COVID-19 at iba pang mahahalagang proyekto.

Aanurin lang din umano ang mga dolomite ng mga ulan ngunit sinasabi naman ng DENR na pipigilin nila ito.

Sabi naman ng SC, wala itong nakikitang dahilan upang disiplinahin ang DENR. RNT



Akbayan hits 'hands-off' Supreme Court decision on Manila Bay dolomite beach

Published November 20, 2020 1:54pm

By NICOLE-ANNE C. LAGRIMAS, GMA News

The Supreme Court (SC) lost an opportunity to protect Filipinos' rights to a balanced and healthful ecology when it refused to penalize the Environment department for its artificial white beach project along Manila Bay, progressive group Akbayan said Friday.

"The Supreme Court has taken, quite sadly, a hands-off approach on an issue of transcendental importance," Akbayan chair emeritus and former Commission on Human Rights chief Etta Rosales said in a statement.

Akbayan had asked the SC to cite the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in contempt over its dolomite beach project, which experts have warned pose risks to the ecosystem and humans.

The group made the appeal through a motion to intervene in a 2008 case in which the SC ordered the government to clean, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay.

But the [SC denied](#) Akbayan's motion, saying the case has already been decided with finality and is now in the execution stage. The court also said it has not yet seen any violation of its continuing order for the preservation of the harbor.

The justices said the issue of the use of the material dolomite in the beach project was a factual question that the highest Philippine court generally does not entertain.

"Even the high tribunal's statement that it found no violation of its continuing Mandamus is discouraging," Rosales said, adding that the court limited its findings to reports submitted by the DENR.

"It failed to include in its assessment the DENR's dumping of fake sand as a polluting act violative of its order," she said.

The Akbayan official said they will study their next legal steps and urged the original parties to the 2008 environmental protection case — concerned residents of Manila Bay — to add their voices to the call.



Rosales said Akbayan stands by the evidence and expert opinions of marine scientists and environmental groups.

"The opinion of experts throughout the scientific community has repeatedly expressed the hazards, both in the short and long term, of the dolomite project," she said.

"The public would do well to listen to their advice. Huwag natin ipagkatiwala ang ating kalikasan at kalusugan sa mga gaya ni Mr. Benny Antiporda," she added, referring to the DENR undersecretary who accused the University of the Philippines of milking public funds after their scientists criticized the dolomite beach project. [Antiporda later apologized](#) over this remark.

Scientists from UP had advised the government to [use mangroves](#) instead of crushed dolomite to rehabilitate Manila Bay.—**AOL, GMA News**



MANILA BAY REHAB | Akbayan expresses disappointment over court's hands off decision on dolomite project

November 20, 2020 , 07:53 PM

(November 20, 2020) – A progressive political party-list group on Friday expressed disappointment over the Supreme Court's decision to keep its hands off on the dolomite project after it denied a motion to intervene in an ongoing mandamus on the Manila Bay rehabilitation.

Former congresswoman Etta Rosales, chairman emeritus of the Akbayan Citizens' Action Party, said the group was discouraged by the high court's statement that it found no violation on the part of the environment department, saying the agency has complied with its task of submitting reports to the court regularly.

"By denying our motion to intervene in the 2008 Manila Bay environmental case, it failed to help the public determine the safeness and sustainability of the DENR's dolomite sand dumping along the Manila Bay," Rosales said.

"It lost the opportunity to protect the rights of Filipinos to a balanced and healthful ecology."

Based on a 2008 court order, DENR and other government agencies were mandated to clean up and rehabilitate the bay. But Akbayan pointed out in its petition that the dumping of harmful substances such as the dolomite along the bay could compromise not only the environment but as well as the health of people.

The UP Marine Science Institute (MSI), in a statement on September 30, argued that the dumping of crushed dolomite sand will barely contribute anything to the supposed rehabilitation of the bay.

The DENR spent P389 million for the dolomite beach alone, which is part of a larger Manila Bay Beautification Project.

"Beach nourishment projects are not one-shot deals, especially eroding shorelines," the UP MSI said in its statement.

"Continuously replacing the sand will be expensive and will not contribute to improving water quality in the Bay."

Rosales said the opinions of experts should be valued. She also urged the original parties in the mandamus to act on the matter.

"The opinion of experts throughout the scientific community has repeatedly expressed the hazards, both in the short and long term. The public would do well to listen to their advice," Rosales said.

"Huwag natin[g] ipagkatiwala ang ating kalikasan at kalusugan sa mga gaya ni Mr. Benny Antiporda," she added, referring to the DENR undersecretary who has repeatedly defended and boasted about the dolomite sand, even amid the typhoon last week.

(Beatrice Puente/MM)

Source: https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/manila-bay-rehab-akbayan-expresses-disappointment-over-courts-hands-off-decision-on-dolomite-project?fbclid=IwAR2PwM4umM49AnsE_9TRmTOSZfzUw1Mxb7uAtbpsO_PdyFVe9thpd0qlBg



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Ikinadismaya ng Akbayan ang pagbasura ng Korte Suprema sa kanilang mosyon para ipa-contempt ang DENR sa pagtatambak ng dolomite sand sa Manila Bay. Pinaninindigan din nila ang opinyon ng mga eksperto tungkol sa mga panganib na dulot ng dolomite project.

"Huwag natin ipagkatiwala ang ating kalikasan at kalusugan sa mga gaya ni Mr. Benny Antiporda."



“
The Supreme Court has taken, quite sadly, a hands-off approach on an issue of transcendental importance.
 [It] failed to help the public determine the safeness and sustainability of the [DENR] dolomite sand dumping along the Manila Bay. It lost the opportunity to protect the rights of Filipinos to a balanced and healthful ecology.
 ”

ETTA ROSALES
CHAIR EMERITUS, AKBAYAN PARTY-LIST
NOVEMBER 20, 2020

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Bong Go lauds proclamation of fourth Sunday of November as National Bicycle Day, pushes for safety measures to protect bicycle riders

By OSBG Published on November 20, 2020



Senator Bong Go lauded President Rodrigo Duterte for proclaiming every fourth Sunday of November as National Bicycle Day through Proclamation No. 1052. Photo by OSBG.

PASAY CITY, Nov. 20 -- With the growing use of bicycles as an alternative mode of transportation and the increasing number of cycling enthusiasts in the country, Senator Christopher "Bong" Go lauded President Rodrigo Duterte for proclaiming every fourth Sunday of November as National Bicycle Day through Proclamation No. 1052 he signed last November 18.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is mandated to lead its observance every year, in coordination with relevant non-government organizations and civil society groups.

"Dapat lamang mas bigyan pa natin ng kaukulang suporta ang ating mga siklista. Siguraduhin rin natin na maprotektahan sila at mapromote pa lalo ito bilang mas healthy and environment friendly mode of transportation," Go said, who also chairs the Senate Committees on Sports and Health.

Go, who has been a supporter of the use of bicycles as an active form of transportation in the country, aims to also provide awareness on the benefits of non-motorized transportation to the environment. He also emphasized the benefits of cycling to the physical health and well-being of Filipinos.

"Sa panahon ngayon, kailangan na nating isipin paano makakatulong ang ating lifestyle sa ating kalusugan. Sa pamamagitan ng paggamit ng bisikleta, mabibigyan tayo ng pagkakataong makapag-exercise at, syempre, makatulong sa ating kapaligiran," Go said.

Moreover, the Senator is urging Filipinos to consider the bicycle as a means of mobility amid the ongoing the pandemic. Given the existing community quarantine restrictions, the challenges and limitations on public transportation, Go has been encouraging Filipinos who need to go to work to use bicycles.

He added, "And, in fact, doon po sa mga nasunugan, tinatanong ko sila, hirap po sila... they're having a hard time po sa transportation in going to their respective na trabaho po nila, so sabi ko, I encourage them to use bicycles. Minsan po namimigay po ako ng bisikleta sa kanila."



During aid distribution activities and outreach programs conducted by his office for Filipinos affected by the pandemic, calamities and other crisis situations around the country, the Senator has been giving away bicycles to provide means of transportation, especially to those who have to go to work.

“Limitado ang ating transportasyon ngayon dahil sa pandemya. Kailangan maiwasan muna natin ang paggamit masyado ng pampublikong sasakyan dahil ayaw nating mahawaan ng sakit. Kaya naman isa sa mga solusyon talaga ay ang paggamit ng bisikleta,” Go said.

In his speech on the public hearing of the Senate Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking held on July 16, Go said, “I have strongly been advocating for the use of bicycles these days. Matagal ko na rin pong hinihikayat ang ating mga kababayan na gumamit nalang po ng bisikleta para sa kanilang pang-araw araw na commute.”

Last August, Go also expressed his full support for the passage of Senate Bill No. 1582, also known as the “Safe Pathways Act”. The bill seeks to establish networks of pop-up bicycle lanes and emergency pathways along local roads following the imposition of community quarantine measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Senator has been reminding national and local governments to designate bike lanes to ensure the ease and safety of those who opt to use such mode of transportation as well as the general public.

Citing the National Transport Policy of the National Economic Development Authority, “LGUs and national agencies shall accord the highest priority to the development of proper sidewalks and networks of bicycle lanes that will encourage active transport and provide safe and direct access to priority destinations.” According to Go, it is imperative that people-mobility must be prioritized over vehicle-mobility.

“Let us just make sure the lanes are properly assigned with demarcation lines and lighting in place,” Go said.

Since 2014, the National Bicycle Day has been held every fourth Sunday of November in the country in line with the observance of the National Environmental Awareness month, Clean Air Month, and the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, Survivors and their Families which are all celebrated on the same month.

Go also reminded bicycle riders to follow traffic rules and safety regulations in order to avoid accidents and untoward incidents.

“Pakiusap lang po sa mga nagbibisikleta: sumunod po tayo sa batas trapiko at sa mga patakaran. Maging disiplinado po tayo para sa kaayusan rin ng ating komunidad,” he said. (OSBG)



Reforestation is key

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:07 AM November 20, 2020

According to Pagasa weather forecasters, some 150 mm of heavy rains fell in a 24-hour period when Typhoon “Ulysses” barreled through Luzon last week, only a third of the 445 mm of rainfall during Typhoon “Ondoy” in 2009. And yet Marikina River breached the 21.5-meter depth occasioned by Ondoy by half a meter, overflowing its banks, inundating surrounding plains, and trapping people on rooftops as record-high floods swirled below. Up north in Cagayan Valley and Isabela, entire towns similarly fled to rooftops barely visible above muddy floodwaters. This, just 11 months after a “100-year flood” totally submerged six barangays and affected more than 10,000 families. Then as in last weekend, water cascaded from rivers made swollen by the Sierra Madre and that was released from Magat Dam.

Like Cagayan, Marikina is a valley nestled at the foot of several mountains. The mountains are watersheds meant to store rainfall in their forests and prevent it from flowing into communities below. But the forests in these mountains have been eaten up by quarrying and mining as well as road construction, while the trees have been mowed down by illegal logging and slash-and-burn farming. The Upper Marikina River Basin, another watershed, faces the additional challenge of land conversion and urban development.

With more of such activities further denuding the forested mountains over the past 11 years since Ondoy, it’s no wonder that more water would pour unimpeded over Marikina, Rodriguez, and Cainta, completely engulfing these catch basin areas.

Such disastrous flooding and its underlying causes point to the most viable, and probably the only sustainable, solution to this perennial problem, according to the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB): reforestation, and the conservation of our remaining forests.

The group noted that the Sierra Madre, which represents 40 percent of the country’s forest cover, is a biodiversity hotspot that will not only break strong winds but also absorb large amounts of rainfall.

Reforestation should help restore the country’s fast-vanishing forest cover which, the Forest Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said, the country is losing at a rate of 47,000 hectares a year due to deforestation. Per a 2010 DENR report, some 161,240 ha of forest were recorded lost from 1988, mostly due to illegal logging. But though reforestation has again become the battle cry—with a regional official from the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board suggesting that members of cooperatives must plant 500 trees before being granted a franchise—it would serve us well to look back at the previous fails and the best practices of earlier greening campaigns to do better this time.

The mayor of Alcala town, Cagayan, for instance, has turned to science and heeded the advice of Dr. Fernando Siringan, former director of the UP Marine Science Institute, and his fellow geologist Keanu Jershon Sarmiento, whose thorough study from July to September 2020 pointed to several factors behind the massive flooding in the province.

Based on the recommendation of the two scientists, Alcala Mayor Tin Antonio has convinced farmers to abandon yellow corn and to shift to agroforestry. The Siringan-Sarmiento study had cautioned against yellow corn farming on slopes and the use of herbicides which kills all vegetation and weakens the soil. “We have started to plant native forest, flowering, and fruiting trees (on our) watersheds that have a combined area of 300 hectares... (and) are set to plant native forest and flowering trees on all Alcala roadsides that span around 120 kilometers,” the mayor added.



Reforestation efforts must graduate from being a government program to being a community endeavor, with people trained on correct farming methods, the right tree species to plant and their proper cultivation, and other viable alternatives to slash-and-burn practices.

Also important is for the government to allocate enough resources to hire more guards and forest rangers to keep out illegal loggers and prevent trespassers from fencing off reforestation sites and nature sanctuaries, as what happened to the 2,700-ha Masungi Geopark in Baras, Rizal, where armed security guards of a private company have shrugged off a show-cause order from the DENR. The current ratio of park rangers to protected land nationwide is one for every 4,000 ha, making their job virtually impossible.

To hold erring entities to account for what happened in Cagayan, the DENR should heed the President's order to look into the mining and logging activities in the area and prosecute those responsible.

Reforestation should be at the core of the country's disaster risk reduction efforts, the ACB said—sound advice that we can ignore only at our own peril.



DENR, MGB to go after loggers, miners

We'll try to come up with a recommendation after our initial findings.

Published 2 mins ago on November 21, 2020 04:00 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Friday disclosed that it will send a team to Cagayan next week to find ways to mitigate flooding during typhoons.

Lawyer Wilfredo Moncano, MGB acting director, said part of the team's mission is to look into allegations of illegal logging and mining activities in the area.

"We'll try to come up with a recommendation after our initial findings, Moncano told the Daily Tribune in a phone interview. "Part of the probe would be the landslide in a small-scale mining area."

There's no large-scale mining operation in the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela, but Moncano did not downplay the possibility of small-scale miners who contributed to the forest degradation that is being blamed for the flooding after tropical storm "Ulysses" (international name: Vamco).



Soil erosion sa Albay tuloy sa pagguho

On Nov 20, 2020



UMAKYAT na sa 104 pamilya o 403 katao ang inilikas sa Barangay San Roque, Malilipot, Albay dahil sa soil erosion.

Dalawang purok na ang apektado partikular ang Purok 1 at 3 dahil sa pagguho ng lupa sa pananalasa ng bagyong Quinta, Rolly at Ulysses.

Paliwanag ni Malilipot Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office head, Engr. Alvin Magdaong, pinagbasehan ng hakbang ang rekomendasyon ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Bicol dahil pasok pa ang tinitirhan ng mga ito sa 50-m buffer zone ng critical area.

Patuloy umanong naririnig ang mga dagundong sa lugar dahil ilang bahagi ng lupa ang bumibigay parin hanggang sa ngayon kabilang na ang mismong road network.

Ayon pa kay Magdaong, mismong ang MGB ang naghayag na “cohesionless” ang uri ng lupa sa lugar na madaling ma-saturate ng tubig.

Napag-alamang pryroclastic materials ang nasa ibabaw ng gully wall na bumagsak habang nasa ibaba rin ang Bulawan River na konektado sa channel ng Bulkang Mayon.

Source: <https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/11/20/soil-erosion-sa-albay-tuloy-sa-pagguho/?fbclid=IwAR0x0IMFnkmlA21aO5X1MN0YXHdGYgw2mdLxzMFHjp7SL19mCLhNRuNE4o4>



Landslide area sa Nueva Vizcaya idineklarang 'no build zone'

By [Raymund Catindig](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 21, 2020 - 12:00am



Ang deklarasyon ay ginawa ng Department of Environment and Natural (DENR) dahil sa pagiging "geo-hazard" ng lugar na hindi puwedeng matayuan ng bahay.

STAR/File

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan, Philippines — Matapos masawi sa landslide ang 10 katao noong kasagsagan ng bagyong Ulysses, idineklara ng gobyerno na "no build zone" ang "gold rush area" ng Brgy. Runrono sa Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya kahapon.

Ang deklarasyon ay ginawa ng Department of Environment and Natural (DENR) dahil sa pagiging "geo-hazard" ng lugar na hindi puwedeng matayuan ng bahay.

Ang aksyon ng DENR ay kasabay na rin ng kautusan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na pahintuin na ang illegal logging at illegal mining na siyang nagpalala sa nagdaang baha.

Matatandaan na iniulat noong lunes ni Nueva Vizcaya Police director Colonel Ranser Evasco na inabandona na ng mga minero ang kanilang bahay sa Sitio compound at Bit-ang na tinamaan ng mga pagguho ng lupa sa kasagsagan ng bagyo noong nakaraang Linggo. Isinara na ang lugar upang hindi na balikan ng mga nakatira dagdag ni Evasco.

Ayon kay DENR Nueva Vizcaya officer Edgar Martin, tinanggap na ng 245 na residente na karamihan ay minero ang kompensasyon ng gobyerno para lisanin na ang lugar at pinag-iisipan na ang kanilang posibleng relokasyon.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2020/11/21/2058382/landslide-area-sa-nueva-vizcaya-idineklarang-no-build-zone/amp/>



Rizal Governor sa nat'l govt.: 'ITIGIL NA LAHAT NG MINING OPS SA PROBINSYA!'

On Nov 20, 2020



IPINADALA na ng pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Rizal sa national government ang liham upang hilingin ang pansamantalang pagpapahinto ng lahat ng lisensyadong mining activities sa buong probinsya. Partikular na nagpadala ng liham si Rizal Gov. Rebecca Ynares kina Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte at kay DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu.

Sa nasabing sulat, umapela ang provincial government kay Pangulong Duterte at sa DENR na kanselahin at ipatigil ang lahat ng mga MPSA-licensed mining activities sa lalawigan.

Ang parehong kahilingan ay ginawa na rin daw noon ng Provincial Government matapos ang pananalasa ng Bagyong Ondoy noong 2009.

Iniulit naman muli nila ang kahilingan noong 2016.

Sa pahayag ng Provincial Government, noong matapos ang paghagupit ng Ondoy, naglabas ang DENR ng isang pag-aaral na nagsasabi na hindi raw pagmimina ang dahilan ng pagbaha.

Source: https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/11/20/rizal-governor-sa-natl-govt-itigil-na-lahat-ng-mining-ops-sa-probinsya/?fbclid=IwAR3bDFesSP8zrHxygoJpmaPYvKK07xK_iily6KPXmINZPc5eaAHK-Ugnufw



Rizal governor sa nat'l gov't: 'Itigil muna ang lahat ng mining ops sa probinsya'

By **Bombo Bam Orpilla** -November 20, 2020 | 12:30 PM

Nagpadala na ng liham ang Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Rizal sa national government upang hilingin ang pansamantalang pagpapahinto ng lahat ng lisensyadong mining activities sa buong probinsya.

Partikular na nagpadala ng liham si Rizal Gov. Rebecca Ynares kina Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte at kay DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu.

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LOKAL NA PAMAHALAAN NG RIZAL PINATITIGIL MUNA ANG LAHAT NG MINAHAN SA PROBINSYA

written by **Ace Cruz** November 20, 2020



Hiniling ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Rizal sa pamahalaan na pansamantala munang ihinto ang lahat ng lisensyadong mining activities sa buong lalawigan.

Sa ipinadalang sulat ni Rizal Governor Rebecca Ynares kina Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte at Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, sinabi nito nais niya kanselahin at ipatigil ang mga ang pagmimina na ititutorong naging sanhi ng labis na paglubog ng ilang mga lugar sa Rizal dahil sa pananalasa ng bagyo.

Mababatid na nauna nang hiniling ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ang pagpapatigil sa mga mining activities noong 2009 nang manalasa ang bagyong Ondoy.

Kasunod nito, sa ginawang pag-aaral ng environment department noong manalasa ang bagyong Ondoy, sinasabi nito na hindi pagmimina o mining ang dahilan ng pagbaha.

Source: <https://www.dwiz882am.com/index.php/lokal-na-pamahalaan-ng-rizal-pinatitigil-muna-ang-lahat-ng-minahan-sa-probinsya/>



100 kumpanya nagmimina sa Montalban at San Mateo

Last Updated Nov 20, 2020



HUMIGIT-KUMULANG, mayroong sandaang kumpanyang nagmimina sa Montalban at San Mateo Rizal.

Ayon sa istorya ni Fernan Angeles sa Metro Sun, online news platform, na may titulong “No more mining please, Ynares asks Duterte, DENR – Metro Sun”.

Nakasulat din sa istorya na sampu lang ang mayroong permit mula sa 100 mining companies na ang lumalapa sa kabundukan ng Montalban at San Mateo, batay sa rekord ng pamahalaang panlalawigan.

Pokaragat na ‘yan!

Ibig sabihin, iligal ang operasyon ng 90 kumpanya!

Matindi!

Naniniwala ako sa impormasyon ni Fernan dahil beteranong mamamahayag ang taong ito na nakabase sa Rizal.

Ang sinapit ng ilang barangay sa Montalban at San Mateo nitong bagyong “Ulysses” ay pinakabagong katibayan na ang pagmimina ay isa sa mga dahilan ng napakasamang resulta ng bagyo sa dalawang bayan sa Rizal.

Syempre, mayroon nang mga ebidensiya sa mga nakalipas na panahon.

Ngunit, idiniin at pinatunayan ni Ulysses na lalong sumama ang resulta ng pagmimina sa Montalban at San Mateo.

Ang totoo, talamak din ang quarrying sa dalawang bayan.

Ang alkalde ng Montalban ngayon ay si Mayor Dennis Hernandez, anak siya ni dating Alkalde Cecilio “Elyong” Hernandez.

Si Mayor Christia Diaz naman ang punong bayan ng San Mateo, samantalang ang bise-alkalde niya ay ang kanyang asawa na pinalitan n’ya sa posisyon na si Jose Rafael Diaz.

Huwag kayong magtaka dahil maraming ganyan sa Rizal at iba pang lalawigan sa ating bansa na nagpapalitan lang ang mag-asawa, mag-ama, mag-ina, o magkakamag-anak.

Tama ba classmate Jun-jun Ynares?



Ang asawa ni Jun-jun na si Andrea “Andeng” Bautista – Ynares ang pumalit sa kanya sa pagiging alkalde ng Lungsod ng Antipolo.

Nanay ni Jun -jun si Gobernadora Rebecca “Nini” Ynares na matagal nang punong lalawigan ng Rizal.

Maliban kina Jun-jun at Nini, may kamag-anak pa silang alkalde ng ibang bayan ng Rizal.

Ibig sabihin, makapangyarihan ang pamilya Ynares sa Rizal.

Tapos, kamag-anak na rin ni Jun-jun ang pamilya Revilla ng Cavite dahil asawa niya si Andeng.

Ngunit, nakapagtata kang hindi kaya ni Gobernadora Ynares na patigilin ang mga ilegal na pagmimina at ilegal na pagkukuwariyong.

Mayroon bang ‘sindikato’ na nagbibigay nagtatanggol at nagbibigay ng proteksyon sa mga ilegal na negosyo at gawain sa Montalban at San Mateo?

May nakapagsabi sa akin na mayroong sindikato sa Montalban at San Mateo na hindi kayang harapin at patigilin ni Gobernadora Ynares ang masamang gawain nila.

Hindi rin daw kayang banggain ng Department of Environment at Natural Resources (DENR) sa Rizal ang nasabing sindikato.

Hindi lang binanggit ng taong nakapagsabi tungkol sa sindikato kung alam ito nina Mayor Hernandez at Mayor Diaz.

Kung masyadong nakakatakot ang sindikato, dapat si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na ang kumilos.

Ipatawag ni Duterte sina Gobernadora Ynares, Mayor Hernandez, Mayor Diaz at Vice – Mayor Diaz sa press briefing upang harapan at hayagang komprontahin ng pangulo ang mga opisyal na ito tungkol sa sindikatong nagtatanggol at nagpoprotekta sa mga kumpanyang ilegal ang kuwariyong at ilegal ang pagmimina.

Pagkatapos, sana magising naman ang lahat ng mga naninirahan at botante sa Montalban, San Mateo at ng buong Rizal upang sa susunod na halalan ay pumili na ng ibang mamumuno sa - dalawang bayan at sa buong lalawigan ng Rizal.



Fearful residents seek end to mining in Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya

Published November 20, 2020 11:11pm

Residents living near a mining site in the town of Quezon in Nueva Vizcaya called on the government to stop mining operations in the area to prevent any further disasters.

According to Jonathan Andal's report on "24 Oras" on Friday, [10 people were killed in a landslide](#) during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses in the province last week.

The police reported that soil erosion occurred in three sitios in Barangay Runruno due to the saturated land.

The residents said the cause of the landslide was the amount of rainfall in the area and the corporations that conducted mining activities.

"Ni-request po namin na 'wag muna silang mag-operate doon kasi maraming bahay sa baba. Katulad namin, bahay namin nandito. Wala naman silang sinasabi," Fedy Gullunan said.

It was in 2019 that the residents sent a letter to President Rodrigo Duterte seeking to shut down the FCF Minerals Corporation because of its blasting activities near their houses.

Nueva Vizcaya Governor Carlos Padilla said the company was given a permit to operate, however, he is against their operations.

"Kung puwedeng ma-stop na ang mining, mas gusto namin pero ang mag-stop, hindi kami kundi ang national government," Padilla said.

Meanwhile, some residents living near the mining site already have decided to relocate as they fear that another landslide might occur.

"Kasi papalapit na sila dito kaya delikado na rin dito," Daniel Bumilao said.

GMA News already reached out to FCF and Malacañang but they have yet to respond as of posting time. -- **Ma. Angelica Garcia/BAP, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/765017/fearful-residents-seek-end-to-mining-in-quezon-nueva-vizcaya/story/?just_in



Environmental group kay Duterte: Paimbestigahan ang mining concessions na dahilan ng pagbaha sa Luzon

By **Bombo Radyo Iloilo** -November 20, 2020 | 10:10 AM

ILOILO CITY – Idinaan ng environmental expert sa Bombo Radyo Philippines ang panawagan kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte upang imbestigahan ang deforestation na naging dahilan ng malawakang pagbaha sa Luzon.

Sa eksklusibong panayam ng *Bombo Radyo Iloilo* kay Dr. Jean Talens, training officer ng Climate Change Network for Community Based Initiative, sinabi nito na ang totoong dahilan ng pagiging kalbo ng mga kabundukan ay ang mga malalaking logging projects at mga big time na mining concessions.

Ayon kay Talens, hindi dapat sisihin ang mga illegal settlers dahil kung tutuusin ay hindi kaya ng mga mahihirap ang magsagawa ng illegal logging activities.

Nagmungkahi naman ito sa gobyerno na dapat lagyan ng “ngipin” ang batas na nagbabawal sa pagputol ng mga kahoy sa kabundukan upang hindi na maulit pa ang malawakang pagbaha sa Luzon.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/environmental-group-kay-duterte-paimbestigahan-ang-mining-concessions-na-dahilan-ng-pagbaha-sa-luzon/>



Leyte priest: Stop black-sand mining

By NESTOR L. ABREMATEA

November 21, 2020

TACLOBAN CITY, Leyte: A Roman Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Palo based in MacArthur, Leyte has appealed to government officials in the province and officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Eastern Visayas to stop black-sand mining in their town.

Rev. Fr. Amadeo Alvero, parish priest of the St. Isidore Parish in MacArthur town, made the appeal to Leyte Gov. Leopoldo Dominico Petilla; Leyte Second District Rep. Karen Javier; members of the Leyte Sangguniang Panlalawigan (Provincial Council), led by Vice Gov. Carlo Loreto; Mayor Rudin Babante; Vice Mayor Rene Leria; members of the Sangguniang Bayan (Municipal Council); and officials of the DENR and Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau in Eastern Visayas.

MacArthur is located some 45 kilometers south of this city.

Alvero said he was appealing to stop the black-sand mining in their town in view of the tremendous flooding this week in Cagayan province in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley), Marikina City in the National Capital Region (NCR or Metro Manila) and many other parts of the country caused by Typhoon “Ulysses.”

Alleged illegal logging and illegal quarrying were blamed for the floods that left 73 persons dead and P10 billion in losses to agriculture and infrastructure nationwide.

“I am pleading on [bended knee] to stop the black-sand mining here in MacArthur, Leyte,” he added. Alvero said, “If we protect the environment from [destruction], the environment will protect us from [destruction], and if we protect Mother Earth, our Mother Earth will protect us in return.”

They can win their battle against the black-sand mining with the help of the government officials, said the priest.

Sources told The Manila Times that hectares of agricultural land in six barangay (villages) of MacArthur town were being mined of black sand, allegedly by Chinese nationals, who were exporting the Philippine national resource to China through the ports in the towns of Tolosa and Isabel, Leyte.

The concerned Leyte officials and DENR executives were unavailable for comment as of this writing.



Farmers blame illegal logging, black sand mining for Cagayan, Isabela floods

Published November 20, 2020 7:29pm

Farmers blame black sand mining, illegal logging for Cagayan floods

Black sand mining and illegal logging were among the factors that contributed to the massive flooding in Cagayan and Isabela during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses last week, two farmers groups said on Friday.

Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas president Danilo Ramos appealed to House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco to include the issue of black sand mining, illegal logging, and illegal mining in the proposed House investigation into the flooding.

“Comprehensive investigation ang dapat na gawin ng Kamara, dapat matapang nilang silipin ang mga nasa likod ng illegal logging at black sand mining na syang talamak sa Cagayan, dahil ito ang syang problema at dahilan ng paglubong ng lalawigan” Ramos said.

"Pahayag at panawagan ng aming grupo, itigil ang black sand mining, logging at protektahan ang kagubatan at environment," said DANGGAYAN Cagayan Valley, meanwhile, said.

The groups said since 2018, the Cagayan Provincial Board has been appealing to President Rodrigo Duterte to order dredging operations in the Cagayan River, which they said has already become shallow and prone to swelling.

The lawmakers are set to investigate the possible non-compliance with laws, rules, or regulations that may have contributed to the swelling of Cagayan River.

Aside from mining activities, the release of water from Magat Dam during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses was also being blamed for the flooding in the two provinces.

Due to the flooding, many people in Cagayan and Isabela were stranded on rooftops for three days without food and water as they waited to be rescued.

The groups said each of the 9.3 million calamity-stricken farmers and fishers are urgently calling for government assistance, through P15,000 agricultural production subsidy and P10,000 cash aid. -**Joviland Rita/MDM, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/764996/farmers-blame-illegal-logging-black-sand-mining-for-cagayan-isabela-floods/story/>



Massive flood sa Cagayan at Isabela isinisi sa black sand mining

Posted by: [hataw tabloid](#) on November 19, 2020 in [News](#) [Leave a comment](#)

SINISI ng isang peasant group ang talamak na black sand mining, isa sa dahilan ng dinanas na “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 nagbigay ng permit sa ganitong operasyon na may pag-aproba din mula sa lokal na pamahalaan kapalit ng malaking kita.

Sinabi ni KMP President Danilo Ramos, matagal nang ipinanawagan ng mga mangingisda ang dredging sa Cagayan River ngunit hindi ito binibigyang pansin at ngayong bumaha saka nakita ang kalagayan kaya ipinag-utos ang dredging sa 30-kms Cagayan River.

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

Ang black sand mining ay itinuturing na legal kapag naisyuhan ng permit dahil wala pang batas na ipinagbabawal ito. Tanging ang limitasyon sa Mining Act na hindi dapat gawin ang dredging sa reservoirs at protective areas.

Dahil sa epekto nito sa kalikasan, naghigpit ang Mines and Geosciences Bureau sa pag-iisyu ng permit simula pa noong 2014 na nagresulta sa ilegal na black sand mining.

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

Ibinunyag nito na mismong mga kawani ng LGUs ang kanilang nakikitang nagbabantay sa Chinese vessels. Sinasabing nasa US\$50 milyon o P2.6 bilyon kada buwan ang kinikita ng mga contractor sa Black sand mining sa Cagayan.

Ang black sand ay ginagamit na stabilizer sa concrete at steel products gayondin sa mga alahas at cosmetics manufacturing.

Isa ang Hong Kong sa bansang may malaking pangangailangan sa black sand.

Bagamat malaki ang kita sa black sand ay malaki naman ang epekto nito sa kalikasan pangunahin sa pagkawala ng fishery resources, erosion ng lupa, at pagbaha, kaya sa inihaing Senate Bill 1075 ni Senator Leila de Lima, hinihiling niya ang total ban sa black sand mining.

Una nang ibinabala ni De Lima na ang Cagayan ay maaaring malubog sa baha sa loob ng 30 hanggang 70 taon bilang epekto ng black sand mining kung hindi ito tuluyang ititigil.

Sa mga nakalipas na taon ay nakapagsagawa na ang Kamara at Senado ng imbestigasyon ukol sa Black Sand Mining sa Cagayan ngunit wala naman naparusahan.

Apela ni Ramos sa liderato ni House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco, isama sa kanilang ginagawang House inquiry ang dahilan ng massive flooding na nararanasan noong bagyong Ulysses, ang usapin ng illegal logging, illegal mining at black sand mining.



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

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



Mining at illegal logging, sanhi ng baha sa Cagayan

ni [Twinle Esquierdo](#) | November 20, 2020



Nakatakdang siyasatin ng mga mambabatas ang mga posibleng hindi pagsunod sa batas, alituntunin o regulasyon na naging dahilan ng pagbaha sa Cagayan. Photo: File source

Sinisisi ng mga magsasaka ang black sand mining, illegal logging at illegal mining na dahilan ng pagbaha sa Cagayan. Umapela ang presidente ng Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) na si Danilo Ramos kay House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco na isama ang black sand mining, illegal logging at illegal mining sa isasagawang House investigation.

"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.

"Pahayag at panawagan ng aming grupo, itigil ang black sand mining, logging at protektahan ang kagubatan at environment," sabi ni Ramos. Ayon pa sa grupo, umapela na raw sila kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na magsagawa ng dredging operation sa Cagayan River.

Nakatakda namang siyasatin ng mga mambabatas ang mga posibleng hindi pagsunod sa batas, alituntunin o regulasyon na naging dahilan ng pagbaha sa Cagayan. Bukod pa sa pagmimina, ang biglang paglabas ng tubig sa Magat Dam ay nakapinsala rin sa dalawang lalawigan ng Cagayan at Isabela.

Matatandaan din na dahil sa pagbaha ay maraming residente ng Cagayan at Isabela ang na-stranded sa bubong at tatlong araw na walang kain habang naghihintay na mailigtas sila. Ayon pa sa grupo, bawat isa sa 9.3 milyong magsasaka at mangingisda ang humihingi ng tulong sa gobyerno sa pamamagitan ng P15,000 subsidy at P10,000 cash aid.

Source: <https://www.bulgaronline.com/post/mining-at-illegal-logging-sanhi-ng-baha-sa-cagayan>



Bald strips on Cagayan Valley mountains show traces of illegal logging, says police

Published November 20, 2020 10:27pm



After conducting an aerial inspection over typhoon-hit Cagayan Valley, the Philippine National Police on Friday discovered bald strips on several mountains showing traces of illegal logging.

According to Marisol Abdurahman's report on "24 Oras," illegal logging contributed to the massive destruction in the provinces of Isabela and Cagayan during the onslaught of Ulysses.

"Mayroong mga areas din na parang mayroong nag-landslide, nalubog sa lupa," Police Lieutenant General Cesar Binag said.

"Yong lugar na pinili nila malapit sa ilog kasi traditionally doon nila pinapadaan 'yong mga troso. Pinapaanod kasi nga mahirap 'yong transportation dahil mataas tapos malayo. Sasaluhin na lang kung saan puwedeng ma-pickup," he added.

Meanwhile, the PNP urged Police Regional Office 2 to intensify its operations against illegal logging activities.

"Kailangan po nating paigtingin ang ating operation laban sa illegal logging. Nakita naman 'yon sa operation natin na dapat puntahan na 'yon kasama ang DENR," Binag said.

Meanwhile, PRO 2 regional director Brigadier General Aldy Nieves said they have already strengthened their operations against the illegal activity in the region.

"P170,000 worth of illegally cut logs ang recovered at several persons arrested and confiscation of mga chainsaw," Nieves said.—**Ma. Angelica Garcia/LDF, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/765019/bald-strips-on-cagayan-valley-mountains-show-traces-of-illegal-logging-says-police/story/>



DPWH: Rebuilding typhoon-hit areas must come with forest restoration

Published November 20, 2020 6:05pm

Rehabilitating communities destroyed by the series of typhoons must go hand-in-hand with restoring the forests, which were observed to have contributed to the flooding in many parts of Luzon.

“Pag dating sa flood control wala namang isang solution, kailangan sabay-sabay. Kailangan kasi ‘yung cost naman hindi lang ‘yung infrastructure, pati ‘yung deforestation, pati ‘yung encroachment sa mga water ways so kailangan lahat po ‘yan aayusin sabay-sabay,” Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark Villar said in an interview on Dobol B sa News TV.

“Kami gagawa kami ng structures pero dapat kasama rin ‘yung mas magandang urban planning at dapat kasama rin ‘yung environmental at dapat may re-planting tayo sa mga bundok. May protocol tayo para... mas maging ready ang ating mga constituents kung maglalabas ng tubig ang ating mga dam,” he added.

President Rodrigo Duterte last week [created](#) the Build Back Better Task Force to speed up the rehabilitation of typhoon-ravaged areas, especially in Luzon provinces. It is headed by the DPWH and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Villar said the task force is coordinating with local government units for better communication.

“At kami naman po sa infrastructure makikipag-coordinate din kami sa mga LGUs para malaman din namin kung ano po ‘yung mga infrastructures na na-damage. Syempre nakatutok kami sa national roads pero marami pa rin mga local bridges, siguro kailangan rin nila ng tulong,” he said

The secretary said this will allow for a faster decision-making process.

“Ang kagandahan po ng task force, lahat po ng secretaries nag-uusap at pag may mga problema, may regular reporting, makakapag-discuss kami on the spot,” Villar said.

“So parang ginawa natin sa Boracay, pag whole-of-government approach lahat involved, lahat ng secretaries, mas mabilis ang decision making process,” he added.

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

It 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 also ensure the 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.—**Joahna Lei Casilao/LDF, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/764983/dpwh-rebuilding-typhoon-hit-areas-must-come-with-forest-restoration/story/>



SOCIAL CLIMATE

When research is ignored

By: [Mahar Mangahas](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:20 AM November 21, 2020

When a foreign colleague wrote me, several weeks ago, asking for stories to help her write a book on the impact of quality-of-life research on policy-making, I mused to myself that I could tell her much more about the non-impact of research.

I put off responding for a while, because I wanted to cite instances where research was given a chance to do some good—and I did find some examples, and passed them on—but now the latest calamity that has just befallen Luzon reminds me of what ultimately became my worst frustration: the 1976-78 study on Population, Resources, Environment and the Philippine Future (PREPF).

The PREPF study took 1975 as baseline, and made projections for the year 2000, which in those days seemed so very far away. It was called “perspective planning,” which was fashionable in many countries.

PREPF was done by a three-institution consortium: the Development Academy of the Philippines, the UP School of Economics, and the UP Population Institute. I headed the DAP and UPSE teams; National Scientist Mercedes Concepcion was the UPPI leader. PREPF had funding from the Population Center Foundation, the National Science Development Board, the National Economic and Development Authority, and the Commission on Population.

It had dozens of social scientists, whose 111 technical papers and notes dealt with various dimensions of the population, natural resources and energy, water and air adequacy, health and nutrition, education, and equitable sharing of income. The 222-page book “Probing Our Futures: The Philippines 2000 A.D.,” jointly published by DAP, UPSE, and UPPI in 1980, is a summary.

The main policy message of PREPF was quite simple: Slow down the growth of the population, before it overwhelms the country’s resources and environment. The researchers delved, not into how to control the population, but into accurately quantifying and exposing the dire consequences of excessive numbers of people.

We all knew “the rule of 69”: any number growing at a compound annual rate of R percent will double in $T = 69/R$ years. How convenient it was for us that the population growth rate was then close to 3 percent per year, because 69 divided by 3 is exactly equal to 23 years.

Simply supplying such technical data was, unfortunately, not enough to spur the government and the various concerned public institutions to take the policy actions leading to a serious program of family planning. And so, to this day, the Philippines still has too many people, too few trees, and too little of all the other natural, and unrenewable, resources that it needs.

Part of the problem was, and still is, politicians’ fear of antagonizing the Catholic Church; it is saddening that there are Filipinos who cultivate this fear. SWS has done so many opinion polls, into the 21st century, showing the non-existence of a Catholic vote at either national or local level. With these polls, family planning advocates have been hoping to weaken the resistance to reforms allowing government health facilities to provide family planning services to the people. This is an ongoing battle.



In 1975, the Philippines with 44 million people was the 18th most populous country in the world; and Thailand, close behind with 43 million, was the 19th. Now, in 2020, 45 years later, the Philippines with 110 million has risen to the rank of 13th in the world, while Thailand with only 70 million is the 20th. The economic pressure on the Philippines relative to Thailand is obviously tremendous.

Thailand is appropriately grateful to its famous family planning activist, Mr. Mechai Viravaidya, affectionately known as “Mr. Condom,” for his great service to the country. Where are the Filipino Mechais?

Or will Filipinos only obey a draconian one-child policy patterned after that of the leader’s favorite friend?

Contact mahar.mangahas@sws.org.ph.



DepEd assures climate change education in curriculum

Published November 20, 2020, 2:30 PM

by [Merlina Hernando-Malipot](#)

With the disruptions brought about by changes in the environment to education, the Department of Education assured that it continues to respond to the call for stronger climate change education in the curriculum for basic education.

DepEd said that key disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change action (CCA) concepts are currently integrated from kinder to junior high school particularly in subject areas such as Health, Science, Araling Panlipunan, and Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao.

Aside from curriculum integration, the DepEd also implements various programs such as “Gulayan sa Paaralan” and “Schools in a Garden.”

Moreover, DepEd said it also partakes in the Expanded National Greening Program of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

DepEd, through the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS), is also continuously working to strengthen the integration of climate change in the curriculum, co-curricular activities, and other policies of the agency.

The DRRMS also leads in empowering learners, personnel, schools, and DepEd offices in ensuring safety and learning continuity; institutionalizing Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, Climate Change Adaptation, and Education-in-Emergencies; and strengthening the resilience of the education sector in the context of natural and human-induced hazards, including armed conflict.

In line with these efforts, DepEd endorsed the observance of the “National Day for Youth in Climate Action” and the “ASEAN Youth in Climate Action and Disaster Resilience” on Nov. 25.

DepEd said that all public and private elementary and secondary schools, including schools district and division offices (SDOs) and regional offices (ROs), are enjoined to initiate activities in observance of these activities in partnership with the National Youth Commission (NYC).

DepEd is hosting the National Climate Change Conference (NCCC) online this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now on in its fourth year, the 2020 NCCC is being conducted through a series of learning sessions live-streamed at the DepEd Philippines Facebook page from Nov. 19 to 25.

With the theme “Alpas: Channeling youth eco-anxiety to climate action,” this year’s NCCC “aims to elevate the discussion of the impacts of climate change on mental health and the actions that can be done to make meaningful change.”

PRRD to discuss strengthened cooperation against COVID-19, climate change issue in APEC Summit

November 20, 2020



President Rodrigo R. Duterte will attend the 27th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders meeting on Friday, November 20, pushing for strengthened cooperation among countries against Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and ensuring adequate vaccine supply for everyone.

According to Presidential Protocol Chief and Presidential Assistant on Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Robert Borje, the meeting will be conducted via video conferencing. This will also be attended by Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Teodoro Locsin and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon Lopez.

“Isa sa mga importanteng isyu para kay Pangulo ay ang free flow ng mga goods and supplies. And particularly dito ang ating mga COVID-19 vaccine, ang ating mga medical supplies, ang mga pharmaceutical supplies, at mga equipment. Dahil kapag hindi natin na-address ang mga pangangailangang ito, kung may sakit ang mga tao, walang magtatrabaho, kung walang magtatrabaho, bagsak ang ekonomiya. So iyon ang foremost sa isip ng Pangulo (One of the most important issues for the President is the free flow of goods and supplies. And particularly the COVID-19 vaccine, medical supplies, pharmaceutical supplies, and equipment. If we do not address these needs, if people will be sick, no one will work, if no one will work, the economy will fail. So that is the foremost thought of the President),” USec. Borje disclosed.

The President is also expected to talk about the issue of climate change.

“Climate change is something that is integrated in the discussion. It’s as far as I know, it’s not explicitly stated, pero magandang tanong ‘yan. Ang importante ay when you talk about sustainable economies, kasama ang climate change action diyan (but that is a good question. What is important is when you talk about sustainable economies, climate change action is included).”

The APEC that consists of 21 member-economies including the Philippines will be hosted by Malaysia.

President Duterte has always been attending the yearly summit since he assumed the Philippine presidency.

Report from Mela Lesmoras

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/prrd-to-discuss-strengthened-cooperation-against-covid-19-climate-change-issue-in-apec-summit/>



Dominguez urges CCC to push PRRD call for 'climate justice'

By DOFPublished on November 20, 2020

MANILA, Nov. 20 -- Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has called on the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to sustain President Duterte's call for climate justice before the international community as the Philippines continues to bear the devastating impact of global warming even though it remains among the world's lowest emitters of greenhouse gases.

Dominguez also challenged the CCC to aggressively advocate and put forward concrete policy proposals for the protection of the environment while building public awareness and support about these initiatives.

The recent spate of super typhoons and floods that occurred in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic underscore the urgency and complexity of the CCC's tasks, he said.

But the COVID-19-induced crisis can also be used as an opportunity to tailor the country's economic recovery programs to mobilize investments in domestic renewable energy, sustainable urban planning and climate-smart agriculture, said Dominguez, who was recently appointed by President Duterte as chairman of the CCC.

"Even as we transition to more sustainable economic activities domestically, the Philippines must sustain calls for broader climate justice. President Duterte has already led the way. We in government must stand firmly behind the President in this fight," said Dominguez in his pre-recorded message to the CCC as it celebrated the 13th Climate Change Consciousness Week.

"The Philippines is well-positioned to make a difference in this battle against the climate crisis. Let us work hand in hand to achieve a new, low carbon economy and a greener future for all," Dominguez added.

At the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit last Nov. 12, President Duterte called on other vulnerable countries like the Philippines to demand climate justice from developed nations, which are the most responsible for fueling the climate crisis.

The President said at the annual summit that developed countries must lead in effecting deep and drastic cuts in carbon emissions.

Dominguez recalled that since last month, five strong typhoons battered 12 of the country's 17 regions; claimed dozens of lives; and damaged billions of pesos worth of infrastructure, crops, livelihoods and properties.

Unless all concerned sectors move fast to implement mitigation measures, he said these human, social and economic costs will continue to accumulate and dampen the country's economic progress.

"Evidence-informed climate action is crucial to providing a safe, comfortable life for every law-abiding Filipino. We need to put forward stronger adaptation and mitigation measures to ensure that Filipinos will not just survive, but thrive in the new and resilient economy," Dominguez said.



"We can address the climate emergency better and with a more informed approach. Unlike COVID-19 that caught the world off-guard, we have a wealth of information and innovative solutions to deal with the climate crisis. We must be prepared to save lives and prevent the worst possible outcomes," he said.

Dominguez said the government must ensure the coherence of climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, as well as programs on disaster risk reduction and sustainable development, at both the national and local government levels.

"We must deploy financial tools to build resiliency from the household to the national levels. We must widen the inclusivity of our financial system to mobilize investment and protect families," Dominguez added.

He said the government's rule should be simple: "projects that are not green and sustainable should not see the light of day."

Dominguez cited, for instance, the need to make the restoration and conservation of existing forests an integral part of the country's disaster risk reduction strategy.

"It is time to update our agroforestry policies to prevent the clearing of mountain slopes to make way for agriculture," he added. (DOF)



Isko: Zero tolerance policy vs garbage

Friday, November 20, 2020 [Itchie G. Cabayan](#)



Mayor Isko Moreno and department of public services chief Kenneth Amurao in a huddle. In the middle is city engineer Armand Andres. Photo by JERRY S. TAN

WHEN it comes to garbage and all forms of obstruction specially on major thoroughfares, the city of Manila is exercising a 'zero tolerance policy.'

Thus stressed Mayor Isko Moreno yesterday as he appealed to Manila residents and barangays to fully and constantly support the city government in this drive, by keeping their surroundings clean and free from all kinds of obstruction and garbage at all times.

Moreno said personnel from the Department of Public Services (DPS) headed by Kenneth Amurao have been conducting non-stop clearing and cleaning operations and the cooperation of the residents and barangays is vital to this.

The DPS personnel under Amurao's stewardship, according to Moreno, do not only focus their attention on major roads and streets but also on smaller thoroughfares and alleys on top of their arduous tasks during calamities like the recent typhoons that battered the country.

The mayor stressed that all streets, no matter how big or small, must always be clear and available for their intended purpose which is for the use either of pedestrians or motorists.

Specially in this time of the pandemic, Moreno stressed the need to keep the surroundings clean at all times.

The mayor also called on barangay authorities to do their share by helping the DPS clean up and identify problem areas that are beyond the capabilities of the barangays like having to clear huge volumes of obstruction.

As much as possible, Moreno said he would want all nooks and crannies in the city to be spic and span.

This week alone, clearing operations were conducted along Recto, Divisoria, Carmen Planas, Zaragosa, Padre Rada, Taft Avenue, the area of from Legarda to Avenida, where trash, obstructions, debris brought about by the recent typhoon and even illegal barricades were removed.

Moreno also lauded the DPS Estero Rangers for continuously cleaning the creeks and other small waterways in Manila.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/metro/isko-zero-tolerance-policy-vs-garbage/>



Pagkakakulong, multa at community service sa magtatapon ng basura sa pampublikong lugar

ni [Atty. Persida Rueda-Acosta](#) - @Magtanong Kay Attorney | November 20, 2020

Dear Chief Acosta,

Sinita ko ang aking kapitbahay sa pagtatapon niya ng basura sa gilid ng daan ngunit sinabi niyang wala namang ordinansa ang barangay hinggil dito. Kadalasan din ay nililinis naman ito ng mga volunteer sa aming barangay. May batas ba na maaaring magbawal sa kanyang gawain? – Quier

Dear Quier,

Para sa inyong kaalaman, ang batas na nakasasaklaw sa inyong katanungan ay ang *Republic Act No. 9003* o mas kilala sa tawag na *Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000*. Nakasaad sa *Section 48 (1)* ng nasabing batas na:

“Section 48. Prohibited Acts - The following acts are prohibited.

x x x

1) Littering, throwing, dumping of waste matters in public places, such as roads, sidewalks, canals, esteros or parks, and establishment, or causing or permitting the same; x x x”

Samakatwid, ipinagbabawal ng batas na ito ang pagtatapon ng basura sa mga pampublikong lugar tulad ng mga daan, bangketa, kanal, estero o parke at mga establisimyento, o pagiging sanhi o pagpayag sa ganitong gawain.

Nakasaad sa batas na ito na ang sinumang lumabag ay mapaparusahan ng kulong ng isang araw hanggang 15 araw. Maaari rin silang magmulta ng halagang P300 hanggang P1,000 o pagawain ng *community service*. Maaari ring maipataw ang parehong kaparusahan batay sa diskresyon ng korte.

Nawa ay nasagot namin ang inyong mga katanungan. Nais naming ipaalala sa inyo na ang opinyong ito ay nakabase sa inyong mga naisalaysay sa inyong liham at sa pagkakaintindi namin dito. Maaaring maiba ang opinyon kung mayroong karagdagang impormasyon na ibibigay. Mas mainam kung personal kayong sasangguni sa abogado.

Maraming salamat sa inyong patuloy na pagtitiwala.

Source: <https://www.bulgaronline.com/post/pagkakakulong-multa-at-community-service-sa-magtatapon-ng-basura-sa-pampublikong-lugar>



Leyte man plants 10,000 mangroves to protect his home from storm surge

Published November 20, 2020 5:38pm

A man from Matalom, Leyte planted some 10,000 mangroves all by himself to protect his home from storm surge.

His work has been spotted by netizen Dan Niez, who visited a beach Barangay Punong in October.

Niez took photos and posted them on social media, sharing that the man, Gary Dabasol, has planted and maintained the mangroves for five years now.

"It's only his initiative to grow these mangroves in order to provide breeding ground for fishes and also protect his home from storm surge," Niez said.

Leyte was hit with a devastating storm surge when Typhoon Yolanda hit the Philippines in 2013. Over 6,000 people died, more than 28,000 were injured, and over a thousand went missing, most of them from Eastern Visayas.

According to the UP Diliman Institute of Biology, the [use of mangroves](#) is one of the most effective nature-based solutions that can contribute to biodiversity and conservation as well as being a climate change adaptation strategy.

Netizens lauded Tatay Gary's efforts to protect his home as the photos taken by Niez went viral.



Photos by Dan Niez



Photos by Dan Niez



Photos by Dan Niez



Photos by Dan Niez



Plantdemic and plant parenthood

By [Fidel O. Abalos](#)(The Freeman) - November 21, 2020 - 12:00am

The unprecedented surge in COVID-19 infections and deaths in the world's largest economy makes us, a poor country, doubt on our capabilities to contain it. In fact, as the other wealthy countries in Europe deal with another wave, more reasons to doubt linger. Probably, this could be the reason why Cebu City Mayor Edgar Labella is somehow overreacting as infections surged lately.

Consequently, border controls were reinstated. As if the residents in the neighboring local government units are the culprits, not the laxity in the implementation within the city of the proven health protocols. Possibly, therefore, what follows next will be the execution of the proven "virus surge containing but economy contracting lockdown" solution. When that happens, we will be holed up again in our homes.

To those who are already working from home, that's no longer a challenge. In fact, by now, they no longer treat it as the new normal. To most of them, with or without the virus, this is already their normal.

To the wealthy, whose preoccupation then was throwing wads of cash in department stores and go bar and restaurant hopping right after, they must have already learned to kill boredom these days by engaging in healthy hobbies. To the wage earners whose jobs won't make working from home possible, they must have engaged in small income generating activities just to make both ends meet.

Indeed, there are many things the ongoing pandemic has brought while we were holed up in our homes. One of these activities that has pervaded globally is now referred to as plantdemic. This word is a portmanteau (a made-up or blended word that combines the meaning of both words) of words plant and pandemic. Though yet to land in credible dictionaries like brunch (for breakfast and lunch), motel (for motor and hotel), smog (for smoke and fog) and podcast (for iPod and broadcast), it means a worldwide spread of the interest in gardening and nurturing plants inside one's household.

Palpably, there is a plantdemic. Though popular among urban dwellers, this newfound love for gardening is so contagious that it also infected those in the countryside. In fact, environmentalists are happy as this latest craze will somehow address the growing concerns on the ill effects of climate change.



Mostly ornamental plants, they found some joy in those that are said to emit more oxygen (like Snake Plant, Spider Plant, Peace Lily, Aloe Vera, etc.) while placed indoors. Others are planting vegetables. Consequently, though they started only with just one pot or garden plot, today, some already have tens, twenties or even more. To support this craze, some are even putting up nurseries (in urban areas as well as in the countryside) in their vacant lots and made them their new livelihood.

Recognizing this trend, a tech start-up developed an app called "Plant Parenthood." Appropriately named, it is an app that is designed for plant parents (a description intended for those who may find joy in nurturing plants) who may wish to take care or adopt plants (just like taking care of pets) into their lives. Though having only one plant doesn't require this app, when the interest grows and having more is inevitable, it shall become a must. More so if one has a nursery and is seriously considering it as his livelihood. This is because each plant has its own characteristics and its own need for water, nutrients, fertilizers, sunlight, etc. Therefore, for each kind of plant, the quantities and frequencies of its intake and span of exposure to sunlight vary.

Obviously, this app addresses these concerns. This is an app that will help a plant parent keep track of each plant's (each variety) needs. Its features include, among others, plant discovery and plant management (which includes watering schedule, social media feed and manual plant entry). Simply put, with this app, a plant parent will never forget when he last watered them; appreciate how far they have grown; share some plant updates with his friends; or, when needed, ask for some help from fellow plant parents all over the globe.

Therefore, if you are wealthy and is just a plain hobbyist, this app is good because it shall help you nurture your plant babies and avoid untimely deaths, thus, save on cost. To those who have nurseries and have made plant parenting a livelihood, this is more useful as it helps you manage the plants' full cycle. That's from plant discovery, nurturing and growing, reaching out to potential market (as you shall be globally connected) and making money out of it. Along the way, you are cost-efficient as inputs are precise and growths are well monitored, thus, improving bottomline.

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Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-business/2020/11/21/2058446/plantdemic-and-plant-parenthood/amp/>



EDITORIAL - Sustainable sanitation

(The Philippine Star) - November 21, 2020 - 12:00am

With vaccines against coronavirus disease 2019 now set to be rolled out for emergency use in the United States, hopes are high that the pandemic can come to an end within several months.

Governments can then return their attention to other public health problems, particularly diseases that are also potentially deadly, which can arise simply due to the lack of basic sanitation facilities. For example, approximately 297,000 children under five years old die from diarrheal diseases each year – or more than 800 every day – due to poor sanitation, unsafe drinking water and poor hygiene, according to the United Nations.

In the Philippines, the Department of Health reports that 10 million families or around 50.3 million Filipinos lack access to “safely managed sanitation services,” with 24 million of them using limited or unimproved toilets or having no toilets at all. The DOH defines “safely managed sanitation services” as toilet facilities that are not shared with other households, and where the excreta are transported to a treatment center off-site.

The information was released as the country joined in the observance of World Toilet Day on Nov. 19. The special day was launched by the UN in 2001 to highlight the lack of this basic need for public health. The UN estimates that about 4.2 billion people worldwide are living without access to safely managed sanitation.

This year the special day emphasizes that the lack of toilets can be aggravated by climate change. The Philippines is seeing this in the recent natural calamities, as torrential flooding damages toilets, septic tanks and treatment plants, and human waste contaminates food crops. The next epidemic could be just around the corner as flood-ravaged communities grapple with the loss of basic sanitation facilities.

The UN’s Sustainable Development Goal No. 6 is water and sanitation for all by 2030. In the Philippines, the UN estimates that P30 billion is needed annually to achieve universal access to sanitation. The UN is also pushing for the recycling of wastewater, which is gaining urgency as growing populations compete for dwindling sources of clean water.

The DOH says that only six percent of the country’s 1,634 cities and municipalities can boast of sanitation certification that defecation in the open has been completely eradicated. Many households also lack access to piped water for regular handwashing – a basic health protocol for preventing COVID-19 transmission. Even when the coronavirus pandemic is over, the need for universal access to modern toilets and sanitation facilities must be addressed.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/11/21/2058316/editorial-sustainable-sanitation>



Monkeys on the loose bite six people in Basilan

Published November 20, 2020 10:49pm



Six persons in Isabela City, Basilan were bitten by monkeys on the loose.

According to a report on “24 Oras” on Friday, the city’s disaster risk reduction and management officer said among the victims were a child and a pregnant woman.

With the help of city veterinary personnel, the Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (DRRMO) was able to capture two monkeys at Barangay Riverside and Barangay Aguada.

However, the DRRMO said it was unsure whether these were the ones who bit the victims. The monkeys were later released to the Isabela City Forest Park.

The victims are currently being treated.—**Ma. Angelica Garcia/LDF, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/765022/monkeys-on-the-loose-bite-six-people-in-basilan/story/>



COVID-19 vaccine darating sa Pinas bago 2nd quarter ng 2021

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 21, 2020 - 12:00am



Sinabi ni FDA Director General Eric Domingo na inaasahan na magpapalabas na si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ng Executive Order (EO) para mag-isyu ng 'emergency use authorization (EUA)' para sa mga bakuna makaraang hilingin ng FDA.

AFP/Andrew Caballero-Reynolds

MANILA, Philippines — Pinapabilis na ng Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ang proseso ng pagbili ng mga bakuna na maaaring dumating sa bansa bago ang pagpasok ng ikalawang quarter ng taong 2021.

Sinabi ni FDA Director General Eric Domingo na inaasahan na magpapalabas na si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ng Executive Order (EO) para mag-isyu ng 'emergency use authorization (EUA)' para sa mga bakuna makaraang hilingin ng FDA.

Sa pamamagitan ng EUA, mapapaigsi ang proseso ng ebalwasyon ng bakuna at magbibigay-daan para kilalanin ng FDA ang 'approval' ng mga kahalintulad nilang 'regulatory bodies' ng ibang bansa katulad ng United States FDA.

Una nang sinabi ng pamahalaan na maaaring sa ikalawang quarter pa ng 2021 makakuha ng bakuna ang Pilipinas buhat sa mga debeloper.

"Once makakuha sila (vaccine developers) ng EUA for example sa US FDA, mas mapapabilis talaga 'yung proseso,'" giit ni Domingo.

Ito ay makaraan naman na ihayag ng Pfizer, Moderna, at Russia sa pamamagitan ng kanilang Sputnik V ang pagiging epektibo ng kanilang mga bakuna na lagpas 90 porsyento na ang "efficacy".

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/11/21/2058415/covid-19-vaccine-darating-sa-pinaz-bago-2nd-quarter-ng-2021/amp/>



Duterte to APEC: Ensure free flow of COVID-19 vaccines

Published November 21, 2020 12:38am

Updated November 21, 2020 12:56am

President Rodrigo Duterte on Friday called on member-states of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation for the free flow of COVID-19 vaccines once available as well as other supplies and technologies in preventing spread of the novel coronavirus.

In his intervention at the APEC Leaders' Meeting hosted by Malaysia, Duterte pushed for "a comprehensive recovery with no one left behind."

"First, we have to ensure the unimpeded flow of medical supplies and technologies, especially COVID-19 vaccines. It is folly to assume that there can be pockets of safe havens in the face of a global pandemic," Duterte said in his message.

"We have to defeat the virus everywhere, or no one is safe. To do this, we need to strengthen partnerships to make vaccines a global public good," he added.

The Philippine leader said several modalities can be employed in making the vaccines accessible to all nations such as bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Tripartite arrangements could also be made among the government, private sector and the multilateral financial institutions.

"There is no other way. Let us resolve to act decisively on universal vaccine access and maximize these mechanisms," he said.

Duterte lauded the initiative of Malaysia to establish the COVID-Live online portal for sharing best practices on effective response and mitigation efforts.

He also called on his fellow leaders "to keep trade free, open, and fair," which he added is "key to achieving sustained and inclusive economic recovery."

"We have a new reality that is sobering. We should not be discouraged. If anything, we must recommit ourselves to bolder, more concrete ways to ensure our region's economic well-being and vitality," he said.

Duterte also vowed support for the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, reaffirming the Philippines' commitment for a free and rules-based multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization.

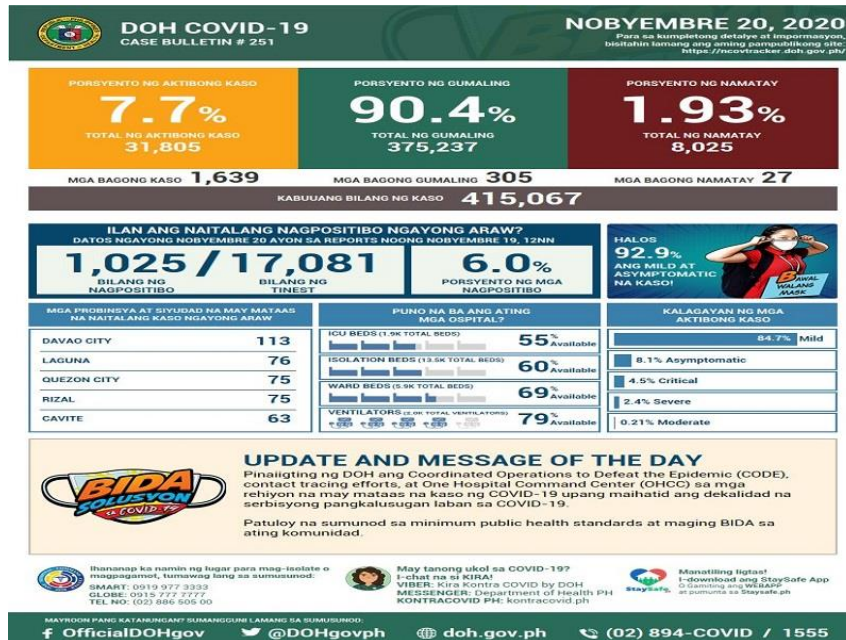
"We commit to address the widening income inequalities between the countries. And we aim to empower ourselves to face the disruptive impact of a new globalization, driven by digitalization and innovation," he said.—**NB/LDF,GMA**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/765032/duterte-to-apec-ensure-free-flow-of-covid-19-vaccines/story/>



BREAKING: Kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, 415,067 na

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo November 20, 2020 - 04:04 PM



Mahigit 1,600 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) araw ng Biyernes (November 20), umabot na sa 415,067 ang total confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 31,805 o 7.7 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,639 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

84.7 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 8.1 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 2.4 porsyento ang severe habang 4.5 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 27 muli ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 8,025 o 1.93 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 305 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 375,237 o 90.4 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.



China donates P22-M to support 'Ulysses' relief efforts

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora **November 20, 2020, 7:37 pm**



TO THE RESCUE. Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) personnel rescue residents trapped in chest-deep flood in Barangay Barangka, Marikina City on Nov. 12, 2020. The Chinese government on Friday (Nov. 20, 2020) said it will donate PHP22 million to support the relief efforts following the destruction brought about by typhoon Ulysses in the Philippines. (Photo courtesy of PCG)

MANILA – The Chinese government has committed PHP22 million to support the Philippines' relief efforts following the destruction brought about by typhoon Ulysses, which killed 73 and affected thousands since it made landfall last November 11.

"In order to express our heartfelt sympathies to those suffering from the recent typhoons, the Chinese government has decided to donate three million RMB (approximately PHP22 million) to the Philippine government to help those hit by the Typhoon Ulysses (Vamco)," the Chinese Embassy said in a statement on Friday.

Early this month, it donated relief goods worth RMB1 million (approximately PHP7.3 million) to help those hit by typhoon Rolly.

The said donation will be distributed to the affected families in the provinces of Albay and Catanduanes early next week, the Embassy said.

Aside from injuries, "Ulysses" also swept away houses, and brought damage to agriculture and infrastructure in various regions.

In announcing its latest assistance, the Embassy said Beijing stands ready to assist Manila in the face of difficulties.

"China and the Philippines always stand together as trusted friends in the face of difficulties," it said. "We believe that under the strong leadership of the Philippine Government, the Philippine people will overcome the disaster and resume normal life at the earliest date." (PNA)



EU donates P60-M for 'Ulysses' victims

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora November 20, 2020, 1:21 pm



MANILA – The European Union (EU) announced on Friday it is donating 1.05 million euros (roughly PHP60 million) in humanitarian aid to deliver emergency relief assistance to the victims of Typhoon Ulysses.

This is on top of its recent donation of PHP74.5 million to support families affected by Super Typhoon Rolly, raising its total contribution to Manila's typhoon response to PHP134 million as of November 20.

“The EU is scaling up its humanitarian assistance in the Philippines in response to the devastating typhoons that have hit the country over the past month,” said Arlynn Aquino, who oversees the EU’s humanitarian response in the Philippines. “The additional contribution will help to get much-needed aid to the most vulnerable people to help them go through this difficult time.”

The fresh funding will support humanitarian aid partners who are already on the ground to respond to the immediate needs of those most in need.

The provision includes shelter, food, health care, and access to clean water, safe sanitation, and good hygiene, as well as other vital aid.

The "Ulysses" assistance is part of the EU’s Acute Large Emergency Response Tool (ALERT), which is used to respond to large natural disasters where more than 100,000 people or more than 50 percent of the population are affected.

Depending on the type of disaster, the aim is to allocate funds within 24 hours to 48 hours of the onset of the emergency.

“Ulysses” hit the country while it was still trying to cope with the devastating impact of the more powerful “Rolly”.

With maximum sustained winds of 155 kph, “Ulysses” caused heavy downpours and severe flooding in several provinces in Luzon, damaging more than 65,000 houses.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, a total of 73 dead, 24 injured, and 19 missing persons were reported in the Cagayan Valley, Bicol, Calabarzon, and Cordillera regions following the onslaught of “Ulysses”. (PNA)



Typhoon aftermath

By [Cherry Piquero-Ballescás](#)(The Freeman) - November 21, 2020 - 12:00am

The mayor of one typhoon-affected city in Luzon promised that garbage will be collected by November 30. Floods brought several mounds of dirty, smelly unwanted garbage in various parts of this particular community.

Residents had no choice but to navigate their way to avoid these mounds of garbage that piled up in front of their houses. Many residents have reported getting sick of diarrhea and foot sores. Can they even sleep with the stench of the garbage? Can they wait until the promised collection day?

Meanwhile, before November 30, cannot the city government or barangay hire labor from the community to appropriately manage and segregate mabulok versus di mabulok garbage, transfer these elsewhere in the community away from residents?

Aside from problematic stinky, dirty garbage mounds, other affected communities continue to wade through floodwaters that have not abated or through mud.

Typhoons also leave a lot of debris behind such as furniture, parts of houses built with substandard materials, paper, bottles, broken glass, others and of course, plastic all over.

After typhoons, still so much to be done!

Rebuilding of homes and communities, restoration of life for individuals and families.
Recovery of provinces and regions.

Can typhoon victims cope? Can government respond quickly, systematically and adequately to competing demands for basic/essential needs and services, including counseling?

Will no victims be left behind? Will everyone be effectively reached by public and private rescue, relief, support, and assistance networks?

Many victims complain and cry that no ayuda has reached them until now. Roads and bridges have been damaged by typhoons. Rescue is hampered or is unavailable because of accessibility problems. Has national government identified these far-flung, inaccessible areas?

Do national and local governments have clear, comprehensive, and coordinated plans of action for relief, rescue and restoration in place by now? Actually, these plans and preparations should have been anticipated, completed, and operational long before the recent calamities!



Partisan, political patronage is often cited in the aftermath of typhoons and other disasters. Can there be a clear alternative to this so that all, especially the genuinely needy, are adequately cared for by rescue, relief, and restoration networks?

Having an updated community database mainstreamed in every locality will definitely help. That database should include the names and other important information of every household member such as age, gender, education, employment, skills --if with, what kind of sickness or disability, if receiving support from household members abroad or outside their present address, etc.

Such individual and household information can guide what specific and appropriate relief, rescue, and restoration package and effort are needed per household/community.

Such valuable information can improve or better supplement the present type of post-disaster reporting often operationalized only in terms of cost of damages. Future report can provide more detailed, correct information about who, how many were affected, where.

Also, are there clear protocols about distribution of relief goods and services? Are victims properly briefed (long before any disaster) about what to do, where to go for what type of service and what may be needed for them to show if personal identification and verification are required?

Are communities trained to have their own disaster management system and protocols, complete with essential amenities and definite organization with people assigned to specific tasks?

Are there also clear protocols, organization, and systematic management of resources and people for external disaster response teams?

Are evacuation sites and centers ready long before any disaster? Fully equipped disaster ready gymnasiums are suggested per locality as evacuation centers. During ordinary times, these gyms can boost health and sports development.

Oh, if only all these disaster management and response preparations were done long before!

Still, best to do what must be done soonest.

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Manila Water's Cardona water treatment plant

Manila Water announces service interruption in 58 Rizal barangays from Nov. 23-24

Published November 20, 2020 11:13am

Customers of Manila Water in several barangays in the province of Rizal shall expect a nine-hour service interruption beginning Monday as the water distributor undertakes maintenance works.

In an advisory, Manila Water said it will be undertaking preventive maintenance works at its Cardona Water Treatment Plant in Rizal “to ensure reliability of water supply in its influence area.”

The maintenance work will result in temporary water service interruption affecting over 285,000 population in 57,049 households, commercial and business establishments in 58 barangays in several towns in Rizal, beginning Monday, November 23, at 9 p.m. until 6 a.m., Tuesday, November 24.

Below is the list of affected barangays:

Affected barangays:

TAYTAY (3)

- Muzon
- San Juan
- Dolores (E.I Cruz)

ANGONO (9)

- San Isidro
- San Roque
- Sto. Nino
- San Vicente
- Kalayaan
- San Pedro
- Poblacion Ibaba
- Poblacion Itaas
- Bagumbayan

CARDONA (7)

- Calahan
- Dalig
- Looc
- San Roque
- Del Remedio
- Iglesia
- Real

BINANGONAN (21)

- Pag-asa
- Tayuman
- San Carlos
- Tagpos
- Bilibiran
- Pantok
- Palangoy
- Darangan
- Batingan
- Calumpang
- Libis
- Layunan
- Libid
- Mahabang Parang
- Lunsad
- Pila-pila
- Limbon-Limbon
- Ithan
- Tatala
- Macamot
- Mambog

BARAS (9)

- Evangelista
- Mabini
- Concepcion
- San Miguel
- San Juan
- San Jose
- Rizal
- San Salvador
- Santiago

JALAJALA (9)

- 2nd District
- 3rd District
- Special District
- Bagumbong
- Bayugo
- Lubo
- Pagkalinawan
- Palaypalay
- Punta



“Manila Water is advising residents of the said barangays to store enough water to supply their needs during the interruption period,” the water concessionaire said.

“After service is restored, customers are advised to allow a few minutes for flushing before using the water from their taps,” it added. —**Ted Cordero/KBK, GMA News**



Indonesian authorities discover smuggled parrots stuffed in plastic bottles

[Agence France-Presse](#) / 05:18 PM November 20, 2020

Fakfak, Indonesia — Dozens of parrots stuffed into plastic water bottles have been discovered on a ship docked in Indonesia's Papua region, authorities said Friday.

Police in the town of Fakfak said the vessel's crew reported hearing noises coming from a large box where 64 live black-capped lorries and another 10 dead birds were found Thursday morning.

Black-capped lorries are a type of parrot native to New Guinea and nearby smaller islands. "The ship's crew told us that they suspected there were animals inside the box as they heard strange noises," said local police spokesman Dodik Junaidi.



This photograph taken on May 4, 2015, shows rare Indonesian yellow-crested cockatoos placed inside water bottles confiscated from an alleged wildlife smuggler. AFP FILE PHOTO (Photo by STR / AFP)

No arrests had been made so far and the birds' intended destination was unclear, he added. The vast jungles of Indonesia are home to more than 130 threatened bird species, according to wildlife trade watchdog TRAFFIC, more than any other country except Brazil.

But there is also large-scale illegal trading of birds, which sees them sold in giant avian markets in Indonesia's major cities or smuggled abroad.

Exotic birds are usually poached and trafficked by smuggling gangs for sale as pets and status symbols.

Certain species of bird, such as the Australian palm cockatoo, can sell for as much as \$30,000 on the black market.

In 2017, Indonesian authorities found some 125 exotic birds stuffed inside drain pipes during a wildlife smuggling raid.

Source: https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1363043/indonesian-authorities-discover-smuggled-parrots-stuffed-in-plastic-bottles?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3GAidJm2pMBTCrFEAicHseUHnVy3GtcKYvIWxmnklidRv6fga3S1DpmVU#Echobox=1605864724



Smuggled parrots stuffed in plastic bottles: Indonesia police

Published November 20, 2020, 4:55 PM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

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Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/20/smuggled-parrots-stuffed-in-plastic-bottles-indonesia-police/>



Wild animal populations not declining as feared — study

[Agence France-Presse](#) / 05:46 PM November 20, 2020



Flocks of pelicans and flamingos in the lake of Kerkini at the Greece and Bulgaria border.

Image: AFP/Nikolay Doychinov

The population of most wild animals with a backbone — mammals, amphibians, birds, reptiles and fish — is stable, scientists said Wednesday in a finding sharply at odds with a benchmark report issued every two years by environmental group WWF.

Looking at 14,000 vertebrate populations monitored by WWF since 1970, researchers found that if the 1% suffering the worst declines are removed from the equation, the remaining populations, grouped together, are holding steady in terms of overall numbers.

In September, the WWF's Living Planet Index reported an average 68% fall in the populations of all animals monitored, a grim figure that made headlines worldwide.

“Collapsing all population trends into a single value can give the impression that everything is declining,” Brian Leung, senior author of the new study and a professor at McGill University in Canada, told Agence France-Presse.

“However, the image of a global ‘biodiversity desert’ is not supported by the evidence.” There are in fact regions where most species within certain groups are on a clear downward spiral, such as birds in the Asia-Pacific region and reptiles in the Americas.

But including them in an overall average can be misleading, Leung said.

“The Living Planet Index metric does not actually show that 68% of all populations have been lost,” he noted by email.

“Unfortunately, it is hard to not leave with that impression.”

Asked to comment on the report, WWF referred AFP to the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), which co-authors the flagship Living Planet reports.

ZSL scientist Robin Freeman, also a co-author of the new study, published in Nature, acknowledged in a blog post that “removing these clusters (of extreme decline) leave a distribution of population that appears, on average to be stable.”



‘Get the science right’

“However, this doesn’t mean that the remaining 99% of all populations in the Index are doing fine.”

Freeman proposed yet another way of calculating the data to make his point.

Setting aside 10% of the vertebrate populations at both extremes — those that have declined and increased the most — “still reveals a decline of 42% since 1970,” he said.

Leung was at pains to make clear that his findings do not suggest all is well in the animal kingdom.

“We are not arguing that there are no biodiversity problems, but rather that it is not all declining worldwide, nor hopeless,” he said, noting that in some areas — especially in temperature latitudes — animal populations are increasing.

Nor does his methodology apply to last year’s landmark report from the UN’s science advisory panel for biodiversity, known as IPBES, which concluded that one million species on Earth are at risk of extinction.

Leung said he was concerned that his study might breed complacency or be deliberately misread to discredit conservation efforts to date.

“Our primary motivation is to get the science right,” he said. “Over the long term, our field’s credibility depends on it.”

The fact that global populations of wild animals are more stable than thought should also be taken as an encouraging sign, he added.

“If everything is declining despite all of our efforts over the last few decades, this kind of continual negative messaging could cause despair and inaction,” he said.

WWF has put out 13 Living Planet reports tracking changes in vertebrate populations since 1998. **RGA**



Satellite to track rising seas as climate warms

Published November 21, 2020, 6:10 AM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

An Earth-observation satellite developed by European and US space agencies set to lift off Saturday will measure sea level rise, tracking changes threatening to disrupt tens of millions of lives within a generation.



Sentinel-6 is set to be hoisted into a low-Earth 1,300-kilometre (800-mile) orbit by a Space X Falcon 9 rocket from California on Saturday – EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY/AFP/File

If all goes according to plan, the payload will be hoisted into a low-Earth 1,300-kilometre (800-mile) orbit by a Space X Falcon 9 rocket, with lift-off from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California at 17:17 GMT.

Sentinel-6a will be the first of two identical satellites — the second to be launched in five years — that will provide measurements of unprecedented precision until at least 2030.

Each Sentinel-6 probe carries a radar altimeter, which measures the time it takes for radar pulses to travel to Earth's surface and back again.

The satellites will circle the planet in the same orbit as earlier missions that supplied sea-surface height data over the last three decades, mapping 95 percent of Earth's ice-free ocean every ten days.

Accelerating sea level rise is arguably the climate change impact that will affect the largest number of people over the next three decades.

Nearly 800 million people live within five metres of sea level, and even an increase in sea level of a few centimetres can translate into vastly more damage from high tides and storm surges.

- Sea level rise accelerating -

Already today, there are more than 100 million people living below high tide levels.

“Extreme sea level events that are historically rare — once per century in the recent past — are projected to occur frequently, at least once per year, at many locations by 2050,” especially in the tropics, the UN climate science advisory panel, the IPCC, concluded in a major report last year.

Satellites tracking the world's oceans since 1993 show that global mean sea level has risen, on average, by over three millimetres (more than a tenth of an inch) annually.

More recently, that rate has increased to 5 mm per year.

“It is crucial that we are able to see these accelerations,” said Alain Ratier, outgoing Director-General of Europe's meteorological satellite agency, EUMETSAT.



China, Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand are home to the greatest number of people who today live on land that could be threatened by permanent inundation by 2100.

The IPCC forecasts an increase in global sea level rise of up to 1.1 metres (43 inches) by the end of the century.

The Copernicus Sentinel-6 mission is a collaboration of the European Commission, the European Space Agency (ESA), EUMETSAT, NASA and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The Sentinel satellites are each about the size and shape of a large minivan topped with slanted solar panels, and weigh nearly 1,200 kilos (2,600 pounds), including rocket fuel.

They are designed to last for five-and-a-half years, but could provide data for far longer.



In the first study of microplastics on Everest, the tiny pollutants were found as high as 8,440 meters above

Researchers find microplastics on top of the world at Everest

Published November 21, 2020 2:43am

KATHMANDU, Nepal - Traces of microplastics have been found close to the top of Mount Everest, a study showed Friday, likely originating from equipment used by the hundreds of climbers who summit the world's highest peak every year.

Fluorescent tents, discarded climbing equipment, empty gas canisters and even frozen excrement have long littered the well-trodden route to the 8,848-meter (29,029-foot) high summit, earning it the name of "the highest dumpster in the world".

But in the first study of microplastics on Everest, by a research team part of the 2019 National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition, the tiny pollutants were found as high as 8,440 meters above sea level, although concentration levels were higher at the mountain's base camp.

The findings, which reveal the potential threat to Everest posed by plastic pollutants, were published in the environmental journal *One Earth* on Friday.

"The samples showed significant quantities of polyester, acrylic, nylon, and polypropylene fibers," author Imogen Napper, a National Geographic explorer and scientist based at the University of Plymouth in Britain, said in a statement.

"It really surprised me to find microplastics in every single snow sample I analysed. Mount Everest is somewhere I have always considered remote and pristine. To know we are polluting near the top of the tallest mountain (in the world) is a real eye-opener."

Environmental scourge

A majority of outdoor clothing worn by trekkers and climbers on Everest is made of synthetic fabrics. Tents, climbing ropes and other gear also use the materials.

"We highly suspect that these types of items are the major source of pollution rather than things like food and drink containers," Napper said, referring to the trash accumulation on the peak after decades of commercial mountaineering.



Last year, a 14-member team spent six weeks scouring for litter at Everest base camp and at Camp 4 -- nearly 8,000 metres up.

They cleared the mountain of four bodies and more than 10 tonnes of plastic bottles, cans and climbing equipment.

The study also suggests it is possible that microplastics found on Everest are blown there from elsewhere in the strong Himalayan winds.

Researchers also found microplastics in streams below the famous Himalayan peak, but the concentration was lower than in snow.

Last year, scientists reported tiny particles of plastic settled every day on each square metre of an uninhabited, high-altitude area in the Pyrenees straddling France and Spain.

Plastic litter, and the tiny particles that it breaks down into, has emerged in the last few years as a major environmental scourge.

Up to 12 million tons of plastics are thought to enter the world's oceans every year, and millions more clog inland waterways and landfills.

Scientists are only now beginning to measure the damage to wildlife and potential impacts on human health. -- **Agence France-Presse**



Canada carbon neutral by 2050

Published 13 mins ago on November 21, 2020 06:00 AM

By [Agence France-Presse](#)



OTTAWA, Canada (AFP) — The government of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday submitted draft legislation that it said would allow the country to be carbon neutral by 2050, but his opponents dismissed the initiative as “smoke and mirrors.”

“Net-zero emissions by 2050. It’s ambitious — but it’s possible, it’s necessary, and it’s exactly what we’re going to do,” Trudeau said on Twitter.

“Greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced if we want to reach this target,” he added separately to reporters.

But he admitted that nothing in the draft would prevent future governments from winding back his proposals.

In the end, “it will be up to Canadians to choose governments that are serious about the fight against climate change,” said Trudeau, who has made the environment a priority since taking office.

The draft legislation however does not set specific goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for 2030. Canada, a major oil producer, is among the top global emitters.

“We are going to exceed our targets,” Trudeau said, without offering more details.

When it ratified the Paris climate agreement, Canada committed to reducing carbon emissions by 30 percent by 2030, as compared with 2005 levels.

The draft aims to force the government to fix carbon emissions reduction targets every five years from 2030, and to report back to parliament after each five-year period.

But the measure contains no specifics, and successive Canadian governments have failed to reach the emissions reduction goals they have set.

The most recent data from the administration in Ottawa showed that emissions increased two percent from 2017 to 2018.