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Cimatu recommends widening of Marikina River

Published November 22, 2020, 1:42 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu has recommended the widening of the Marikina River as he recognized the need to increase its flood carrying capacity to mitigate floods in Marikina City and nearby areas.



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

“Marikina River has to be widened to reduce the risk of flooding in the area,” Cimatu said during his visit to Marikina Saturday, a week after the city and its neighboring areas were submerged in deep floodwaters due to typhoon “Ulysses.”

The DENR chief, who was designated as co-chair of the “Build Back Better” task force in charge of rehabilitating areas devastated by recent typhoons, was accompanied by Marikina Mayor Marcelino Teodoro when he toured Provident Village, a subdivision in the city on the banks of the Marikina River.

During his visit, Cimatu noticed that the river channel was narrow, prompting him to call for strict imposition of easement requirements pertaining to rivers.

“We could increase the volume capacity of the river by implementing the easement law,” Cimatu said.

Presidential Decree 1067, also known as the Philippine Water Code, requires riverbank easement of three meters in urban areas.

“Aside from the three-meter easement provided under the law, Marikina City also came up with an ordinance increasing the easement to 40 meters on both sides,” he said.

As part of the planned rehabilitation, Cimatu said the DENR will evaluate the changes in the width of Marikina River based on the data from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority.

“We will look into the old river and how the river became narrower through the years. We will restore the original width of the Marikina River.”

Cimatu said the DENR will also look into the complaint of the Marikina city government over the alleged reclamation project along Marikina River, which has not secured an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the department.



“Definitely, there should be no reclamation. I will really implement the easement law,” he said.

Cimatu said he has directed the DENR-National Capital Region office to look into the non-issuance of ECC, the reclamation, and the retaining wall built along the riverbanks.

“If you build a retaining wall there, the water current will be slowed down and the flow of water in the river will be narrower.”

President Duterte has appointed Cimatu and Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar to head the Build Back Better task force that was created under Executive Order 120.

The inter-agency task force will focus on post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery phase in typhoon-affected areas, beginning with those hit by typhoons “Rolly” and Ulysses.



Marikina River paluluwagan para mabawasan ang pagbaha- Cimatú



November 22, 2020 @ 3:59 PM 14 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Inirekomenda ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatú na dapat paluwagan ang Marikina River para mapataas ang kapasidad nito sa pagsalo ng baha matapos bahain ang Marikina City at kalapit na lugar makaraang hagupitin ng bagyong Ulysses.

“Marikina River has to be widened to reduce the risk of flooding in the area,” ayon kay Cimatú sa pagbisita nito sa Marikina City nitong nakalipas na Sabado (Nov. 21), tatlong araw matapos si President Rodrigo Roa Duterte ay italaga siya bilang chair ng task force in charge para sa pag-rehabilitate ng mga lugar na hinagupit ng nakaraang bagyo.

Sinamahan si Cimatú ni Marikina City Mayor Marcelino Teodoro makaraang ilibot siya sa Provident Village, subdivision sa lungsod sa lugar ng Marikina River.

Nakita ng environment chief na lubhang mababaw na ang ilog ng Marikina dahilan para irekomenda nito ang pagpapalapad ng ilog.

“We could increase the volume capacity of the river by implementing the easement law,” ayon kay Cimatú.

Ang Presidential Decree 1067, na mas kilala bilang Philippine Water Code, ay nangangailangan na ang pagpapalapad ng riverbank ng three meters sa urban areas.

“Aside from the three-meter easement provided under the law, Marikina City also came up with an ordinance increasing the easement to 40 meters both sides,” dagdag pa ni Cimatú.

Bilang bahagi ng rehabilitasyon ng Marikina River sinabi ni Cimatú na ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ay masusing pinag-aaralan ang pagpapalapad sa Marikina River batay sa data mula sa National Mapping and Resource Information Authority.

“We will look into the old river and how the river became narrower through the years,” ayon pa kay Cimatú. “We will restore the original width of the Marikina River.”



Kaugnay nito sinabi ni Cimatú na ang DENR ay tinitignan ang reklamo ng Marikina City government hinggil sa umano'y reclamation project sa kahabaan ng Marikina River na hindi kumuha ng environmental compliance certificate (ECC) mula sa environment department.

“Definitely, there should be no reclamation. I will really implement the easement law,” ani pa ni Cimatú. **Santi Celario**



Marikina River widening urged to cut flood risks

Sunday, November 22, 2020 Cory Martinez

THE Marikina River must be widened in order to increase its flood carrying capacity. This was the recommendation of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu in the aftermath of the massive flooding in Marikina City and nearby areas during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses.

"Marikina River has to be widened to reduce the risk of flooding in the area," Cimatu said during his visit to Marikina City last Saturday, three days after President Rodrigo Roa Duterte designated him as chair of a task force in charge of rehabilitating areas devastated by recent typhoons. Cimatu was accompanied by Marikina City Mayor Marcelino Teodoro when he toured Provident Village, a subdivision in the city on the banks of Marikina River.

The DENR chief noticed that the river channel was narrow, prompting him to call for a strict imposition of easement requirements pertaining to rivers.

"We could increase the volume capacity of the river by implementing the easement law," Cimatu said. Presidential Decree 1067, also known as the Philippine Water Code, requires riverbank easement of three meters in urban areas.

"Aside from the three-meter easement provided under the law, Marikina City also came up with an ordinance increasing the easement to 40 meters both sides," Cimatu added. As part of the planned rehabilitation, Cimatu said the DENR will evaluate the changes in the width of Marikina River based on data from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority.

"We will look into the old river and how the river became narrower through the years. We will restore the original width of the Marikina River," said Cimatu. At the same time, Cimatu said the DENR will look into the complaint of the Marikina City government over the alleged reclamation project along Marikina River, which has not secured an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) from the environment department.

"Definitely, there should be no reclamation. I will really implement the easement law," he said. Cimatu said he has directed the DENR-National Capital Region office to look into the non-issuance of ECC, the reclamation, and the retaining wall built along the riverbanks.

"If you build a retaining wall there, the water current will be slowed down and the flow of water in the river will be narrower," he pointed out. Duterte recently appointed Cimatu and Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar to head the *"Build Back Better Task Force"* created under Executive Order 120. *The inter-agency task force will focus on post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery phase in typhoon-affected areas, beginning with those hit by typhoons Rolly and Ulysses.*



Biotechnology offers opportunities for growth—Cimatu

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

November 23, 2020

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) underscored the importance of promoting biological technology and its benefits amid the devastating socioeconomic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the recent typhoons that hit the country.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said in a statement that biological technology or biotechnology “sheds a gleaming light of hope that there are still interventions that can be done to resuscitate the economy and society.”

“With Covid-19 and Typhoons Quinta, Rolly, Siony, Tony, and Ulysses happening in the same year, hopelessness seems abound. But through biotechnology, we want to show that there are still opportunities for growth and for refreshing changes in our contemporary world,” Cimatu said

The DENR chief issued the statement ahead of this year’s celebration of the National Biotechnology Week (NBW) from November 23 to 27 with the theme “Bioteknolohiya: Pagbangon at Pag-asa tungo sa Matatag na Komunidad, Kapaligiran at Ekonomiya” to adapt with the current events under the new normal.

The DENR through its research and development arm, the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), is leading this year’s celebration of NBW.

For this year’s celebration, the ERDB has lined up online activities with focus on strengthening the economy while promoting biotechnology.

The NBW has been annually celebrated every last week of November through Presidential Proclamation 1414 since 2004.

The event serves as advocacy to increase awareness on biotechnology and its contributions to agriculture and food security, health-care services, education, industrial and economic development, and environmental sustainability.

During the weeklong event, seven Philippine government agencies—together with private, local and international organizations—will enlighten the public on the misconceptions and negative connotations on biotechnology.

They will also showcase generated biotechnologies for medical, agricultural, industrial, and environmental applications; and increase public awareness, education, and understanding on the use and benefits of biotechnology.

“We hope that students, faculty, entrepreneurs, government agencies, non-government organizations, policymakers, media, and the general public will be able to join us in this week-long virtual event to get to know more about biotechnology,” Cimatu said.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/11/23/biotechnology-offers-opportunities-for-growth-cimatu/>



DENR finds 14 quarry operators in Albay violating environmental laws

Published November 22, 2020 11:31am

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

Fourteen quarry operators in Albay have been found violating some environmental laws, Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones said Sunday.

Interviewed on Dabol B sa News TV, Leones said a report of their initial investigation in the lahar-affected areas near Mayon Volcano pointed to some violations committed by quarry operators.

“Based doon sa aking information, na-finalized na ‘yung report, ang initial report diyan we have already identified at least 14 quarry operators na talagang nag-violate ng environmental laws natin,” he said.

“Yung siyam diyan, nakita namin ang operators talagang nag-exceed na sila sa area na allowed sa kanila. Umakyat na sila. ‘Yung apat naman, talagang nag-o-operate with expired permits,” he added.

Initially, a temporary suspension has been imposed on all quarrying operations, Leones said, adding that those found violating laws will have an extended operations stoppage.

Further, Leones said that the initial findings have prompted a review of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) policies.

According to him, the review might call for the limiting of quarrying operations in "stable areas" with low risk for hazards.

On November 2, Super Typhoon Rolly triggered lahar mudflows, burying an estimated 300 houses in Barangay San Francisco in Guinobatan, where several residents died.

Guinobatan Mayor Ann Gemma Ongjoco and Governor Al Francis Bichara said the local governments are now working on the [relocation of residents](#) from lahar-hit areas. —**LBG, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/765138/denr-finds-14-quarry-operators-in-albay-violating-environmental-laws/story/>



14 quarry operator sa Albay lumabag sa batas – DENR



November 22, 2020 @ 2:57 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Natuklasan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang 14 na quarry operators na lumabag sa batas pangkapaligiran ayon kay Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones.

“Based doon sa aking information, na-finalized na ‘yung report, ang initial report diyan we have already identified at least 14 quarry operators na talagang nag-violate ng environmental laws natin,” aniya sa panayam ng Dobo B.

“Yung siyam diyan, nakita namin ang operators talagang nag-exceed na sila sa area na allowed sa kanila. Umakyat na sila. ‘Yung apat naman, talagang nag-o-operate with expired permits,” dagdag nito.

Sinuspinde na ang quarry operation na lumabag sa batas.

Aniya, lilimitahan ang quarrying sa “stable areas” na may mababang peligro.

Ang imbestigasyon ay isinagawa matapos humagupit ang Bagyong Rolly kung saan lumubog sa lahar ang 300 kabahayan sa Barangay San Francisco sa Guinobatan. **RNT/ELM**



14 quarry operators sa Albay lumabag sa environmental laws

By [Mer Layson](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 23, 2020 - 12:00am



Ayon kay Undersecretary Jonas Leones, sa kanilang inisyal na pagsisiyasat sa lahar-affected areas malapit sa Mayon Volcano, 14 ay nagpapakita na may naganap na mga paglabag ang mga quarry operators.

MANILA, Philippines — Ibinunyag ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Jonas Leones na 14 quarry operators sa Albay ang natuklasang lumalabag sa ilang environmental laws.

Ayon kay Leones, sa kanilang inisyal na pagsisiyasat sa lahar-affected areas malapit sa Mayon Volcano, 14 ay nagpapakita na may naganap na mga paglabag ang mga quarry operators.

Kabilang aniya dito ang paglampas ng mga operators sa allowed area sa kanila, habang ang iba ay nag-o-operate naman gamit ang expired permit.

Aniya, inisyal nang inisyuhan ng temporary suspension ang lahat ng quarrying operations.

Pinalawig naman ang pagpapatigil ng operasyon ng mga operators na natuklasang may nagawang paglabag.

Nagresulta na rin aniya ang naturang inisyal na findings sa pagrepaso sa mga polisiya ng DENR.

Ayon kay Leones, posibleng magresulta rin ito sa paglilimita ng quarrying operations sa mga "stable areas" na mayroong low risk ng mga hazards.

Noong Nobyembre 2, nagkaroon ng pagdaloy ng lahar sa lalawigan dahil sa pananalasa ng super bagyong Rolly.

Tinatayang aabot sa 300 kabahayan sa Brgy. San Francisco sa Guinobatan ang nabaon sa lahar at ilang residente rin ang iniulat na namatay.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/11/23/2058783/14-quarry-operators-sa-albay-lumabag-sa-environmental-laws/amp/>



Iligal na naninirahan sa bundok, Cagayan River ililipat ng DENR



November 22, 2020 @ 1:05 PM 18 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Balak nang ilipat ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang mga iligal na naninirahan sa mga bundok at gilid ng Cagayan River bilang hakbang laban sa mga pagbabaha.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones, natagpuan nila ang mga illegal settler makaraan silang magsagawa ng inspeksyon sa lupa at sa pamamagitan ng eroplano.

Paliwanag ni Leones, hindi na lang commercial logging kundi kaingin na rin ang problema sa mga kagubatan.

Pinuputol ang mga kahoy at ginagawa na umanong sakahan ang mga lupa kasabay ng permanenteng paninirahan.

Dito na umano madaling magkabaha dahil wala nang mga punongkahoy na sumisipsip sa tubig-ulan at tuloy-tuloy ito sa Cagayan River, kasama ang mga putik at bato na nagbubunga na ng pagbabaw ng ilog.

May mga parte na umano ng ilog na dating nasa anim metro ang lalim ngunit nasa dalawang metro na lamang kaya madaling mabaha, ayon naman sa DENR- Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

Sinabi rin ni Leones na marami ang sumasakop sa mga parte o gilid ng ilog na pinagtatamnan na ng mga mais na walang kakayanang sumipdip ng tubig at nawala na rin ang mga puno.

Kailangan na umanong ilipat ang mga ito sa mga iba at ligtas na lugar at pigilin na ang sinomang gagawa ng mga aktibidad na ito.

Kasabay nito ang mga pagtanim ng mga puno sa mga lugar na panggagalingan ng mga illegal settler.

Samantala, sinabi naman ni Department of Transportation Arthur Tugade na kailangan na ring magkaroon ng mga dredging o paghuhukay sa mga mabababaw na parte ng ilog upang mapigilan ang madaling pagbaha tuwing may malakas na ulan.

Sinabi naman ni Dr. Fernando Siringan, dating direktor ng UP Marine Science Institute na kailangang mapalawak ang ilang parte ng Cagayan River para sa maayos na pagdaloy ng tubig-baha.



Sinabi nito na may mga malalawak na parte ng ilog na aabot sa 400 metro ngunit ang parte nito sa bayan ng Alcala ay nasa 180 metro lamang.

Nauna rito, may rekomendasyon na noon pa ang Japan International Cooperation Agency na pagluluwang ngunit hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa inaaksyunan. RNT



The Philippine Coast Guard conducts an aerial inspection of several flooded towns in the Cagayan Valley region following Typhoon Ulysses, in this still image taken from video, November 14, 2020. Philippine Coast Guard/Handout via REUTERS

DENR eyes resettlement of illegal settlers to prevent flooding near Cagayan River

Published November 22, 2020 11:07am

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

An official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Sunday said resettling illegal settlers on higher ground may help prevent flooding near Cagayan River.

Interviewed on Dabol B sa News TV, DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said the department conducted ground verification and aerial inspection in Cagayan province on Saturday.

“Hindi lang talaga commercial logging 'yung nandoon sa taas...Pero ang nakita talaga natin doon sa binaybay natin 'yung Cagayan River, ang mga community. Talagang may mga nakatira doon sa mga easement sa gilid ng Cagayan River,” he said.

“Kaya ang aming plano diyan, talagang tanggalin 'yun para maprotektahan natin 'yung riverbanks doon. Kailangan lagyan natin ng mga tanim,” he added.

Floods hit Cagayan and Isabela last week during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses. Many people were stranded on rooftops for days without food and water as they waited to be rescued. The release of water by Magat Dam was also seen as a contributing factor to the flooding.

Leones also said kaingin activities and the farming of corn near Cagayan River were factors that also contributed to the flooding. He said corn cannot actually hold water.

“Ang problema natin hindi lang logging, kaingin-making. ‘Yung encroachment. So dapat makontrol natin ‘yung mga taong galing sa kapatagan pumupunta ng south forest, doon na sila tumitira,” he said.

“Unti-unti, akala mo lang namamasyal pero talagang doon na sila naninirahan at nagkakaroon ng farming diyan,” he added.



Other suggestions

Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade has [suggested](#) reforestation and dredging of Cagayan River be done.

A geologist also said Cagayan River, the longest river in the Philippines, [should be widened](#) to prevent massive flooding in the future.

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

A study of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) also showed that some parts of Cagayan River which were previously five to six feet meters deep [now have a depth of less than two meters](#), causing easy flooding.

The MGB recommended authorities to conduct dredging to solve the problem.

[Cagayan](#) and [Isabela](#) were both placed under state of calamity even before President Rodrigo Duterte placed the [entire Luzon](#) under such state. —**KG, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/765134/denr-eyes-resettlement-of-illegal-settlers-to-prevent-flooding-near-cagayan-river/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0usOqI_UTLCYqMCFATrIfEroPIIDksBNZjcEZZmsgsvfSctBQfDVC8v1k

DILG orders crackdown on illegal logging, mining

By Darwin Pesco

November 22, 2020

INTERIOR Secretary Eduardo Año ordered a crackdown against illegal logging and mining following the damage caused by Typhoon “Ulysses” (international name: “Vamco”), a spokesman for the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said on Saturday.



Interior Secretary Eduardo Año. File Photo

Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya said the order was particular to the heavily affected areas.

The crackdown will focus on the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela and the Bicol Region, he added.

Año directed Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Debold Sinas to start the war against all forms of illegal logging and mining, which was discussed in a meeting by the DILG management committee, Malaya said.

“Kasi isa nga po ito sa sinasabing dahilan kung bakit nagka-widespread flooding, unprecedented widespread flooding (It is one of the reasons why unprecedented widespread flooding happened),” Malaya said during the Laging Handa public briefing.

Malaya said that aside from the war on drugs and criminality, the PNP would also focus its efforts against illegal logging.



Pramis ng DILG: ‘CRACKDOWN VS ILLEGAL LOGGERS, MINERS!’

On Nov 22, 2020



INIHAYAG ng Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) na maglulunsad ang gobyerno ng crackdown laban sa illegal logging at illegal mining sa mga lugar na binaha bunsod ng pananalasa ng bagyo.

Una rito, sinisisi ng mga otoridad ang pag-abuso sa kalikasan na nakapagpalala sa sakunang naranasan nitong mga nakalipas na linggo.

Sinabi ni DILG Usec. Jonathan Malaya sa isang public press briefing, na nagbigay na ng direktiba si Interior Secretary Eduardo Año sa PNP na gawing prayoridad ang crackdown sa mga lalawigang sinalanta ng mga pagbaha.

“Si Secretary Año po ay nagbigay ng kautusan kay [Philippine National Police chief] Gen. Debold Sinas, ang pinuno ng Philippine National Police na mag-crackdown sa lahat ng uri ng illegal logging at illegal mining sa mga lugar na nasalanta ng bagyo partikular sa Cagayan, Isabela kahit na po sa Kabikulan dahil ito ang sinasabing dahilan [nung] unprecedented widespread flooding,” wika ni Malaya.

Matatandaang nakaranas ng lahar flow mula sa Bulkang Mayon ang ilang parte ng Bicol region, partikular sa Albay, sa kasagsagan ng pagtama ng Super Typhoon Rolly sa Luzon.

Habang ang mga probinsya ng Cagayan at Isabela ay nakaranas ng malawakang pagbaha, na sinisisi sa iligal na pagputol ng mga punongkahoy.

Kasabay nito, inilahad ng DILG na maglulunsad sila ng proyekto para sa mga local government units sa susunod na taon para hikayatin ang mamamayan na magtanim ng mga puno.

Source: https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/11/22/pramis-ng-dilg-crackdown-vs-illegal-loggers-miners/?fbclid=IwAR3SHDaW6IhF1STpMTSf3sS-XKRf6Aib_ZEJbj3NMQjBco8PXzUvNIo-1c



Solon: Create body to protect Sierra Madre, prevent floods

By: [Cathrine Gonzales](#) - Reporter / [@cgonzalesINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:01 PM November 22, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — After the severe flooding that submerged parts of Luzon due to recent typhoons, Rizal 2nd District Rep. Fidel Nograles has reiterated his call to create a government body that will oversee, manage, and care for the 500-kilometer-long Sierra Madre Mountain Range to help protect the biodiverse area's forest cover and prevent flooding in areas in Luzon.

In a statement, Nograles said flooding in Metro Manila all the way to towns in Cagayan Valley “emphasize the importance of taking concrete steps to care for the Sierra Madre Mountain Region.”

“Malaki talaga ang impact nito (This has a huge impact). The increased frequency and severity of flooding in areas close to the Marikina River, as well as in towns in the Cagayan Valley are attributed to the loss of Sierra Madre's forest cover—and we can no longer ignore this,” he said.

“There is clearly a need to provide this vital mountain range with further safeguards and protection while finding ways to responsibly develop part of the range not under its Protected Areas,” he added.

House Bill No. 5634, filed by Nograles last year, calls for the creation of a Sierra Madre Development Authority (SMDA).

He said that aside from protecting the mountain range, the bill also calls for the adoption of a “holistic approach to enhance the development of indigenous resources of the Sierra Madre region to its fullest potential for economic development in order to raise the standard of living of those residing in the area.”

The following are the proposed functions of the SMDA under the bill:

- conduct a comprehensive survey of the physical and natural resources of the Sierra Madre region and draft a comprehensive plan to conserve and utilize the said resources in order to promote the region's social and economic development
- provide the machinery for extending the necessary planning, management, and technical assistance to prospective and existing investors in the region
- provide recommendations to the proper agencies regarding the financing and technical support to be given to agricultural, industrial, and commercial projects
- assess and approve all plans, programs, and projects proposed by local government offices/agencies within the region related to the development of the mountain range
- plan, program, finance and undertake infrastructure projects such as river, flood, and tidal control work, wastewater and sewerage work, dams and water supply, roads, irrigation, housing, and related work
- undertake studies on the conservation, improvement, exploration, development, and maintenance of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range



According to Nograles, the SMDA will be led by a Board of Directors (BOD) with nine members: the Executive Secretary; the National Economic and Development Authority Director-General; the secretaries of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department of Energy; the Chairperson of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples; a provincial governor representing the provinces comprising the Sierra Madre Region; a city or municipal mayor representing the cities and municipalities comprising the Sierra Madre Region; and the General Manager of the SMDA.

Under the measure, the SMDA General Manager will be appointed by the President and will be tasked to manage the operations of the agency, which will execute the policies that will be passed by the BOD.

The bill also states that the Executive Secretary chairs the BOD, while the NEDA Director-General will act as vice-chairperson.

Nograles noted that the wide-area covered by the Sierra Madre mountain range and the importance of the region “require coordination that cuts across various LGU jurisdictions and numerous departmental concerns.”

“The SMDA will ensure coordination and cooperation among all these, resulting in a coherent and comprehensive strategy that will protect the Sierra Madre’s forest cover while allowing for sustainable development,” he also said.

/MUF



Mining quashes ‘Yolanda’ rehab gains

I have a lot to thank the international organizations who helped us recover from the devastation of typhoon ‘Yolanda’.

Published 8 hours ago on November 22, 2020 12:20 AM

By [Elmer Recuerdo](#)



MACARTHUR, Leyte — Before the sun rises, Ron Baranda, a 38-year old farmer, would leave his house armed with a water sprinkler, a pail filled with humus and a few tools to tend to his two-hectare farm that he inherited from his parents. His farm — which he calls his Bahay Kubo — consists of one hectare of riceland, a few plots planted with eggplant, string beans, squash, okra and bitter gourd, and a hut that he built as his resting place when the sun is at its scorching high.

“I have a lot to thank the international organizations who helped us recover from the devastation of typhoon ‘Yolanda.’ They provided us with tools, seeds, implements and money and they trained us on new technologies that increased farm output without harming the environment,” he said.

Among the groups that helped him, he recalls, were the Catholic Relief Services, Christian Aid, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Red Cross.

“I also received seeds from the Department of Agriculture and that’s how I started growing vegetables,” he added.

Baranda said that while typhoon “Yolanda” brought devastation to their coastal village, the overwhelming support from other people not only helped them recover but also opened a number of livelihood opportunities for them that they have long been longing for.

But he said the gains they received from the “Yolanda” rehabilitation may not last after a mining operation recently started three villages away from his community which he fears will only take a few years before its operations spread to his village.

They provided us with tools, seeds, implements and money and they trained us on new technologies that increased farm output without harming the environment.

This town, along with four other municipalities covered by the mining permit, are facing the Eastern seaboard of the province, which were among the worst hit towns during typhoon “Yolanda.” Due to the magnitude of devastation in these areas, many aid organizations focused their rehabilitation work pouring in millions of pesos to restore the livelihood of the affected residents.

Blacksand mining starts

In Barangay Maya of this town, the Strong Built Mining Development Corp. (SBMDC), a Cebu-based company is pilot mining on a seven-hectare former riceland. The initial operation entails the extraction of blacksand from an average depth of 15.3 meters that will have a recovery rate of eight percent that will produce magnetite concentrate of 55 percent iron content.



SBMPC holds a 25-year Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) signed on 28 July 2007. The mining permit allows the company to extract magnetite, a mineral used in the production of steel, on 7,411.55 hectares of land spanning the towns of Dulag, Mayorga, MacArthur, Abuyog and Javier.

The firm's operation, however, did not go full blast due to the slide in metal prices in 2010 and later because of typhoon "Yolanda."

In February 2017, then Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Gina Lopez ordered the cancellation of its mining permit due to alleged violation of certain provisions of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. The company filed a motion for reconsideration but Lopez, instead, imposed a suspension of permit with penalties.

I also received seeds from the Department of Agriculture and that's how I started growing vegetables.

In November 2019, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu lifted the suspension order after the company implemented "full corrective measures."

Lucrative quarrying business

Regional Director Leo Van Juguan of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Eastern Visayas said based on the agreement between the company and Barangay Maya, the mining operations cannot go beyond the seven-hectare area unless it has conducted a progressive rehabilitation of the area.

The progressive rehabilitation, he said, includes pumping back rejected material from the mineral separators as its backfill and incorporating the stripped topsoil for revegetation. He said it is a commitment to ensure that land will be productive for local farmers.

Juguan said the proposed mining area covers 200 hectares of land in the first three years of operation in three barangays. The area is projected to produce one million metric tons of magnetite concentrate every year.

But town residents are wary of the impact of the mining operations. Farmer and development worker Roger Abeto said he is concerned of the erosion and other environmental problems that may arise once excavation on their farm lands start.

Erosion fears raised

"When they do the backfilling during rehabilitation, definitely it will not put back everything that they took away so there will be a difference in elevation which can cause massive soil erosion," he said.

"There is no alternative when the destruction is already done. Even if you are paid for the restoration, once the environment is disturbed its effect will already be lifetime which the future generations will inherit," Abeto said.

Another farmer, 36-years old Noel Colares, said that as much as he wants to get a job in the mining company, he is afraid of what the mining operations will bring to his children and future generations.

Colares points to a community that was subject of a blacksand extraction by another company some 10 years ago but was abandoned without rehabilitation. "If you see it now, it is totally barren like a desert," he said.

The local church has also voiced its concern of the mining activity.

The firm's operation, however, did not go full blast due to the slide in metal prices in 2010 and later because of typhoon 'Yolanda.'



On 19 November, Fr. Amadeo Alvero, parish priest of St. Isidore Parish, appealed to public officials to help stop the blacksand mining.

“In view of what happened to the tremendous and great flooding in Cagayan, Manila, Marikina and many other places, I am pleading with my bended knees to stop the Blank Sand Mining here in MacArthur, Leyte,” Fr. Alvero posted on social media.

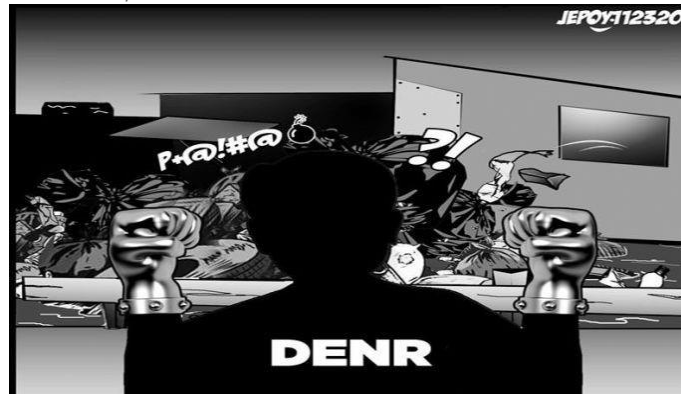
“This appeal I made on behalf of those who love and want to protect our environment.

If we protect the environment from destruction, the environment will protect us from destructions. If we protect Mother Earth, she will protect us in return,” he added.



EDITORIAL - Ginagawang basurahan ang mga ilog at estero

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 23, 2020 - 12:00am



Nang bumaha sa Marikina noong Nobyembre 12, kasamang lumutang ang sandamukal na basura. Tinangay ang mga ito nang malakas na agos nang umapaw ang Marikina River. Kaya hanggang ngayon, naglilinis pa ang mga residente, hindi lamang ng putik kundi pati na rin ng sangkaterbang basura.

Sari-saring basura ang tinangay ng baha sa Marikina na hanggang ngayon ay hindi matukoy kung saan nanggaling. Karamihan sa mga basura ay plastic na hindi nabubulok – plastic na supot, grocery at shopping bags, plastic na silya, sachet ng shampoo, 3-in-1 coffee at coffee creamer, tube ng toothpaste at mga sako ng bigas at iba pang mga basura.

Ang tanawing ito ay walang ipinagkaiba noong 2009 na manalasa ang Bagyong Ondoy at napuruhan din ang Marikina. Marami ring basura ang pinadpad sa loob ng mga bahay at ilang araw din ang ginugol ng mga residente sa paglilinis. Mga basura rin na hindi nabubulok ang pinadpad noon. Walang ipinagkaiba ang nangyari noon sa ngayon.

Wala pa ring disiplina sa pagtatapon ng kanilang mga basura ang mga tao. Tapon lang nang tapon. Tiyak na ang mga nakatira sa pampang ng Marikina River ang nagtatapon ng mga basura. Wala namang magtatapon kundi ang mga informal settlers na walang pakialam kung dumumi man ang ilog at maging dahilan nang pagbaha ang basurang itinatapon.

Ang nangyayaring ito na kawalan ng disiplina sa pagtatapon ng basura ay nararapat solusyunan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Ang tanggapang ito ang may responsibilidad para hindi masalaula ang kalikasan at likas na yaman.



Nasaan ang pangako ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na wawakasan na ang mga gumagawa ng krimen sa kalikasan at kapaligiran. Matatandaan na nagbabala siya noong nakaraang taon sa mga gumagawa ng katampalasan sa Inang Kalikasan. Aniya, mahigpit niyang ipatutupad ang environmental laws at mga ordinansa.

Subalit walang nakitang pagbabago at lalo pang dumami ang mga tumatampalasan sa kapaligiran. Marami pa rin ang nagtatapon ng basura sa mga ilog, sapa at estero. Lahat nang itinapong ito ay hahantong sa karagatan at ang mapipinsala naman ay mga lamandagat at corals.

Magkaroon nang ibayong tapang ang DENR na maipatupad ang batas nang maturuan ng leksiyon ang mga nagtatapon ng basura. Kung maaari, "kamay na asero" ang gamitin sa mga iresponsableng mamamayan na walang pakundangang nagtatapon ng basurang plastic sa mga ilog at estero. Kung hindi ganito ang gagawin ng DENR, mauulit ang pagbaha.



PUNO ANG SOLUSYON



November 23, 2020 @ 12:10 AM 7 hours ago

DELUBYO ang sumapul sa marami nating kababayan sa tatlong bagyong dumaan na nagdulot ng ibayong pagbaha lalo na sa ibaba ng mga kabundukan sa mga kanayunan.

Sa iba pa ngang lugar, ang tubig-baha ay may kaakibat na malalaking putol na troso na siyang bumangga at nagpaanod sa mga kabahayang inikutan ng pagbaha.

Trosong galing sa walang habas na pagpuputol ng mga ganid na illegal loggers.

Paano natin maaangat ang matinding pagbaha kung ang ating mga kagubatan at kabundukan ay kalbo na sa mga punong dapat ay sumisipsip ng tubig ulan?

Marami na ang nakagawa ng mga programang “tree planting”, ngunit kung tutuusin ni hindi pa ito nagsisiyabong o ganap nang puno ay pawang itinumba rin ng bagyo at tubig baha.

Ito ang nais gawing muli ng ating pamahalaan.

Ang pag-ibayuhin pa ang pagtanim ng mga puno.

Ito ay kahandaan sa mga darating pang malalakas na bagyo at pagbaha.

Kaya nang magsama-sama sa pagpupulong ang Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), iminungkahi ng dalawang kagawaran na makipagtulungan din ang Department of Education (DepEd) at Commission on Higher Education (CHED) upang atasan ang lahat ng estudyanteng magtatapos ng pag-aaral na magtanim ng puno bago maka-graduate.

Malaking bagay nga naman ito.

Kung ang lahat ng mag-aaral, sa elementarya at high school at maging sa mga kolehiyo at unibersidad ay magtanim muna ng puno bago maka-graduate ay milyong puno rin ang maitanim.

Kasabay nito ang mungkahi ni DILG Secretary Eduardo Ano, na atasan na rin ang bawat Filipino na magtanim ng puno kada anim na buwan.

Kung tayo raw ay 110 milyong Filipino na sa ngayon, ang pagtanim ng puno ng bawat Filipino ng dalawang beses sa isang taon, ay mangangahulugang mayroon tayong mahigit na 200 milyong puno kada taon.



At sa paglipas ng mga taon, ang mga naitanim nating mga puno ay siguradong magliligtas na sa matinding pagbaha para sa mga susunod pang henerasyon.

Maging si Department of Transportation Secretary Arturo Tugade ay nagmungkahi rin, na gawing requirement ang pagtanim ng puno tuwing kukuha ng prangkisa o lisensya ang mga Filipinong nabibilang din sa hanay ng transportasyon.

Long-term solution ang tawag dito, para maiwasan mangyari muli ang malalang pagbaha na na-experience sa Cagayan at iba pang lalawigan at lungsod.

Isabay na rin natin dapat diyan ang mahigpit na pagbabantay sa ating mga kagubatan at kabundukan upang matigil na ang illegal logging.

—

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh!

DILG to start greening program next year

By Darwin Pesco

November 22, 2020

THE Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is targeting to have 200 million trees planted in the country with the national greening program, its spokesman bared on Saturday.



Jonathan Malaya

According to DILG spokesman and Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya, the program is targeted to commence next year.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año ordered the support for the program from various agencies such as the Philippine National Police and the local government units (LGUs).

“Ang goal po nito ay makapagtanim tayo ng 200 million trees (The goal of this is to plant 200 million trees),” Malaya explained in the Laging Handa public briefing.

The DILG will release memorandum circulars and department orders to encourage tree planting nationwide, Malaya said.

“Para hikayatin ang malawakang tree planting in support of the national greening program (To urge the tree planting in wide scope in support of the national greening program),” he added.

Moreover, the program will be from the barangay level to the highest level of the LGUs, Malaya said.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/11/22/news/national/dilg-to-start-greening-program-next-year/799668/>



LOOK: Giant bamboo to be planted in Marikina watershed

By: [Jerah May Rivera](#) - Social Media Specialist / [@JMRiveraINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:06 PM November 22, 2020



Fr. Beltran with a giant bamboo shoot. Image: Facebook/Benigno P. Beltran

A giant bamboo will be planted in the Marikina watershed, a move which has been commended as essential after the city was devastated by recent storms, including Typhoon Ulysses.

Fr. Benigno Beltran, founder of the performing arts group from Smokey Mountain, “Mga Anak ni Inang Daigdig,” announced on Facebook the group’s initiative to plant a giant bamboo at the Marikina watershed.

“Mga Anak ni Inang Daigdig” has been designated as “Ambassadors for Peace and Environment” by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines.

Fr. Beltran showed a [bamboo shoot](#) that will be planted, as per his Facebook post on Friday, Nov. 20.

“Dendrocalamus Asper – we will plant the Philippine Giant Bamboo along the river banks of the Marikina River and its tributaries along the Marikina Watershed... In ideal conditions, [its] poles can reach up to 14 inches at the base,” he said.

According to him, their group was given 600 hectares in the Marikina Watershed to reforest with bamboo.

Marikina has been one of the areas in Luzon hardest hit with devastation from Typhoon Ulysses, which has been compared with the 2009 tropical storm Ondoy for the massive flooding it brought to the city. **JB**

Source: <https://technology.inquirer.net/105794/look-giant-bamboo-to-be-planted-in-marikina-watershed>



LTFRB: Magtanim muna ng puno bago prangkisa



November 22, 2020 @ 12:02 PM 19 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Mandatory nang magtanim ng puno ang mga kukuha ng prangkisa sa Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

Sa ilalim ng Memorandum Circular 2020-076, target ang 50,000 punong maitanim.

“This board hereby undertakes to initially plant 50,000 trees across the country through the Central Office and its Regional Franchising and Regulatory Offices,” ayon sa memo ng LTFRB.

“Operators shall coordinate with the concerned local government unit (where they hold business) or the concerned DENR office on the area allowed for tree-planting activity, and shall secure proof of compliance therewith from the LGU or DENR,” ayon sa LTFRB.

Anila, ang mga aplikante ng Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) na may sampung unit ay kinakailangang magtanim ng isang puno kaya unit.

“After the first three months, all applicants with less than 10 units are included,” ani LTFRB.

Ito ay isa sa mga hakbang upang malunasan ang pagkakalbo ng kagubatan kasunod ng malawakang pagbaha.

Samantala, nakikipag-uganayan na ang pamahalaan sa Department of Education sa posibilidad na magrekwara sa mga mag-aaral na magtanim ng puno ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque. **RNT/ELM**



LTFRB: Pagtanim ng puno requirement na sa pag-aaplay ng prangkisa ng PUVs

On Nov 22, 2020



SIMULA sa Disyembre 1, kasama na sa requirement sa aplikasyon ng prangkisa para sa mga pampublikong sasakyan ang tree planting o pagtanim ng puno.

Nakasaad ito sa ipinalabas na Memorandum Circular 2020-076 ng Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) nitong Biyernes, Nobyembre 20.

Pahayag ng LTFRB, napagpasiyahan ng kanilang board na makiisa sa mga programa ng pagtanim ng puno sa buong bansa bilang bahagi na rin ng kanilang tungkuling pangalagaan at proteksyunan ang kalikasan.

Sisimulan anila ito sa pagsama sa pagtanim ng puno bilang isa sa mga kondisyon o requirements ng kanilang mga stakeholders bago mapagkalooban ng certificate of public convenience (CPC).

Sakop ng memorandum ang mga aplikante ng bagong CPC na nagmamay-ari ng hindi bababa sa 10 units ng pampasaherong sasakyan gayundin ang mga korporasyon at kooperatiba na nag-a-apply ng extension.

Kinakailangan anilang magtanim ng isang puno sa kada unit na kanilang inaaplayan ng prangkisa.

Source: <https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/11/22/ltfrb-pagtanim-ng-puno-requirement-na-sa-pag-aaplay-ng-prangkisa-ng-puvs/?fbclid=IwAR1Sm0SpeiZjKCcKoxP3KC8xFKLkeK5y8I9moT8koQGgC42ui2DRKXIXqPc>



Solutions to flooding

[DEMAND AND SUPPLY](#) - [Boo Chanco](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 23, 2020 - 12:00am

The infuriating thing about our annual flooding problem is that there has been no shortage of solutions offered through the years. Our officials simply failed to act on the proposals.

An example is the Manggahan Floodway, where the government failed to implement the other part of the project which is the Paranaque spillway. As a result, we didn't see any improvement.

One solution offered by Carlos Arcilla of UP is the use of capture tunnels in the Marikina-Montalban watershed to reduce the discharge of floodwater flowing into Marikina and returning the captured water volume to the Sierra Madre divide for discharge eventually to the Pacific Ocean.

Arcilla wrote in the Inquirer that "this solution should be cheaper and could be integrated in the overall scheme of flood water management, resulting in a much lesser discharge of floodwater into the metropolis, which would reduce the kind and amount of intervention.

"These capture tunnels might be more feasible than a proposed solution of making a channel from the Marikina Valley directly to the Manila Bay, potentially running over infrastructure and residents."

I guess Arcilla is not too hot about the Paranaque spillway proposed by a study group led by environmental architect Jun Palafox back in 1977. Jun was commissioned to help develop an urban plan for Metro Manila under the Metro Manila Transport, Land Use, and Development Planning Project.

Two projects were proposed as part of the plan's flood control management: the Manggahan Floodway and Parañaque Spillway deals. But only the Manggahan Floodway was built.

The Manggahan Floodway-Paranaque Spillway Complex was supposed to effectively contain and channel floodwaters. Under the plan, the Laguna Lake will act as the initial floodwater container and the Manila Bay a secondary container.

When the Pasig and Marikina rivers reach critical levels, excess water is diverted to Laguna Lake through the Manggahan Floodway, while the Paranaque Spillway will flush out excess water from Laguna Lake towards Manila Bay to protect the 29 Laguna lakeshore towns.

The Manggahan Floodway and the Paranaque Spillway were designed to be simultaneously constructed, but only the floodway was built. As a result, every time flood waters are diverted into the Laguna Lake via the Manggahan Floodway, Laguna Lake becomes a toilet without a flush.

Palafox said "that was what exactly happened during the onslaught of Typhoon Ondoy, where 4,600 cubic meters per second of flood waters came down from the mountains and flooded more than 80,000 hectares of low-lying urban land in Metro Manila and around Laguna Lake. Singapore, in comparison, has only 71,000 hectares of land."

Now they are saying the spillway cannot be built because the right-of-way is all built-up.

But for San Miguel's Ramon S. Ang, that is not a problem. He still wants to build a \$2-B Metro Manila Spillway, but through an underground tunnel. He plans to use similar boring machines to be used for the Manila Subway project.



Mr. Ang will build it at no cost to the government. He just wants the government to give San Miguel the right to generate power from the shifting tides.

Responding to my text inquiry, he described his proposal as a tunnel of 15 meters in diameter and about 20 kilometers from Laguna de Bay to Manila Bay. He said with two spillways, it will solve Metro Manila's flooding problem.

How? He explained that Laguna de Bay will be able to work as a water storage again for the Sierra Madre mountains and Marikina River, and then flow out to Manila Bay. Because Pasig River is silted, RSA said "that's why we need these two new spillways."

RSA got his inspiration for this proposal from Sihwa Lake, an artificial lake in South Korea. It was created to provide reclaimed land for the nearby metropolitan area, flood mitigation, and secure irrigation water by converting the coastal reservoir to fresh water.

But water quality deteriorated due to a number of factors. The Koreans decided to construct the Sihwa Lake Tidal Power Station, the world's largest tidal power installation, with a total power output capacity of 254 MW.

The tidal units essentially produce power by exploiting the gap in the water level between the sea and Lake Sihwa. As the tide rises, saltwater flows through the turbines from the Yellow Sea and into Lake Sihwa, creating electricity.

But at low tide, the gates are raised and the turbines revert to sluicing mode, allowing the lake to be emptied and no electricity to be produced.

The most remarkable impact has been the recovery of water quality and ecosystems. The continuous circulation of water between the lake and the outer sea during the power generation process has improved the water quality.

RSA said he submitted a proposal to DPWH during PNoy's time and up to now has not been given a response. At no cost to the taxpayers, the only concern of government regulators should be the environmental impact of the project.

But if we are looking at dredging as one solution, Mr Ang said he also plans to dredge major rivers in Bulacan to mitigate flooding in the province, including the P1 billion Tullahan River dredging project.

"Dredging the Tullahan is a major component of our flood mitigation strategies. Essentially, it will clean up and deepen the river system, increasing its capacity to handle heavy rains and allowing for floodwaters to flow more freely and drain into the Manila Bay," Ang said.

He explained that the Tullahan River is also a spillway for water coming from Angat and Ipo Dams going to the Manila Bay, hence the need to maintain its depth.

San Miguel has also started planting the first 10,000 mangroves it intends to plant in Hagonoy, Bulacan, as part of a larger plan to plant and grow almost 200,000 mangroves over 76 hectares of coastal area throughout Bulacan and Central Luzon.

So many things to do and many at no cost to the taxpayers. The Duterte administration should break from the past and act on these flood control projects right away.

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

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2020/11/23/2058697/solutions-flooding>



Damned

[EYES WIDE OPEN](#) - [Iris Gonzales](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 23, 2020 - 12:00am

I can't wrap my head around the recent tragedy in Cagayan Valley. Scenes of massive flooding that wiped out towns and cities are just heartbreaking. Stories of the loss of lives and homes are simply tragic, especially with everything that's happened in 2020.

I wonder really how we can justify the need for dams if they're not fail-safe? How can we operate a dam if they can overflow and bury people in their homes?

The flooding in Cagayan no doubt offers a cautionary tale. Should we continue to tamper with the ecological balance of our rivers or the environment?

The long-term solution, says Alcala Mayor Cristina Antonio is complex. We should reconsider a whole gamut of things – from the way we live, how we have cut our trees, destroyed our forests and farms in the name of development.

The debates are endless, as they are varied. But focusing on dams alone, here's what I gathered so far – dams have helped improve the quality of life of people by diverting water for power and by storing water for continuous use.

'Is it worth a dam?'

In 1936, the first mega-dam, the Hoover Dam, was built on the Colorado River in Black Canyon in the US.

Three times the size of the Statue of Liberty, it was the largest dam in the world, according to an article on [EHSO.com](#), one of the sites I visited to research about dams.

The Hoover Dam's massive concrete walls held back the waters of Lake Mead, a 160-kilometer-long body of water heavy enough to bend the earth's crust. Nine more large dams diverted the Colorado River's water into Arizona, Nevada, and Southern California, fueling the growth of major cities, the article also said.

The flagship project, the Hoover Dam, triggered a dam-building fever across the globe as other countries saw how dams harnessed the world's major rivers.

"Like Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, post-colonial leaders saw them as the new 'temples of development,' monuments to a nationalistic vision of modernization and unlimited growth, and vigorously promoted their construction," noted [EHSO.com](#), a website run by environment, health and safety professionals who distinguish themselves as having no affiliation with large corporate America.

By 1989, over 800,000 dams had been constructed worldwide for drinking water, flood control, hydropower, irrigation, navigation, and water storage, said Patrick McCully, campaigns director of the Berkeley, California-based International Rivers Network.

Devastation

But that was before. Today, perceptions of dams have drastically changed.

As people became more aware and as many communities felt the destruction of dams to the environment, dams soon became symbols of environmental and social devastation, far from the "temples of development" they once were.

Dam failure

Thankfully, we have not seen dam failures of massive scale in the country as what happened in other parts of the world, but let's not wait for these accidents to happen.



In 1975, for instance, the failure of the Banqiao Reservoir Dam and other dams in Henan Province, China caused more casualties than any other dam failure in history. The disaster killed an estimated 171,000 people and 11 million people lost their homes.

According to damsafety.org, dam failures happen when there is overtopping caused by water spilling over the top of a dam. This also happens when the spillway is inadequate. Another reason for dam failures, is foundation defects, including settlement and slope instability.

Inadequate maintenance is also another culprit for dam failure as well as piping, which happens when seepage through a dam is not properly filtered and soil particles continue to progress and form sinkholes in the dam.

More dams

The Philippines is building more dams on top of the 11 dams in Central Luzon I counted – Magat, Ambuklao, Binga, San Roque, Pantabangan, Angat, Ipo, La Mesa, Wawa, Caliraya and Laiban Dams.

By providing drinking water and fueling economic growth by diverting water for power, navigation, flood control, and irrigation, dams have succeeded in many ways.

But it's hard to cheer success if the adverse effects of dams are not addressed, now and in the future. The list is long as well – river impoundments, disruption of ecosystems, ecological damage, as well as displacement of communities, especially our indigenous peoples.

In recent years, dams have become symbols of corporate and governmental hubris.

I am sure the era of dams will not end because of its benefits unless a future Nobel prize winner comes up with a better and safer alternative.

But it cannot be business as usual anymore. Building dams can no longer depend on short-term interests of developers, and policymakers should ensure that dam builders develop their projects with utmost seriousness that is rooted in science. In the case of Magat, sources said there should be an upstream flood control dam.

A dam that isn't fail-safe poses dangers to lives and the environment.

In a country like ours that is already as damned as it can get, the last thing we need is another tragedy.

Iris Gonzales' email address is eyesgonzales@gmail.com. Follow her on Twitter [@eyesgonzales](https://twitter.com/eyesgonzales). Column archives at eyesgonzales.com



Hijo Estate coastline now a Marine Protected Area



DAVAO. The MOA signing was held at the Hijo Estate with HRC Chief-Executive-Officer Rosanna Tuason Fores, Tagum City Mayor Allan Rellon and Director Anthony Sale of Department of Science and Technology-Davao Region. (HRC Photo)

[ACE JUNE REL S. PEREZ](#)

November 21, 2020

TO PROTECT and preserve the rich marine biodiversity within its coastline, the Hijo Resources Corporation (HRC) and the local government unit (LGU) of Tagum City, through its City Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro), inked a memorandum of agreement (MOA) declaring the Hijo Estate coastline as a Marine Protected Area (MPA).

The Hijo Estate coastline, located in Barangay Madaum, Tagum City, is part of the Davao Gulf.

The MOA, which was signed on October 27, 2020, signifies the shared responsibility of both parties in actively protecting and conserving the marine life nesting in the Hijo coastline. The collaboration also involved the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

The Hijo Estate coastline and Davao Gulf, as a whole, is home to 10 of the 27 Philippine whale species. It is also an important habitat of whale sharks and dugongs, as well as nesting sites of three turtle species, including the rare leatherback turtle, and has a high occurrence of plankton and fish larvae that are important elements of the food chain. All of these established, it is but just to consider the area as a Marine Biodiversity Hotspot.

The recent agreement is aligned with their vision “to nurture nature today to benefit the generations of tomorrow.”

Cementing HRC’s commitment to the environment is its sustainability arm - The Trinity Project. Led by HRC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Rosanna Tuason Fores and Director for Sustainability Harry Morris, the project aims to rejuvenate corals, seagrass and mangroves in the Davao Gulf, which benefits directly the communities surrounding it.

According to Morris, they are working on repairing first the three important marine elements in the Davao Gulf (corals, seagrass, mangroves), then enhance and protect the existing marine life.

One of the ways to repair and enhance the marine elements is the deployment of artificial reef structures with attached coral fragments to attract different marine species that were once abundant in the area. Seagrass planting on the ocean floor and mangrove planting in the shoreline were also conducted.

Since its start in 2015, different fish species have returned and seagrass meadows have grown and will become a safe environment for dugongs. In the long run, this will create a thriving marine ecosystem with a visible increase in biodiversity, establish an eco-tourism hotspot and provide a sustainable aquaculture environment.

Through their continuous efforts, The Trinity Project hopes to reverse the harsh effects of erosion currently happening in the Hijo coastline due to industrial pollution that took place decades before. The Trinity Projects also hopes to fulfill their vision of sustaining and conserving the incredible biodiversity of the Davao Gulf for the next generations to enjoy. **(With PR)**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1877612/Davao/Local-News/Hijo-Estate-coastline-now-a-Marine-Protected-Area>



DENR clarification on coal moratorium hailed

Sunday, November 22, 2020 Ryan Ponce Pacpaco7

THE Alyansa ng mga Grupong Haligi ng Agham at Teknolohiya para sa Mamamayan (AGHAM) party-list group on Sunday welcomed the Department of Energy's (DoE) recent pronouncement to clear a confusion brought about by an earlier announcement imposing a moratorium on the endorsement of greenfield coal power plants.

Former AGHAM party-list Rep. Angelo B. Palmones, dzRH anchor, said DoE's recent clarification that there would be no policy to bar existing plants from continuing operations is a huge relief for major power players in the country.

Energy Sec. Alfonso Cusi recently said in an online briefing that coal-fired power plants will continue to be an important component of the Philippines' energy mix.

The government cannot afford to mandate a retirement of such facilities although it is prepared to disallow additional projects, said Cusi.

The moratorium on greenfield coal-fired power plants the DoE issued last month only applies to those projects that have not yet been proposed, or whose proponents have not filed their applications for DoE endorsement or for permits.

Palmones, AGHAM president, said that banning coal-fired power plants, both existing ones and those that have already been given prior endorsements and Certified Energy Project of National Significance from DoE, will put the country's energy security at risk.

Palmones added that with the sheer volume of the country's rising power demand, Philippines needs reliable sources of power to provide it with a stable baseload generating capacity. The country still needs coal power plants to address the demand.

AGHAM, Palmones added, believes the country cannot immediately shift to renewable energy, which is being pushed by anti-coal groups.

"The anti-coal groups should understand that the country could not go full blast on RE at once because it is neither cheap nor reliable," Palmones added.



Defensor supports DOE in including coal-fired power plants in the country's energy mix

Published November 22, 2020, 3:44 PM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

Anakalusugan partylist Rep. Michael Defensor has rallied behind the Department of Energy's (DOE) decision to include coal-fired power plants as an important component of the country's energy mix.



Anakalusugan Party-List Rep. Mike Defensor
(MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

The House leader agreed with the Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Alfonso Cusi that the government cannot just bar existing power plants from continuously operating.

"While we see the existing ones to contribute in the current energy mix, there is also strong improvement in alternative sources that we see today," Defensor said in a Viber message.

He cited that wind, solar, and ocean current technology among others have evolved by leaps and bounds.

"I'm sure that there are many in the pipeline proposals that influenced Sec. Cusi and the Energy department to take a different policy perspective. Congratulations to them and to all climate change advocates," Defensor said.

In an online press briefing, Cusi explained that the moratorium on greenfield coal-fired power plants issued by the DOE last month applies only to those who have not secured the endorsement from the DOE and the necessary permits from other agencies.

Party-list group Alyansa ng mga Grupong Haligi ng Agham at Teknolohiya para sa Mamamayan (AGHAM) has described the DOE's pronouncement as a "huge relief" for major power players in the country.

AGHAM president Angelo Palmones, a former partylist lawmaker, warned that if the government bans coal-fired power plants, the country's energy security will be put at risk.

"The country still needs coal power plants to address the demand," he said in a statement.

"The anti-coal groups should understand that the country could not go full blast on [renewable energy] at once because it is neither cheap nor reliable," Palmones added.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/22/defensor-supports-doe-in-including-coal-fired-power-plants-in-the-countrys-energy-mix/>



Quezon rallies vs. coal-fired power plants

posted November 22, 2020 at 10:30 pm

by [Alena Mae S. Flores](#)

Community members and clean energy advocates in Quezon staged protests on Friday against the continued operation and expansion of coal-fired power plants in the province.

The group cited the alleged detrimental impact of the fossil fuel on local livelihood, environment, and the health of residents.

Energy and climate advocacy networks Power for People Coalition (P4P) and Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) led the protests joined by communities and grassroots organizations to demand a cancellation of coal projects in the pipeline.

The groups said in a statement they want to cancel coal projects, especially those that have failed to secure endorsements from the Department of Energy (DOE).

The groups also reiterated their call to decommission existing coal projects through the coal moratorium declared by DOE.

“Quezon is not a dump for pollution from coal. To the DOE, President Duterte, and all energy companies that keep forcing more coal in our province and across the Philippines, the Church and communities here will continue to stand together and fight for our right to a clean environment and clean air,” Fr. Warren Puno, convenor of the province-wide environmental group Quezon for Environment (QUEEN) and Director of the Ministry of Ecology of the Diocese of Lucena, said in a statement.

Quezon province, which was recently devastated by Typhoons Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses, is currently home to three operating coal-fired power plants with an installed capacity of 2,200 megawatts (MW).

The groups said another 3,600 MW more of coal plants are in the pipeline, thus turning Quezon into the country’s “coal capital.”



'Coal projects' sa Quezon pinakakansela

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 23, 2020 - 12:00am



Sa ginanap na National Day of Action Against Coal na pinangunahan ng energy and climate advocacy networks Power for People Coalition (P4P) at Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, nanawagan din sila sa gobyerno na kanselahin ang mga "coal projects" sa mga pipeline.

STAR/File

MANILA, Philippines — Nagpasaklolo na ang mga residente sa lalawigan ng Quezon sa pamahalaan na kanselahin ang patuloy na operasyon at paglawak ng "coal-fired power plants" dahil sa malaking pinsalang dulot nito sa kanilang kabuhayan, kapaligiran at kalusugan.

Sa ginanap na National Day of Action Against Coal na pinangunahan ng energy and climate advocacy networks Power for People Coalition (P4P) at Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PM CJ), nanawagan din sila sa gobyerno na kanselahin ang mga "coal projects" sa mga pipeline.

"We have long suffered the presence of coal power plants in the name of progress. But we do not benefit from these plants. All we got are sick residents, a ruined environment, and higher risks of destructive typhoons," ayon kay Fr. Warren Puno, convenor ng Quezonwide environmental group "Quezon for Environment" (Queen) at director ng Ministry of Ecology of the Diocese of Lucena.

Aniya, sa katunayan ay labis na naapektuhan ang lalawigan sa pananalasa ng mga nagdaang bagyon Quinta, Rolly, at Ulysses. Sa kasalukuyan umano, ang lalawigan ay may tatlong coal-fired power plants na may naka-install na kapasidad na 2.2 GW at 3.6 GW na carbon sa pipeline.

"Kaming kabataan ng Atimonan ay lumahok sa National Day of Action dahil kinabukasan namin ang nakataya rito. Kami ang mapeperwisyo kung matutuloy ang mga pagtatayo ng coal plant dito sa Atimonan at iba pang bahagi ng Quezon. Hindi pa ba tayo natuto?" saad ni Bianca Opalda, youth leader ng local group KAPAKANAN.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2020/11/23/2058815/coal-projects-sa-quezon-pinakakansela/amp/>



#mallofasia #manilabay #savemanilabay

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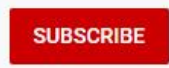
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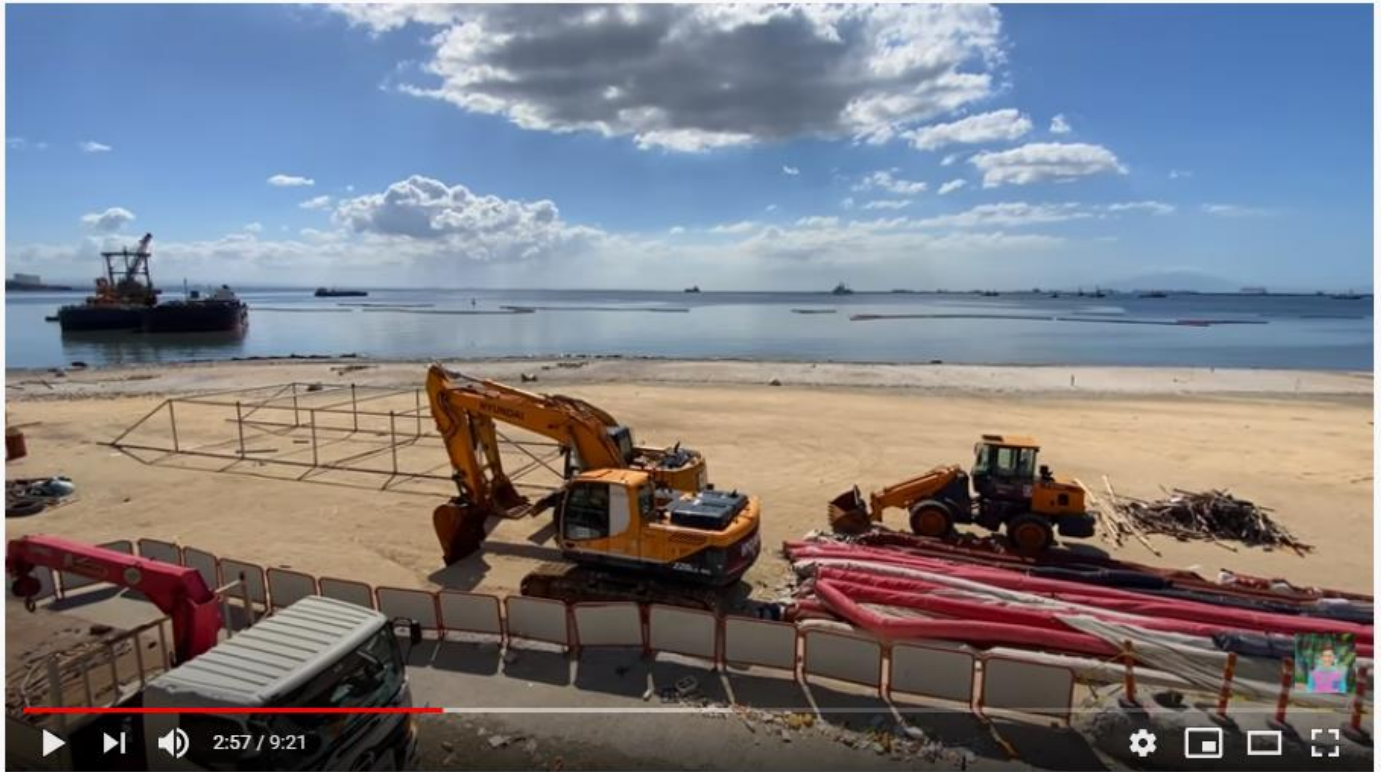


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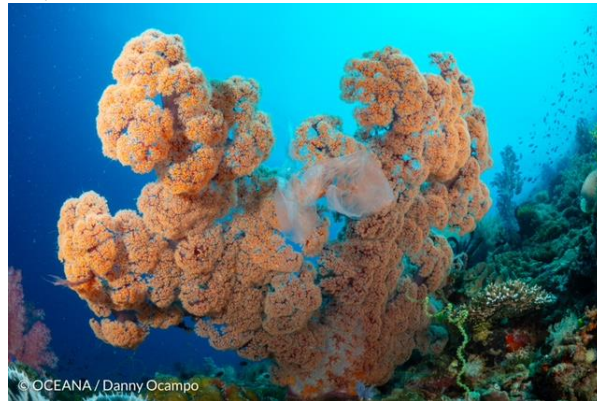
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31 LGUs sign nationwide petition to ban single-use plastic

By Oceana Published on November 22, 2020



Single use plastic tangled on a soft coral off the Panaon Island in Southern Leyte. (Oceana/Danny Ocampo)

Thirty-one coastal local government units have signed a petition for a nationwide ban on the use of single-use plastic.

Faced with twin problems of massive flooding and uncontrollable material waste, local governments in the country are carrying the burden on how to address these obstacles, now made more difficult as the country deals with limits posed by the COVID19 pandemic.

The province of Cebu, as well as two cities and two municipalities initiated the adoption of a resolution in March 2020 addressed to the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) to ban single-use plastics nationwide and include it in the priority list of Non-Environmentally Acceptable Products and Packaging (NEAPP), as mandated by Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

This number has now increased to 31 coastal local governments, including six provinces and 25 cities and municipalities which have signed similar resolutions.

This growing clamor from the coastal local governments for NSWMC to set a nationwide ban on the production, distribution and trade of single-use plastics should be given serious attention—before there will be more plastics than fish in the ocean.

“The Philippines is an archipelagic country and wastes are sure to flow and swell into marine litter that endanger our fisheries and ocean ecosystem. No wonder that these provinces, cities and municipalities are now speaking out. May the political will of the Commission be harnessed to reduce the plastic menace from the source,” said Oceana Vice President Gloria Estenzo Ramos.

The six provinces that passed the Sangguniang Panlalawigan resolution are Cebu, Southern Leyte, Masbate, Davao Oriental, Bohol, and Aklan. The 25 cities and municipalities that passed the Sangguniang Pambayan resolutions are: Libagon, Southern Leyte; Liloan, Southern Leyte; Limasawa, Southern Leyte; Maasin, Southern Leyte; Padre Burgos, Southern Leyte; Plintuyan, Southern Leyte; San Juan, Southern Leyte; Silago, Southern Leyte; Cebu City; Lapulapu City; Badian, Cebu; Bantayan, Cebu; Bogo City, Cebu; Ginatilan, Cebu; San Remigio, Cebu; Sibonga, Cebu; Guihulngan, Negros Oriental; Antequera, Bohol; Panglao, Bohol; Bien Unido, Bohol; President Carlos P. Garcia, Bohol; Trinidad, Bohol; Libmanan, Camarines Sur; Baguio City; and Angeles City, Pampanga.



Included in the resolution passed by the local governments is a call for NSWMC to release the NEAPP list, considering the "deleterious" effects of the disposal of plastic bags and packaging materials into the environment.

The resolution affirmed that disposable plastic is a pollution problem and the only way to prevent it is to stop it at source. It also upheld the "Philippine legal framework that if a material, such as, single-use plastic is listed as non-environmentally acceptable, the manufacture, distribution or use of non-environmentally acceptable packaging materials and importation of consumer products packaged in non-environmentally acceptable materials are prohibited and meted heavy penalties, such as Php 500,000 fine for the first offense."

NSWMC was established under Republic Act 9003 with fourteen (14) members from the government sector and three from the private sector. The Secretary of each member-agency is tasked "to formulate action plans for their respective agencies to complement the National Solid Waste Management Framework." It has been tasked to formulate and update a list of non-environmentally acceptable materials as provided by this law.

Oceana is an international advocacy organization dedicated to protecting the world's oceans. Since 2014, Oceana has been working closely with national and local government agencies, civil society, fisherfolk and other stakeholders to restore abundance of Philippine fisheries and marine resources. (PR)



Yorme eyes intensified canal cleanup

We thank God that Manila survived ‘Ulysses.’ However, this is not a guarantee. It is possible that Manila will go underwater with the next storms.

Published 3 mins ago on November 23, 2020 02:30 AM

By [Pat C. Santos](#) @tribunephil_pat



Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso is eyeing the intensified declogging of all canals, creeks and rivers in Manila after ordering the city’s Engineering Department and all barangay officials to start clearing all waterways to ensure the free flow of water.

The mayor directed City Engineer Armand Andres that, although declogging operations are done daily, they should be intensified after they proved to be effective against floods during “Ulysses.” “We clean canals, avenues, boulevards, alleys and streets so that in case of a flood, the water will easily subside,” Domagoso said.

“We thank God that Manila survived ‘Ulysses.’ However, this is not a guarantee. It is possible that Manila will go underwater with the coming storms,” he added.

Manila’s chief executive thanked residents, after learning some of them showed generosity by feeding City Hall personnel undertaking the declogging as a way of expressing their gratitude. He called on all Manilans to help the city government by not throwing their garbage indiscriminately, specially into bodies of water, sewers and canals.

On top of this, Domagoso also lauded Andres and his personnel for carrying out continuous debundling operations of knotted up electric and cable wires that are not only an eyesore, but also pose a danger to the public.

The city government, he added, is also actively doing “simple fixes” by asphaltting pothole-riddled streets for the convenience of motorists.

Areas in the city that suffer from floods, such as España, Lacson, Maceda, Pedro Gil and some streets in Ermita, were reported to have been passable as water drained quickly.



Photo courtesy of Josephine Jaron Codilla

Bill filed at Senate seeks incentives, benefits for Bantay Dagat volunteers

Published November 22, 2020 5:20pm

By ERWIN COLCOL, GMA News

Bantay Dagat volunteers or "sea wardens" in the country may soon get some perks for their sacrifices if the measure filed at the Philippine Senate gets passed into law.

Senator Risa Hontiveros has filed Senate Bill 1919, or the proposed "Bantay Dagat Welfare and Incentives Act" that aims to recognize accredited sea wardens, who are mostly town fisherfolk working with local and national agencies to conserve, protect, and manage marine resources.

"Our fisherfolk communities are at the frontlines of climate change. Sila ang unang-unang naapektuhan ng pagbabago sa klima, pati na ng mga negatibong epekto nito sa ating kalikasan," Hontiveros said in a statement on Sunday.

"This gives all the more reason, to not only recognize their noble work, but also to provide tangible support. Bigyan natin ng dignidad ang kanilang ginagawa para sa ating bayan," she added.

Under the measure, Bantay Dagat volunteers will be entitled to insurance and PhilHealth coverage, hazard allowance, subsistence allowance, training and career enrichment programs, and access to loans.

At the same time, the bill also grants sea wardens security of tenure, meaning they should not be removed or terminated except for just and valid causes as determined by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

SB 1919 also mandates local governments to allocate regular funding for Bantay Dagat volunteers and their operational requirements.

"The bill is an important step towards encouraging and giving recognition to the importance of community participation in the protection of our fisheries," Hontiveros said.

"But government must further arm itself through modernizing and upping our defense capability towards the protection of Philippine waters. Nakahanda ang mga komunidad na magbantay, palakas din ang pagbantay ng gobyerno," she added. —**LBG, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/765168/bill-filed-at-senate-seeks-incentives-benefits-for-bantay-dagat-volunteers/story/>



Alpabeto Ng Kalikasan: The ABCs Of Philippine Biodiversity



By [Featuresdesk \(MD\)](#) November 18, 2020

Did you know that many of our local wildlife books for kids feature more plants and animals not found in the country?

The lack of learning materials on Philippine wildlife for children can be both surprising and disappointing at the same time, but one mother is aspiring to change that.



To introduce a fun and simple way to promote the country's biodiversity, Haribon Foundation member Anya Santos-Uy launches *Alpabeto ng Kalikasan*, an alphabet book that highlights Proudly Pinoy plants and animals.

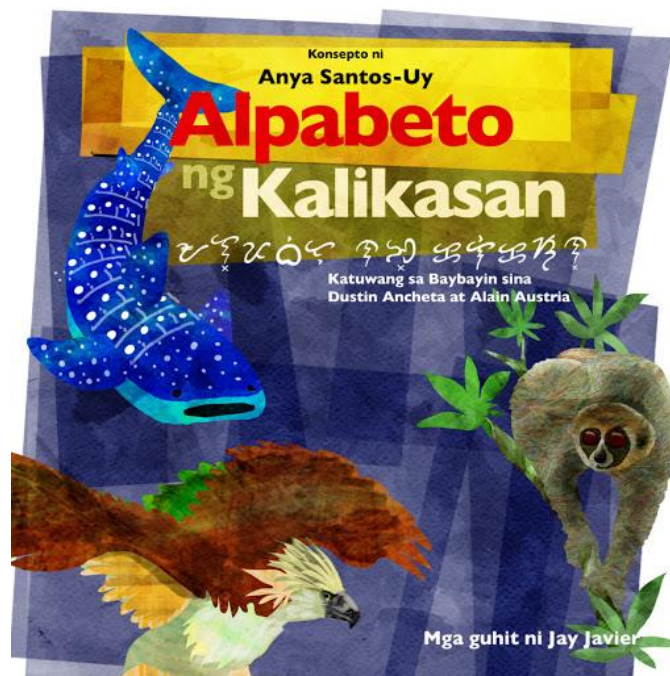
The idea to create a learning material that spotlights local wildlife came to Santos-Uy when she noticed that her children did not know much about the Philippine eagle, pawikan, or musang as opposed to easily recognizing nonnative animals like elephants and giraffes.

Santos-Uy initially sought to create a clothing line that features Philippine wildlife, but eventually changed to a children's book that focuses on the country's rich biodiversity.



With the help of her friends from Haribon, Santos-Uy narrowed down the vast number of Philippine species to represent each letter in the alphabet in English, Filipino, and even Ivatan (a language mainly spoken in Batanes).

Alpabeto ng Kalikasan features illustrator Jay Javier's colorful artworks depicting the unique flora and fauna found in the Philippine forests and seas. It also showcases the pre-colonial script of Baybayin, penned with the help of collaborators Dustin Ancheta and Alain Austria.



Aside from helping children learn about Philippine species, the book also contributes to the protection of nature thanks to its partnership with Haribon Foundation.

“When it comes to learning about Philippine biodiversity, we at Haribon Foundation believe in starting them young! And so, we are excited for this new partnership with Alpabeto ng Kalikasan,” said Thea Maceda, Haribon Constituency and Resource Development Manager.

Maceda added that the colorful book is the perfect companion for kids' reading time while supporting Haribon's work for the environment.

Part of the proceeds from the book will be donated to the Foundation to help its efforts in the protection and conservation of Philippine biodiversity.

To order this alphabet book, go to <http://alpabetongkalikasan.com/>.

Source: http://thephilippinepost.com/alpabeto-ng-kalikasan-the-abcs-of-philippine-biodiversity/?fbclid=IwAR3t7-fggYYtSXBaLG-xi_hTZsw0NMKfuPrqVQhd9l8DLTApmYwGmkb-XY



Wastewater, what?

By Abigail L. Ho-Torres

November 23, 2020



Xentro Malls Antipolo grabs the top prize in the 2018 installment of the Golden Kubeta Awards.

BEFORE I joined my current company, I had no idea what wastewater was. Apparently, I was not alone. According to a Maynilad-commissioned qualitative study in 2018, the public's knowledge about wastewater—what it was, where it came from, where it all went—was little to none.

This poses a problem. How so? If people do not even know what happens to water after they use it, how can we expect them to even care where used water—or wastewater—goes afterwards? And it's important that we care.

Of the water that we use each day, around 80 percent ends up as wastewater. Of this volume, 80 percent goes back to our water bodies without undergoing adequate treatment, according to data from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



A portion of the toilet that gave FEU a big win in the 2019 Golden Kubeta Awards. FEU Media Center

Because water is a finite resource, it just makes sense that the water we use goes back to nature so we'll have water to use again—and so the cycle goes on and on and on. But when used water returns to water bodies untreated, with all of the icky, potentially harmful stuff still in it, I don't think any of us would want to use that, let alone drink it.

The Boracay experience

Let's go back, for a moment, to that day in February 2018 when President Rodrigo Duterte called the world-famous Boracay Island "a cesspool." At that time, that was a fairly accurate description, unfortunately. One of the major reasons Boracay reached that state: the discharge of untreated wastewater into the sea. And that practice has been going on for years.

Two months after that "cesspool" comment, President Duterte ordered the six-month closure of the tourist paradise, and even declared a state of calamity there. Massive clean-up efforts were undertaken. To prevent the same thing from happening again, more stringent requirements, mostly in terms of solid waste management and wastewater treatment, were put in place. One of the requirements for establishments to be able to reopen was connection to the existing sewerage network or operation of their own wastewater treatment facility.



A kubeta fit for royalty gave Petron E. Rodriguez branch the honor of being the inaugural winner of the Golden Kubeta Awards. Petron

The closure of Boracay from May to October resulted in significant economic losses. A study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) titled “The Boracay Closure: Socioeconomic Consequences and Resilience Management” placed aggregate economic loss in total output—or the value of all goods and services produced in an economy—at between P20.8 billion and P83.15 billion. Compensation losses, with businesses closing down, ranged from P7 billion to P27.9 billion.

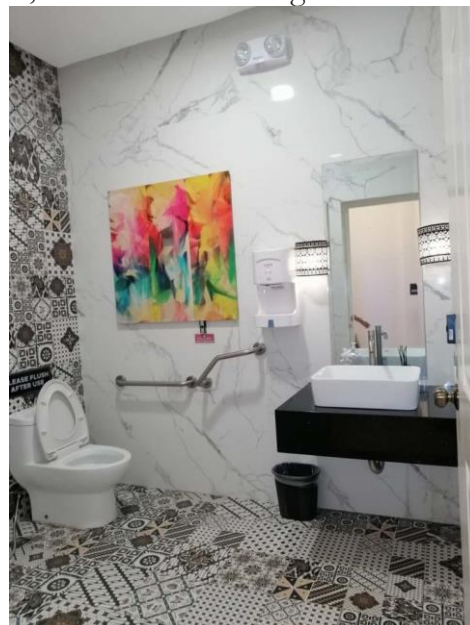
“Overall, while the results may not be very significant at the national level, it will still have its direct and indirect effects to people living in the island and in the entire municipality of Malay,” the PIDS report said.

Beyond Boracay

TEN years before the Boracay closure took place, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) placed the country’s annual economic losses due to poor sanitation or improper wastewater management practices at P77.8 billion, as stated in its report titled “Economic Impacts of Sanitation in the Philippines.”

The negative effects of poor sanitation go beyond the economic. Untreated wastewater can cause diseases such as diarrhea, hepatitis A, and leptospirosis. Like in the Boracay example, poor sanitation practices also have far-reaching effects on the environment, including fish kills and contamination of groundwater, or water found underground.

According to a 2009 study of the Asian Development Bank, 58 percent of the country’s groundwater was contaminated by infectious wastes coming from unsanitary septic tanks (or *poso negro* in the vernacular), wastewater discharge from industries, and runoffs from agricultural fields and dumpsites.



After its Antipolo branch won the top award in 2018, Xentro Mall Polangui wins in the Malls and Restaurants category of the 2019 awards. Xentro Malls



Closer to our own homes, improper wastewater management practices—like not having a septic tank, not conducting regular desludging of septic tanks (should be every five to seven years), pouring oil down the drain, flushing solids in the toilet, and not being connected to sewerage lines (for those located in sewered areas)—can result in various headaches, including sewage backup (imagine poop coming out of your shower drain—yes, it can happen) as a result of clogged sewer lines.

Efforts to raise awareness

Given the importance of proper wastewater management, numerous campaigns have been put in place, and continue to run, to underscore the need for proper sanitation. Goal 6 of the UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) has to do with access to clean water and sanitation for all by 2030.

One of the global goals under Goal 6 is the improvement of water quality “by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping, and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.”

Last Thursday, November 19, we celebrated World Toilet Day. Yes, it is a thing, and it's spearheaded by various UN agencies and other international organizations. This year's theme, Sustainable Sanitation and Climate Change, is quite fitting, given that we recently just experienced strong typhoons that resulted in massive flooding in several areas in the country.

What do toilets have to do with climate change, you may ask. The World Toilet Day web site explains: “The effects of climate change threaten sanitation systems—from toilets to septic tanks to treatment plants. For instance, floodwater can damage toilets and spread human waste into water supplies, food crops, and people's homes. These incidents, which are becoming more frequent as climate change worsens, cause public health emergencies, and degrade the environment.”

The web site further states: “4.2 billion people live without access to safely managed sanitation. Instead they often use unreliable, inadequate toilets or practice open defecation. Untreated human waste gets out into the environment and spreads deadly and chronic diseases. Sustainable sanitation systems, combined with the facilities and knowledge to practice good hygiene, are a strong defense against Covid-19 and future disease outbreaks.”

Golden Kubeta Awards

SINCE 2016, Maynilad has been celebrating World Toilet Day with the Golden Kubeta Awards, an awareness and education campaign that seeks to bring the conversation about proper wastewater management to the mainstream. It also envisions clean and comfortable public restrooms in establishments, regardless of type and industry, all over the country. It is part of Maynilad's Kubeta PH campaign, an integrated information, education, and communication campaign that aims to spur positive action from all stakeholders on wastewater management.

The Golden Kubeta Awards follow a rigorous three-step selection process that combines physical audits with social media nomination and voting. For the first round, nominations are crowdsourced via social media platforms, and posts have to use the hashtag #GoldenKubeta to qualify. Initial nominees are then asked to provide additional photos of their toilets to make their nomination official.

Those who are able to submit the required additional photos move on to the second round: the physical audit. A team visits each nominated establishment to do a surprise check of their toilets, as well as to conduct interviews with the people managing the establishments regarding their wastewater management practices.

Nominees who make the cut then move on to the final stage: public voting. Three finalists for each of the Awards categories—Schools and Universities, Terminals and Stations, Government Offices, and Malls and Restaurants—are subjected to online polling via Facebook, through the Kubeta PH Facebook community page. All reactions, excluding sad and angry, count as votes for each nominated establishment.



This year, Maynilad opted to forgo the usual awards program, given the pandemic. Instead, the company touched base with past winners to ask them about their continuing journey in keeping their toilets Golden Kubeta Awards-worthy.

Atty. Gianna Montinola, Senior Vice President for Corporate Affairs at Far Eastern University, shared: “At FEU, we take great pride in our services and in our facilities. We want to offer our community, especially our students, a clean, safe, and secure environment. We want the university to be a beautiful campus, but also one that functions efficiently. Proper maintenance is key. Furthermore, we want to inculcate the importance of respect for public space. It is everybody’s responsibility to do their share. We are grateful to all who support our initiatives.”

FEU was last year’s Golden Kubeta Awards winner in the Schools and Universities category, besting the University of the Philippines Diliman and Miriam College. It also bagged the People’s Choice Award with a whopping 10,000 votes.

Maynilad hopes that through the lowly *kubeta*, the public may come to know the importance of proper wastewater management, and lead them to care enough about the issue to do their part in ensuring our contribution to environmental preservation. I’m sure none of us would want to live in a cesspool.

PR Matters is a roundtable column by members of the local chapter of the United Kingdom-based International Public Relations Association (Ipra), the world’s premier organization for PR professionals around the world. Abigail L. Ho-Torres is AVP and Head of Advocacy and Marketing of Maynilad Water Services Inc. She spent more than a decade as a business journalist before making the leap to the corporate world.

We are devoting a special column each month to answer our readers’ questions about public relations. Please send your questions or comments to askipraphil@gmail.com.



Putrajaya Vision 2040 to promote free, open, fair, trade and investment environment in Asia-Pacific

Published November 21, 2020, 10:01 AM

by [Argyll Cyrus Geducos](#)

President Duterte said the Philippines will remain committed to strengthening its ties with the international community as he welcomes the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 that recognizes pressing challenges and foresees issues that are yet to take place.



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte delivers his intervention during the virtual 27th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting at the Malacañang Palace on November 20, 2020. Other leaders also shared their views on the response by APEC Economies in mitigating the health and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040.

(KING RODRIGUEZ / PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Duterte made the statement during the virtual 2020 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting on Friday.

The Vision puts a new premium on and is devoted to working in tandem with each other to promote a “free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment” in the Asia-Pacific community.

Based on APEC's statement, the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 is an “open, dynamic, resilient, and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all our people and future generation.”

In his remarks during the virtual summit, President Duterte told APEC Chairman Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin how APEC has helped spur economic growth and prosperity in the region.

However, he said that the region continues to face challenges, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Over the years APEC has helped spur economic growth and prosperity, lifting millions of people out of poverty in the Pacific Rim region. We recognize the economic advancements we have thus far made,” Duterte said.

“Yet 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 added.

President Duterte said the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 recognizes the present pressing challenges and foresees those of the future. Through this Vision, the Chief Executive said the Philippines will play its role in strengthening the economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region.



“Through this Vision, we reaffirm our support for a free and rules-based multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization as its vanguard,” he said.

“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 added.

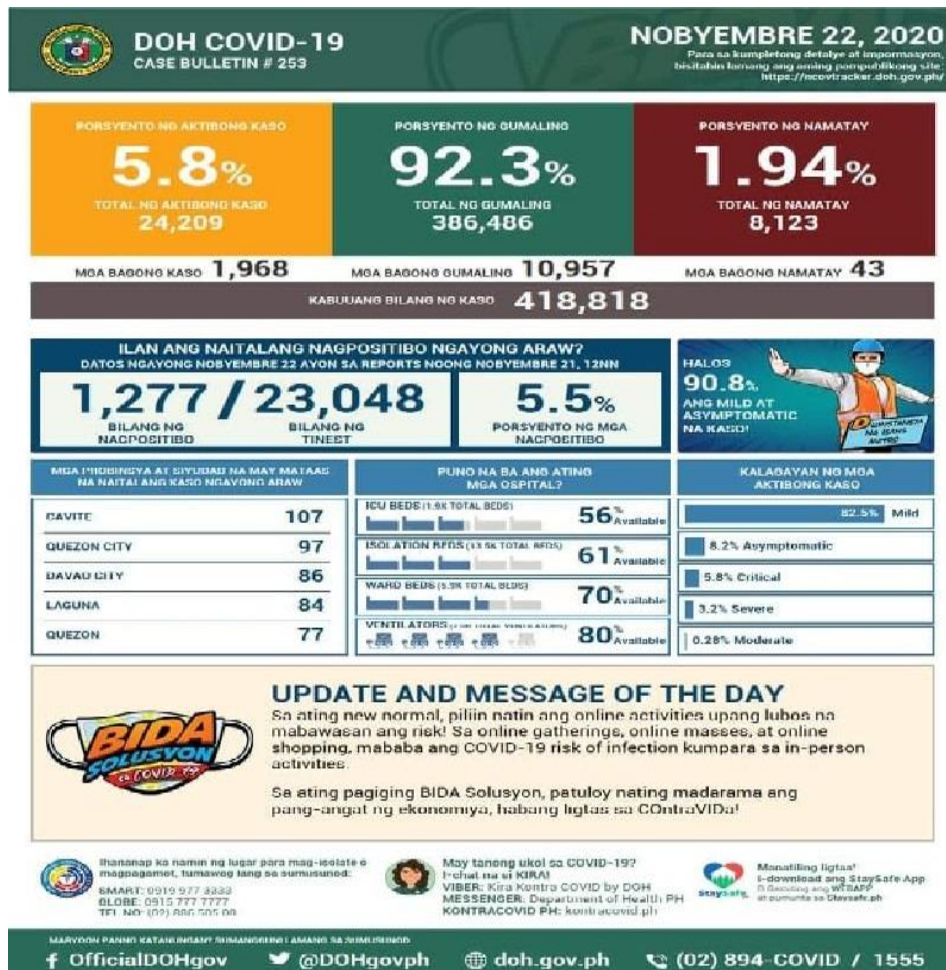
The 27th APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting on Friday launched the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, the region’s Post-2020 Vision – the key policy document that will replace the Bogor Goals, one of APEC’s flagships initiatives, which will reach maturity at the end of this year.

The Bogor Goals were released in 1994 for members to move towards the long-term goal of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region no later than the year 2020.



BREAKING: Mga naka-recover sa COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, pumalo na sa 386,486

By Angellic Jordan November 22, 2020 - 04:00 PM



Halos 2,000 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Linggo (November 22), umabot na sa 418,818 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 24,209 o 5.8 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,968 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

82.5 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 8.2 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.28 porsyento ang moderate; 3.2 porsyento ang severe habang 5.8 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 43 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 8,123 o 1.94 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 10,957 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 386,486 o 92.3 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/276321/breaking-mga-naka-recover-sa-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-pumalo-na-sa-386486>



PATAY SA COVID-19: PINAS – 95, 41, 27, 55, 43; AMERIKA – 1,718, 2,076, 2,059, 1,614, 1,162



November 23, 2020 @ 12:30 AM 6 hours ago

SA nakalipas na limang araw, mga Bro, ‘yan ang mga rekord ng patay sa coronavirus disease o COVID-19 sa mahal kong Pinas at sa Amerika.

Dahil sa ganitong pangyayari, nakapagtala na ang Amerika ng 261,790 patay simula nang pumutok ang nasabing pandemya noong Disyembre 2019 hanggang sa mga araw na ito.

Hindi biro-biro ito at sa totoo lang, nakatatakot.

Isipin ninyo, nahigitan pa ng patay sa COVID-19 sa Amerika ang kabuuang bilang ng mga pulis sa Pinas na nasa 205,000 at doble pa nga sa bilang ng mga sundalo natin na nasa 125,000.

Mas marami rin ang bilang ng tinamaan ng pandemya sa Amerika sa bilang na 12,450,666 kumpara sa kabuuang populasyon ng Metro Manila na mahigit 12,000,000 lamang.

Ganyan katindi kung manalasa ang COVID-19 sa Amerika.

Tanong: Gusto ba nating maganap sa sarili nating bansa ang ganitong sitwasyon?

Siyempre pa, mataginting na HINDI.

SUGAL NA MALAKI

Ang nakaraang kampanyang pulitikal at halalan sa Amerika para sa posisyong pam-Pangulo nina President Donald Trump at ex-Vice President Joseph Biden ang naging mitsa ng ngayo’y grabeng COVID-19.

Sa sarbey, kalahati sa mahigit 300 milyong populasyon doon ang hindi nagsusuot ng face mask at lalong walang nagsusuot ng face shield na epektibong panlaban sa pandemya.

Lalong wala gaanong sumunod sa social distancing dahil kumpol-kumpol ang mga tao sa mga miting de avance nila.

Ngayon naman, sumugal ang ating pamahalaan sa pagpapadala ng mga pwersang relief and rescue operations sa mga sinalanta ng mga bagyo at baha.

Hiniling mismo ng Department of Interior and Local Government na luwagan ng mga LGU ang quarantine protocol sa mga pulis, sundalo, bumbero, medical worker at iba pa na galing sa iba’t ibang lugar upang umayuda sa mga biktima ng kalamidad at pumayag naman ang mga ito.



Bukod sa mga ito, natagpuan ding maraming evacuee ang kumpol-kumpol sa mga ligtas na lugar habang nanalasa ang mga bagyo at baha at maraming walang suot na face mask at face shield.

Milyong katao ang nagbakwit sa pagdating ng super bagyong si Rolly at gayundin ang naganap nang rumagasa ang baha na dala ng bagyong si Ulysses.

Isipin na lang ito: tanging ang mga pinapayagang lumabas ng bahay ang may face mask at face shield ngunit ang mga miyembro ng pamilya na hindi pinapayagan ay kasama sa mga nagbakwit na walang suot na panlaban sa COVID-19.

Hindi kaya pagmulan ng malawakang hawaan ang pagluluwag sa health protocol para sa mga umayuda at mga bakwit na sumugal na mabuhay laban mapanirang bagyo at baha?

GAWIN PA RIN ANG LAHAT

Kahit papaano, naging epektibo ang estilo ng pakikipaglaban ng pamahalaan at mamamayan sa COVID-19 at nakita ito sa Metro Manila.

Noong una, pinakamatindi ang pandemya sa Metro Manila ngunit sa huling mga araw, bumagsak na sa 4 porsyento ang nagpopositibo rito.

'Yun bang === kada 100 katao mula sa 12 milyong residente ng Metro Manila, 4 na lang ang nagpopositibo.

Ewan natin kung ano ang epekto ng mga pagbabakwit, lalo na sa mga tinamaan ng kalamidad na pumwersa sa mga tao na magkumpol-kumpol sa mga evacuation center gaya sa Marikina.

Pero anoman ang bunga ng kalamidad at pagbabakwit, dapat hindi tayo makalilimot na sumunod sa mga health protocol o patakarang pangkalusugan.

Huwang kalilimutang maghugas lagi ng kamay, agad maligo o magbihis pagdating mula sa labas ng bahay o trabaho, magsuot ng face mask kahit sa bahay at face shield kung lalabas, at mag-social distancing.

Isa pang mahalaga, kung sa palagay natin, eh, may mapansin tayong dala-dala ang isang tao na sintomas ng COVID-19, ikontak agad kina kapitan para umaksyon kaagad ang mga ito.

Gawin nating bahagi tayo ng mga contact tracer upang matulungan natin ang ilang libo lang na pinakilos ng pamahalaan bilang mga contact tracer.

Isang text o tawag lang naman ang kailangan natin upang maipaalam natin sa mga kinauukulan ang ating mga suspetsa.

Magtulong-tulong po tayo lahat upang makatulong tayo sa pagbangon natin mula sa pagkakalugmok sa gutom at kahirapan, kawalan ng trabaho, pagkalugi ng negosyo at iba pa na dala ng pandemya.



Aid for 'Ulysses' victims reaches P126-M

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwán November 22, 2020, 2:36 pm



MANILA – The total cost of assistance for families affected by the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses, which recently battered a large area of Luzon, has reached PHP125.725 million, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said in its Sunday update.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has spent PHP77.9 million; local government units (LGUs) shelled out PHP44.1 million; private partners in the Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Bicol, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and National Capital Region (NCR), PHP2.8 million; and non-governmental organizations/other government organizations disbursed PHP728,492 worth of assistance.

The number of affected families is placed at 932,467, equivalent to 3,830,602 persons residing in 6,321 barangays in the said regions.

The number of injured people remains at 68 with 19 others still missing. Death toll stands at 73.

The deaths, injured, and missing were recorded in Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Bicol, CAR and NCR.

Damage to agriculture was placed at PHP4.2 billion, incurred in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Bicol, Cordillera, and the NCR.

Damage to infrastructure was estimated at PHP8.7 billion in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Cordillera, and the NCR.

Damaged houses number 88,713, with 9,763 "heavily damaged" and 78,950 "partially damaged". (PNA)



Pinsala ni 'Ulysses' umakyat na sa P12.9 bilyon

By [Doris Franche](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 23, 2020 - 12:00am



Sa pinakahuling datos ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, nasa P8.699 bilyon ang winasak ni Ulysses sa infrastructure at P4.213 bilyon sa agrikultura.

AFP/Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Pumalo na sa P12.9 bilyon ang halaga ng pinsala ng Bagyong Ulysses at nagpalubog din sa buong Cagayan.

Sa pinakahuling datos ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), nasa P8.699 bilyon ang winasak ni Ulysses sa infrastructure at P4.213 bilyon sa agrikultura.

Ang pinsala sa Cagayan Valley ay umabot sa P4.960 bilyon sa infrastructure at P1.129 bilyon sa agriculture.

Itinuturing na pangalawa ang bagyong Ulysses sa bagyong Rolly na nag-iwan ng 73 patay.

Lumilitaw din sa datos ng NDRRMC na P17.875 bilyon ang iniwang pinsala ni "Rolly" habang P4.222 bilyon naman si Quinta.

Dahil dito, aabot sa P35 bilyon ang pinsala ng tatlong magkakasunod na bagyo.

Nabatid pa sa NDRRMC na sa Bicol, nasa P168,502 milyong sinira ng bagyong Quinta at Rolly habang nasa P1.377 bilyon ang sinira sa agrikultura at P964.58 milyong sinira sa infrastructure sa Central Luzon.

Nasa 3.7 milyong indibiduwal mula sa walong rehiyon ang naapektuhan ng bagyong Ulysses habang nasa 80,166 ang nawalan ng tirahan, supply ng kuryente at tubig.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/11/23/2058797/pinsala-ni-ulysses-umakyat-na-sa-p129-bilyon/amp/>



MANILA WATER: PANSAMANTALANG WALANG TUBIG SA LALAWIGAN NG RIZAL



November 23, 2020 @ 12:20 AM 6 hours ago

ANG Manila Water ay magsasagawa ng preventive maintenance sa Cardona Water Treatment Plant sa Rizal upang tiyakin ang pagiging maaasahan sa pagsusuplay ng tubig sa mga lugar na sakop nito.

Magreresulta ito sa pansamantalang pagkagambala sa serbisyo ng tubig na nakaaapekto sa higit 285,000 populasyon sa 57,049 na mga kabahayan, komersyal at business establishments sa 58 na mga barangay sa maraming bayan sa Lalawigan ng Rizal, simula Lunes, Nobyembre 23, 2020 ng 9:00 PM hanggang 6:00 ng umaga, Martes, Nobyembre 24, 2020.

Apektadong 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

Pinapayuhan ng Manila Water ang mga residente ng nasabing mga barangay na mag-imbak ng sapat na tubig upang matustusan ang kanilang mga pangangailangan sa panahon ng pagkagambala.

Kapag maibalik na nang ang serbisyo, pinayuhan ng Manila Water ang mga customer na maglaan ng ilang minuto para sa flushing bago gamitin ang tubig mula sa kanilang mga gripo.

Para sa karagdagang detalye, mangyaring tawagan ang Manila Water's Customer Care Hotline 1627 o i-like ang Facebook ng Manila Water (www.facebook.com/manilawater) at sundan sa Twitter (www.twitter.com/ManilaWaterPH).

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/manila-water-pansamantalang-walang-tubig-sa-lalawigan-ng-rizal/>



US expects to begin COVID vaccinations in early December

Published November 22, 2020 11:35pm

Updated November 22, 2020 11:56pm

WASHINGTON — The United States hopes to begin a sweeping program of COVID vaccinations in early December, the head of the government coronavirus vaccine effort said Sunday as cases surge across the worst-hit nation.

The beginning of vaccinations could be a crucial turning point in the battle against the virus that has claimed more than 255,000 lives in the US, the world's highest reported toll, since emerging from China late last year.

"Our plan is to be able to ship vaccines to the immunization sites within 24 hours of approval" by the US Food and Drug Administration, Moncef Slaoui told CNN, pointing to possible dates of December 11-12.

FDA vaccine advisors reportedly will meet December 10 to discuss approving vaccines which pharmaceutical firms Pfizer and Moderna say are at least 95 percent effective.

Worldwide, nearly 1.4 million people have died this year and at least 58 million cases have been registered.

Slaoui estimated that 20 million people across the US could be vaccinated in December, with 30 million per month after that.

'Herd immunity' by May?

He said that by May, with potentially 70 percent of the population having been vaccinated, the country could attain "herd immunity," meaning the virus can no longer spread widely—and that people can move closer to resuming their pre-coronavirus way of life.

But Slaoui added a note of caution, saying, "I really hope and look forward to seeing that the level of negative perception of the vaccine decreases and people's acceptance increase. "That is going to be critical to help us."

A recent Gallup poll showed that four in 10 Americans still say they would not get a COVID-19 vaccine, though that is down slightly from five in 10 surveyed in September.

Slaoui said he thought it would help in persuading vaccine skeptics to learn that trials have shown the new vaccines to be 95 percent effective—well above the 50 percent level that an earlier target for vaccine approval.

Officials have yet to announce which groups in the population would receive the vaccine first, though health care workers are certain to receive priority, followed by vulnerable groups like the elderly.



Slaoui said that while the trials had ensured only short-term safety, decades of experience showed that nearly all adverse effects of vaccines occurred within 40 days of being administered, while the current trials protectively covered 60 days.

With the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, Slaoui added, there were no serious adverse effects in that period.

For now, the vaccines have not been tested on young children, but the doctor said trials are underway, with a chance toddlers could be vaccinated starting in the second quarter of 2021, with infants coming afterward.

Countries worldwide, as well as international organizations, were working out plans for global distribution of these vaccines and potentially others still being developed.

The G20 countries, in a virtual meeting hosted by Saudi Arabia, plan to pledge to "spare no effort" in ensuring fair distribution of coronavirus vaccines worldwide, according to a draft communique seen by AFP on Sunday.

The communique offered no details, however, on how the effort would be funded. —

Agence France-Presse



Pope to young Catholics: Save planet, help poor

By Agence France-Presse

November 23, 2020

Pope Francis urged young Catholic entrepreneurs on Sunday to develop a new, more just economic model that could save a mistreated planet while helping the poor and the excluded.



Pope Francis. AFP Photo

He spoke via video message beamed to a virtual meeting of young business leaders and urged them to make major changes to global economic relationships.

“You recognize the urgent need for a different economic narrative,” the pontiff said in comments translated into English.

“The present world system is certainly unsustainable from a number of points of view and is harming our sister earth, so gravely maltreated and despoiled, together with the poor and the excluded in our midst,” the pope remarked.

He pointed out that the coronavirus pandemic had caused people to think about the situation the world found itself in.

“Once the present health crisis has passed, the worst reaction would be to fall even more deeply into feverish consumerism,” Francis said.

The Argentinian-born pope has regularly taken capitalism to task, accusing it of indifference to social inequality and a party to the depletion of the planet’s resources.

He pressed the young business leaders and academics from 115 countries to “give birth to an economic culture” that inspired trust and created resources “that will enlighten minds, warm hearts” and give “all young people, with no one excluded — a vision of the future.”

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/11/23/news/national/pope-to-young-catholics-save-planet-help-poor/800154/>



Trump claims Paris climate accord 'unfair,' defends withdrawal

Published November 22, 2020 11:32pm

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — US President Trump on Sunday defended his decision to pull out of the Paris climate accord, calling it "unfair and one-sided" even as President-elect Joe Biden [has pledged to rejoin the landmark agreement](#).

The United States formally left the 2015 Paris accord earlier this month, becoming the first country to ever withdraw from an international climate change pact.

"I withdrew the United States from the unfair and one-sided Paris Climate accord, a very unfair act for the United States," Trump said on the sidelines of a virtual G20 summit hosted by Saudi Arabia.

"The Paris accord was not designed to save the environment. It was designed to kill the American economy.

"I refuse to surrender millions of American jobs and send trillions of American dollars to the world's worst polluters and environmental offenders, and that's what would have happened."

Trump has aggressively championed the fossil fuel industry, questioned the science of climate change and weakened other environmental protections.

Trump, who has refused to concede the bitter US election, had given a one-year notice to leave the Paris accord on November 4, 2019.

Biden has vowed that the US would rejoin the Paris climate accord on his first day in the White House in January, a move welcomed by European leaders.

The US President-elect has proposed a \$1.7-trillion plan to take the United States, the world's second biggest carbon emitter, to net zero by 2050. — **Agence France-Presse**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/765188/trump-claims-paris-climate-accord-unfair-defends-withdrawal/story/>