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DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



LLDA endorses P609-B Laguna de Bay rehab plan

November 25, 2020, 4:46 pm

MANILA – The Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), an agency under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, is backing an unsolicited proposal from a private consortium for the rehabilitation and development of the Laguna de Bay.

LLDA General Manager Jaime Medina disclosed that the agency’s Board of Directors has endorsed the proposed PHP609-billion Laguna Lake Development and Rehabilitation Project, “after months of review and evaluation”.



LLDA photo

The endorsement comes in the aftermath of successive strong tropical cyclones, the latest of which is Typhoon Ulysses that triggered massive flooding in Metro Manila, Rizal province, and other areas.

“This is a welcome opportunity as this will truly aid in addressing the Laguna Lake’s continual problems in siltation, industrial pollution, sedimentation, and lakeshore flooding,” Medina said in a news release on Wednesday.

Medina said the project proponent has been issued “original proponent status” or OPS and the project is now under review by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), through its Public-Private Partnership Center.

Medina said the LLDA endorsement will be eventually evaluated by NEDA’s Investment Coordination Committee to determine the reasonable rate of return and other parameters for negotiation.

He said the NEDA Board will ultimately approve or deny the proposal.

Medina said the consortium, after being granted the OPS, now has the authority to match better offers submitted by other rivals when a Swiss challenge is undertaken for the project.

The rehabilitation project, which will be undertaken in a span of five to 10 years, includes the dredging of approximately 800 million cubic meters of silt and mud.

It also involves assistance to affected fisherfolk and other stakeholders, as well as silt transfer and development of pre-identified catchment area to be done in phases while the dredging process progresses.

The said project also includes soil treatment, ground improvement and development, the construction of a water treatment facility, and the introduction of a soil improvement technology called the High Vacuum Densification Method (HVDM).

The unsolicited proposal will be under the Build-Own-Operate (BOO) scheme, which means that the proponent will finance, construct, operate, maintain and own a facility, and collect fees and charges to recover their investment.

The government, on the other hand, will provide the authorization and assistance in securing the BOO contract and has the option to buy the output or service provided by the operator.



The consortium is led by Taguig Lake City Development Corporation (TLCDC), with two big foreign companies as partners that have the experience, expertise, and track record in undertaking such a project.

In December last year, the LLDA sent a briefer thru a memorandum to the Office of the President regarding the urgent need to rehabilitate the waters of Laguna Lake to sustain and enhance aquatic life therein; the critical need to increase and improve the holding capacity and water quality of the Laguna Lake to viably and effectively access the lake as a domestic water source, and the real potential of Laguna Lake and its outlying areas to significantly enhance water quality and boost socio-economic growth in the region and the country.

The memorandum also stated the request of LLDA to seek President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's favorable endorsement and approval of the project and its project objectives for purposes of urgent and speedy implementation.

The Laguna de Bay is the largest lake in the Philippines, with around 100 rivers and streams draining into it, making it prone to flooding. The Napindan Channel, through the Pasig River, drains the lake waters to Manila Bay.

During the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses, the Laguna Lake overflowed causing severe flooding and affecting thousands of residents in several municipalities and cities in Laguna, such as Famy, Sta Cruz, Calamba, and San Pedro.

Due to strong winds and currents, fish pens in Laguna de Bay were wiped out and unleashed some 2.2 million kilograms of bangus or milkfish estimated to cost PHP115 million in losses to fish operators of Laguna during Typhoon Rolly. (PR)



P609-b offer to rehab Laguna de Bay

posted November 25, 2020 at 11:50 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Environment department's Laguna Lake Development Authority on Tuesday backed an unsolicited proposal from a private consortium to rehabilitate and develop Laguna de Bay for P609 billion.

General manager Jaime Medina said the agency's board had endorsed the proposed development and rehabilitation project "after months of review and evaluation."

The endorsement came in the aftermath of successive strong tropical cyclones, and of which "Ulysses" caused massive flooding in the National Capital Region, Rizal province and other areas.

"This is a welcome opportunity as this will truly aid in addressing the Laguna Lake's continual problems in siltation, industrial pollution, sedimentation and lakeshore flooding," Medina said.

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The Laguna de Bay is the largest lake in the country with 100 rivers and streams draining into it, making it prone to flooding.



Rehabilitasyon ng Laguna Lake oks sa LLDA



November 25, 2020 @ 7:01 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Tiniyak ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) na suportado nito ang plano mula sa private consortium na magkaroon ng rehabilitasyon at pagpapaunlad sa Laguna de Bay.

Ayon kay LLDA General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina, ang Board of Directors ng ahensiya ay nag-endorso para sa P609-billion Laguna Lake Development and Rehabilitation Project, matapos ang ilang buwang pag-aaral at pagsusuri.

Ang LLDA ay ang ahensyang nasasakupan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na nangangalaga sa Laguna de Bay.

Ang endorsement na ito ay matapos ang magkakasunod na malakas na bagyo at ang pinakahuli ay ang bagyong Ulysses na naging dahilan ng matinding pagbaha sa Metro Manila, Rizal province at ipa pang lugar.

“This is a welcome opportunity as this will truly aid in addressing the Laguna Lake’s continual problems in siltation, industrial pollution, sedimentation, and lakeshore flooding,” saad ni Medina.

Sinabi pa ni Medina na ang project proponent ay nakapaglabas na ng “original proponent status” o OPS at ang proyekto ay kasalukuyan nang pinag-aaralan ng National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) sa pamamagitan ng kanilang Public-Private Partnership Center.

Nabatid sa ulat ang endorsement ng LLDA ay pag-aaralan ng Investment Coordination Committee ng NEDA upang matukoy kung makatwiran ang mga nilalaman ng negosasyon.

Paliwanag pa ng opisyal, ang NEDA board ay maaaring aprubahan o balewain ang mungkahi.

Ang proyektong rehabilitasyon ay gagawin sa loob ng lima hanggang sampung taon, kabilang na dito ang dredging sa tinatayang 800 million cubic meter ng dumi at burak.

Nakasaad din sa memorandum ang hiling ng LLDA kay Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na bigyan ng favorable endorsement and approval ang Project at ang Project objectives para sa mabilis na implementasyon nito.

Dahil din sa malakas na hangin ay nasira ang mga fish pen sa Laguna de Bay at nakawala ang tinatayang 2.2 million kilogram ng bangus na aabot sa halagang P115 million pagkalugi sa mga fish operators sa Laguna sa kasagsagan ng bagyong Rolly. (Santi Celario)



Photos from the Philippine Coast Guard show some Filipinos in the municipalities of Amulung, Alcalá, Lal-lo, and Gattaran in Cagayan remain trapped on their roofs. They have since been rescued.

Philippine Coast Guard/Release

DENR: Dredging, removal of riverbank structures to prevent Cagayan River flooding

[Artemio Dumlaog](#) (Philstar.com) - November 25, 2020 - 11:03am

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — Dredging the Cagayan River and the strict implementation of the 20-meter easement rule will help avert a repeat of the massive flooding in Cagayan and Isabela provinces, the environment department believes.

Such plan was received warmly by the four governors and 31 mayors of the Cagayan Valley region during a meeting this week with Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu in Tuguegarao City, said DENR-Cagayan Valley Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan.

Cimatu said a working group will be created and will conduct a joint meeting to determine necessary engineering interventions along the river, the longest in the Philippines and the largest in terms of discharge.

The environment chief co-chairs the "Build Back Better Task Force" created by President Rodrigo Duterte to oversee the rehabilitation of areas devastated by recent typhoons.

The planned working group will be comprise the governors of Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya, as well as the nearby Cordillera Administrative Region, added Balbalan.

Aside from the immediate dredging of the heavily-silted Cagayan River, the environment chief underscored the strict implementation of the easement rule along its riverbanks.

"We have to follow the 20-meter easement. There should be no building or any structure within the easement zone," Cimatu was quoted by Bambalan as saying.

"Cimatu also asked Tuguegarao City Mayor Jefferson Soriano to address the problem of illegal structures along creeks that block the waterways. He also instructed (me) and Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region 2 Director Mario Ancheta to work with concerned provincial governments for the relocation of communities living along riverbanks," Bambalan said.



The MGB was also ordered to close down small-scale mining operations in a hazard-prone area in Quezon town in Nueva Vizcaya, where nine deaths were reported due to landslides during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses.

Though the MGB in Cagayan Valley region was also tasked to identify a possible Minahang Bayan site for those who will be displaced by the mines closure to ensure their safety and continued livelihood and to prevent further destruction of the environment.



AGARANG DREDGING AT WALANG STRUCTURE SA LOOB NG 20-METER EASEMENT SA KAHABAAN NG CAGAYAN RIVER – CIMATU



November 26, 2020 @ 12:20 AM 6 hours ago

NAIS ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang agarang pagsasagawa ng dredging at mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng 20-meter easement rule sa kahabaan ng Cagayan River upang hindi na maulit ang matinding pagbaha na nanalasa sa mga probinsya ng Cagayan at Isabela sa kasagsagan ng paghagupit ng bagyong Ulysses.

Ang planong ito ni Cimatu sa Cagayan River ay mainit na tinanggap ng apat na gobernador at 31 alkalde ng Cagayan Valley nang magtungo ito sa Tuguegarao City noong Nobyembre 23.

“We will create a working group and conduct a joint meeting to come up with important engineering interventions along the Cagayan River,” sabi ni Cimatu na itinalagang co-chair ng Build Back Better Task Force na binuo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na mangangasiwa sa rehabilitasyon ng mga lugar na sinalanta ng mga nakalipas na bagyo.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang planong working group ay bubuuin ng mga gobernador mula sa Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino at Nueva Viscaya, kabilang na rin ang kalapit na Cordillera Administrative Region.

Bukod sa dredging sa baradong Cagayan River, sinabi ni Cimatu na mahigpit ding ipatutupad ang easement rule sa kahabaan ng riverbanks.

“We have to follow the 20-meter easement. There should be no building or any structure within the easement zone,” saad ni Cimatu.

Hiniling din ng kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kay Tuguegarao City Mayor Jefferson Soriano na tutukan ang problema sa illegal structures sa kahabaan ng mga sapa na bumabara sa daluyan ng tubig.

Inatasan na rin nito sina DENR Region 2 Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan at Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Region 2 Director Mario Ancheta na makipagtulungan sa mga kinaaukulang provincial governments para sa relokasyon ng mga komunidad na naninirahan sa kahabaan ng riverbanks.



Ipinag-utos din ni Cimatú sa MGB na ipasara ang small-scale mining operation sa hazard-prone area sa Quezon, Nueva Viscaya kung saan siyam ang napaulat na namatay sa landslide sa kasagsagan ng pananalasa ng bagyong Ulysses.

Ipinatutukoy rin nito sa MGB ang posibleng Minahang Bayan site para sa mga maaapektuhan sa pagpapasara upang matiyak din ang kaligtasan, patuloy na pagkakaroon ng pagkakakitaan at maiwasan ang pagkasira ng kalikasan.

Nanawagan din si Cimatú sa mga lokal na opisyal na nasalanta ng pagbaha na tiyakin ng mayroong suplay ng tubig, kuryente, transportasyon, telekomunikasyon at may sapat na pangunahing pangangailangan.

“Let us first go back to normal,” sabi pa ni Cimatú sa mga lokal na opisyal.



Son of former Cabinet Secretary Evasco named DENR 11 regional executive director

Published November 25, 2020, 2:42 PM

by [Zea Capistrano](#)

DAVAO CITY – The son of former cabinet secretary Leoncio “Jun” Evasco Jr is the new regional executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region XI (DENR-XI).



PHOTO VIA ZEA CAPISTRANO

The DENR said the 34-year-old Bagani Fidel A. Evasco is an Environmental Science graduate at the Ateneo de Davao University and is currently taking up his Masters in Public Administration major in Public Policy in the same institution.

He is a licensed Dive Master and Technical Diver and a member of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors in Australia, the International Association of Nitrox, and Technical Divers in the United States of America.

He is also a member of Project AWARE, which is a global movement for ocean protection and marine conservation. The young director is also a licensed private and commercial pilot.

“My varied interests are closely related with the environment – taking care of nature, conquering mountains, diving in the oceans, loving the beaches, and navigating the air – all of which are the advocacies that I gladly share with my family,” he said.

In his acceptance speech last Monday, November 23, Evasco said that he will be a “listening leader” and will not make decisions without considering the stand of his officials on any issues.

“I will make most of my decisions after consultations if needed, but we have to remember that there is also such a thing as a management prerogative.”

He also asked for the cooperation of the employees in carrying out the programs of the DENR.

“It cannot be denied that most of you have been in your jobs for a long time and have prepared yourselves academically and your years of experience will be something I will give you credit for.”



During the turnover ceremony, outgoing DENR-XI OIC, Regional Executive Director Atty. Ma. Mercedes V. Dumagan also expressed her support to Evasco.

“DENR -XI has always been working as a team. We work as one and have always been unified with one purpose which is to serve. Thus, we are also looking forward to a meaningful and efficient journey with you with the belief that we will further learn from each other,” Dumagan said.

Dumagan also expressed her gratitude to DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu for the opportunity to lead the department.

“Indeed, it was challenging but a learning experience as well especially when it came to coming up with big decisions that would benefit not only our Department but most importantly, our different stakeholders,” she said.

The ceremony was attended by Undersecretary for Enforcement for Mindanao and Indigenous Peoples Concerns Conrado E. Laza; Assistant Secretary for Administration and Human Resources Ruth M. Tawantawan; former Cabinet Secretary Evasco and; Davao City Water District (DCWD) Director Engr. Romel Alfredo R Ruiz.



NIA Chief: Release Of Water From Magat Dam Did Not Cause Cagayan Flooding; Illegal Logging, Mining Blamed

Mayors who are protecting illegal mining and logging have "blood" in their hands and may face criminal charges, Malacañang warned on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Edu Punay, Alexis Romero Wednesday, November 25, 2020



Residents of Amulung in Cagayan ride a boat to their respective destinations on Nov. 19, 2020 as the municipality remains submerged in floodwaters due to Typhoon Ulysses. Photo by Michael Varcas, The Philippine STAR

Officials pointed to illegal logging and mining as the primary causes of the unprecedented flooding in Cagayan and Isabela provinces during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses almost two weeks ago.

During the inquiry conducted by the House committee on agriculture and food and special committee on North Luzon quadrangle, National Irrigation Administration chief Ricardo Visaya explained that the NIA's release of water from Magat Dam was not the major cause of the flooding in the two provinces but rather the water level at Buntun Bridge.

"It's very clear that the contribution of Magat Dam was not really the major cause of flooding in Cagayan. We have to look into the other factors. If we only implemented the (laws against) illegal logging, illegal mining and illegal quarrying activities, maybe we could have prevented that," he told lawmakers during the inquiry on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

The retired military chief presented to the joint panel a comparative analysis of water levels in the dam and the bridge during Ulysses and previous typhoons.

In the presentation, Visaya said that during Typhoon Emong in May 2009, Magat Dam's maximum water discharge was at 8,068 cubic meters per second (cms), while the water level at Buntun Bridge in Tuguegarao City reached 9.82 meters.

During a monsoon event in November 2010, he noted that Magat Dam released a maximum of 1,351 cms, which was lower than what was released during Typhoon Emong.

Visaya recalled that the water level at Buntun Bridge at the time reached 12.70 meters, which was higher compared to the onslaught of Emong even with the lower water discharge from the dam.

When Ulysses battered the country, Magat Dam released 6,706 cms, lower than when Emong hit. But the water level at Buntun Bridge reached 13.2 meters, which was higher than the previous typhoons.

"Now, can we draw a conclusion from this matrix? Yes. Is it really Magat Dam that provides or is the major cause of the flooding in Cagayan? I don't think so," Visaya argued.

Visaya also pointed out that Magat Dam contributes only 15 percent of the water in the entire Cagayan River basin.

He said Magat River is more than 130 kilometers away from Cagayan's capital Tuguegarao, which means water discharged from the dam would take 20 to 24 hours to reach the city.

"Even if we immediately released water, it would not reach Tuguegarao City that quick," he added.

Visaya also insisted that they were not remiss in their duty to announce the release of water from the dam, saying the NIA had repeatedly informed the public and the local government officials of the impending release of water.

Isabela Rep. Tonypet Albano, vice chairman of the committee on agriculture and food, believes that the flooding in his province could be attributed to illegal logging in Sierra Madre.

In the same hearing, Albano asked why the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has failed to stop illegal logging and mining activities in areas surrounding Cagayan River.

"Why is it that the DENR has barely arrested illegal loggers? We are the ones being blamed because no matter how we fight against these illegal activities here in Congress, the concerned agencies have not been acting on it," Albano said.

In response, DENR Region 2 director Gwendolyn Bambalan explained that the department has already coordinated with law enforcement agencies to address the matter.

She told the lawmakers that the DENR has also formed a regional environmental enforcement task force against illegal logging.

Albano asked Bambalan to submit to the probe panel a report from the task force.



The Magat Dam at the boundary of Alfonso Lista, Ifugao and Ramon, Isabela

At the start of the hearing, Speaker Lord Allan Velasco said the legislative inquiry intends to determine the causes of the unprecedented flooding in the two provinces.

"One reason is climate change, but we want to find out if the actions by concerned agencies were proper. We want to come up with measures to prevent this incident from happening again," the Marinduque congressman stressed.

Blood in their hands

Mayors who are protecting illegal mining and logging have "blood" in their hands and may face criminal charges, Malacañang – through presidential spokesman Harry Roque – said on Tuesday.

According to Roque, illegal logging and mining have caused much damage in Cagayan.

"(Interior) Secretary (Eduardo) Año is conducting an investigation and depending on the final results of the investigation, the mayors may be removed from their posts and they may also face criminal charges," Roque said in a press briefing.

"You have seen the damage caused by illegal logging and illegal mining especially in the province of Cagayan. You will have blood in your hands if you protect illegal miners and illegal loggers," he added.

Roque said mayors should enforce the law and should not use their position to advance their business interests.

Earlier, Año revealed several mayors are allegedly involved in illegal logging and mining operations in their towns as the department ordered a crackdown on violators of environmental regulations.

Año said there were cases wherein mayors either directly or indirectly benefited from illegal mining and logging.

"There were instances like that, but not all (mayors). There are those who aren't directly involved, but they know of their existence," Año said in a radio interview, referring to the illegal activities that have been partly blamed for recent massive flooding.

"Maybe (operators of these illegal activities) funded their (mayors') campaigns or supported their candidacies," Año added.

Catastrophic flooding, landslides and other calamities spawned by the recent typhoons have again directed government attention to illegal logging, mining and other activities that violate environmental regulations as they have been blamed for major damage and casualties.

While Año did not say what the government would do about the alleged hand of local officials in the illegal activities, he implored the public to take the elections seriously.

"Our citizens need to learn and vote for those who are serious and have no connections to anything illegal. We need to pick, otherwise we would be experiencing these things over and over again," he said.

Año also ordered all local governments and police nationwide to start a crackdown on illegal logging and quarrying, and expedite tree-planting operations.

"The flooding brought by Typhoon Ulysses is a harsh reminder that we are failing at doing our level best to protect the environment, especially our remaining forest cover," he said in a statement.

The interior department's order requires local leaders and police to reactivate local anti-illegal logging task forces and reminds mayors to conduct upland monitoring against illegal logging and other forms of forest destruction.

Officials also ordered the setting up of police checkpoints to hamper the operations of illegal loggers.

Police were directed to arrest illegal loggers, who can be criminally charged for violating the Forestry Code of the Philippines (Presidential Decree No. 705) and Republic Act No. 9175 or the Chainsaw Act of 2002, among others.



“It is imperative that we must stop the wanton destruction of our remaining forest resources not only for our sake but also for future generations who will suffer the consequences of our inaction,” he said.

Año also urged all local governments to deploy more forest guards and for the DENR to deploy more foresters to monitor the country’s forests and engage local communities and civil society organizations in reforestation programs.

Source: <https://www.onenews.ph/nia-chief-release-of-water-from-magat-dam-did-not-cause-cagayan-flooding-illegal-logging-mining-blamed?fbclid=IwAR0WLCxXI78PjTHvRqiXlolckQFv5hgDa1-RhSzNXf-tJRpCss94QGO-Wjc>



Gov't should take responsibility for anti-environment policies —IBON

Published November 25, 2020 9:35pm

The government should take responsibility for pushing anti-environment policies which contributed to the recent widespread flooding and destruction of communities during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses instead of going after local politicians, research group IBON said Wednesday.

In a statement, IBON said Malacañang and the National Irrigation Administration's calling out local officials involved in logging and mining is “hypocritical” so long as the government “does not reverse policies that degrade the environment.”

IBON said the government’s priorities such as the Build, Build, Build and the National Land Use plan continue to “encroach into the public domain and degrade land.”

The group added that the government also continues to promote large-scale mining, corporate and chemical plantations and land use conversion, as well as reclamation for real estate and infrastructure.

“The government prioritizes the building of large dams, megaports, ecotourism complexes and export enclaves,” IBON said.

“Government policies and programs enrich a few at the expense of the nation, the people and environment,” it added.

Further, the group said the businesses of tycoons Sy, Villar, Gokongwei, Razon, Ayala, Tan, Caktiong, Ang and Ty are the biggest gainers from government priorities.

“The corporations of these richest Filipinos, according to the latest Forbes’ list, dominate the real estate, construction, ports development, power, energy, water, oil, mining, and agriculture sectors,” IBON said.

With this, the group said the government should “own up to upholding environmentally destructive policies that drive corporate profits instead of pointing fingers at others.”

“The Philippine government’s bias for profit-seeking interests even at the expense of the environment are the root cause of the logging, quarrying and land conversion in Rizal and Cagayan provinces that have caused such devastating floods,” it said.

“Deforestation, flooding and the sufferings of communities will continue unless these are stopped and corrective measures are taken,” IBON added.

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



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

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

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

But Albay Governor Al Francis Bichara appealed against the suspension of quarrying operations in the province, saying they would run out of aggregates for reconstruction and rehabilitation if it happens.

He also urged the national government to first investigate the matter before suspending quarrying operations in the province. — **Ma. Angelica Garcia/BM, GMA News**



Illegal activities in watersheds may have caused flooding in Marikina, not dams — senators

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 25 2020 06:38 PM | Updated as of Nov 25 2020 07:47 PM



An aerial photo of the balding portion of the Marikina Watershed in 2017, captured by then Environment secretary Gina Lopez. *Gina Lopez*

MANILA — The continuous land-grabbing, exploitation, and illegal logging in watersheds could have been the reasons behind the massive flooding in Marikina during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses, not the water from dams, senators said Wednesday.

At a Senate hearing in the wake of the Ulysses-spawned flooding, Sen. Cynthia Villar said the overflow of Angat dam alone could not have caused flooding in Marikina, pointing out that there are few to none river tributaries connecting the dam to the city.

“Maybe the cause of Marikina (flooding) is not Angat. It is the Marikina Watershed... Maybe we should look into that and maybe may problema ang mga protected area na yan kaya bumaha nang husto sa mga area na yan,” Villar said.

(Maybe there are problems in those protected areas that is why record-flooding hit those areas.)

Marikina River's water level rose to 21.8 meters at the height of Ulysses' onslaught in the capital region, higher than its level during Typhoon Ondoy in 2009 at 21.5 meters.

Marikina Mayor Marcelino Teodoro said floodwaters submerged some 30,000 houses, prompting them to evacuate at least 10,500 families to safety.

Sen. Risa Hontiveros blamed the flooding on illegal activities such as logging and land-grabbing in the Marikina Watershed and Sierra Madre protected landscapes that, according to her, continue to be unabated.

Hontiveros cited the concern of conservationists from the Masungi Georeserve, who previously raised the alarm on the effects of illegal activities in the area.

“Idagdag po natin ang exploitation of resources... Yong illegal [activities]... ay posibleng nagiging dahilan din ng flooding. Ayon sa kanila, ang (according to them) logging massively diminished the capacity of the mountain range to buffer NCR and Rizal from the ravages of the strong typhoon,” she said

(We should add exploitation of resources... illegal activities as possible reasons for the flooding.)

A representative from the Rizal Provincial Planning and Development Office echoed the senators, and said that a huge volume of the floodwaters that inundated Marikina were from the Marikina watershed and mountain ranges in Sierra Madre and the province of Quezon.

“Ang pinanggalingan po ng tubig, talagang napakalaking volume ay doon po sa watershed natin sa Upper Marikina Protected Landscape. From Boso-Boso, sa may parteng Quezon, from Sierra Madre, doon bumaba ang malaking tubig at nadagdagan ng nadaanan na tributaries. Kaya sobrang mataas ang tubig na bumaba sa Marikina,” Mario Cayetano said, citing the results of their inspection after the flooding.



(Huge volume of floodwaters came from the watersheds... and it went to the tributaries that is why the Marikina was flooded.)

Billie Dumaliang, a trustee and advocacy officer at Masungi Georeserve, earlier told ABS-CBN News that it would be hard to reverse the damage made to the watershed due to illegal activities.

Dumaliang described the Upper Marikina Water Basin to be in its last stages of “forest death” but illegal activities haven’t stopped in the area despite its protected status.

Under Proclamation 296 issued in 2001, the Marikina Watershed Reservation in Rizal is declared a protected area and was renamed Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape.

It was granted protection under Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, which means the area is “protected against destructive human exploitation.”

"Importante din pong mainitindihan ang mas malalim pang dahilan ng flooding, kasama na dito yung deeply-rooted causes, kasama po yung ecological destruction, kapabayaan, katiwalaian at inequality," Hontiveros said.

(We should also understand the root cause of this flooding. This includes neglect and corruption.)

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/25/20/illegal-activities-in-watersheds-may-have-caused-flooding-in-marikina-not-dams-senators?fbclid=IwAR0_cFE07AeRZvy3n1HyCVWQmRsCuhWeHSP_15ycqonCjs6-nBJKzT1Yso



Senators push for accelerated reforestation of denuded mountains to prevent future floodings

Published November 25, 2020, 12:31 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

Senators pressed on Wednesday for an accelerated reforestation of the country's denuded mountains and sparse forests as the country's populated areas are subjected to annual flooding that destroys property, claims lives, and affects the livelihood of Filipinos.



Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Senate of the Philippines / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri stressed the adoption of a holistic approach to the flooding problem that includes the relocation of informal settlers, the cooperation of local government units (LGUs), and engineering projects such as dredging, construction of river walls, and adoption of an agro-forestry program.

The cooperation of local government units (LGUs) is a requirement, he added.

Six dams, including four multi-purpose dams, are planned for the wide Cagayan river, the longest river in Luzon.

Zubiri also said that the cooperation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) is needed.

In the agro-forestry program, Zubiri said the preferences are cacao, coffee, durian, and mango trees that will serve as sponge for rainwaters. These, however, are not the choices of tree cutters or illegal loggers.

Senator Emmanuel D. Pacquiao, chairman of the Senate Public Works Committee that is conducting the public hearing, said programs such as the 8.8-kilometer Paranaque spillway project should have been implemented for Metro Manila as early 2016.

Opposition Senator Francis "Kiko" N. Pangilinan noted that the Pacquiao committee started its public hearing past 10 a.m. today although its scheduled start was at 9 a.m. This did not sit well with those invited to the public hearing, Pangilinan said.

Pacquiao explained that the one-hour gap was for the COVID-19 swabbing of the guests of the committee.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) presented a long-term engineering plan for the Cagayan and Marikina river basins.



Senator Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr., vice chairman of the committee, said there is an immediate need to rehabilitate the country’s bald forests and proper infrastructures to manage floodwaters.

He cited the Netherlands that built big gates and sophisticated delta works to stop storm surges. A quarter of the Netherlands is below sea level, he pointed out.

Revilla also cited Japan for its underground flood tanks that could fill up the Statue of Liberty in the United States.

Senators bat for more flood control projects

By Javier Joe Ismael

November 26, 2020

SENATORS on Wednesday called for flood control projects and the rehabilitation of denuded mountains and forests to prevent floodings.

The hybrid hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on Public Works, headed by Sen. Emmanuel Pacquiao tackled various resolutions calling for an inquiry into the massive flooding caused by water releases from dams triggered by the successive typhoons that hit Luzon.



Sen. Emmanuel Pacquiao

The committee also discussed several measures seeking to establish rain water harvesting systems in the country.

Pacquiao said programs such as the 8.8-kilometer Paranaque spillway project should have been implemented as early as 2016.

Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr., vice chairman of the committee, said there was an immediate need to rehabilitate bald forests and create infrastructure to manage floodwaters.]

“I believe there is an urgent need for proper infrastructure and intervention in managing flood waters,” he added.

He cited The Netherlands that built big gates and sophisticated delta to stop storm surges. A quarter of The Netherlands is below sea level, he pointed out.

Revilla also cited Japan for its underground flood tanks.

Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri, meanwhile, sought the adoption of a holistic approach to the flooding problem to include the relocation of informal settlers, cooperation of local government units (LGUs) and engineering projects such as dredging, construction of river walls, and adoption of an agro-forestry program.

The cooperation of LGUs is a requirement, he added.

Six dams, including four multipurpose dams, are being planned for the Cagayan River, the longest river in Luzon.

The Department of Public Works and Highways led by Undersecretary Emil Sadain presented a long-term engineering plan for the Cagayan and Marikina river basins.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/11/26/news/national/senators-bat-for-more-flood-control-projects/801453/>



At least three mayors in Cagayan province involved in illegal logging – Gov. Mamba

November 25, 2020 3:25 PM by [Kristan Carag](#)



Buildings are flooded in the aftermath of Typhoon Vamco, in the Cagayan Valley region in the Philippines, November 14, 2020. Philippine Coast Guard/Handout via REUTERS

Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba said that at least three mayors are involved in illegal logging activities in the province.

“Pinapabayaan naman nila na may illegal logging in their area, which is very impossible naman na sabihin mong wala silang kinalaman,” Mamba said on Wednesday, November 25, during DZRH’s *Magandang Umaga Pilipinas*.

Mamba said that the local chief executives do not own any logging firms but they bail and provide protection to people conducting illegal logging activities in Cagayan.

The governor suspects that police and the personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are also involved in illegal logging activities.

“Nakikita mo rin, kapag nag-file ka ng kaso, ang nagbabail din sa kanila ay itong mga itong protectors din nila,” Mamba said.

“Takot sila nai-stop dahil yung mga tao, mga supporter nila ay medyo umaayaw. Iyon ang pinagkakakitaan. At the same time, kapag may bumababa, I’m sure meron din silang parte,” he explained.

Department of Interior and Local Government Sec. Eduardo Año has ordered local government units and the Philippine National Police to start a crackdown on illegal logging activities.

President Rodrigo Duterte has also directed DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu to investigate reports of illegal logging in Cagayan after the province suffered from massive flooding due to the heavy rains brought by Typhoon Ulysses.

Source: <https://dzhnews.com.ph/at-least-three-mayors-in-cagayan-province-involved-in-illegal-logging-gov-mamba/>



Senate eyes own flooding probe

posted November 26, 2020 at 12:50 am

by [Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

To mitigate if not totally avoid the effects of natural disasters, Senator Cynthia A. Villar on Wednesday sought a Senate investigation on the causes of extreme flooding following the recent typhoons that ravaged Metro Manila and most of Luzon.

In filing Senate Resolution No. 581, Villar, chairperson of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, wants to inquire into the alleged denuded state of our forests and watersheds.

She also asked the appropriate Senate committee to probe the apparent heavy siltation on rivers and tributaries, which largely contributed to the massive flooding in Luzon during the onslaught of the recent typhoons, particularly Ulysses.

The investigation, Villar said, intends to boost the protection and conservation of the country's forest cover and waterways that would help thwart the results of disastrous calamities.

"Whereas, science has taught us that the forests and watersheds should be kept healthy and protected and that deforestation should be avoided so that abundant forest trees could help forest soil absorb and retain rainwater thereby naturally regulating the release of rainwater from hills and mountains and serving as natural protection to the adverse impacts of natural disasters such as heavy rainfalls during typhoons and extreme flooding," read Villar's resolution.

It also pointed out that deforestation, which is caused by illegal logging, quarrying, unregulated and open-pit mining and slash-and-burn agriculture, among others, continues to threaten the forest cover of the country. Villar said this resulted in reduced protection from the effects of natural disasters.

Meanwhile, Sen. Imee Marcos yesterday called for better water management and administration in the country which, she noted, is fragmented at the moment.

Marcos, author of Senate Resolution No. 573 directing the Senate Committee on Public Works to conduct an inquiry into the alleged man-made disaster following the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses, believed that the recent flooding is an infrastructure issue.

She said dams such as the one that would have expanded an additional 100,000 hectares of irrigated land in Cagayan, the Paranaque Spillway and the Marikina Floodway were never completed.

"We have no one to blame but ourselves because we did not follow the plan," said Marcos during yesterday's hearing of the Senate public works and highway chaired by Sen. Manny Pacquiao.

In the same hearing, Sen. Grace Poe pushed for the approval of Senate Bill No. 579 or the bill providing for the management, control, regulation, and utilization of rainwater runoff

Poe said water service interruptions in Metro Manila and other cities during the dry season and the worsening flood incidents in the rainy season are proof that there is a failure in managing this key resource.

Sen. Miguel Zubiri wanted a holistic approach to address the flooding that hit the country recently.

Zubiri said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the DPWH, the Department of Science and Technology (through the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration) and other agencies should be on board in finding solutions to the problem.

Villar asserted that the destruction of lives and properties caused by floods during the recent typhoons underscores the necessity to protect and conserve the country's forests and watersheds.

She also cited the need to maintain our rivers and its tributaries in good condition and ensure that they are free from siltation, which measures appear to be the most effective ways of preventing destructive flooding.

Due to the geographical location of the Philippines along the typhoon belt in the Pacific Ocean, the senator noted that an average of 20 typhoons hit the Philippines annually.



“Whereas, just in the first half of November, four typhoons, namely, Typhoons Rolly, Siony, Tonyo and Ulysses, consecutively entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility, with typhoons Rolly and Ulysses severely hitting the country and causing a lot of damages in several areas in the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, the Bicol Region, and even the National Capital Region,” Villar added.



DPWH plans to build 6 dams along Cagayan River

Published November 25, 2020, 7:17 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) plans to build six dams along the Cagayan river to minimize the dangers whenever there are strong weather disturbances that will hit the Cagayan Valley.



This was revealed today by Engineer Jerry Fano, of the Unified Project Management Office, Flood Control Management cluster, DPWH, during a public hearing by Senator Emmanuel Pacquiao, chairman of the Senate public works committee, on the widespread flooding and damage in Luzon.

Fano said this is part of a long-term plan of the DPWH against flooding.

This includes the construction of six dams along the Cagayan river that has a length of 520 kilometers and covers five provinces in Luzon.

Two of the dams would be for the control of flooding while the four would be "multi-purpose" for irrigation and hydro-electric power.

At present, it is only the Magat dam that controls the Cagayan river to overflow its banks. DPWH Undersecretary Emil Sadain said flood control projects are ready and are waiting for the approval of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA).

He said the project could be completed in three to five years.

During the hearing, Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba hopes that the glory of Cagayan river would return as there hopes that a port would be built.

Mamba said there are many investors interested in investing in Cagayan.

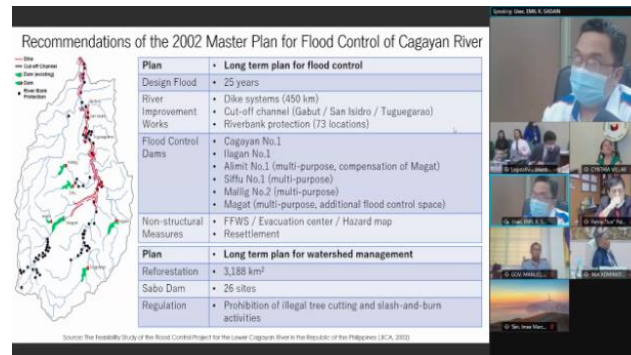
During the hearing, Mamba said there are no Muslims in his province and that they do not have peace and order problems.



DPWH wants at least 5 more dams in Cagayan River

By: [Christia Marie Ramos](#) - Reporter / [@CMRamosINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 01:34 PM November 25, 2020



MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is proposing the construction of at least five more dams in the “mighty” Cagayan River to control flood water, especially during major typhoons.

Engr. Jerry Fano from the Unified Project Management Office Flood Control Management Cluster (UPMO-FCMC) of the DPWH, presented this proposal before a Senate hearing into the massive flooding in Luzon.

“Kailangan natin ng lima pa or anim to complement a good control of flood water that’s why we propose dams to be constructed as our long-term plan for flood control,” Fano said.

(We need about five or six more dams to complement a good control of flood water that’s why we propose dams to be constructed as our long-term plan for flood control.)

The proposal, according to him, is part of the DPWH’s long-term flood control plan. Fano told senators that the Cagayan River has 20 tributaries, six of which are “major ones.” However, he said that only one dam exists among the six.

“Isa lang po ang meron tayong controlling dam, which is the Magat Dam, that serves or at least controls the voluminous amount of flood water that goes into Cagayan River,” the DPWH official said. (We only have one controlling dam, which is the Magat Dam, that serves or at least control the voluminous amount of flood water that goes into the Cagayan River.)

Of the six dams—one of which is already existing—two (Cagayan and Ilagan) would serve as flood control dam while the rest (Magat, Siffu, Mallig, Amilit) will be a multi-purpose dam “to serve as a hydro-electric irrigation and power supply dam.”

The Senate public works committee conducted the hearing following the massive flooding that submerged several provinces in Luzon.

Following the [flooding](#), some local government officials pointed their fingers at the decision of the National Irrigation Authority to discharge water from the Magat Dam, which they believe heavily contributed to the flooding in their areas.

But during an earlier hearing conducted by the House of Representatives on the same issue, NIA Administrator Ricardo Visaya said he does not believe NIA was a “major cause” of the flooding in the two provinces.

EDV

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1364714/dpwh-wants-at-least-5-more-dams-in-cagayan-river>



DPWH plans to build 6 dams along Cagayan River for flood control

Published November 25, 2020 4:11pm

By DONA MAGSINO, GMA News

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) plans to construct six new dams that would control the volume of water flowing in Cagayan River and prevent destructive flooding in areas surrounding it.

During a Senate hearing Wednesday on the recent flooding that devastated several parts of Luzon, DPWH Engineer Jerry Fano emphasized that the "mighty" Cagayan River runs a total of 520 kilometers and traverses up to five provinces in Luzon.

He said six major tributaries flow to the Cagayan River basin and more infrastructure is needed to control the amount of water entering it.

"Pag may isang major storm event like Ulysses, sabay-sabay po itong nagdi-discharge and nagko-contribute to the Cagayan River. Unfortunately, isa lang po ang meron tayong controlling dam—the Magat dam that serves or at least control the voluminous amount of water that goes into the Cagayan River," Fano said.

"Kailangan natin ng lima pa o anim to complement it. That's why we propose dams to be constructed as part of our long-term plan," he added.

Two of these proposed dams would be specifically designed for flood control while four would be multi-purpose dams that would also serve for irrigation and power supply.

Aside from constructing more dams, a diking system and bank protection are also part of the DPWH's flood control plan.

At least [24 were reported dead](#) after Typhoon Ulysses caused massive flooding in the Cagayan Valley region earlier this month.

National Irrigation Administration chief Ricardo Visaya reiterated that the opening of Magat Dam's floodgates is [not a major cause of the floods](#) in Cagayan and Isabela.



More open spaces needed

Architect Felino Palafox, also present during the hearing, emphasized that the approach for flood control should be holistic and should employ both "gray and green infrastructures."

He said there should be more open spaces, especially in urban areas like Metro Manila.

"Kasi ang cities natin kulang ng open spaces. Ang open spaces and parks, natural recharging 'yan... Tapos dapat tingnan din ang building code," Palafox said.

He cited for example the buildings in Singapore which are equipped with water-harvesting facilities.

"Pag may high-rise building ka malaki ang open space mo, eh dito minsan ang taas na ng building wala pang open space kaya hindi makapag-penetrates ang rain water to the ground," the architect said. "Kulang na kulang po ang open space po natin."

He underscored that these open spaces would also serve as evacuation areas when other hazards such as earthquakes occur.

Integrated water management

Senator Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, meanwhile, sought a better mechanism for the coordination between different government agencies concerned with water resource management.

"You manage the floods, you manage the irrigation, you manage the water supply. If they're not talking to one another and there is no comprehensive approach, eh di kaniya-kaniya tayo at kaniya-kaniyang gastos," he said.

The senator proposed the creation of an integrated water resource planning and management council to be headed by Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles.

The DPWH, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and the National Irrigation Authority should be members of this council, he said.—**AOL, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/765596/dpwh-plans-to-build-6-dams-along-cagayan-river-for-flood-control/story/>



DPWH proposes Marikina Dam, Parañaque Spillway to control flooding

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Nov 25, 2020 2:20:01 PM



The Department of Public Works and Highways bared their plan to build a multi-purpose dam in the upstream of the Marikina-Montalban River Basin to control flood water which would come from typhoons that could be as strong as Ulysses and Ondoy. Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 25) — In a bid to protect low-lying communities from massive flooding, the Department of Public Works and Highways pitched infrastructure projects that would contain and channel flood water in Metro Manila.

Facing a joint Senate panel hearing Wednesday, Public Works Undersecretary Emil Sadain presented the DPWH's plans to improve flood control structures along the Pasig-Marikina River Channel and in Parañaque.

The agency bared their plan to build a multi-purpose dam in the upstream of the Marikina-Montalban River Basin to control flood water which would come from typhoons that could be as strong as Ulysses and Ondoy.

Sadain added plans on the proposed dam, which were already forwarded to the National Economic Development Authority for its insights, include allocation for water supply "which can be utilized during dry season."

He explained the Manggahan Control Gate Structure is already under construction, designed to only allow up to 500 cubic meters of flood water to go into Pasig River.

"We have to increase the capacity of Pasig-Marikina River by putting up flood walls," Sadain said, noting that water passing through this system will eventually go to Laguna de Bay.

Water discharge starts at 3,200 cubic meters per second from the headwaters of Marikina without infrastructural interventions, Sadain explained. However, there are 21 other river systems that contribute to the discharge of Laguna de Bay, contributing to potential flooding.

The DPWH also expressed the need to revive the Parañaque Spillway Project to regulate the elevation of floodwater, with shafts designed to "pump out water from the Laguna Lake going to Manila Bay." The project was initially part of the Metro Manila flood control master plan but failed to materialize under the Arroyo administration.

"All in all, these systems can work harmoniously and mitigate flooding in Metro Manila to cut discharge during a storm," Sadain said.

Sadain added these major flood control projects in Metro Manila may cost around ₱138 billion in total. It would take at least three years to finish the Parañaque Spillway project with an estimated cost of ₱67 billion, while the Marikina Dam can be constructed within five years within an estimated cost of ₱38 billion. Meanwhile, putting up flood walls along Pasig River may cost around ₱33 billion.



Also present in the hearing, Architect and urban planner Felino "Jun" Palafox said around 4,600 cms of water flowed through denuded mountains and flooded urban land and low-lying areas of Metro Manila when Typhoon Ondoy hit the country in 2009.

"Climate change is also a double whammy. Because of land subsidence, bumababa iyong urban land dahil sa groundwater, overpumping of deep wells. Tumataas ang sea level," he said. "At the same time, dumami ang subdivisions, development in the highlands, midlands."

[Translation: Because of land subsidence, urban land sinks due to groundwater and overpumping of deep wells. Sea level also starts to rise. At the same time, more subdivisions are being built, along with the development in the highlands, midlands.]

"[We must] address the hazards before they become disasters because they are 90% cheaper than post-disaster rehabilitation," Palafox added.

On Tuesday, a joint House panel held a separate probe into the impacts of Typhoon Ulysses and looked into the protocols regarding [dam water discharges](#), [disaster response and coordination efforts](#) of government agencies during calamities.

Disaster response officials last reported that [Typhoon Ulysses killed 73 and injured 82, while 19 people remain missing](#) due to heavy flooding in various provinces. The total number of affected residents reached 4 million.



Defending the forest

By [Val A. Villanueva](#)

November 25, 2020



IT looks like the Duterte administration—probably alarmed at how ill-prepared its different agencies were in responding to the three cyclones that recently devastated the country—has taken a proactive tack in dealing with natural calamities.

I'm willing to give this government the benefit of the doubt, despite my misgivings about the lack of foresight—in full display—with the way our past and present leaders have been acting during times of catastrophes, and their usual ningas cogon mentality.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año on Monday talked about protecting the forest, as his agency launched a nationwide crackdown on illegal logging and illegal quarrying: “We must act quickly and in a whole-of-society fashion to protect our remaining forests across the country [because we would otherwise be] creating and causing more disasters.”

Ulysses, the latest typhoon that visited the country, has unmasked the government's weakness in responding to natural crises, regardless of the way many politicians strut with grand show and braggadocio around the halls of Congress, while supposedly tackling a host of national problems.

Biodiversity and environment experts have for years advocated for forest renewal and conservation, believing that our existing forests are central to the country surviving natural and man-made calamities.

In the wake of Ulysses' onslaught, Año ordered all local government units and the Philippine National Police, not only to plant trees to restore the country's forest cover but also to halt all illegal logging and illegal quarrying activities in their areas by coordinating with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to reactivate their anti-illegal logging task forces, which would set up checkpoints and arrest illegal loggers for violating the Forestry Code of the Philippines and Republic Act 9175, or the Chainsaw Act of 2002.

On social media, countless netizens have propounded that, had quarrying operations been well-regulated in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal, the floods there would not have been as intense as they were. Seeing the shocking aerial photographs of the gaping holes and barren areas left by the quarrying companies is certainly a very visceral—not just visual—argument to seal the point. A number of community groups have been protesting these quarry sites for years. Sadly, it took yet another calamity to revisit their cries for help.

To kick-start his drive, Año should look closely into the activities of Majestic Earth Core Ventures Inc., the largest operator of quarry sites in Rizal. According to BusinessWise readers residing in the area, former DENR Secretary Mike Defensor is the company's chair, president, and chief executive officer (as confirmed by the company's updated web site). He is also the chief executive officer of Pax Libera Mining, Inc. BusinessWise tried but failed to get Defensor's side.



If Defensor is really behind Majestic Earth Core, I hope he consulted with environmental experts before undertaking the company's quarrying projects and is taking all the necessary steps to ensure that the land will be able to revert to the lush forest it had once been. While there is no doubt his company brings considerable socioeconomic value and raw materials to industries, Defensor should staunchly defend both human life and the environment by making sure that his quarrying operations in Rizal do not place thousands of families at risk during heavy rains.

Meanwhile, current Marikina Mayor Marcelino Teodoro has threatened to file an administrative complaint against BF Corp., owned by former City Mayor Bayani Fernando, for undertaking a reclamation project that involved the installation of an artificial embankment which is suspected of contributing to the massive flooding in Marikina. The DENR on Monday confirmed that the project has no environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

Also on Monday, at least 15 quarry operators extracting aggregates around Mayon Volcano, which were discovered to have abused their permits, had been recommended to face sanctions, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau. Guillermo Molina Jr., MGB director for Bicol, was quoted in the news as saying that investigators from the Task Force Quarry sent by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu "reviewed the documents of 106 operators but found only 15 that had not complied with the provisions of permits issued by the Albay provincial government."

The whole country is anticipating the next moves of the men President Duterte had assigned to hold accountable those who had destroyed and continue to destroy the country's bio-system. Will they conduct their duties without fear or favor?

The Philippines used to be covered in lowland rainforests, mangrove swamps, and verdant forests. Today, our forest cover stands at around 18 percent of our total wooded areas, with a small portion of this being old-growth or virgin forests. Only 5 percent of Philippine forests remain intact, according to environmental watchdog Conservation International. Some of our virgin rainforests are in the Sierra Madre, the very region that is supposed to shield Luzon from typhoons.

We are now one of the most heavily deforested countries in the world. The World Wildlife Fund has designated the Philippines as a crisis deforestation site because the ecosystems in our forests are small, unique, and rapidly vanishing. There seems to be no signs of the slowdown of Philippine deforestation, further aggravating flooding and landslides in many parts of the country. Although logging had been banned since 2011, large companies in cahoots with those in power continue to denude our forests. We have lost more than half a million hectares of forest to illegal loggers since 2001, and this is keenly felt by people who have to bear the brunt of Mother Nature's power when she strikes.

In the meantime, I can only hope that all Filipinos will give importance to an otherwise abstract idea like "environmental preservation." Let's be vigilant in calling out the government to act with dispatch against all business endeavors that sully our forests, trees, and mountains. I'm withholding my judgment on the success of this mission. To see is to believe.

For comments and suggestions, e-mail me at mvala.v@gmail.com

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/11/25/defending-the-forest/>



Tree-planting and the congressmen

By ... -November 26, 2020

IT seems like a long time ago when someone important in the House of Representatives vowed that soon, the nation will see 100 million new trees in its dwindling forests. That was former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. whose pronouncements are almost always in the superlative. Sadly, even the massive tree-planting program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) came short of these estimates.

Now, the House of Representatives is again the venue for pushing the same idea. The lawmakers this time around wanted to show concern on climate change and global warming issues, and the shortest cut to this objective is nothing but planting trees.

Scientific data tell us that trees are most important to stave off global warming, mainly because they absorb and store carbon dioxide because this greenhouse gas reaches the upper atmosphere and destroys it. We have plenty of carbon dioxide in all urban areas of the world, mainly from vehicle emissions, power plants and factories.

In the lower chamber, House Bill 7763 mandating the planting of trees as a requisite for the issuance of building permits has been passed on third and final reading, 238-0. It is the third bill on the subject. This goes to show that at least on the issue of the planet's survival, our representatives are on the same page.

'If it becomes a law, the problem really is in the implementation.'

Earlier, House Bill 6930 was approved on final reading. It mandates parents to plant two trees for every child born to them. Another measure, HB 6931, also approved on final reading, makes planting of two tree saplings as additional requirement for students graduating in the elementary, high school and college levels. Meanwhile, the Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board is eyeing to impose a tree-planting requirement for franchise applicants for public utility vehicles.

The consolidated bill was authored by Reps. Joseph Stephen Paduano (Abang Lingkod party-list), Precious Hipolito-Castelo (PDP-Laban, Quezon City), and Michael Edgardo Aglipay (DIWA party-list). The measure directs all applicants for building permits to submit a tree-planting plan, in addition to other requirements imposed by the local government unit. The plan requires designating an area for planting trees within the property. (In Manila, with limited land area, this looks like next to impossible.)

Real estate developers are required to plant a tree for every 500 square meters of commercial and industrial space. For residential buildings, one tree for every 250 square meters is required.

There is no doubt that these new requirements on tree-planting have the best of intentions, as evidenced by the 100 percent support it received from the congressmen and congresswomen. If it becomes a law, the problem really is in the implementation.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_opinion/tree-planting-and-the-congressmen/



The bamboo is Filipino, the Filipino is bamboo

November 25, 2020 | 5:40 pm

Static

By Marvin Tort

Seven years ago, Typhoon Yolanda wreaked havoc particularly in Eastern Visayas. Typhoon Rolly just recently did the same to Eastern Luzon. Soon after Yolanda hit in November 2013, I wrote about how I believed that wide-scale bamboo production could help typhoon-damaged Samar and Leyte get back on their feet. I suggest the same now for the Bicol and Cagayan regions.

Bamboo should be considered particularly for denuded watershed areas, and not only for its ability to mitigate flooding and soil erosion. Bamboo has also been categorized as a high-value crop given its many uses that include subsistence and commercial food, and material for building and furniture. Without doubt, bamboo has plenty of economic and ecological benefits.

One newspaper reported recently about an initiative to plant the Philippine Giant Bamboo species along the banks of the Marikina River and its tributaries in the Marikina Watershed. About 600 hectares in the Marikina Watershed is being eyed for reforestation with bamboo. I am sure scientists and experts will soon chime in whether or not this will be a worthwhile undertaking.



JONAS-JACOBSSON-WXQ5LW7-3JO-UNSPLASH

Bamboo seems more resilient than hardwood trees to withstand strong winds and rain. And in areas prone to flooding, bamboo can help against soil erosion as well as provide natural barriers to landslides. Bamboo is also easy to grow, even in the wild; does not require heavy irrigation; and can be harvested in three to five years. It is a good alternative to coconut trees.

Dr. Keith Laidler, director of the Panda Trust, noted in an article in The Guardian that “after the Hiroshima bomb in 1945, bamboo survived the atomic blast closer to ground zero better than any other flora or fauna.” He also noted that bamboo could be used to “repair soil” damaged by overgrazing and poor agricultural techniques, while its complex network of roots is ideal for preventing soil erosion and flooding.”

And, unlike many tree species, “harvesting does not kill the bamboo, so topsoil erosion and other adverse effects of tree-felling are kept to a minimum,” he added. “Perhaps even more important, given the carbon dioxide emissions thought to be responsible for global warming and the threat to biodiversity, bamboo produces more than 35% more oxygen than trees. Research in Japan and elsewhere has demonstrated that bamboo can absorb as much as 12 tons of carbon dioxide per hectare per year, giving the plant a potentially crucial role in stabilizing our planet’s atmosphere. More bamboo would undoubtedly help the environment.”



Need we state more benefits? Dr. Laidler likewise noted that for more than 4,000 years, people have used bamboo in lots of ways: paper, construction, food, weaponry, medicine, and even as aphrodisiacs. What he finds ironic, however, is that most bamboo consumption is confined to South East Asia and Central America, “where the most economically valuable species flourish.”

And this, to me, raises the potential of export, if we can identify big market niches in North America and Europe. It is in this that I see potential in bamboo propagation, particularly for the Philippines. Other than helping address environmental or ecological concerns, and creating localized economic opportunities, developing new uses for bamboo can drastically boost the crop’s market potential abroad. And, perhaps, export income for the Philippines.

Some data available online indicate that bamboo can absorb up to 12 tons of carbon dioxide from the air per hectare; can lower light intensity and thus serve as protection against ultraviolet rays; is beneficial to soil conservation and serves as an effective soil erosion control; and, is a resilient windbreaker. And last but not least, bamboo is a “highly renewable material” that requires no replanting once a “clump” is already established.

In the Philippines, bamboo has long been a good construction material that can be made available in as early as three years from planting, faster than many wood species comparable in strength. And with added engineering, bamboo can be turned into sturdy and long-lasting construction materials such as floor and wall panels. Bamboo is also a source of healthy food, and is very popular in landscaping.

I recall having read somewhere that the Philippines have about 20 species that are endemic or are native to the country. Frankly, I am not in favor of “imported” or “introduced” species. Natural resiliency comes from species being endemic. Communities that grow bamboo should also become primary bases for bamboo manufacturing. Adding value to raw bamboo can be labor intensive, and can help generate local jobs.

Government research has also noted that bamboo “requires little and simple care,” and “can grow in a wide range of soils and produces a high amount of biomass.” It is also “a reforestation species very useful against soil erosion.” And, as I noted seven years ago, there are organizations like The International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) in Beijing, China that promote innovative solutions to poverty and environmental sustainability using bamboo and rattan.

INBAR runs programs on Environmental Sustainability, Livelihood and Economic Development, Trade Development, and Global Bamboo Housing, among others. Its “Global Marketing Initiative” also helps in determining the marketability of new products to markets like North America and Europe as it links local producers with overseas designers.

In February, the Department of Trade and Industry said government agencies were aligning their various programs in the value chain of the bamboo industry. This, I believe, is a good start. I can only hope for better follow through, especially after how Typhoon Rolly brought flood waters down on Marikina and other parts of the country. The National Greening Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, for one, needs more support in planting bamboo in over 19,000 hectares nationwide.

I believe we should work to make bamboo one of our export champions. In this line, the government needs an industry roadmap and a unified program that will encourage and support bamboo production and social enterprises linked to bamboo propagation in all parts of the country. And while it may not be the best-suited crop for Eastern Luzon, given how things are now in Regions 2 and 5, I believe these areas have little to lose in considering a new crop “champion” that bends with the wind, and is unbreakable as the Filipino.



Crisis after crisis, natural disasters or otherwise, we have always survived. We were blessed with patience and mild temper, endurance and stamina, good humor and humility, and faith. And thus, we have always endured. We are resilient, just like bamboo. We bend with the strong wind, then we stand up again after it passes. The bamboo is Filipino and the Filipino is bamboo.

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Tulongan ng public-private sector para sa climate adaptation, itinutulak



November 25, 2020 @ 12:52 PM 19 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nananawagan ang mga environmental advocate na magtulongan at maglaan ng karagdagang pamumuhunan ang pribado at publikong sektor upang palakasin ang kahandaan ng Pilipinas sa mga kalamidad na dulot ng matitinding pagbabago sa klima.

Nangyari ang online na pulong ng grupo noong Martes sa Pilipinas Conference 2020 virtual forum ng Stratbase ADR Institute na may temang “Towards Green Economic Recovery: Designing Climate Resilient and Sustainable Communities.”

Sinabi ni Environment Usec. Annaliza Rebueta-Teh sa talakayan na napapanahon ang pagpondo ngayon para sa disaster preparedness kaysa hintayin pang tumama ang susunod na krisis.

“The choice is clear, either delay and pay or plan and prosper. We know that investing in natural disaster preparedness is worth it, both in human lives and economic returns,” ani Teh.

Itinutulak ng undersecretary ang pagbili ng mga kagamitan para mas maging maayos ang pagkolekta at pagsusuri ng datos ukol sa disaster risk na maaaring kaharapin ng bansa sa tuwing may paparating na bagyo.

Nagkakahalaga lamang nang \$800-M ang early warning systems subalit nakakatipid nang \$16-B kada taon ang mga bansang mayroon nito, sabi ni Teh.

Ayon kay Stratbase ADR Institute president Prof. Dindo Manhit, kailangan sa ngayon ang paggawa ng pamahalaan ng tinatawag niyang “Green Economic Recovery Program” at dapat na maging “anticipatory” imbes na “reactionary” ang mga disaster resilience policy natin.

“Only with a whole-of-society approach can this desired outcome be achieved, and swiftly integrate genuine sustainability into all aspects of peoples’ lives,” dagdag ni Manhit.



Binigyang-diin ng presidente ng Institute na makatutulong ang pagbabago sa mga patakaran sa pagbaba ng antas ng kahirapan dahil ang mahihirap ang una at palaging nasasapul tuwing may sakuna at kalamidad.

Samantala, inihayag naman ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno sa parehong forum na dapat na magtulungan ang mga pribadong korporasyon at ang gobyerno sa pangangalaga ng kapaligiran at sa paglikha ng mga programang mapapakinabangan sa loob ng mahabang panahon.

Sinabi ni Moreno na hindi gaanong binaha ang Maynila kumpara sa ibang lungsod sa Metro Manila sa pananalasa ng Bagyong Ulysses dahil sa ginagawa nilang araw-araw na paglilinis ng ilog at mga drainage.

Nangako ang alkade ng Maynila na patuloy na makikipagtulungan sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay kasabay ng paghimok sa mga pribadong kompanya na makiisa sa kampanya. **RNT**



Treasury releases P147B to six LGUs climate-related initiatives

By [Mayvelin U. Caraballo, TMT](#)

November 26, 2020

THE Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) has released P147 million to fund the climate adaptation initiatives of six local government units (LGUs) charged under the People's Survival Fund (PSF), according to the Department of Finance (DoF).

In a statement on Wednesday, the Finance department cited a report showing that the PSF had received 172 project proposals from 129 proponents in the country, amounting to P14.57 billion worth of climate adaptation initiatives since 2015.

The PSF received its stipulated P1-billion replenishable fund allocation under the General Appropriations Act regular fund only that year.

That amount “intends to provide support on top of the yearly appropriations to LGUs for climate change-related programs and projects,” the DoF explained.

Among the projects eligible for PSF funding are those on water resources management, land management, agriculture and fisheries, and health, along with other activities that serve as guarantee for the risk-insurance needs of farmers, agricultural workers and other stakeholders.

The PSF board, led by the DoF, has so far approved P310.34 million worth of projects under the 2016 national budget, benefiting six towns and one province: Del Carmen on Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte province; Lanuza in Surigao del Sur province; San Francisco on Camotes Island, Cebu province; Gerona, Tarlac province; Sarangani province; and Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte province.

“The BTr, which sits as alternate [chairman] of the PSF board, attributed this low disbursement rate to delays in project implementation owing to uncontrollable events, such as the Covid-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic, natural disasters affecting the project sites, and the [midterm] elections,” the Finance department said.

Meanwhile, National Treasurer Rosalia de Leon reported that of the LGUs, only Del Carmen was on time in terms of its project implementation schedule, with the Treasury bureau already disbursing P39.24 million of the P80.7 million in approved financing.

The BTr has so far disbursed P27.32 million of the P39.08 million for the Lanuza project; P5.41 million of the P33.89 million for San Francisco; P5.71 million of the P38.1 million for Gerona; and P69.78 million of the P93.6 million for Sarangani.

Nothing has been disbursed yet for Kitcharao's P24.99-million project because the LGU is yet to submit the required documents for the release of the funds.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/11/26/business/business-top/treasury-releases-p147b-to-six-lgus-climate-related-initiatives/801577/>



Declare climate emergency now, pursue zero-waste, toxics-free society

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:01 AM November 26, 2020

WE express our solidarity with the urgent plea made by climate-action and climate-justice advocates urging the government to declare, amid a raging health pandemic, a climate emergency in response to the massive destruction in the Philippines brought about by the climate crisis.

It can neither be denied nor ignored that we are in a climate crisis. Now more than ever, our vulnerable people — who bear the brunt of a warming planet—are experiencing first-hand the cruel consequences of climate change as manifested in our series of battles against more frequent and more destructive weather disturbances, which are claiming lives and causing massive damages to homes and communities, the food, agriculture, and fisheries sectors, and the ecosystems that provide vital goods and services for sustaining the people’s well-being.

To put climate action and justice at the heart of the government’s policy and program, we urge President Duterte to declare a state of climate emergency now. Such a declaration will compel the government and society to acknowledge that we live in, and are seriously threatened by, a climate crisis.

We strongly believe that the declaration of a state of climate emergency will pave the way for the urgent implementation of climate action strategies and plans to address the vulnerabilities of the most impacted sectors and communities, including the suspension of environmentally destructive and climate change-driving activities, and the allocation of funds for climate mitigation and adaptation to protect, repair, and rehabilitate destroyed ecosystems, to increase society’s adaptive capacity and resilience, and to reduce the crisis’ economic, environmental, health, and social costs. Our government must also use and prioritize in our COVID-19 recovery efforts policies and programs to address the longer-term climate emergency, and not simply put in place stopgap and short-term measures.

This declaration will also drive the country toward more ambitious mitigation measures that faithfully adhere to our Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, it will speed up our efforts to transition toward healthy, sustainable energy and away from fossil fuels, including false solutions such as waste-to-energy incineration that are designed to perpetuate the extraction from, exploitation, and destruction of our environment and natural resources.

To this end, we further urge the government to embrace zero waste and clean production as key strategies for protecting the climate and our people and for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. These strategies are proven to conserve energy and raw materials, stimulate product design for environmental sustainability and local economic development, promote substitution for hazardous chemicals, reduce waste and pollution from extraction, manufacturing, transportation, and disposal activities, create jobs and livelihoods, and support local self-reliance and a local circular economy.

Finally, we urge the government to ban single-use plastic, reduce plastic production, issue a list of nonenvironmentally acceptable products and packaging, stop waste importation, and halt deceptive schemes undermining zero waste, including the coprocessing of waste in cement kilns and waste-to-energy incineration.



Declare a climate emergency now, and pursue the path toward a zero waste and toxics- and fossil fuel-free society.

EILEEN B.SISON

President

EcoWaste Coalition

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Globe encourages rainforestation to combat adverse effects of natural hazards and climate change

02:36 PM November 25, 2020

The location of the Philippines in the Pacific has always made the country vulnerable to strong typhoons. An average of 20 typhoons pass through the Philippine Area of Responsibility annually, about 8-to-9 of which make landfall. However, over the past years, climate change has brought more violent storms to the country, causing severe damage to lives and properties.

The recent calamities brought by Typhoons Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses in vast areas of Luzon are a clear manifestation that climate change is a very serious matter and demands the utmost sense of urgency and response.

A study shared recently by Alcala, Cagayan town mayor Cristina Antonio, for instance, connects environmental deterioration to the severe flooding brought by Typhoon Ulysses. Among the factors that contributed to the abnormal flooding are the loss of forests along the mountains and watersheds in the whole of Cagayan Valley which naturally regulate water flow and prevent soil erosion.

While resilient infrastructure and disaster preparedness are important during severe weather conditions, nature-based solutions such as rainforestation and watershed conservation play a vital role in mitigating the adverse effects of these natural phenomena.



The Philippines continues to experience the rapid decrease of its primary rainforests from 70% forest cover in the 1990s to only less than 1.8% to date. This rate of environmental degradation contributes negatively to global climate change and local water and food shortages, affects the country's pristine natural habitats and endangers the lives of the local communities, especially those in vulnerable lowland areas that serve as catch basins.

"Globe believes in the importance of promoting environmental sustainability in order to protect these ecosystems to combat climate change. This is also why we encourage everyone to help in this undertaking in whatever way they can," said Yoly Crisanto, Globe Chief Sustainability Officer and SVP for Corporate Communications.

So far, Globe and its customers have raised PhP 14.8 million equivalent to 148 hectares of reforestation sites in several areas in Bukidnon and Lanao del Sur as part of Globe's partnership with Hineleban Foundation, Inc., a non-stock, non-profit organization based in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon. Aside from enhancing critical watersheds in order to achieve water and food security, these efforts also help increase biodiversity, establish forest habitats, sequester greenhouse gases and improve livelihoods of local communities.



“Rainforestation efforts in the Philippines are of importance as they aid in protecting and enhancing critical watersheds that provide water to downstream communities.

Rainforestation has major benefits that can be observed from ridge to reef, such as the mitigation of landslides and floods, the creation of microclimates, and the protection of wildlife habitats,” said James Tuason, Hineleban Foundation Head of Reforestation.

Primary rainforests play an important role in regulating oxygen and carbon cycles. Since the beginning of the partnership between Globe and Hineleban in 2016 until the end of 2019, a conservative estimate of 16,411.67 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) have been sequestered or captured by the trees planted. Hineleban estimates the total amount to reach at least 94,000 metric tons CO₂ by 2025. This is equivalent to the electricity use of 15,926 homes for one year, 20,323 passenger vehicles driven for one year, or around 12 billion smartphones charged.

Globe customers who want to be part of the rainforestation advocacy may donate their Globe Rewards points to Hineleban Foundation. Every 100 Rewards points donation is equivalent to one tree. To donate, just download the Globe Rewards app on your mobile device and click on the “DONATE” banner. Tap “HINELEBAN100” and press “REDEEM”. Download the app via <https://www.globe.com.ph/rewards.html#GRewardsApp>.

As a purpose-driven company, Globe remains committed to the 10 UN Global Compact principles and contributes to 10 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals such as UN SDG No. 13 which underscores the importance of climate action to save lives and livelihoods to address climate emergencies, and UNSDG No. 15 which promotes the protection, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. Globe joins over 9,600 companies demonstrating commitment to environmental transparency by disclosing through [CDP](#), a global non-profit organization that runs the world’s leading environmental disclosure platform.

To know more about Globe’s sustainability initiatives, visit <https://www.globe.com.ph/about-us/sustainability.html>



Japan in climate emergency, yet PHL still in business as usual

By Rene E. Ofreneo

November 25, 2020



Rene E. Ofreneo

LABOREM EXERCENS

IN response to the mounting risks posed by global warming, the lower but more powerful chamber of the Japanese Parliament voted last month to declare a climate emergency. The declaration followed the announcement by the new Prime Minister, Yoshihide Suga, that Japan shall be a “net zero emitter” of greenhouse gas (GHG) by 2050. This means Japan, a major importer of fossil fuel, shall undertake a bold and massive phasing out of coal and gas plants.

These “dirty” coal and gas plants are blamed worldwide as the leading emitters of GHGs, the gases that trap the sun’s heat and cause what the scientists call as “global warming.” In turn, global warming is the reason why the world has been experiencing extreme weather phenomena such as the El Niño/La Niña climate pendulum, from a season of prolonged drought to one of destructive typhoons. The life-threatening “risks” associated with GHG-triggered climate changes are now well documented: floods, forest fires, sea rise, disruptions of ecosystems and biodiversity, etc. These climate-change “risks” eventually affect homes, lives, livelihoods, air quality, water supply, health system, human security, economic growth and development of every country in the world.

Both developed and developing countries are affected by global warming, alternatively dubbed as climate change. Like Covid-19, global warming is a global problem that cannot be stopped, much less reversed, if there is no unified cooperation and support from all countries of the world. The biggest responsibility is reposed on the big GHG emitters, the rich developed countries (Europe, North America, Japan) and now, China. They have accumulated over 70 percent of the GHGs emitted since the start of the industrial era. In short, they owe the world a high “carbon debt.” This is the reason behind the demand of governments and civil society organizations from developing countries for “climate justice.” In the Philippines, over 100 people’s and civil society organizations have formed the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ).

But the battle to stop global warming requires serious commitment from all countries to stop or minimize any further heating of the world by curbing their respective national GHG emissions. In 2015, the global community of nations, after prolonged and exhausting negotiations, came to a “consensus” in Paris to keep global temperature rise to within 1.5 to 2.0 degrees Celsius of pre-industrial level. Scientists of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warn that a rise beyond 2.0 degrees will be catastrophic to human life in the world.

Unfortunately, not all leaders are believers in climate change. The outgoing American president, Donald Trump, withdrew from the Paris Agreement in 2017, arguing that the said Agreement is unfair to American businesses and workers. The United States happens to be the world’s leading GHG emitter and has the highest carbon debt.

Fortunately, more and more countries are seeing the logic behind the IPCC’s recommendation. Close to 200 countries have signed on to the Paris Agreement. Japan’s resolution on climate emergency had been adopted much earlier by Britain, Canada, France and the whole European Union as a bloc. There are also around 2,000 regional and city authorities around the world, including American cities opposed to Trump, which voted for the Paris Agreement.



In the case of the Philippines, President Duterte initially expressed opposition to the Paris Agreement in 2016. Then, he reversed himself by signing on to the Agreement the following year. In his recent speech in the Asean Summit early this month, President Duterte even sounded like a CSO activist when he asked for climate justice for the Philippines and other developing countries that have been experiencing climate change-related disasters.

The trouble, however, is that the government has not been fully transparent on the “Nationally Determined Commitments” it has submitted under the Paris Agreement. Together with the late Senator Heherson “Sonny” Alvarez, the PMCJ asked for a dialogue in 2019 with the Climate Change Commission regarding the details of the Philippine NDC and the status of their implementation. None of the CCC commissioners showed up in the dialogue. The CCC only sent some technical staff, who briefed Senator Alvarez and PMCJ on climate funding possibilities for the Philippines.

Nevertheless, the Climate Action Tracker of Berlin rated (as of December 2019) the Philippines’s NDC commitments—summarized as 70 percent reduction in the GHG emissions of the country’s industrial, energy and agricultural sectors by 2030—to be below the “business as usual [BAU] levels.” In the CAT’s rating system, this makes the Philippines’s NDC compatible with the Paris Agreement of keeping the rise in global temperature below 2.0 degrees.

The official policy pronouncement of President Duterte on renewables somehow supports the above rating. In July 2019, he declared to “fast-track the development of renewable energy sources and to reduce dependence on traditional energy sources such as coal.” Also in April 2019, he signed into law the Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C) Act, which seeks to improve energy use in the country, aiming to reduce overall demand by 24 percent below BAU by 2040.

And yet, CAT noted that the Philippine energy policy related to coal plants is at variance from the country’s GHG-reduction goals. CAT wrote:

“...Current policies are not yet on track to meet the NDC target with one of the key issues being the projected growth of coal. In 2015, the Philippines had around 12 GW of coal-fired power capacity under construction or in the pipeline. Since then it has built around 3.2 GW, with another 14.6 GW on the way, triggering concerns over the potential creation of stranded coal assets worth billions.”

In short, energy investments have been flowing in the wrong direction toward coal. CAT also observed that the Philippines has not given a clear definition of the country’s “BAU pathway,” which makes measurement of emission levels uncertain. CAT added: “Nor does it quantify future land use emissions, adding to the lack of transparency.” These are the reasons why CAT classified Philippines’s NDC as “2.0 degree compatible” instead of the ideal “1.5 degree compatible.”

The truth is that there are very little indications that the Philippines is seriously working to fulfill its commitments under its NDC to the Paris Agreement. As pointed out, the CCC failed to meet Senator Alvarez and PMCJ on this issue. There is hardly any public discussion on the NDC, Paris Agreement and the importance of declaring a climate emergency. No Senate hearing, no House hearing.

On the GHG issue, the coal- and gas-fired plants are still the dominant sources of energy for the country despite the plummeting prices of renewables worldwide. Yes, there is a recent announcement by the Department of Energy to stop issuing permits for the building of new coal plants. But there is no announcement on the phasing out of existing coal plants, as what some countries have done. No announcement halting financing for coal plants, as what Malaysia’s Central Bank governor did.

On climate change adaptation, the series of typhoons this year, culminating in the arrival of Rolly and Ulysses, has bared the sad reality: Philippine forests continue to shrink and prevent/reduce flooding in the low-lying areas. This despite the announcement by the previous Aquino administration that it was planting 1.5 billion trees under the National Greening Program. This despite the “enhanced NGP” involving over 7 million hectares, as outlined in the PDP 2017-2022.



In summary, it's business as usual. Concerned officials keep mouthing rhetorics against climate change and yet are unable to report anything substantial on the country's contribution to the global battle against this climate change pandemic and the country's readiness against the risks associated with global warming.



Itatayong gusali, bahay idisenyo sa climate change – solon

By Abante News Online — Last updated Nov 25, 2020

NEWS



12 0

Napapanahon nang iakma ang disenyo at tatag ng bawat gusali lalo na ang mga residential o mga bahay sa pabago-bagong panahon, ayon sa isang mambabatas.

Sa programang “Balitaan at Kumustahan” ni Jon Ibanez sa Politiko Live, sinabi ni Construction Workers Solidarity Partylist Rep. Romeo Momo na sa sunod-sunod na mga sakuna na tumatama sa bansa, napapanahon nang rebisahin ang mga alituntunin at mga rekititos sa pag-apruba sa mga itinatayong residential area at mga gusali.

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Ayon kay Cong. Momo kasabay ng climate change o pabago-bago ng panahon, mainam na gumawa ng bagong National Building Code na siyang magre-repeal o magbabasura sa Presidential Decree No. 1096 o ang kasalukuyang National Building Code of the Philippines.

Aniya, ang sunod-sunod na lindol ay nagpakita ng kahinaan ng ibang mga gusali at bahay.

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Bukod pa diyan ang mga baha na madaling natatangay o nasisira ang mga bahay.

Halos 70,000 nang bahay ang nasira dahil lamang sa bagyong Ulysses.

Bilyon-bilyon na rin ang halaga ng istruktura at gusali na nasira.

Itinutulak ni Rep. Momo sa Kamara ang Philippine Building Act (PBA) of 2020. Siya rin ang tumatayong TWG head at senior vice chairman ng House committee on public works and highways.



Sinabi ni Momo, na isa sa principal authors ng PBA of 2020, na dapat ay may bagong building code na maituturing na “responsive to the changing times.”

Nais nitong ma-regulate ang pagpapalano, disenyo, construction, occupancy, maintenance at mismong demolition ng mga gusali sa pampubliko at pribado para maitulak ang mga papalit na gusali o bahay na kaya ang mga lindol, sunog, baha, at ibang natural at man-made disasters. (Kiko Cueto)



Climate change, disasters and cooperatives

By Dr. Fermin D. Adriano

November 26, 2020

Every time a destructive typhoon wreaks havoc in the country, our policymakers and media practitioners are quick to issue a litany of observations, pointing out the destruction of our forest covers and watersheds, siltation of our rivers and other water bodies due to severe soil erosion, and illegal settlers' occupation of hazardous areas as the main culprits behind the enormous damage, both in terms of lives and properties that we suffer. That was the case in the aftermath of the flashflood and landslide that occurred in Ormoc, Leyte, killing thousands of victims in 1991, when Typhoon "Ondoy" hit Metro Manila in 2009, when "Pablo" struck Mindanao in 2012, "Yolanda" destroyed Western Visayas in 2013, and now "Ulysses" in 2020.

After a few months, this blame game will surely be forgotten and as a nation, we will move forward by reverting to our "business as usual" ways. At least this time, our level of analytical sophistication has risen a little bit because besides those cliché observations regarding the causes of flooding and landslides, we added the concern of "climate change" as another reason for our woes. We have at least become global in our perspective since climate change is now a fashionable concern in global development thinking.

It is obvious that we know what the problems are and the exorbitant costs they exact in terms of lives and properties lost. Where we always fall short is in the implementation of the measures that will solve the problems we observe and analyze. For instance, it was noted that if we add all the budget allocated for reforestation and greening projects undertaken by successive governments, we could have planted even the spaces between the open seas that separate the various islands in the country. If we account for all the money spent for farm-to-market roads, we could have paved all the roads in the country and connected them. If we sum up all the money devoted to irrigation, we could have irrigated all of the potentially irrigable lands in the Philippines. And if we put together the sums allocated for farm mechanization, we would have easily robotized farm production.

What happened then? The obvious answer is that we are not spending our budget properly.

There is really no honest-to-goodness master plan that will respond to our problems and serve as the basis on how budgets are spent and not what our legislators dictate to our executing agencies. There are no robust monitoring and evaluation systems installed that will truly track progress and whether the goals set in the master plan are really achieved. It is symptomatic of this malaise that when one listens to government reports of accomplishments, they consist mostly of figures on the amount of assistance given and presumed number of beneficiaries without informing the taxpayers whether those interventions really made a difference on the lives or welfare of the recipients.

In the private sector, the ultimate measure of success of a manager is the amount of profit that he or she can bring in to the company regardless of his/her personality or management style. In the public sector, it should be the ability to deliver services in the most efficient and effective manner. Generating savings is a secondary concern given that public funds unused is tantamount to depriving the public of the services it needs. It is the manner by which those funds are used that determines whether government spending is productive or wasteful, and not the amount of savings the agency makes.

Undeniably, the only way that one can determine whether those funds were utilized efficiently and effectively is through the installation and implementation of a robust monitoring and evaluation system. Unfortunately, most government operations, outside of counting numbers of facilities or goods provided, do not tell us whether those interventions really uplifted the welfare of their poor beneficiaries.

Banning coops from the rice importation business



The Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA), egged on by a number of farmers' cooperatives (co-ops) engaged in rice importation, objected to the issuance of the Department of Agriculture's Administrative Order (AO) 34 banning farmers' coops from importing rice. It argued the AO is discriminatory because not all of the co-ops engaged in the rice importation business do not have the financial capability to import and hence, are only used by unscrupulous traders as fronts. It stresses that it is the government's policy to promote the development of cooperatives and, in fact, gives preferential treatment to co-ops in supplying the food requirements of government agencies and institutions as a way of fostering the growth of cooperatives.

However, CDA fails to mention whether those food and agricultural supplies intended for the government agencies and consumers at-large should be imported by the co-ops. Although the law was silent on this, I believe its assumption is that these supplies must come from the local produce of co-ops, thereby providing their members greater incentive to produce more, and in the process, raising their productivity and incomes with the guaranteed market for their products. In turn, this hews closely to the primary goal of establishing and developing co-ops, which is to strengthen local production so that it can benefit local producers, particularly members of farmers' co-ops.

It is simply beyond comprehension how importing the commodities that the co-op members cultivate themselves will encourage them to produce more given that rice imports directly compete with the crops that they harvest. A clear manifestation of this contradiction is that co-ops are among the first and noisiest groups to object when palay (unmilled rice) prices fall due to the entry of rice imports. Thus, we have a situation here wherein CDA wants co-ops "to keep their cake and eat it too"!

Finally, CDA does not present any evidence that without co-ops importing and selling rice, rice traders will monopolize the activity and jack up prices. Current experience shows that despite co-ops able to import rice, the difference between import/wholesale prices and retail prices are high. Meaning that despite participation in retail trade by coops importing rice, this has not brought down rice retail prices.

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Nasa P25-M halaga ng taklobo nasabat sa Palawan

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 25 2020 04:51 PM



Nasa 25,000 kilo ng shells ng giant clam ang nakumpiska mula sa suspek sa Bataraza, Palawan. *Larawan mula sa Palawan Council for Sustainable Development.*

Tinatayang 25,000 kilo ng giant clam shells o taklobo na nagkakahalaga ng P25 milyon ang nasabat ng awtoridad mula sa isang lalaki sa bayan ng Bataraza sa Palawan.

Nahuli ng pinagsanib na pwersa ng Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) at Naval Forces West si Junie Ocampo, 53-anyos, na ilegal na nangongolekta ng shells nitong Martes.

Matagal na umanong tinitiktikan ng operatiba ang pinag-iipunan nitong mga by-product sa Sitio Dandulit sa Barangay Buliluyan sa bayan ng Bataraza.

“November 20 pa natin unang tsinek ang lugar nung nakatanggap tayo ng information. Kaya kahapon, sumugod na ang operatiba dahil positive na may mga kinolekta ngang giant clams shells sa mismong tahanan niya lang,” pahayag ni Forester Jovic Fabello, tagapagsalita ang PCSD.

Hawak na ngayon ng isang opisyal ng barangay ang mga nakumpiskang taklobo habang dumaan naman sa inquest proceedings ang pagsampa ng kasong paglabag sa Republic Act 9147 o Wildlife Act sa nahuling suspect.

Pero buwelta ni Ocampo na tila paborable lamang daw sa mga gaya nilang nasa mababang antas ng lipunan ang ganitong mga batas.

Kumapit lamang daw ang gaya niya sa malaking kita na inaalok ng buyer ng mga taklobo. Inakala niyang hindi bawal ang ganitong aktibidad.

“Hindi ko po alam na bawal yan kasi laging may pumupunta dito sa amin na bibilhin daw. Hinihintay lang daw ang pirma ni Presidente para mabayaran kami kaso wala rin naman,” sabi niya.

Dagdag pa ni Ocampo na umabot na sa isang taon ang kaniyang ginagawang pagsisid at pangongolekta ng taklobo, pero hindi pa naman daw siya nabibilhan ng mga nangakong buyer.

“Isang taon na ako sir na kapag nangingisda, sinasabay ko na ang pagsisid niyang mga taklobo. Iniipon namin kasi bibilhin daw ng bultuhan ng buyer 'to,” sabi niya.

Sa ilalim ng Wildlife Act, kapat napatunayan na ilegal ang pangongolekta at pagbebenta ng taklobo ay maari itong mapatawan ng 2 hanggang 4 na taong pagkakakulong, bukod pa sa P5,000 hanggang P300,000 na multa.

Sa tala ng International Union for Conservation of Nature o IUCN Red List, nabibilang na sa threatened species ang giant clams, kaya dapat itong mapangalagaan.



“Nanganganib na maubos ang mga 'yan, na kalimitan ay ginagawang decorations na 4 times ang itinataas na presyo mula doon sa pagbili ng shells lang. Pinag-aaralan pa kung kasama na ba ito sa mga produktong nasa black market natin,” sabi ni Fabello.

Ayon sa PCSD, malaki ang importansiya ng mga taklobo sa pagpapanatili ng kalinisan sa dagat at pagbalanse ng marine ecosystem, lalo pa na isa ito sa nag-aambag sa dami ng buhangin sa dagat.

- Ulat ni Rex Ruta



Illegal logging try foiled in Ecija

Wednesday, November 25, 2020 Steve A. Gosuico24

GENERAL TINIO, Nueva Ecija – Authorities thwarted an alleged illegal logging attempt in this town following the discovery of about 1,600 board feet of assorted timber fitches stockpiled in a mountainous barangay here on Monday night.

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) Joselito M. Blanco said the illegal lumber stockpile was discovered following a joint anti-illegal logging operation conducted by members of the local police, PENRO, CENRO-Cabanatuan, and the Task Force Sagip-Likas Yaman of the Army's 7th Infantry Division in Sitio Pulang Lupa in Bgy. Rio Chico at 9:40 p.m.

Blanco said the illegal wood haul has a total volume of 1,600 board feet with a market value equivalent to P70,000.

Provincial police director Col. Marvin Joe C. Saro, who is bent on stopping all kinds of illegal activities in the province including illegal logging, lauded his men for the successful operation.

Saro also thanked those in the community who were responsible for providing these useful tips that paved the way for the conduct of successful operations against these "*environmental destroyers*." The seized lumber was brought to the Fort Magsaysay depository area for proper disposition.

This latest operation in Nueva Ecija came amid strict directives issued by DILG Sec. Eduardo M. Ano for all LGUs and the police throughout the country to implement a crackdown against illegal logging and illegal quarrying in the aftermath of the widespread flooding caused by Typhoon Ulysses.



12 arrested for illegal quarrying in Pampanga

Published November 25, 2020, 10:00 AM

by [Jeffrey Damicog](#)

Twelve persons engaged in the illegal quarrying of lahar have been arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Mabalacat City, Pampanga.



(Pixabay / MANILA BULLETIN)

NBI Officer-In-Charge Director Eric Distor identified the arrested persons as John Patrick Reyes, Jhun Murillo, Egilberto San Pascual, Ronald Linsangan, Edcel Ruiz, Vincent Canlas, Aldren Anson, Jomar Nazar, Christopher Moreno, Joel Ong, Francis Pangilinan, and John Michael Malias.

Distor said all 12 were arrested last Nov. 19 by the NBI's Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) in Barangay Sapang Belen.

Following their arrest, the 12 persons were presented for inquest before the Department of Justice (DOJ) for violating Republic Act 78942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, particularly, Section 103 for theft of minerals and for other violations under Section 110.

The NBI chief said the operation was conducted after the NBI-EnCD received intelligence reports about the illegal quarrying operations being conducted by a certain Guillermo Gamez.

"The surveillance operation revealed the unrelenting extraction of lahar materials in the area," the NBI said in a statement.

"Verification from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Mines and Geosciences Bureau 3, Environmental Management Bureau 3, and Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office – Pampanga revealed that Guillermo Gamez Quarry is not authorized or holder of any permit either from the above said government authorities to extract, haul, and dispose lahar materials," it added.



‘Regulated quarrying needed in Albay’

By Rhaydz B. Barcia, TMT

November 26, 2020

LEGAZPI CITY: A regulated and responsible quarry operation would help save residents of Albay province from mudflows from Mount Mayon, said Cedric Daep, chief of Albay Public Safety Emergency Management Office.

He noted that quarry operations would aid the desiltation of the river channels if it was properly done. He made this clarification following the controversial quarry operations in Albay, now the subject of an investigation because of the heavy mudflows that flooded the province during the devastation caused by Typhoon “Rolly” (international name: “Goni”).

“Quarry operation is good if it is regulated and done properly as it will desilt the silted river channels around Mount Mayon, specifically in the southeast quadrant of the volcano where the bulk of volcanic materials ejected in 2018 explosions,” Daep said.

Based on provincial records, there are 141 quarry concessionaires across the province as of July 19, 2018.

At least three of the 141 voluntarily revealed there were cases of irregularities in quarry operations in 2018 based on an investigation conducted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (Provincial Council) led by former vice governor Harold Imperial.



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Nestlé Philippines supports mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic waste

[INQUIRER.net BrandRoom](https://www.inquirer.net/brandroom) / 07:00 AM November 25, 2020

A milestone in tackling the complex and urgent issue of plastic waste in the country was achieved last August, September, and October as Nestlé Philippines attained plastic neutrality, collecting an amount of plastic equivalent to what it generated from its packaging sold in the market in those three months.

The company recovered and diverted from landfills and oceans 7,016 metric tons of plastic waste in those months, and is the country's first multinational fast-moving consumer goods or FMCG firm to achieve plastic neutrality, which it is committed to sustain moving forward.



Nestlé Philippines is supporting the establishment of a localized and cost-effective Extended Producer Responsibility or EPR system for used plastic packaging. EPR is an environmental policy approach in which the responsibility of a producer (manufacturer or importer) for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of the product's life cycle. The producer assumes responsibility for managing the disposal of products after consumption, whether financial or physical, or both.

In January 2019, Nestlé globally articulated its broader vision for a waste-free future, that none of its packaging, including plastics, ends up in landfills and oceans, or as litter. The company is committed to making its packaging, including plastics, 100% recyclable or reusable by 2025.

Fresh from its plastic neutrality milestone, in another major step to tackle plastic waste, Nestlé Philippines is supporting the establishment of a localized and cost-effective Extended Producer Responsibility or EPR system for used plastic packaging.

EPR, an environmental policy approach, takes the form of a scheme in which the responsibility of a producer (manufacturer or importer) for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of the product's life cycle. The producer assumes responsibility for managing the disposal of products after consumption, whether financial or physical, or both.

In practice, a producer's responsibility ends when its products are purchased and consumed. What happens to the waste afterwards is typically left for municipal waste management systems to cope with.

A legislated EPR scheme in the country targeting plastic waste will see producers becoming involved in its collection and disposal.

Initiated in the 1980s, EPR is practiced in various countries including those in Europe and Asia that have laws mandating it, requiring increased private sector participation in managing the waste stream.



In an EPR scheme, an entity called a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) is usually formed by producers and held responsible for retrieving packaging from the market. Transaction costs are paid by obliged parties. The PRO becomes accountable for spending funds paid to it and ensures waste is collected and diverted away from landfills and oceans. In the Philippines, a PRO needs to be formed to manage the collection of plastic waste.

Several items of legislation have been filed mandating EPR, including House Bill No. 6279 by Congressman Rufus Rodriguez (Cagayan de Oro, 2nd District). Senator Cynthia Villar and Congressman Ruffy Biazon (Muntinlupa) have also addressed EPR in bills they have sponsored.

House Bill No. 6279 proposes the establishment of a system in which private companies using plastic will be responsible for collecting plastic waste in volumes equivalent to what they generate from the sale of their products. Collection will be done in phases, and in ten years, every company will be required to collect the equivalent amount of plastic it produces and sells in the market.

An EPR scheme aims to increase collection and recycling rates in the country. The increased availability of material collected should encourage recyclers to use the plastic to make new packaging materials or manufacture other products. For example, plastic waste is now used to make school chairs, eco-bricks, and even roads. It may also be used as an alternative fuel to coal.



Republic Cement President and CEO Nabil Francis (left) and Nestlé Philippines Chairman and CEO Kais Marzouki (right) inspect plastic waste for co-processing at the Republic plant in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

“At Nestlé, we strongly believe that an EPR scheme for plastic waste will support and enhance the local waste management system and will assist in integrating the informal sector. It will incentivize collection and recycling, as well as influence a shift to more sustainable packaging structures. EPR can be made possible through multi-stakeholder collaboration, building on cooperation as seen in the partnerships that have enabled us to achieve plastic neutrality,” said Nestlé Philippines Chairman and CEO Kais Marzouki.

Nestlé is addressing plastic waste by pursuing initiatives in three focus areas:

1. Developing the packaging for the future, through packaging and delivery innovation and plastic reduction. The Nestlé Institute of Packaging Sciences in Lausanne, Switzerland, the first of its kind in the food industry, focuses on research in areas like alternative materials, refillable or reusable packaging and systems, simplified packaging materials, recycled packaging materials, high-performance barrier papers as well as bio-based, compostable and biodegradable packaging. Nestlé Philippines continuously has been reducing the volume of plastic it uses, year on year, and is switching from plastic to paper straws for its ready-to-drink products so that it will have avoided the use of 130 metric tons of plastic straws by the end of the year;



1. Helping to shape a waste-free future through increased collection and recycling; and
2. Driving new behaviors and understanding through solid waste management education.

“We need a holistic approach even as we continue accelerating our initiatives to tackle plastic waste. A single or straight-line solution cannot suffice. That is why at Nestlé we are engaged and involved in a range of different efforts including advocating EPR, which will make a major contribution toward a waste-free future for the country,” Mr. Marzouki said.

ADVT.



Tanay's novel way of collecting recyclables: Basuraffle

Published November 25, 2020, 4:27 PM

by [Nel Andrade](#)

Residents of Tanay in Rizal Province still have a few days left to collect plastics and recyclables to boost their chance to win home appliances and gadgets at the Grand Basuraffle Draw on November 29.



A resident turns over sacks of recyclable materials to the Tanay Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office for weighing in, for her to earn raffle tickets for the 'Grand Basuraffle Draw' which is on-going until November 29, 2020. (Photo courtesy of Tanay Municipal Government Facebook page)

The Municipality of Tanay announced in its Facebook page that the Grand Basuraffle Draw (Waste Diversion Program) has been extended until 4 p.m. of November 29.

The Basuraffle is an initiative that encourages residents to turn over recyclable materials and residual items to the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) in exchange for raffle tickets.

The MENRO said a kilo of good residuals, or any plastic waste that can no longer be reused in the household such as plastic wrapper of chips and candies, shampoo sachets and tetra packs of drinks and similar items can be exchanged for two raffle tickets.

A kilo of plastic recyclables such as Polyethylene terephthalate bottles (PET bottles), tin cans, cardboards, paper and similar materials can be exchanged for one raffle ticket.

Items to be raffled off are a 32-inch TV, smart phones, Mate Pad, Stereo Headset H110, mobile phone stands, a study table, earbuds/earphones and other home appliances.

Residents can coordinate with their respective barangays or local government garbage collectors or the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in their localities for the collection of the residuals and recyclables or they can go directly to the MENRO booth located at the Tanay Park to get the raffle tickets.

As of November 24, the Tanay MENRO has collected around 500 kilos of waste recyclables and residuals since the raffle was launched in the second week of November.

MENRO accepts inquiries through text or call in these mobile numbers: 0999-881-3679 or 0927-250-4610.

The office of Mayor Rex Manuel Tanjuatco said the raffle draw will be livestreamed on RM TV on November 30, 2020 at 4 p.m.

The municipal government's waste management project is also in line with the provincial government's Ynares to Eco System to Green (YES) program.

In this town, plastic drinking straws, plastic cups, and food packs made of non-biodegradable plastics are strictly banned in all establishments.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/25/tanays-novel-way-of-collecting-recyclables-basuraffle/>



Biñan LGU offers cash for trash

Published November 25, 2020 10:24pm

To clean up the trash washed away by the flood brought about by Typhoon Ulysses, the local government of Biñan, Laguna offered residents a cash reward for every sack they fill.

According to John Consulta's report on "24 Oras," the program encourages residents to clean their surroundings by offering P10 for one sack of trash.

"Napagkakitaan pa po ngayon imbis na nakatambay ka lang, mamulot ka ng basura, magkakapera ka pa," Richard Mulingbayan said.

Residents who participated in the program were given anti-bacterial soaps, anti-fungal creams and medicine against leptospirosis.

Biñan Mayor Arman Dimaquila said the LGU already gathered 200 tons of trash due to the program.

"Una, nababawasan 'yong dami ng bangkero na nagsasakay ng pasahero kasi ang dami. Pangalawa, siyempre lumilinis. Pangatlo, nagkakaroon ng hanap buhay 'yong mga gustong magkapera. Kapag ito ay pinalutang-lutang natin, tayo rin po ang magkakasakit," Dimaquila said.

Moreover, he said the trash will not be thrown away and instead be used as a component of their eco-friendly hollow blocks.

The hollow blocks will be used in public buildings and other infrastructures in the city.

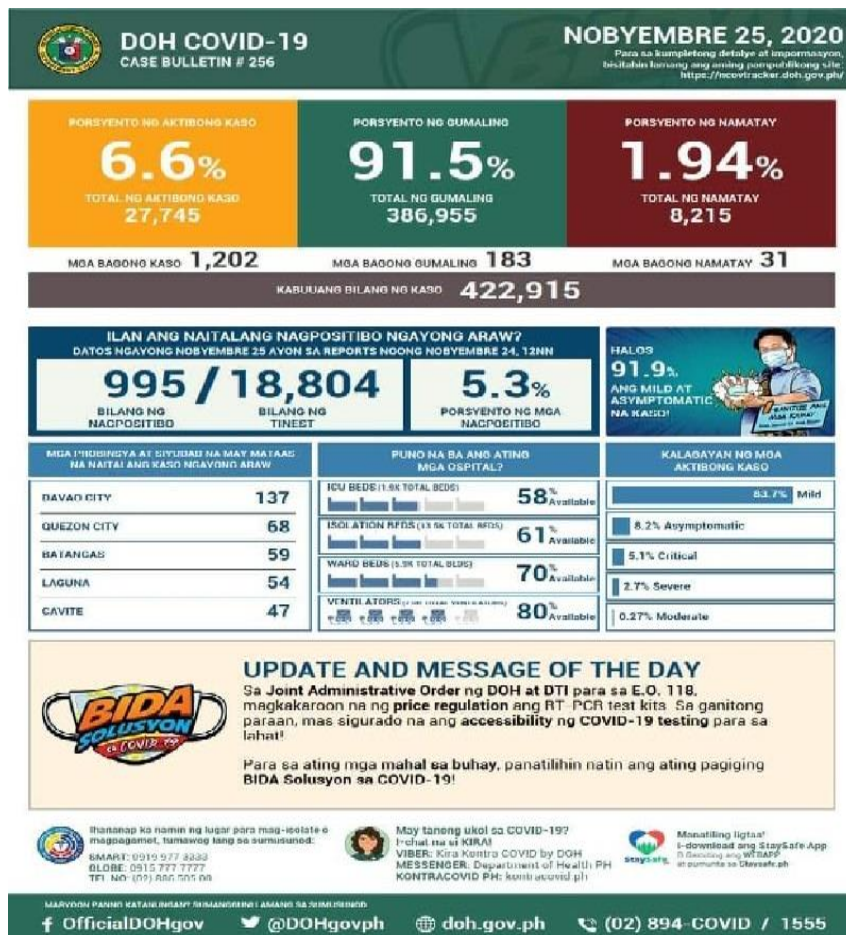
"Hindi po tinipid ang materyales. Lahat po ng formula na dapat po magpatibay sa hollow block ay sinunod natin. Bukod sa ma-reduce ang basura, nakatulong pa sa ekonomiya ng lungsod ng Biñan," Ron Rosain, community affairs officer of Biñan LGU said. -- **Ma. Angelica Garcia/BAP, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/765660/binan-lgu-offers-cash-for-trash/story/>



BREAKING: Mga tinamaan ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, nasa 422,915 na, Higit 1,000 ang nadagdag

By Angellic Jordan November 25, 2020 - 04:07 PM



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

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Miyerkules (November 25), umabot na sa 422,915 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 27,745 o 6.6 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,202 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

83.7 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 8.2 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.27 porsyento ang moderate; 2.7 porsyento ang severe habang 5.1 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 31 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 8,215 o 1.94 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 183 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 386,955 o 91.5 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/276986/breaking-mga-tinamaan-ng-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-nasa-422915-na-higit-1000-ang-nadagdag>



5 BANSA AT EU, KUMPLETO BAKUNA VS COVID-19; WALA SA 92 BANSA



November 25, 2020 @ 4:26 PM 14 hours ago

Sa 226 bansa at ilang teritoryo na tinamaan ng coronavirus disease o COVID-19, hanggang 32 bansa lamang ang magkakaroon ng kompletong bakuna para sa lahat nilang mamamayan habang halos wala para sa 92 bansa.

Ang iba na nasa labas ng listahan katulad ng Pilipinas, porsyento lang ng kanilang populasyon ang mababakunahan.

Pero kung magsimulang magkaroon ng pagbabakuna sa mga mayayamang bansa na nakabili na sa halos lahat ng nagawa na o magagawa pa lang na bakuna sa ikalawang linggo ng Disyembre 2020, sa susunod na taon na lang magsisimula ang iba.

Kaya naman, may mga nababahala nang bansa na sila'y mapag-iiwanan at mananatiling biktima ng sakit na pumatay na ng halos 1.5 milyong katao simula noong Disyembre 2019.

2.8B DOSAGE NABILI NA

inasabi sa ulat na nabili na ng nasabing mga bansa ang 2.8 bilyong dosage na nagawa na o ginagawa na ng mga kompanyang Pfizer, Moderna at AstraZeneca/Oxford.

Sila ang mga bansang nangahas na magbigay ng puhunan sa nasabing mga kompanya ng gamot na dahilan upang maging mabilis ang kanilang paggawa.

Ang sabi, matatagalan sana ang paggawa ng bakuna kung hindi nagbuhos ang nasabing mga bansa ng malalaking halaga dahil hindi kakayanin ng mga kompanya ang gumastos nang malaki sa ordinaryong paraan at panahon na kung minsan inaabot umano ng 10 taon.

Ang mga bansang Canada, Japan, United States, Australia, Chile at ang 27-miyembrong European Union ang tanging makapagbibigay ng dalawang turok o dosage sa kanilang kabuuang mga mamamayan.

Sapat na ang dalawang dosage o turok upang gagana ang katawan ng tao para lumaban sa COVID-19 at sa pangatlo turok, kumpleto na ang armas ng katawan ng tao laban sa pandemya.

Heto naman ang ibang mga bansa na kayang magbigay ng dalawang turok sa kanilang mga mamamayan ngunit hindi sa lahat.



Ang Costa Rica, 60 porsyento; Switzerland, 52.7%; Argentina, 49.4%; Brazil, 47.7%; Ecuador, 40.9%; Indonesia, 37.4%; India, 37%, Peru, 30.9%; New Zealand; 30.6%; Egypt, 30.5%.

ANG PINAS?

Mas pinili ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang maghintay ng bakuna na mapatutunayang epektibo kaysa maglabas ng salaping bayan upang maging seguro na magkaroon tayo ng bakuna.

Nagkaroon kasi noong una ng pangangalap ng iba't ibang kompanyang gamot ng pondo mula sa pamahalaang Pilipinas kalakip ang pangakong kasama tayo ang mabibigyan agad ng bakuna kung...magtatagumpay sila.

Nakadududa at baka maaaksaya lang ang salaping bayan kung dinayb noon ni Pang. Duterte ang alok na may kasamang kung na palatandaan ng pagdududa.

Isa pa, umaaasa rin ang Pinas na magkakaroon ng bakuna mula sa China at titiniyak ng huli na magkaroon tayo ng libreng 1 milyong dosage at sinabi pang ibibigay sa atin ang kanilang teknolohiya para tayo na mismo ang gagawa ng sariling bakuna.

Nais ding magtayo mismo ang Russia ng kanilang gawaan sa Pilipinas subalit wala pang linaw ukol dito.

MAY PONDO NA AT MAGANDANG ALOK

Ang Pilipinas ay masasabi nating nasasaid ang pondo sa pagbagsak ng ekonomiya, kasabay ng iba pang mga bansa, dahil sa COVID-19.

Subalit nariryan na ang katiyakan ng pautang na panlabas at panloob para mabakunahan ang 60% ng mahigit 100 milyong populasyon ng bansa.

Kapag naganap ito, malaking hakbang na rin laban sa pandemya at umaasa ang gobyerno na makakayanan ng mga mayayamang Pinoy ang bumili ng sarili nilang bakuna.

Gaya nang nangyari noon sa Dengvaxia, mahal na ang P600 para sa tatlong bakuna ngunit kaya ng mayayaman ang magbitiw ng P16,000 para sa tatlong turok dito.

Sinasabing hindi na ganap na mapupuksa ang COVID-19 at mananatili sa lahat ng bansa na maging sakit ng mga mamamayan.

Kaya, maganda rin ang mga alok ng China at Russia na hindi iniaalok ng ibang mga kompanya ng gamot.

Anong malay natin na maging ang tinetesting nating lokal na virgin coconut oil ay magiging epektibo kahit sa severe o kritikal na COVID-19?

Malaki kasi ang pag-asa na magiging epektibo ang virgin coconut oil laban sa mild na pagkakasakit sa pandemya.

BAKUNA HINDI SAPAT

Dapat tatandaan ng lahat na sakaling magkaroon na ng pagbabakuna sa mahal kong Pinas, hindi dapat tayo bumitiw sa mga ginagawa nating laban sa COVID-19.



Nariryan pa rin ang pagsusuot ng face mask at face shield, social distancing, contact tracing at iba pa.

Lalo na sa panahong hindi pa nababakunahan ang lahat.

Dapat tandaan ding magiging sakit na sa Pinas ang pandemya kaya naman tuloy-tuloy dapat ang mga pag-iingat at laban natin dito.

Huwag na huwag tayong magpakampante dahil highly contagious o mabilis na nakahawawa ito na nagdadala ng kamatayan at pagkakasakit.

Kung magkasakit at maospital ka, swerte ka kung hindi aabot sa P1 milyon ang iyong gastos.

Paano kung naospital ka at namatay at na-quarantine ang iyong pamilya nang matagal?

Bukod sa pagkakasakit at kamatayan, napakahirap din ang mamuhay sa gutom at kawalan kung mabubuhay tayo.

Kaya ang laban at pag-iingat laban sa COVID-19, dapat nating panghawakan sa lahat ng panahon.