

29 NOVEMBER 2020, SUNDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





# PH and UK Agree in Partnership on Climate and Environment

BY VILLAGE CONNECT ON NOVEMBER 28, 2020

## *PH and UK Agree in Partnership on Climate and Environment*



Climate change concerns in the Philippines continue to have more focused attention as bilateral cooperation and agreements with the UK are forged.

On 27 November 2020, the Philippines, represented by the DENR Secretary, Roy Cimatu, as Chairperson of the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM DRR), signed a “Partnership Statement” with Her Majesty’s Ambassador to the Philippines, Daniel Pruce, during the first Climate Change and Environment Dialogue (CCE-D). Ambassador Pruce co-chaired the virtual Dialogue with Ken O’ Flaherty, UK COP26 Regional Ambassador, and Undersecretaries Jonas Leones and Analiza Teh of the DENR.

As the two countries share and agree each other’s climate priorities, including energy transition and nature-based solutions, Secretary Cimatu is optimistic that the partnership will benefit the Philippines as it prepares for the implementation of its nationally determined contributions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Secretary Cimatu added, “We are definitely pleased to enter into a declaration of statement of partnership on key environmental concerns and we look forward to it with great optimism that this will serve as a platform for an inclusive, green, and resilient economic recovery from the COVID- 19 pandemic.”

Her Majesty’s Ambassador Daniel Pruce said, “The United Kingdom is delighted to mark another partnership with Philippine Government to tackle an important issue that threatens both our island nations and the world. In our COP26 Presidency, the UK is committed to working with the Philippines to realise sustainability and clean growth through the full potential of the Paris Agreement and in a way that is responsive to post-pandemic needs. Ambassador O’ Flaherty also added that “More widely, as a long-standing partner of ASEAN, in particular on low carbon growth, sustainability and climate change, our application to be ASEAN’s dialogue partner offers an opportunity to strengthen collaboration on climate and green issues in coming years, building on existing UK cooperation with the region.”



The Dialogue is an important element of the 'Enhanced Partnership', which the UK and the Philippines agreed to work towards at annual bilateral 'High Level Political Talks' in November 2019. Under this new partnership for the future, both countries agreed to establish and convene an annual UK-Philippines Dialogue dedicated to discuss issues that are of common interest to both countries such as climate and the environment, including priorities for the 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP26).

The identified priority areas for cooperation will be supported through technical and policy assistance, as well as market development mechanisms under on-going UK programmes including the ASEAN Low Carbon Energy Programme, Newton Agham Programme and Darwin Initiative Fund. The Dialogue will also provide a platform to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices in the areas of energy transition, adaptation and resilience, nature-based solutions, sustainable transport, and green finance.

The Dialogue is another milestone as we prepare for the 75<sup>th</sup> celebration of diplomatic ties between the UK and the Philippines in 2021.

Other highlights of the event were the virtual signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Secretary Alfonso Cusi of the Department of Energy for the 2050 Calculator tool to plan the Philippines' low-carbon transition, and ASEAN Low Carbon Energy Programme focusing on Green Finance (renewable energy voluntary market) and Energy Efficiency, and the launching of the UK's 'Greening the Philippines' COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Strategies' Project, which will be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), thru Resident Representative, Dr. Selvakumaran Ramachandran.

Senior officials from the DENR, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Climate Change Commission, Department of Finance, Department of Energy, Department of Transportation, and National Economic and Development Authority, and UK Government representatives.

Source: <http://villageconnect.com.ph/ph-and-uk-agree-in-partnership-on-climate-and-environment/2956>



# Crackdown on illegal logging

Saturday, November 28, 2020 Joel dela Torre



Eduardo Año and Roy Cimatu

THE Año-Cimatu tandem will again be tested in the fight against illegal logging and quarrying. Both bemedalled former officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año and Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu are joining forces in implementing the crackdown against forest illegalities as ordered by President Duterte in the wake of massive flooding in Cagayan and Isabela.

The two were also tasked to spearhead the daunting Boracay-Manila Bay twin rehabilitation missions with remarkable results.

According to DILG Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya, the Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force created under Executive Order 23 will meet at the DENR for new strategies to protect the remaining forest cover and at the same time protect threatened habitats across the country.

The Task Force will have the DILG, PNP and the AFP as members.

Both Año and Cimatu have agreed to mobilize all resources to stop at all cost further destruction of the country's remaining forest resources.

Malaya said that the DILG also committed to support the National Greening Program (NGP) of the DENR which aims to rehabilitate some 1.2 million hectares of denuded forest lands by 2022.

*"The DILG commits to mobilize the LGUs, the PNP, BFP and BJMP to meet the goal of the NGP to rehabilitate the unproductive, denuded, and degraded forest lands of the country by engaging local communities in the DENR's reforestation program. We will also work with Civil Society Organizations to plant more seedlings for our forests to grow again,"* he said.

He said that there is no better time than now to protect the remaining forest cover and do serious reforestation.

*"I know we are still in a pandemic but this program cannot wait otherwise we are sowing the seeds of our own destruction as a planet. Climate change is here and we have to face it,"* he said.

DILG records show that from January to October 2020, the PNP has conducted 6,710 anti-illegal logging operations and has arrested some 3,336 illegal loggers across the country.

It led to the recovery of 3,663,173 board feet of illegally cut lumber.



*"We have filed 1,145 cases in court against the suspects. There are still many violators of our environmental laws," he said.*

The PNP, according to the DILG official, may arrest even without warrant any person who has committed or is committing in its presence the offense of illegal logging under P.D. 705.

The PNP has been directed to set up more checkpoints in all forest areas in cooperation with the PENRO and CENRO of the DENR.



# DILG and DENR join forces to stop illegal logging and quarrying

November 28, 2020



The Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are joining forces to implement the crackdown on illegal logging and illegal quarrying earlier ordered by the President in the wake of massive flooding in Cagayan and Isabela.

DILG Undersecretary and Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya said the National Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force created under Executive Order No. 23 will be called to a meeting by the DENR to implement new strategies to protect our remaining forest cover and protect threatened habitats across the country. The Task Force counts the DILG, PNP, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines as members.

He said that both Secretary Eduardo M. Año and DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu have agreed to mobilize all resources to stop the further destruction of our remaining forest resources. Malaya said that the DILG also committed to support the National Greening Program (NGP) of the DENR which aims to rehabilitate some 1.2 million hectares of denuded forest lands by 2022.

"The DILG commits to mobilize the LGUs, the PNP, BFP and BJMP to meet the goal of the NGP to rehabilitate the unproductive, denuded, and degraded forest lands of the country by engaging local communities in the DENR's reforestation program. We will also work with Civil Society Organizations to plant more seedlings for our forests to grow again," he said.

He said that there is no better time than now to protect our remaining forest cover and do serious reforestation. "I know we are still in a pandemic but this program cannot wait otherwise we are sowing the seeds of our own destruction as a planet. Climate change is here and we have to face it," he said.

The DILG Spokesperson said that from January to October 2020, the Philippine National Police has conducted 6,710 anti-illegal logging operations and has arrested some 3,336 illegal loggers across the country.

"The 6,710 PNP operations have led to the recovery of 3,663,173 board feet of lumber illegally cut from our remaining forest cover. We have filed 1,145 cases in court against the suspects. There are still many violators of our environmental laws," he said.

He said that the PNP may effect the arrest even without warrant of any person who has committed or is committing in his presence the offense of illegal logging under P.D. 705.

The PNP has been directed to set up more checkpoints in all forest areas in cooperation with the PENRO and CENRO of the DENR. (Press Release)

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/dilg-and-denr-join-forces-to-stop-illegal-logging-and-quarrying/>



# DILG, DENR join forces to clamp down on illegal logging after record Luzon floods

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 28 2020 10:53 PM



ABS-CBN News/File

MANILA — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) will work together to fight illegal logging and quarrying to protect the country's remaining forest covers and habitats.

This developed after President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the agencies to look into the root causes of record flooding in Cagayan and Isabela after the onslaught of typhoon Ulysses.

In a joint statement Saturday, Interior Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya said the DENR planned to meet with the National Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force made through Executive Order No. 23 series of 2011.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines were included in the task force to help DILG, the statement read.

“Alam kong may pandemya pa, pero ang programang ito ay hindi na makakapaghintay. Kung hindi tayo kikilos ngayon, ang itanim natin ay mga buto ng paggunaw ng ating mundo. Ang climate change ay nagaganap na at kailangan natin itong harapin,” Malaya said.

(I know there is still a pandemic but this program cannot wait. If we do not act now, the seedlings we are supposed to plant will contribute to the world's destruction. Climate change is here and we need to face it now.)

The spokesperson said Interior Secretary Eduardo Año and Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu would mobilize anyone who could help to stop the illegal activities where the country's forests bear the brunt.

## Agencies lay down plans, what they accomplished vs illegal activities

According to the statement, the DILG also vowed to support the DENR's National Greening Program, which aims to bring back to life some 1.2 million hectares of balding forests by 2022.

“Nangangako ang DILG na pakikilusin ang mga local government units, ang kapulisan, ang Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) at Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) upang makamit ang layunin ng NGP na bigyan ng bagong buhay ang mga hindi mabunga, nakalbo at naabusong kagubatan ng bansa sa pamamagitan ng pakikiisa ng mga pamayanan sa reforestation program ng DENR,” Malaya said.

(The DILG promised that we would work with LGUs, the police, BFP, BJMP, to achieve NGP's goal of bringing back our balding and abused forests to life by rallying behind DENR's reforestation program.)

Earlier in the day, Police Chief General Debold Sinas ordered a manhunt against suspected illegal loggers who fired at policemen in Cagayan province, leaving one officer hurt.



The government has intensified operations against illegal logging in Cagayan province in the wake of historic flooding only two weeks ago.

**DILG orders crackdown vs illegal logging, mining**  
ABS-CBN News

VIA ZOOM: PARANAQUE CITY

**EPIMACO DENISING | PH INTERIOR UNDERSECRETARY**

**PH INTERIOR DEPT.: PROBE ON ILLEGAL LOGGERS, MINERS TO FOCUS ON CAGAYAN, ISABELA, REGION 5**

Admitting that there might have been lapses in law enforcement, Interior Undersecretary Epimaco Densing said the DILG ordered a crackdown against illegal loggers and illegal miners in areas which suffered massive flooding, particularly in Cagayan, Isabela, and Bukidnon region.

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Senators earlier said that continuous land-grabbing, exploitation, and illegal logging in watersheds could have played a role in the massive flooding in Marikina and in some areas of Luzon after Ulysses.

But Malaya said that from January to October this year, the PNP has conducted 6,710 anti-illegal logging operations and caught 3,336 illegal loggers nationwide. This led to the filing of 1,145 cases in court against the suspects, he added.

Under Presidential Decree 705 or the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines, he pointed out, the police also have the power to accost anyone caught illegally logging.

The police have also been ordered to add checkpoints in the forests with the help of DENR's Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), he said.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/28/20/dilg-denr-join-forces-to-clamp-down-on-illegal-logging-after-record-luzon-floods?fbclid=IwAR3287o5FSuNpzHI7DAxc6dQDNczGJ49UEDo3HV5CS9QHL1NCw12PiAy1c>





# DILG, DENR sanib-pwersa vs illegal logging matapos ang pagbaha sa Cagayan, Isabela

By [Bombo Bam Orpilla](#) - November 29, 2020 | 2:02 AM

Magsasanib-pwersa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at ang Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) upang labanan ang iligal na pagtotroso at pagmimina upang mapangalagaan ang natitirang kagubatan ng bansa.

Pahayag ito ng dalawang ahensya matapos ipag-utos ng Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na imbestigahan ang puno't dulo ng malawakang pagbaha sa Cagayan at Isabela matapos ang pananalasa ng Bagyong Ulysses.

Sa isang joint statement, sinabi ni Interior Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya na binabalak ng DENR na makipagpulong sa National Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force na itinatag alinsunod sa Executive Order No. 23 series of 2011.

Ang PNP at AFP ay kabilang din aniya sa task force na siyang aagapay sa DILG.

"Alam kong may pandemya pa, pero ang programang ito ay hindi na makakapaghintay. Kung hindi tayo kikilos ngayon, ang itanim natin ay mga buto ng paggunaw ng ating mundo. Ang climate change ay nagaganap na at kailangan natin itong harapin," wika ni Malaya.

Ayon kay Malaya, pakikilusin nina Interior Secretary Eduardo Año at Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ang sinumang maaaring makatulong upang mapigilan ang iligal na mga aktibidad na nangyayari sa mga kagubatan.

Susuportahan din aniya ng DILG ang National Greening Program ng DENR, na naglalayong taniman ang nasa 1.2-milyong nakakalbong kagubatan pagsapit ng 2022.

"Nangangako ang DILG na pakikilusin ang mga local government units, ang kapulisan, ang Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) at Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) upang makamit ang layunin ng NGP na bigyan ng bagong buhay ang mga hindi mabunga, nakalbo at naabusong kagubatan ng bansa sa pamamagitan ng pakikiisa ng mga pamayanan sa reforestation program ng DENR," ani Malaya.

Una nang ipinag-utos ni PNP Chief PGen. Debold Sinas ang pagtugis laban sa mga pinaghihinalaang illegal loggers na namaril sa mga pulis sa Cagayan, kung saan isa ang sugatan.

Pinaigting na rin ng pamahalaan ang operasyon kontra illegal logging sa Cagayan sa harap na rin ng makasaysayang pagbaha.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/dilg-denr-sanib-pwersa-vs-illegal-logging-matapos-ang-pagbaha-sa-cagayan-isabela/>



# DILG at DENR, nagsanib-pwersa upang sugpuin ang illegal logging at quarrying

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) - Nov. 28, 2020 at 11:11am



Nagsanib pwersa na ang Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) at Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para seryosong ipatupad ang crackdown sa illegal logging at illegal quarrying kasunod ng malawakang pagbaha sa Cagayan at Isabela.

Ayon kay DILG Undersecretary and Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya, nakatakda nang magpulong ang National Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force upang maglatag ng mga bagong istrategiya para protektahan ang natitirang forest cover.

Ang task force ay binubuo ng DILG, PNP at Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Tiniyak nina Secretary Eduardo Año at DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na gagamitin nila ang lahat ng resources ng gobyerno para pigilan ang patuloy na pagwasak sa forest resources.

Aniya, suportado rin ng DILG ang National Greening Program ng DENR na naglalayong makapag-rehabilitate ng 1.2 million hectares ng nakalabong forest lands pagsapit ng taong 2022.

Mula January hanggang October 2020, nakapagsagawa ang PNP ng 6,710 anti-illegal logging operations na nagresulta sa pagkaaresto ng 3,336 illegal loggers sa buong bansa.

Source: [https://rmn.ph/dilg-at-denr-nagsanib-pwersa-upang-sugpuin-ang-illegal-logging-at-quarrying/?fbclid=IwAR1CZei7Xa2YvV6goYhe6F\\_CVpYftJ1YXzTCTRn6n7wSCFm9zORk0j-CpCo](https://rmn.ph/dilg-at-denr-nagsanib-pwersa-upang-sugpuin-ang-illegal-logging-at-quarrying/?fbclid=IwAR1CZei7Xa2YvV6goYhe6F_CVpYftJ1YXzTCTRn6n7wSCFm9zORk0j-CpCo)



## AFTER MASSIVE N.LUZON FLOODS

# DILG, DENR to come up with new strategy vs. illegal logging, quarrying

Published November 28, 2020 5:01pm

By JAMIL SANTOS, GMA News

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are teaming up against illegal logging and illegal quarrying following massive flooding in the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela amid Typhoon Ulysses earlier this month.

In a statement, DILG spokesperson Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya said the National Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force, through Executive Order 23, will be called to a meeting by the DENR to enforce new strategies in protecting the country's remaining forest cover and threatened habitats.

The Task Force will be made up personnel from the DILG, the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

According to Malaya, DILG Secretary Eduardo Año and DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu have agreed to mobilize all resources to end the further destruction of Philippines' remaining forest resources.

"The DILG commits to mobilize the LGUs, the PNP, BFP and BJMP to meet the goal of the NGP to rehabilitate the unproductive, denuded, and degraded forest lands of the country by engaging local communities in the DENR's reforestation program. We will also work with Civil Society Organizations to plant more seedlings for our forests to grow again," Malaya said.

He said the DILG supports the DENR's National Greening Program (NGP) which aims to rehabilitate around 1.2 million hectares of denuded forest lands by 2022.

The DILG spokesperson cited PNP data of 6,710 anti-illegal logging operations from January to October 2020, where 3,336 illegal loggers were arrested across the country.

"The 6,710 PNP operations have led to the recovery of 3,663,173 board feet of lumber illegally cut from our remaining forest cover. We have filed 1,145 cases in court against the suspects. There are still many violators of our environmental laws," he said.

Malaya said police authorities may arrest without warrant any person who has committed or is committing illegal logging under Presidential Decree 705. -MDM, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/766029/dilg-denr-to-come-up-with-new-strategy-vs-illegal-logging-quarrying/story/>





# DILG to join crackdown vs illegal logging, illegal quarrying

Published November 28, 2020, 10:17 AM

by [Chito Chavez](#)

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said Saturday that it will join forces with the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in enforcing the crackdown on illegal logging and illegal quarrying activities in the country.



DILG Undersecretary and spokesperson Jonathan Malaya (PCOO / MANILA BULLETIN)

DILG Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya explained that the National Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force created under Executive Order No. 23 will be called to a meeting by the DENR to implement new strategies “to protect our remaining forest cover and protect threatened habitats across the country.”

The Task Force counts the DILG, Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as members.

He noted that DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año and DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu have agreed to mobilize all resources to stop the further destruction of our remaining forest resources.

Malaya added the DILG also committed to support the National Greening Program (NGP) of the DENR which aims to rehabilitate some 1.2 million hectares of denuded forest lands by 2022.

“The DILG commits to mobilize the LGUs, the PNP, BFP (Bureau of Fire Protection), and BJMP (Bureau of Jail Management and Penology) to meet the goal of the NGP to rehabilitate the unproductive, denuded, and degraded forest lands of the country by engaging local communities in the DENR’s reforestation program. We will also work with Civil Society Organizations to plant more seedlings for our forests to grow again,” Malaya said.

Malaya stressed “that there is no better time than now to protect our remaining forest cover and do serious reforestation.”

“I know we are still in a pandemic but this program cannot wait otherwise we are sowing the seeds of our own destruction as a planet. Climate change is here and we have to face it,” he noted.

Malaya disclosed that from January to October 2020, the PNP has conducted 6,710 anti-illegal logging operations and has arrested some 3,336 illegal loggers across the country.



“The 6,710 PNP operations have led to the recovery of 3,663,173 board feet of lumber illegally cut from our remaining forest cover. We have filed 1,145 cases in court against the suspects. There are still many violators of our environmental laws,” Malaya said.

Malaya maintained that the PNP may conduct arrests even without warrants of any person “who has committed or is committing in his presence the offense of illegal logging under P.D. 705.”

The DILG also directed the PNP to set up more checkpoints in all forest areas in cooperation with the Provincial Environment and Resources Office (PENRO) and Community Environment and Resources Offices (CENRO) of the DENR.



DILG spokesman Jonathan Malaya said that new strategies would be implemented to protect the country's remaining forest cover and threatened habitats.

Boy Santos, file

## DILG to use all resources vs illegal logging, mining

[Romina Cabrera](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 29, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has vowed to mobilize all resources against illegal logging and illegal quarrying in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

DILG spokesman Jonathan Malaya said that new strategies would be implemented to protect the country's remaining forest cover and threatened habitats.

The National Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force, established under Executive Order No. 23 under the previous administration, will be called to a meeting by the DENR.

The Task Force includes the DILG, DENR, the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines as its members.

"I know we are still in a pandemic but this program cannot wait, otherwise we are sowing the seeds of our own destruction as a planet. Climate change is here and we have to face it," Malaya said in a statement.

The DILG has committed to mobilize local government units (LGUs), the PNP and other agencies under it to meet the goal of the National Greening Program that aims to rehabilitate some 1.2 million hectares of forest lands by 2022.

Data from the PNP showed that from January to October this year, the police conducted 6,710 anti-illegal logging operations and arrested some 3,336 illegal loggers across the country.

This has led to the recovery of 3.6 million board feet of lumber illegally cut.

"We have filed 1,145 cases in court against the suspects. There are still many violators of our environmental laws," Malaya added.

He warned that the PNP would make warrantless arrests of illegal loggers caught in the act, as provided for under Presidential Decree 705.

The DILG has also directed the PNP to set up more checkpoints in all forest areas in coordination with city or municipal officials and regional DENR officers.





Sen. Bong Go said the government's stepped up effort against illegal logging could go a long way in reducing the impact of natural disasters.

"This campaign must be strengthened, we must take care of the environment, especially the mountains. We should plant (trees) because that will protect us from flooding," he said.

He said towns at the foot of mountains are the most vulnerable to the effects of forest denudation and quarrying.

"I'm urging the government, those in the executive, to please fully implement measures to stop illegal logging. Let's fight, let's stop this as well as illegal quarrying," he said.

Go also vowed to take part in any Senate investigation of the destructive effect of the release of water from Magat Dam on the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela during the onslaught of typhoon Ulysses early this month.

"In the Senate, we work in aid of legislation. If there's need to investigate, we will investigate and I will participate," he said, adding that the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) may have some explaining to do.

He again batted for the passage of a measure he authored – Senate Bill No.205 – seeking the creation of a Department of Disaster Resilience.

Meanwhile, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said yesterday its field offices are now allowed to release relief supplies to LGUs even without an official request from local officials to speed up delivery of aid to communities affected by disasters.

The DSWD said the new policy is part of its efforts to streamline the process of providing relief assistance and basic services to calamity-stricken areas. – **Janvic Mateo, Cecille Suerte-Felipe**



# Former mayor seeks DENR's help to put a stop on mining activities in Rizal province

November 28, 2020 11:16 PM by [Kristan Carag](#)



*Department of Environment and Natural Resources*

Former Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III appeals for the national government to stop the mining activities in the province.

Ynares explained on Friday, November 27, that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issues the mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA), which allows contractors to mine in an area.

*"DENR ang nag-bibigay ng permits diyan, large-scale mining, medium-scale mining,"* Ynares said during DZRH's *Coffee Break*.

The former local chief executive stressed that Rizal province has 500 hectares of mining area, and DENR has jurisdiction over more than 99 percent of the said land.

*"Sa buong miniminang lupain sa Rizal, wala pang isang porsyento ang dumaan sa Rizal provincial government,"* Ynares said.

*"Ang pakiusap namin sa DENR, mawawala ng saysay o halos walang saysay ang ginagawa namin dahil mahigit 99 percent ay sakop ng DENR,"* he added.

Ynares said that he has repeatedly requested DENR to stop the mining activities in Rizal province since the administration of former President Benigno Aquino III.

Ynares said that the Aquino administration did not stop the mining activities due to legalities regarding the 25-year MPSA of mining companies.

Mining activities, and quarrying in Rizal have been blamed for the deforestation, and massive flooding during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses in the province

Source: <https://dzhnews.com.ph/former-mayor-seeks-denrs-help-to-put-a-stop-on-mining-activities-in-rizal-province/>



## Bong Go urges gov't to fully implement crackdown against illegal logging, says environmental protection vital to mitigate impact of natural disasters

By OSBG Published on November 28, 2020



Senator Christopher "Bong" Go urged the government to intensify further its crackdown against illegal logging. Photo by OSBG.

PASAY CITY, Nov. 28 -- Senator Christopher "Bong" Go urged the government to intensify further its crackdown against illegal logging, adding that protecting the environment could go a long way in reducing impact of natural disasters.

In an ambush interview after leading the distribution of assistance to typhoon victims in Plaridel, Bulacan, Bong Go said that the Department of the Interior and Local Government has already ordered the crackdown on illegal logging and mining, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"Ngayon po ay meron nang order si (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año sa crackdown sa illegal logging and mining in coordination with the DENR," Go said.

"Dapat palakasin ang kampanyang ito, alagaan natin ang kalikasan, lalo na ang kabundukan. Dapat magtanim tayo (ng kahoy) dahil 'yun ang makakaprotekta sa atin mula sa pagbaha," he added.

He then urged the government to fully implement and intensify its campaign against illegal activities related to logging and quarrying.

"'Yung mga nasa baba ng bundok na munisipyo, sila ang unang kawawa kapag nakalbo po. I'm urging the government po, 'yung nasa executive, please fully implement measures to stop illegal logging. Labanan po natin ito, tapusin po natin ito, pati itong (illegal na) quarrying," he urged.

A nationwide crackdown on illegal logging and illegal quarrying was launched by DILG on Monday after a string of typhoons that caused massive flooding in many areas in the country. DILG also directed local government units and the Philippine National Police to reactivate their respective anti-illegal logging task forces in coordination with DENR, set up checkpoints, and arrest illegal loggers for violations of the Forestry Code of the Philippines and of Republic Act No. 9175, or the Chainsaw Act of 2002.





Aside from illegal logging, the release of water from the Magat Dam was also reported to have contributed to the floods in Cagayan and Isabela provinces. Go said that the Senate is still deciding on whether or not to investigate on the release of water from the dam.

"Trabaho po namin sa Senado 'yan in aid of legislation. Kung kailangan mag-imbestiga, imbestigahan natin and I will participate. Kung meron talagang mali at na-explain naman ng NIA (National Irrigation Administration) kung ano po ang nangyari," he said.

"Pero dapat well-coordinated ang pagrerelease para makapaghanda ang mga LGUs natin kung dapat ba nila i-evacuate ang mga tao. Fifteen percent daw po ng tubig ay mula sa dam at 85% ay sa ulan, pero di pwedeng maging rason 'yun kung meron i-release. Dapat coordinated sa LGU to what extent ang pag-spread ng tubig sa munisipyo para makapag-evacuate sila," he added.

Due to the country's vulnerability to natural disasters, Go renewed his call for the timely passage of Senate Bill No. 205, a measure he filed in 2019 which seeks to create a Department of Disaster Resilience.

"Sa ngayon po, nasa committee level na po ito sa Senado. Pasado na po ito sa Lower House. We do not lose hope. Sana po, at a proper time, pumasa po ito para talagang meron tayong department-level na ready para po bago pa dumating ang bagyo," Go said.

"Post-disaster din po at saka bago pa dumating ang bagyo — 'yung preparedness natin, 'yung preposition ng food, maayos ang coordination between agencies na handang tumulong. Dahil sa climate change, prone tayo sa bagyo, pagbaha, paglindol, pati pagputok ng bulkan at iba't ibang disaster po ang dumating sa buhay natin.

"So, dapat meron tayong opisina na merong regional office down to the provincial office na mag-coordinate sa local government. Muli po akong nakikiusap, at a proper time, maipasa na ito," he added.

In the meantime, Go said that President Rodrigo Duterte has created an inter-agency task force that would singularly focus on fast-tracking recovery and rehabilitation efforts in areas affected by the recent series of typhoons towards 'building back better'.

"Sa ngayon nagtalaga si Pangulong Duterte ng task force para sa rehabilitation efforts. Ganun din 'yun. Kung meron tayong departamento, 'yun na ang mamamahala," he said.

While he recognizes the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council's crucial role in disaster preparedness and response, Go said that the council still needs help in implementing and monitoring post-disaster recovery.

"Kasi meron tayo ngayon NDRRMC (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council), nakikipag-coordinate, headed by OCD (Office of Civil Defense). Kapag nagpapatawag siya, kadalasan lower rank ang pupunta kasi 'di siya (OCD head) secretary," he said.

He reiterated that, in the long term, what the country truly needs to become disaster resilient is to institutionalize a single department that will handle all these responsibilities.



“Kaya ako paulit ulit na umaapela na ipasa na ang batas na magtatayo ng Department of Disaster Resilience. Ilang kalamidad at sakuna pa ba ang kailangan para maintindihan na kailangan na nating aksyunan ito upang mas palakasin pa ang mekanismong mayroon tayo ngayon,” he said in previous interviews.

“Kung may alinlangan ang mga kapwa kong mambabatas, pag-usapan natin sa Senado. Willing naman tayong lahat makinig at magtrabaho para makabuo ng solusyon ukol dito. Ang importante, aksyunan na natin at huwag nang patagalin pa dahil buhay ng mga Pilipino ang nakataya dito,” he added. (OSBG)



# Go calls on gov't to intensify crackdown on illegal logging, illegal mining

Published November 28, 2020, 10:02 AM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

Senator Christopher “Bong” Go on Saturday urged the government to intensify further its crackdown against illegal logging, adding that protecting the environment could go a long way in reducing impact of natural disasters.



Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go (OFFICE OF SEN. BONG GO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Go said that the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has already ordered the crackdown on illegal logging and mining, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“DILG Secretary Eduardo Año has already ordered the crackdown on illegal logging and mining in coordination with the DENR,” Go said in Filipino.

“We should intensify this campaign to protect the environment, especially the mountains. We should plant trees because this will protect us from flooding,” he added.

Go then urged the government to fully implement and intensify its campaign against illegal activities related to logging and quarrying.

“The municipalities at the foot of the mountains will be affected once the mountains are denuded. I’m urging the government, those at the executive branch, to please fully implement measures to stop illegal logging. Let’s fight this, let’s finish it, including the illegal quarrying,” he urged.

A nationwide crackdown on illegal logging and illegal quarrying was launched by DILG on Monday after a string of typhoons that caused massive flooding in many areas in the country. DILG also directed local government units and the Philippine National Police to reactivate their respective anti-illegal logging task forces in coordination with DENR, set up checkpoints, and arrest illegal loggers for violations of the Forestry Code of the Philippines and of Republic Act (RA) 9175, or the Chainsaw Act of 2002.

Aside from illegal logging, the release of water from the Magat Dam was also reported to have contributed to the floods in Cagayan and Isabela provinces. Go said that the Senate is still deciding on whether or not to investigate the release of water from the dam.

“That is our job in the Senate in aid of legislation. If there is a need to investigate, we will investigate and I will participate. If there were mistakes, let NIA (National Irrigation Administration) explain” he said.





“The release should be well-coordinated so that our LGUs can prepare for the possible evacuation of the people. Accordingly, only fifteen percent of water came from the dam and 85 percent from the rain, but this could not be a reason for the release. The extent and spread of water to municipalities should be coordinated with the LGUs so they can prepare for evacuation,” he added.

Due to the country’s vulnerability to natural disasters, Go renewed his call for the timely passage of Senate Bill 205, a measure he filed in 2019 which seeks to create a Department of Disaster Resilience.

“It is now at the committee level in the Senate. The Lower House had passed it. We do not lose hope. I hope, at the proper time, this will be passed so that we can have a department-level that is ready even before a typhoon comes,” he said.

Go pointed out that President Duterte has created an inter-agency task force that would singularly focus on fast-tracking recovery and rehabilitation efforts in areas affected by the recent typhoons toward ‘building back better’.

While he recognizes the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council’s crucial role in disaster preparedness and response, Go said that the council still needs help in implementing and monitoring post-disaster recovery.

“We have now the NDRRMC (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council) that coordinates, headed by OCD (Office of Civil Defense). If he calls for a [meeting], usually, it’s the lower rank that attends the meeting because he is not the OCD head or secretary,” he said.

He reiterated that, in the long term, what the country truly needs to become disaster resilient is to institutionalize a single department that will handle all these responsibilities.

“This is the reason I have repeatedly appealed for the passage of the measure law that establishes the Department of Disaster Resilience. How many more calamities and disasters do we need before we could understand the urgency of acting on this in order to further strengthen the mechanism that we have now,” Go said.

“If my fellow lawmakers have doubts, we can talk about this in the Senate. I am willing to listen and work in order to have a solution to this. What is important is we have to act and not delay because it’s the lives of the Filipinos that are at risk here,” he said.



# Go urges gov't to fully crack down on illegal logging

Saturday, November 28, 2020 People's Journal



Sen. Bong Go gives away shoes during distribution of aid to typhoon victims in Plaridel, Bulacan

SENATOR Christopher "Bong" Go urged the government to intensify further its crackdown against illegal logging, adding that protecting the environment could go a long way in reducing impact of natural disasters.

In an ambush interview after leading the distribution of assistance to typhoon victims in Plaridel, Bulacan, Bong Go said that the Department of the Interior and Local Government has already ordered the crackdown on illegal logging and mining, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

*"Ngayon po ay meron nang order si (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año sa crackdown sa illegal logging and mining in coordination with the DENR," Go said.*

*"Dapat palakasin ang kampanyang ito, alagaan natin ang kalikasan, lalo na ang kabundukan. Dapat magtanim tayo (ng kahoy) dahil 'yun ang makakaprotekta sa atin mula sa pagbaha," he added.*

He then urged the government to fully implement and intensify its campaign against illegal activities related to logging and quarrying.

*"Yung mga nasa baba ng bundok na munisipyo, sila ang unang kawawa kapag nakalbo po. I'm urging the government po, 'yung nasa executive, please fully implement measures to stop illegal logging. Labanan po natin ito, tapusin po natin ito, pati itong (illegal na) quarrying," he urged.*

A nationwide crackdown on illegal logging and illegal quarrying was launched by DILG on Monday after a string of typhoons that caused massive flooding in many areas in the country. DILG also directed local government units and the Philippine National Police to reactivate their respective anti-illegal logging task forces in coordination with DENR, set up checkpoints, and arrest illegal loggers for violations of the Forestry Code of the Philippines and of Republic Act No. 9175, or the Chainsaw Act of 2002.

Aside from illegal logging, the release of water from the Magat Dam was also reported to have contributed to the floods in Cagayan and Isabela provinces. Go said that the Senate is still deciding on whether or not to investigate on the release of water from the dam.

*"Trabaho po namin sa Senado 'yan in aid of legislation. Kung kailangan mag-imbetiga, imbestigahan natin and I will participate. Kung meron talagang mali at na-explain naman ng NIA (National Irrigation Administration) kung ano po ang nangyari," he said.*

*"Pero dapat well-coordinated ang pagrerelease para makapaghanda ang mga LGUs natin kung dapat ba nila i-evacuate ang mga tao. Fifteen percent daw po ng tubig ay mula sa dam at 85% ay sa ulan, pero di pwedeng maging rason 'yun kung meron i-release. Dapat coordinated sa LGU to what extent ang pag-spread ng tubig sa munisipyo para makapag-evacuate sila," he added.*



Due to the country's vulnerability to natural disasters, Go renewed his call for the timely passage of Senate Bill No. 205, a measure he filed in 2019 which seeks to create a Department of Disaster Resilience.

*"Sa ngayon po, nasa committee level na po ito sa Senado. Pasado na po ito sa Lower House. We do not lose hope. Sana po, at a proper time, pumasa po ito para talagang meron tayong department-level na ready para po bago pa dumating ang bagyo,"* Go said.

*"Post-disaster din po at saka bago pa dumating ang bagyo — 'yung preparedness natin, 'yung preposition ng food, maayos ang coordination between agencies na handang tumulong. Dahil sa climate change, prone tayo sa bagyo, pagbaha, paglindol, pati pagputok ng bulkan at iba't ibang disaster po ang dumating sa buhay natin.*

*"So, dapat meron tayong opisina na merong regional office down to the provincial office na mag-coordinate sa local government. Muli po akong nakikiusap, at a proper time, maipasa na ito,"* he added. He reiterated that, in the long term, what the country truly needs to become disaster resilient is to institutionalize a single department that will handle all these responsibilities.

*"Kaya ako paulit ulit na umaapela na ipasa na ang batas na magtatayo ng Department of Disaster Resilience. Ilang kalamidad at sakuna pa ba ang kailangan para maintindihan na kailangan na nating aksyunan ito upang mas palakasin pa ang mekanismong mayroon tayo ngayon,"* he said in previous interviews.



# Bong Go: Crackdown vs illegal logging seryosohin, palakasin

On Nov 28, 2020



UMAPELA si Senator Christopher “Bong” Go sa pamahalaan na seryosong paigtingin ang paglansag sa illegal logging sa pagsasabing ang pagprotekta sa kalikasan ay malaking hakbang para malabanan ang epekto ng mga natural na kalamidad.

Sa isang ambush interview matapos pangunahan ang distribusyon ng tulong sa mga biktima ng nakaraang bagyo sa Plaridel, Bulacan, sinabi ni Go na iniutos na ng Department of the Interior and Local Government ang crackdown sa illegal logging at mining, sa koordinasyon na rin ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

“Ngayon po ay meron nang order si (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año sa crackdown sa illegal logging and mining in coordination with the DENR,” ani Go.

“Dapat palakasin ang kampanyang ito, alagaan natin ang kalikasan, lalo na ang kabundukan. Dapat magtanim tayo (ng kahoy) dahil ‘yun ang makakaprotekta sa atin mula sa pagbaha,” aniya pa.

Kaya naman hiniling niya sa gobyerno ang mahigpit na pagtugis sa mga nasa likod ng logging at quarrying.

“Yung mga nasa baba ng bundok na munisipyo, sila ang unang kawawa kapag nakalbo po. I’m urging the government po, ‘yung nasa executive, please fully implement measures to stop illegal logging. Labanan po natin ito, tapusin po natin ito, pati itong (illegal na) quarrying,” giit ng senador.

Bukod sa illegal logging, isinisisi rin sa pagpapakawala ng tubig sa Magat Dam ang nangyaring malawakang pagbaha sa Cagayan at Isabela provinces.

Ani Go, pinag-aaralan na ng Senado kung magsasagawa ng imbestigasyon sa naturang insidente.

“Trabaho po namin sa Senado ‘yan in aid of legislation. Kung kailangan mag-imbestiga, imbestigahan natin and I will participate. Kung meron talagang mali at na-explain naman ng NIA (National Irrigation Administration) kung ano po ang nangyari,” ani Go.

“Pero dapat well-coordinated ang pagre-release para makapaghanda ang mga LGUs natin kung dapat ba nila i-evacuate ang mga tao. Fifteen percent daw po ng tubig ay mula sa dam at 85% ay sa ulan, pero di pwedeng maging rason ‘yun kung meron i-release. Dapat coordinated sa LGU to what extent ang pag-spread ng tubig sa munisipyo para makapag-evacuate sila,” idinagdag ng mambabatas.

At dahil palaging nabubugbog ng mga kalamidad ang bansa, muling nanawagan si Go sa mga kasamang mambabatas na tulungan siyang maipasa ang inihain niyang Senate Bill No. 205 na maglilikha ng Department of Disaster Resilience.





“Sa ngayon po, nasa committee level na po ito sa Senado. Pasado na po ito sa Lower House. We do not lose hope. Sana po, at a proper time, pumasa po ito para talagang meron tayong department-level na ready para po bago pa dumating ang bagyo,” ani Go.

“Post-disaster din po at saka bago pa dumating ang bagyo — ‘yung preparedness natin, ‘yung preposition ng food, maayos ang coordination between agencies na handang tumulong. Dahil sa climate change, prone tayo sa bagyo, pagbaha, paglindol, pati pagputok ng bulkan at iba’t ibang disaster po ang dumating sa buhay natin.

“So, dapat meron tayong opisina na merong regional office down to the provincial office na mag-coordinate sa local government. Muli po akong nakikiusap, at a proper time, maipasa na ito,” idinagdag ng senador.

Iginiit niya na sa pangmatagalang panahon, kailangan na ngayon ng bansa na maging disaster resilient sa pamamagitan ng pag-institutionalize sa isang departamento na siyang pangunahing hahawak ng responsibilidad sa pagtugon laban sa kalamidad.

“Kaya ako paulit ulit na umaapela na ipasa na ang batas na magtatayo ng Department of Disaster Resilience. Ilang kalamidad at sakuna pa ba ang kailangan para maintindihan na kailangan na nating aksyunan ito upang mas palakasin pa ang mekanismong mayroon tayo ngayon,” aniya. **(PFT Team)**

Source: <https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/11/28/bong-go-crackdown-vs-illegal-logging-seryosohin-palakasin/?fbclid=IwAR1JRmHD9ABKwwkqtcDXWO4rhKTSmkdLlzorM2jI8T310iDWThqOxCI3Rgk>



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Nagsanib-pwersa ang Department of the Interior and Local Government at Department of Environment and Natural Resources para supugin ang illegal logging at quarrying sa buong bansa.

Ayon kay DILG Usec. Jonathan Malaya, ipapatawag nito ang binuong National Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force sa itaas ng EO No. 25 para magpatupad ng bagong stratehiya kung sapeano pangangalagaan ang mga kagubatan ng Pilipinas.

NEWS 5

“  
The DILG commits to mobilize the LGUs, the PNP, BFP and BJMP to meet the goal of the NGP to rehabilitate the unproductive, denuded, and degraded forest lands of the country by engaging local communities in the DENR's reforestation program. We will also work with Civil Society Organizations to plant more seedlings for our forests to grow again.  
”

**USEC. JONATHAN MALAYA**  
DILG  
NOVEMBER 28, 2020



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# Illegal loggers attack cops; deputy police chief wounded

Published November 28, 2020, 10:45 AM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

Illegal loggers in Cagayan are fighting the campaign against illegal logging as they attacked a group of policemen who were sent to check on a stockpile of illegally cut logs in Peñablanca.



(PNP PIO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Police Brig. Gen. Crizaldo Nieves, director of the Cagayan Valley police, said the attack that occurred Thursday wounded Police Lt. Randy Baccay, deputy chief of police of the Peñablanca Municipal Police Station.

But Nieves said the local policemen stood their ground and traded shots with illegal loggers. They were able to arrest one of the attackers who was later identified as 45-year-old Ernest Sibbaluca.

Following the widespread flooding in Cagayan and Isabela during typhoon "Ulysses," national police chief Police Gen. Debold Sinas ordered a crackdown on illegal logging in Cagayan Valley which was blamed to be one of the reasons for the flooding.

Nieves said local police were informed about a stockpile of timber in Sitio Dalayat in Barangay Minanga Thursday. A team of policemen led by Baccay was sent to the area to check the information.

As they were inspecting the area, a group of armed men started shooting at them which resulted into a gun battle.

Baccay was immediately evacuated to a nearby hospital for treatment while Sibbaluca was taken to the Peñablanca Police Station for investigation.

Sinas instructed Nieves to extend P50,000 financial assistance for the medical expenses of Baccay.

"I have also ordered a manhunt against those responsible for this attack. More aggressive police operations will continue against illegal logging activities," said Sinas. Sibbaluca is facing criminal charges for direct assault upon an agent of authority and frustrated murder.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/28/illegal-loggers-attack-cops-deputy-police-chief-wounded/>



## Cagayan cop wounded in clash with illegal loggers

November 28, 2020 | Filed under: News | Posted by: Tempo Desk

A police officer was wounded when a group of illegal loggers attacked his team who was sent to check on the stockpile of illegally cut logs in Peñablanca, Cagayan last Thursday night.

Police Brig. Gen. Crizaldo Nieves, director of the Cagayan Valley police, identified the wounded cop as Police Lt. Randy Baccay, deputy chief of the Peñablanca Municipal Police Station.

But Nieves said the local policemen stood their ground and traded shots with illegal loggers. They were able to arrest one of the attackers later identified as 45-year old Ernest Sibbaluca.

Following the widespread flooding in Cagayan and Isabela during typhoon "Ulysses," Philippine National Police chief Police Gen. Debold Sinas ordered a crackdown on illegal logging in Cagayan Valley which was blamed as one of the reasons for the flooding.

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"I have also ordered a manhunt against those responsible for this attack. More aggressive police operations will continue against illegal logging activities," said Sinas.

Sibbaluca is facing criminal charges for direct Assault upon an agent of authority and frustrated murder. (Aaron Recuenco)





# Manhunt launched vs Cagayan loggers behind attack that left 1 cop hurt

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 28 2020 05:07 PM | Updated as of Nov 29 2020 05:20 AM



Police Lt. Randy Baccay, Deputy Chief of Police at the Peñablanca police station, was hurt in the attack. *Handout/PNP PIO*

MANILA— Philippine National Police Chief General Debold Sinas has ordered a manhunt against suspected illegal loggers who fired at policemen in Cagayan province, leaving one officer hurt.

The newly installed police chief ordered pursuit operations against the suspects involved in the shooting incident that wounded Police Lt. Randy Baccay, Deputy Chief of Police at the Peñablanca police station. One of them was caught on site while the rest are at large.

Police Brig. Gen. Crizaldo Nieves, Cagayan Valley regional police director, reported that Baccay and his team were responding to reports that illegally cut timber was stockpiled in Sitio Dalayat, Minanga, Lagum, Peñablanca town on Thursday night.

While the team was inspecting and documenting the logs, armed suspects opened fire, hitting Baccay as the rest of the team fired back.



Ernest Sibbaluca was arrested on the site of the gunfight. *Handout/PNP PIO*

Arrested on the spot was Ernest Sibbaluca, 45, of Barangay Minanga, Peñablanca, Cagayan. He was identified as among the shooters.

Sibbaluca, who was previously arrested for illegal logging, was taken to the Peñablanca Police Station. He is facing charges for Direct Assault and frustrated murder.

Sinas, meanwhile, instructed Nieves to extend a P50,000 financial assistance for Baccay's medical expenses.

The government has intensified operations against illegal logging in Cagayan province in the wake of historic flooding only two weeks ago.

Local officials cited illegal logging as a factor in the inundation, along with heavy siltation of the Cagayan river, water runoff from nearby provinces, and Magat Dam's water release.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/28/20/manhunt-launched-vs-cagayan-loggers-behind-attack-that-left-1-cop-hurt?fbclid=IwAR22RHftYwcumaYBnvt7J6Azs26WStfsQpOdjvcw97tTL4dJbMfGqWaGogs>

# PNP launches manhunt vs. loggers who assaulted police in Cagayan

Maris Federez • November 28, 2020



**MANILA, Philippines** — The Philippine National Police (PNP) has launched a manhunt against several suspects who assaulted a police team that was conducting operations against illegal logging activities in Cagayan province.

Police General Debold M Sinas has ordered pursuit operations against the suspects who fired at the police team wounding a police lieutenant, according to a PNP Public Information Office (PIO) press release dated November 28.

“More aggressive police operations will continue against illegal logging activities on orders of President Rodrigo R Duterte despite this temporary setback,” the PNP chief said.

Follow-up operations are underway to recover the firearms used in the attack, Sinas added.

The PNP chief issued the order after receiving reports submitted by PBGen. Crizaldo Nieves, Regional Director of Police Regional Office 2 regarding the shooting incident that wounded PLT Randy Baccay, Deputy Chief of Police of Pañablanca Police Station.

Sinas instructed Nieves to extend P50,000.00 financial assistance for the medical expenses of Baccay, the news release said.

The operation was part of Cagayan’s rebuilding efforts following the aftermath of massive flooding only two weeks ago.

Nieves said Baccay and his team were responding to reports of the presence of illegally-cut timber stockpiled in Sitio Dalayat, Minanga, Lagum Peñablanca, Cagayan on Thursday evening.

Armed suspects opened fire during the operation, hitting Baccay while the rest of the team launched counter action. Baccay was immediately evacuated to a nearby hospital for treatment.

The team, on the other hand, promptly arrested and took Ernest Sibbaluca, identified as among the attackers, to the Peñablanca Police Station for investigation.

Sibbaluca is facing criminal charges for direct assault upon an agent of authority and frustrated murder, Asalan said. —/mbmf



# Illegal loggers nakipagbarilan sa pulis, hinahanting

On Nov 28, 2020



Ipinag-utos na ni Philippine National Police chief Gen. Debold Sinas na tugisin ang mga illegal logger na nakipagbarilan sa mga pulis sa Cagayan de Oro.

Kaugnay nito, binigyan ni Sinas si Police Lieutenant Randy Baccay, deputy chief of police ng Peñablanca Police Station, Peñablanca sa nasabing lalawigan ng P50,000 bilang medical expense makaraang matamaan ito ng bala ng baril ng mga illegal logger.

Kinasuhan na rin ng direct assault at frustrated murder ang isa sa mga naaresto na si Ernest Sibbaluca y Dabbay, 45, residente ng Peñablanca.

Ayon kay Peñablanca Police Station chief of police Police Captain Rohaina Asalan, may naunang kaso si Sibbaluca noong nakaraang taon na paglabag sa Presidential Decree 705 o Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

Ayon kay Police Brigadier General Crizaldo Nieves, regional director of Police Regional Office 2, naganap ang barilan nang pumunta sina Baccay sa Sitio Dalayat, Minanga sa Lagum Peñablanca upang magsiyasat sa iniulat sa kanila na mga kahoy na iligal na pinutol.

Dito na sila pinasalubungan ng mga bala ng baril ng mga illegal logger na ikinasugat ni Baccay at napilitang gumanti ng putok ang mga pulis hanggang sa maaresto nila si Sibbaluca.

Paliwanag ni Sinas, pinaigting ng pulisya ang kampanya laban sa illegal logging batay sa kautusan mismo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte makaraang bisitahin nito ang Cagayan na isa sa mga lalawigang labis na sinalanta ng matinding baha dala ng bagyong Ulysses. (Gaynor Bonilla)

Source: [https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/11/28/illegal-loggers-nakipagbarilan-sa-pulis-hinahanting/?fbclid=IwAR0JqTHgEHPdQxSRsGHma8JiLfjk8EKVGYH3ZbWBBZF-6\\_Y5-IBRPPyGUCk](https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/11/28/illegal-loggers-nakipagbarilan-sa-pulis-hinahanting/?fbclid=IwAR0JqTHgEHPdQxSRsGHma8JiLfjk8EKVGYH3ZbWBBZF-6_Y5-IBRPPyGUCk)



## Pulis binoga ng illegal logger sa Cagayan

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Nov 28, 2020

METRO



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Iniyutos ni Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Police General Debold Sinas ang province-wide manhunt laban sa umano'y illegal loggers na suspek sa pamamamit ng isang pulis sa Cagayan habang nagsasagawa ng kampanya laban sa illegal logging.

Itutuloy din ng PNP ang kampanya laban sa illegal loggers at sinabing kailangang mahanap ang suspek sa pamamamit pulis sa hepe.

Pinangunahan ni PLT Randy Baccay, deputy chief of police ng Peñablanca Police Station ang operation matapos makatanggap ng tip noong Huwebes ng gabi na may nagaganap na pagpuputol ng puno sa Sitio Dalayat, Minanga, Lagum Peñablanca nang magpaputok ng baril ang mga suspek na ikinasugat ni Baccay nang masapul ito sa puwitan.

Nagpaabot naman si PNP chief Sinas ng P50,000 financial assistance sa medical expenses ni Baccay.

Ayon kay PBrig. Gen. Crizaldo Nieves, regional director ng Police Regional Office 2, nakilala ang isa sa mga suspek na si Ernest Sibbaluca y Dabbay, 45, ng Peñablanca habang pinaghahanap ang kasamahan nitong magtotroso.

Si Sibbaluca ay may arrest record noong September 2019 sa paglabag sa Presidential Decree 705 o Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines. (Wick Aquino)





## Pulis pinuntirya sa puwet ng mga illegal logger

By Abante News Online — Last updated Nov 28, 2020



Photo courtesy of facebook.com/Pulisdigest

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Sugatan ang isang deputy chief ng Peñablanca, Cagayan Police Station matapos paputukan ng baril ng mga illegal logger matapos magsagawa ng anti-illegal logging operation.

Sa ulat, kinilala ang biktimang si P/Lt. Randy Baccay habang naaresto ang isa sa mga suspek.

Ad Asia – InsideContent Ad

Nangyari ang pamamaryl Huwebes ng gabl matapos na rumespondesina Baccay sa nakitang putol na puno sa Sitio Dalayat sa bayan ng Minanga.

Google Responsive Inside Article Banner

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Dito nangyari ang pamamaryl kung saan tinamaan umano ng bala sa puwet ang biktima.

Nahuli ang isang suspek na kinilalang si Ernest Sibbaluca, na dati nang naaresto noong 2019 dahil sa paglabag sa Revised Forestry Code.

Samantala, pinag-utos na ni Philippine National Police Chief Debold Sinas ang manhunt sa iba pang suspek. (IS)



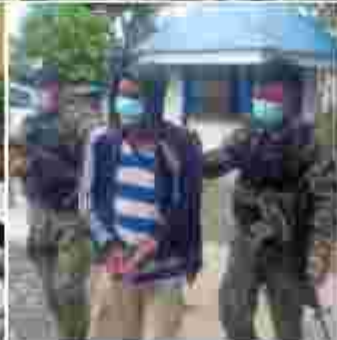
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News5  
10h · 🌐

Sugatan ang isang miyembro ng PNP Police Regional Office 2 matapos paputukan ng illegal joggers ang kanilang team habang nagsasagawa ng operasyon isan sa illegal na pagputol ng puno sa Cagayan na isa sa mga itinuturing sanhi ng pagbaha sa probinsiya.

Agad naaresto ang isa sa mga suspek na kinilalang si Ernest Sibaluca. Ipinag-uutos na rin ni PNP Chief Debold Sinas ang malawakang manghant sa probinsiya matapos ang insidente.

📷: PNP PIO



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# Villar pushes BIDA for Boracay Island

By [BMPlus](#)

November 27, 2020



*Boracay*

CITING the combined weak implementation of the environmental laws and indifference to them by the people, Sen. Cynthia A. Villar pushes for the creation of the Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA) to sustain its rehabilitation done by President Rodrigo Duterte's administration.

In filing Senate No. 1914 or an "Act Creating the Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA)," Villar noted that despite the existence of landmark laws such as RA No. 9003 or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act" and RA No. 9275 or the "Philippine Clean Water Act," the environment continues to gravely suffer from degradation.

"The Boracay Island, which is one of the best beaches in the world and considered a world-famous jewel of Philippine tourism, was not spared from environment degradation,"

said Villar as she sought for the approval of her proposed measure.

"Through the years, Boracay Island gained popularity and became a top tourism destination in the Philippines, thereby ushering in developments, such as hotels, restaurants, bars and rental houses that were built over the island to provide accommodation to the ever-growing number of tourists," also said Villar.

The exponentially increasing number of tourists, Villar stressed, became unsustainable and breached the island's carrying capacity.

"The apathetic concern for the environment amidst the thriving development on Boracay, along with the weak implementation of the environmental laws by authorities eventually led to the polluted Boracay Island then," she said.

In 2018, there were several news reports exposing the environmental problems besetting Boracay Island, particularly the improper solid waste management and deficient sewerage system.

Due to the sorry state of the island's sewerage system, President Rodrigo Duterte said "Boracay is a cesspool".



The persistent environmental degradation of Boracay prompted the President to issue Proclamation No. 475 on April 26, 2018 declaring a temporary closure of the island as a tourist destination for six months so that it would be rehabilitated.

The President also issued Executive Order No. 53 creating the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) to ensure the rehabilitation and ecological sustainability of Boracay.

For the long term sustainability and rehabilitation done on the island, the BIATF proposed the creation of BIDA, attached to the Office of the President. It will promote and accelerate the sustainable development and balanced growth of Boracay Island.

The composition of BIDA will include representatives from DENR, DILG, DOT, DPWH, DOH, DOJ, Aklan Governor, Malay mayor, all ex-officio members, a general manager to be appointed by the President and 2 representatives from the private sector.

Earlier, Villar received a letter from DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu requesting her to sponsor the BIATF's draft bill on the creation of BIDA.

Cimatu said the creation of BIDA is seen to be a long-term solution to address the root causes of environmental degradation in the island as the existence of BIATF will expire on May 8, 2021. "In its two years of existence and steadfast efforts in rehabilitating Boracay Island, the BIATF has had to undo the decades of mismanagement of the island's resources, and rampant violation of environmental laws.

Image credits: [Jackmalipan | Dreamstime.com](#)





## BIDA MAGPAPABILIS SA REHAB EFFORT SA BORACAY – VILLAR

November 27, 2020 [jake](#)



DAHIL sa mahinang pagpapatupad ng environmental laws at ang pagbalewala ng tao sa mga batas na ito, isinusulong ni Senadora Cynthia A. Villar ang pagbuo sa Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA) para mapanatili ang rehabilitasyong ginawa rito ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Sa paghain sa Senate No. 1914 o ang ‘Act Creating the Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA),’ iginiit ni Villar na sa kabila ng mga umiiral na batas gaya ng RA No. 9003 o ang “Ecological

Solid Waste Management Act” at RA No. 9275 o ang “Philippine Clean Water Act,” patuloy pa rin ang pagkasira ng kapaligiran.”The Boracay Island, which is one of the best beaches in the world and considered a world-famous jewel of Philippine tourism, was not spared from environment degradation,” sabi ni Villar na humiling ng suporta sa kanyang panukala.

“Through the years, Boracay Island gained popularity and became a top tourism destination in the Philippines, thereby ushering in developments, such as hotels, restaurants, bars and rental houses that were built over the island to provide accommodation to the ever-growing number of tourists,” dagdag pa nito.

Ayon Kay Villar, nalabag ang ‘carrying capacity’ ng isla dahil sa patuloy na pagdagsa roon ng mga turista.

“The apathetic concern for the environment amidst the thriving development on Boracay, along with the weak implementation of the environmental laws by authorities eventually led to the polluted Boracay Island then,” sabi pa niya.

Noong 2018, nabunyag ang maraming paglabag sa environmental laws sa Boracay, partikular ang palpak na solid waste management at sewerage system.

Binansagan ni Pangulong Duterte ang Boracay na isang ‘cesspool’ dahil sa problema sa sewerage system.

Dahil sa pagkasira ng kapaligiran ng Boracay, inisyu ng Pangulo ang Proclamation No. 475 noong April 26, 2018 na nagpasara sa isla bilang tourist destination sa loob anim na buwan para sa rehabilitasyon nito.

Nagpalabas din ang pangulo ng Executive Order No. 53 na bumuo sa Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) para matiyak ang rehabilitation at ecological sustainability ng Boracay.

Sa long-term sustainability at rehabilitation sa isla, inirekomenda ng BIATF ang pagbuo sa BIDA sa ilalim ng Office of the President.

Isusulong nito at pabibilisin ang sustainable development at balanced growth ng Boracay Island.

Bubuin ang BIDA ng mga kinatawan mula sa DENR, DILG, DOT, DPWH, DOH, DOJ, Aklan governor, Malay mayor, lahat ng ex-officio members, general manager na itatalaga ng presidente at dalawa rin mula sa private sector.



Nauna rito, tumanggap ng liham si Villar mula kay DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu na humihiling na isponsoran nito ang BIATF draft bill sa pagbuo ng BIDA.

Ayon kay Cimatu, inaasahang ang pagbuo ng BIDA ay pangmatagalang solusyon para matugunan ang mga pinagmumulan ng problema sa pagkasira ng kalikasan. Marerepaso ang BIATF sa May 8, 2021. (ESTONG REYES)

Source: [http://saksingayon.com/news-break/bida-magpapabilis-sa-rehab-effort-sa-boracay-villar/?utm\\_source=ReviveOldPost&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR2F5kMj90giSkU0w3zikPPZiSmoWFtID3PbT7JWdYjzKJC9v45-vqsZ\\_kg](http://saksingayon.com/news-break/bida-magpapabilis-sa-rehab-effort-sa-boracay-villar/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR2F5kMj90giSkU0w3zikPPZiSmoWFtID3PbT7JWdYjzKJC9v45-vqsZ_kg)



# Creation of Boracay dev't authority bill filed

November 28, 2020 2 min read

**Brenda L. del Rosario**

**MANILA** — To sustain the rehabilitation initiated by present administration in Boracay, a proposed bill was filed in the Senate to create a body that will protect the island.

Sen. Cynthia A. Villar filed Senate No. 1914 or an “Act Creating the Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA),” where the lady senator said that despite the existence of landmark laws such as RA No. 9003 or the “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act” and RA No. 9275 or the “Philippine Clean Water Act,” the environment continues to gravely suffer from degradation.

“Through the years, Boracay Island gained popularity and became a top tourism destination in the Philippines, thereby ushering in developments, such as hotels, restaurants, bars and rental houses that were built over the island to provide accommodation to the ever-growing number of tourists,” said Villar.

The exponentially increasing number of tourists, Villar stressed, became unsustainable and breached the island’s carrying capacity.

The persistent environmental degradation of Boracay prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to issue Proclamation No. 475 on April 26, 2018 declaring a temporary closure of the island as a tourist destination for six months so that it would be rehabilitated.

The President also issued Executive Order No. 53 creating the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) to ensure the rehabilitation and ecological sustainability of Boracay.

For the long-term sustainability and rehabilitation done on the island, BIATF proposed the creation of BIDA, attached to the Office of the President. It will promote and accelerate the sustainable development and balanced growth of Boracay Island.

The composition of BIDA will include representatives from Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Justice (DOJ), Aklan Governor, Malay mayor, all ex-officio members, a general manager to be appointed by the President and two representatives from the private sector.

Earlier, Villar said she received a letter from DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu requesting her to sponsor the BIATF’s draft bill on the creation of BIDA. (AI/MTVN)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2020/11/28/creation-of-boracay-devt-authority-bill-filed/?fbclid=IwAR1MJm-fK4aIbAvqof9bJ7Yy75v5s9GPAHdrsOltNAftD6PvG4L8zOpfzVQ>



## 90 itlog ng pawikan binantayan sa Boracay

By Abante News Online — Last updated Nov 28, 2020

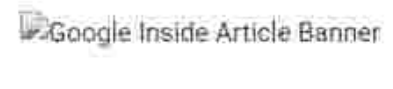
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Tinatayang hindi bababa sa 90 na itlog ang natagpuan nang mangitlog ang isang ridley turtle sa dalampasigan ng Boracay, Biyernes ng gabl.

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Nov 26, 2020

Ayon sa  Google Inside Article Banner Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), ilang residente ang nakasaksi sa pangangitlog ng pawikan kaya't agad itong ipinagbigay-alam sa kanilang tanggapan at mai-dokumento. Ang ridley turtle ay may habang 69 sentimetro at lapad na 69 cm na nilagyan nila ng tag saka ibinalik sa baybayin. Aabot pa ng ilang lingo bago mapisa ang mga naiwang itlog. (Vick Aquino)





LOOK

## Isang ridley turtle nangitlog sa dalampasigan ng Boracay Island

Nobyembre 28, 2020 11:36am GMT+08:00

SINULAT NI: JUN N. AGUIRRE

BORACAY Island— Isang ridley turtle ang nakitang nangitlog sa dalampasigan ng Boracay nitong Biyernes ng gabi.

Ayon sa Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO ) nakita ng ilang residente ang pangingitlog ng pawikan kayat agad nila etong ine-report sa kanilang opisina.

Matapos ang pangingitlog, pansamantala muna hinuli ng mga tauhan ng CENRO upang ma dokumento.

May haba daw etong 69 centimers at lapad na 69 cm.

Matapos madokumento at malagyan ng tag bilang isang palatandaan, kaagad din etong ibinalik sa baybayin.

Tinatayang hindi bababa sa 90 na itlog mailuluwal ng isang ridley turtle. Hihintayin pa ang ilang lingo bago inaasahang mapisa ang mga itlog. — LBG, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/promdi/765998/isang-ridley-turtle-nangitlog-sa-dalampasigan-ng-boracay-island/story/>



# NBI arrests 10 operators of establishments occupying Boracay forestland

Published November 28, 2020, 4:25 PM

by [Jeffrey Damicog](#)

Ten persons have been arrested and charged by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for operating establishments occupying protected forestlands in Boracay Island.

NBI Officer-In-Charge Director Eric Distor on Saturday, Nov. 28, identified those arrested as Britons Stephen Field and Mark Harrington, Belgian Michielsen Dirk Josef, Australian Maria Victoria Schafer, and Filipinos Mary Irish Guerra, Johnson Jacinal, Patricia Ann Varga, Oscar delos Santos, Arturo Revillame, and Paul Sajise.

Distor said the 10 were either owners or caretakers of nine establishments found occupying protected forestlands in Boracay.

These establishments are Sea View Apartment, Aloha Villa, La Dolce Vota/Casa Monte, Private Mountain Casitas Boracay Inn, Cohiba Villas, Carolina Park View, Boracay Sunshine Shuttle and Limousine Corporation, Artista Beach, and Monkey House.

“All the establishments were never issued any tenurial instrument nor any other permits by the DENR,” the NBI said in a statement.

The 10 persons were arrested last Nov. 24 in operations conducted by the NBI’s Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) in the area of Barangay Balabag.

Following the operations, the 10 persons were presented for inquest before the Prosecutor’s Office of Kalibo, Aklan for violating Presidential Decree 705 or the Revised Forestry Code, PD 1067 or the Philippine Water Code, and the 25+5 meter beach easement ordinance of Malay, Aklan.

The NBI said Sea View Apartment, Aloha Villa, La Dolce Vota/Casa Monte, Private Mountain Casitas Boracay Inn, Cohiba Villas, Carolina Park View, and Boracay Sunshine Shuttle and Limousine Corporation are big structures in Forestland Block E in Barangay Balabag.

While, Artista Village and Monkey House have portions that occupy the 25+5 meter beach easement no-build zone and have repeatedly defied notices for self demolition.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/28/nbi-arrests-10-operators-of-establishments-occupying-boracay-forestland/>



# Amid plant craze, DENR reminds public to refrain from buying threatened species

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 28 2020 03:17 PM

MANILA — Are you a "plantito" or "plantita"? Do not buy or trade these threatened plants.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has reiterated its call for the public to refrain from buying or trading threatened plant species as more Filipinos jump in the plant frenzy to [cope with the pandemic](#).

In a Twitter post Friday, the DENR said collection and trade of threatened plants are prohibited unless the act is covered by a permit.

"Collection and trade of threatened plant species are prohibited unless such acts are covered by a permit issued by the DENR. HELP us #ProtectOurWildlife. Stop patronizing these CRITICALLY ENDANGERED and ENDANGERED plant species," it said.



Some of the threatened species are as follows:

## Critically-endangered

- *Hypericum pulogense* Merr.
- Tungkod Langit
- Malaputat
- Curran pitogo

## Endangered

- *Dendrobium bullenianum*
- Hoya

The complete list of plants that are prohibited for collection may be found in DENR Administrative Order No. 2017-11 or [this link](#).



Aside from plant collection, some Filipinos also ventured into the plant-selling business to generate income amid strict lockdowns.

But the DENR noted that the country's flora species—like our wild animals—are protected by Republic Act 9147 or the “Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act,” which makes it illegal to remove, possess, trade or transport threatened species.

Violators may face imprisonment from six to 12 years and a fine of P100,000 to P1 million as specified under the law.

- Report from Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/28/20/amid-plant-craze-denr-reminds-public-to-refrain-from-buying-threatened-species?fbclid=IwAR1JpnqosRgYxbS6UT8aHTE161elvXReXIUkW11WHPmlKMR3mkcQOu68dbM>





# Pantabangan watershed gets boost from new 55m hanging bridge

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

November 28, 2020

ON-GOING rehabilitations of the more than 44,000-hectare Pantabangan-Caranglan Watershed (PCW) now gets a needed boost as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Central Luzon in partnership with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), opened the 55-meter long Calaocan hanging bridge in Burgos village, Carranglan, Nueva Ecija Saturday, November 28, 2020.

The facility is expected to become an essential component in the rehabilitation and development efforts at the PCW.

Paquito Moreno, Jr., executive director of DENR Central Luzon, said the bridge was funded by JICA as an Agroforestry Support Facility subproject in the 10-year Forest Land Management Project (FMP) in the Pantabangan-Carranglan watershed, which will connect farm areas to market towns; reduce transport cost of agricultural products; minimize post-harvest losses and; above all ensure easier access to social services such as health and education.

"This 55-meter Calaocan hanging bridge, which traverses the Deguireg river, will be of great help not just in the conduct of developmental activities within the watershed, but will likewise be fundamental in uplifting the lives of the local communities as this will serve as a channel to increase local trade and productivity," he said.

He said the completion of the hanging bridge is one of the DENR's strong commitments to uplift the socio-economic well-being of local communities while conserving and protecting the environment.

Moreno also expressed his sincere appreciation to JICA for their generosity and as a formidable ally in bringing significance to good governance towards social and environmental development.

Launched in 2012, FMP has already rehabilitated 14,133 hectares of denuded forest lands in PCW, and last year, it was able to construct a 3.7-kilometer farm-to-market road in Conversion village of Pantabangan town benefitting some 350 upland farmers and their families.

FMP is a 10-year reforestation project that aims to rehabilitate the PCW, one of the biggest protected areas in Central Luzon, through collaborative and comprehensive community-based forest management (CBFM) strategies.

FMP also integrates conservation and development-oriented activities with participation and capacity-building of local communities to rehabilitate degraded forestlands in three critical river basins, including Upper Magat and Cagayan in Cagayan Valley, Upper Pampanga in Central Luzon, and Jalaur in Iloilo.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1878376/Pampanga/Local-News/Pantabangan-watershed-gets-boost-from-new-55m-hanging-bridge>



In a three-page complaint obtained by The STAR, the City Environmental Management Office (CEMO) asked the DENR to issue a notice of violation with a cease and desist order against Bright Future Realty Corp. or BF Corp., owned by Marikina Rep. Bayani Fernando, for violation of environmental laws.

[twitter.com/DENROfficial](https://twitter.com/DENROfficial)

## Marikina files complaint over reclamation project

[Emmanuel Tupas](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 29, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Marikina government on Thursday filed an administrative complaint before the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) against a firm owned by a lawmaker over a reclamation project along the Marikina River that it blamed for the massive flooding in the city.??

In a three-page complaint obtained by The STAR, the City Environmental Management Office (CEMO) asked the DENR to issue a notice of violation with a cease and desist order against Bright Future Realty Corp. or BF Corp., owned by Marikina Rep. Bayani Fernando, for violation of environmental laws.

“Immediately order the restoration and rehabilitation of the natural topography of the river, including the flood plain and its easement,” the complaint read.

The city government said the reclamation project is situated on the side of Provident Village in Barangay Tanong. Fernando denied the allegations.

Mayor Marcelino Teodoro believes the reclamation project is one of the reasons for the flooding during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses as it reduced the width of the 100-meter-wide river by about 20 meters.?

The city government alleged that BF Corp. violated Presidential Decree 1586 or the Environmental Impact Statement System when it did not secure an environmental clearance certificate from the DENR.

The construction of roads, artificial embankments, retaining walls and other structures disrupted the natural flood plain and topography of the river, it added.

“Even if the city’s planning office denied BF Corp.’s application for a locational clearance, the firm still continued with construction and development activities of the area, the city government said.

“They have utterly disregarded the intent of the law to submit to the process in order to be evaluated and ultimately, predict the likely impacts of their project to the environment,” the complaint further reads.



Teodoro explained they are not looking for sanctions to be imposed against BF Corp.

“We only want the reclaimed area restored and rehabilitated,” he said in a phone interview.



## GenSan seeks joint venture for operation of sanitary landfill

November 27, 2020 3 min read

**GENERAL SANTOS CITY** – The city government is pushing for a public-private partnership for the operation, maintenance, and development of its sanitary landfill (SLF) complex, an official said on Friday.

Nael Crusperero, head of the City Planning and Development Office, said they are currently working on forging a joint venture agreement with the private sector to transfer the management of the 63.3-hectare facility in Barangay Sinawal.

He said the move was aimed to upgrade the operations of the SLF and address various management concerns, among them the handling of collected wastes and declining capacity of the existing landfill.

Crusperero said the landfill is currently facing problems with the processing of the collected wastes due to improper segregation.

Ideally, he said only 10 percent residual waste should be disposed of in the landfill while the rest should be segregated and processed for composting and recycling.

The SLF, which opened in May 2016, only has one waste cell that is already nearing its allowed capacity, he said.

“It has allotted area for expansion but it was decided during our planning that we should look for a (private) partner that will manage and operate it,” Crusperero said in a radio interview.

The local government, through the waste management office, took over the operations of the PHP219-million SLF complex three years ago following the expiration of the “design, build and operate” contract with R-II Builders Inc., and the Philippine Ecology Systems Consortium Inc.

The agreement then was supported by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau.

Crusperero said a private consortium had submitted an “unsolicited proposal” to manage and operate the sanitary landfill for at least 25 years, with the project costing around PHP100 million.

He named the proponent as East Asia Sheng Tai, a consortium composed of the East Asia Solutions Technology Corporation, Sheng Tai Energy Technology Company, and Dr. Lin Shing-Chou.

A project briefer said the proposal involves the operation and maintenance of the sanitary landfill facility and the establishment and implementation of a waste conversion program.

The proposed joint venture agreement was aimed to extend the life of the SLF and improve its capacity.

Crusperero said East Asia Sheng Tai has so far passed the city government’s three-stage evaluation process, specifically in terms of technical, financial, and legal aspects.





But he said the selection process is currently under competitive challenge after several companies also submitted proposals regarding the project.

“We will follow the processes of the competitive challenge and eventually choose the best (joint venture) partner for the city,” he said.

Once the details of the proposed joint venture are ready, Cruspero said they will submit it to the city council and seek the issuance of authority for City Mayor Ronnel Rivera to sign the agreement.

Citing their timetable, he said they are targeting to sign up the most qualified private sector partner in the first quarter of next year. **(PNA)**



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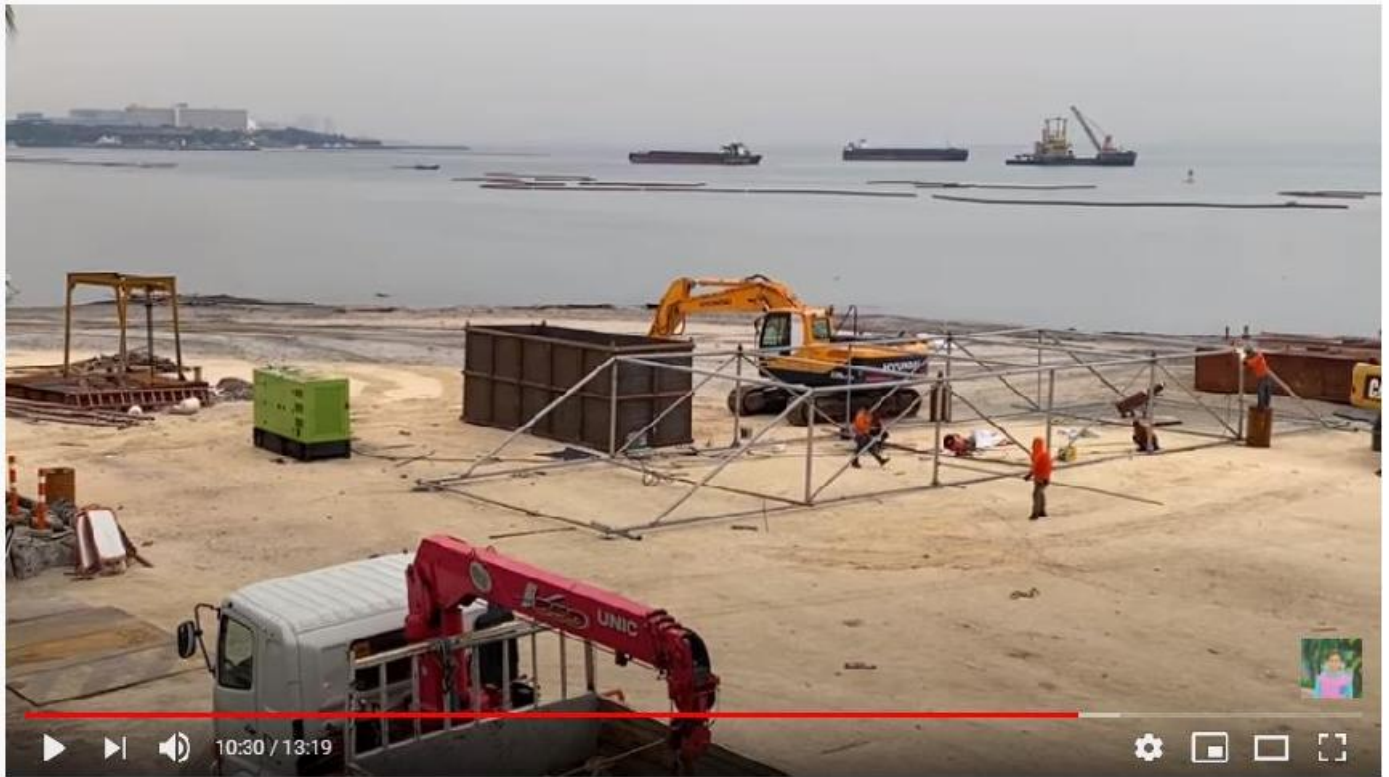
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# Quezon governor opposes construction of Kaliwa dam

Published November 28, 2020, 12:59 PM

by [Danny Estacio](#)

LUCENA CITY – Quezon Governor Danilo Suarez made a commitment that, as long he is the chief executive of the province, he will oppose the construction of Kaliwa Dam, a joint venture project of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and China Energy Engineering Corporation costing P12 billion.



(PNA)

Suarez made this commitment before the members of Save Sierra Madre network, a group that opposes the construction in the town of Infanta.

“I’m with you, I don’t like Kaliwa dam either” Suarez assured. “If you would continue Kaliwa Dam, I’d see you in court.”

Residents of Real, Infanta and General Nakar towns, collectively known as REINA, and indigenous peoples groups have opposed the construction of the dam, tracing back to the tragic flash flood and mudslides that inundated their areas on November 29, 2004, killing more than a thousand people.

And it was for this reason that Suarez was standing squarely behind the Save Sierra Madre Network in its opposition to the dam.

Suarez had a meeting with the groups opposed to the construction of Kaliwa dam in Infanta, while he was conducting relief operations after the onslaught of typhoon Ulysses that hit the Polillo island group and the REINA area.

“Why are we going to borrow money, and let the government ultimately pay the lender, when there are private sectors who can do the job without harming the government,” Suarez also pointed out. On Friday, November 27, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Quezon, headed by Vice Governor Samuel Nantes, passed a resolution, giving Suarez the authority to take necessary steps, on behalf of the provincial government, to stop the construction of the proposed P12-billion Kaliwa Dam, which, they claim, would pose harm to the people and the environment.

The resolution was approved by 11 of the 13 members of the provincial board presided by Nantes. The leadership of the local Catholic church in the province also renewed its opposition to the multi-billion mega-dam project, saying the fight was a matter of survival of the people.

Bishop Bernardino Cortez of Infanta reiterated that the Kaliwa Dam project would pose risks to lowland agricultural and fishing communities with a history of flash flooding.

The prelature, which covers the northern part of Quezon and the Aurora province, lies along the Sierra Madre Mountain Range and on the east of the vast Pacific Ocean.



The area is also home to thousands of Dumagats, an indigenous community in the highlands of Infanta.

“So you will understand that, by geography, our very survival depends on the care of our mountains, forests, rivers, protection of mangroves and seashores,” Cortez said.

Cortez urged the government to instead look for alternative sources of water, such as watershed rehabilitation and improving existing dams and water facilities.

“We hope and pray that our people in this ‘Jubilee for the Earth’ will develop a new mindset and a paradigm shift in our care and use of the common home,” he said.



# Groups oppose cutting down of heritage narra trees in Davao City

Published November 28, 2020, 1:07 PM

by [Antonio Colina IV](#)

**DAVAO CITY** – Environmental groups have opposed the plan of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)-Davao to cut down eight 70-year old heritage trees, mostly narra (*Pterocarpus indicus* or Red Sandalwood), located on McArthur Highway outside the Ateneo de Davao University to give way for a planned lay-by and road widening project.



Environmental groups condemn the plan of the Department of Public Works and Highways to cut down eight decades-old heritage trees, mostly Narra, along the sidewalk of Ateneo de Davao University-Grade School along McArthur Highway in Davao City, as part of the road widening project of the government. (Photos courtesy of Save Heritage Trees / MANILA BULLETIN)

Interface Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS), Inc. Executive director Chinkie P. Golle said that aside from their “ecological and historical value,” the heritage trees also offer social benefits to students, parents, and commuters.

“With the current situation of our city where our Urban Heat Index is increasing, it is of utmost importance to have trees along the roads and in parks to allow walkability, and decrease heat and pollution in the city,” she said.

She added that they hoped that stakeholders and government agencies will also look at the importance of having fully grown trees in urban spaces, to keep the city “greener and more livable.”

She acknowledged the need to address the worsening traffic congestion in the area, but maintained that there were other strategies that the government can resort to without cutting the trees.

“The current technological and engineering approaches can really integrate these trees in their development design,” she said.

Last November 26, Ecoteneo director Carmela Marie Santos and Golle, in a joint letter addressed to DPWH-Davao City District Engineering Office officer-in-charge Richard A. Ragasa, have expressed strong opposition to this plan, explaining the need to preserve the trees, particularly narra.

The groups said narra trees, the country’s national tree, were going extinct, and have also been declared endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Species as of 2018.

“Incidentally, narra is the symbol of Singapore’s gardens and greening program,” the letter read.



It added that the shade provided by the row of trees was useful for pedestrians and commuters, including cyclists, and protect the students from the urban heat and the air pollution from the road traffic.

“The greenery inside the campus is where our children have their lunch picnics and play, as well as the area for evacuation drills and disaster readiness. They are all eager to return to campus and they often mention to us in our online interactions with them, how much they miss the Ateneo grounds and space,” the groups said.

The narra trees are part of the Heritage Trees project initiated by IDIS, which aims to generate maps of heritage trees in the urban areas, document issues and concerns on existing heritage trees and submit a policy recommendation in order to protect and preserve the existing heritage trees in the urban areas, the groups said.

“Heritage trees are recognized for their ecological, cultural and historical value. Preserving heritage and all other trees in the urban areas will help us make sustainable living in Davao City a reality,” the letter added.

The environmental advocates underscored the need for more trees not just cement roads under a “better normal.”

“As we cooperate with the City in promoting cycling as sustainable transport (next to walking) in these pandemic times and the better normal, we need more trees not just cement roads. We need the trees for shade, air pollution and urban heat/climate change mitigation to protect our bikers and the health and safety of our Davao’s citizens in general,” it said.





## Pacquiao gets 'clean air champion' award, urges tree planting

November 27, 2020 4 min read

MANILA – Boxing champion and Senator Emmanuel 'Manny' Pacquiao is urging the public to plant more trees as part of measures to save the environment.

"Magtulong-tulong tayo upang maging malinis ang ating kapaligiran. Ipagpatuloy natin ang pagiging plantita at plantito. Magtanim tayo ng mga puno sa halip na ubusin ang oras sa mga bisyo (let us help one another to have a clean environment. Let us continue to be plantitos and plantitas. Let us plant more trees instead of wasting our time on vices)," Pacquiao said after receiving the 'Clean Air Champion' award from environmental watchdog Clean Air Philippines Movement, Inc. (CAPMI) in a ceremony at the Manila Hotel on Friday.

CAPMI said it chooses its yearly champion based on the merits done to advance their clean air advocacy and other environmental causes.

Past Clean Air awardees Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte and Department of Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade sent video messages for Pacquiao.

As a lawmaker, Pacquiao pushed for the full implementation of Republic Act No. 8749 otherwise known as the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999.

The law provides for a comprehensive air pollution control policy to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature and at the same time, promote and protect the global environment.

Pacquiao also encouraged the people to report to authorities even the simplest smoke-belching incidents that they may observe in their neighborhood.

Planting more trees, Pacquiao said, is the answer to the current problem of serious flooding in some parts of the country that may be caused by frequent typhoons hitting the country, just like the recent typhoons "Rolly" and "Ulysses" which did not only destroy properties but also claimed several lives most especially in the provinces of Bicol, Quezon, Cagayan, and Isabela.

Aside from preventing soil erosion because of the capacity of trees to hold soil and water, they also cause the air to be cleaner and fresher.

President Rodrigo Duterte earlier said what the country is experiencing right now is the effect of climate change, calling on his Cabinet secretaries to act immediately on the problem to prevent the same from occurring in the future.

CAPMI president Dr. Leo Olarte strongly echoed and confirmed Duterte's statement.



“President Duterte is correct. Climate change involves abnormal warming of our planet’s oceans. Typhoons are born in oceans and not on land. The warmer our oceans the stronger the global wind systems will be therefore super typhoons like Yolanda and Rolly arise. Anthropogenic or simply human-caused activities result in the unabated emissions of greenhouse gases that pollute the air we breathe. This leads to global warming that causes Climate Change,” Olarte said.

Other awardees of the event are the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), Beta Sigma Fraternity Medical Group (BSFMG), and the League of Data-privacy and Cyber-security Advocates of the Philippines, Inc. (LeaDCAP) for PMA Doctors on Boats and PMA DOCPH free online telemedicine docph.org.

For PMA Doctors on Boats, awardees are the DOTr -Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Department of National Defense (DND)- Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and the PNP Maritime Group.

The Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC) also received the award for the Climate Change and Poverty Mitigation category.

Studies conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) show that more than 80 percent of air pollution in the urban areas in the country comes from the unabated emissions from motor vehicles that form part of the greenhouse gases in our planet’s atmosphere.

These gases cause global warming eventually leading to climate change.

Aside from climate change, toxic motor vehicle emissions also cause deadly cardiovascular and respiratory diseases in humans. **(PNA)**



## Hinatuan Mining's version of a 'Miyawaki' forest

By [BMPlus](#) November 26, 2020



*HMC's Eastern 1 rehabilitated area - the traditional methods used by miners and the Miyawaki principle may differ in some of its planting strategies but the results yield the same kind of natural forest stand.*

Miyawaki is a technique, pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, on how to grow plants and build forests 10 times faster. The concept is gaining consideration all over the world now that companies and institutions are being marked by society on how they address environment-conservation issues.

For mining companies, the big challenge has always been growing trees in lateritic soil that are deficient in nutrients. While the Miyawaki Method is building forests on barren lands which is called 'afforestation', miners rehabilitate and strive to build forests on mineralized soil, which is called 'reforestation'.

According to HMC's environment manager, Forrester Manuel A. Torres, the traditional approach of reforestation requires systematic spacing between crops and trees consistent with the 'carrying capacity' principle of ecology – where only a certain number of seedling can be accommodated per hectare of land.

Opposite to that, the Miyawaki approach is dependent on natural regeneration with the main goal to achieve a more natural forest-like vibe with grasses, shrubs, and multiple sub-species added to the main trees, all randomly thrown together without specific patterns based on the principle of native planting.

"The traditional methods used by miners and the Miyawaki principle may differ in some of its planting strategies but the results yield the same kind of natural forest stand," explains Torres. "I have not heard of Miyawaki before we started the rehabilitation at Eastern 1. We simply called our program 'high-density planting strategy', initially an experiment which turned out to have very similar goals to Miyawaki, which is to get the target area greener and leafier in half the expected time.

HMC started with picking out good provenance forest tree seedlings mixed them with fast-growing and indigenous forest tree seedlings that are naturally occurring in the area, and applied careful maintenance and tending practices to ensure quality growth in a short fragment of time.



As soon as the vegetation renders its microclimate, the natural characteristics of 'endozoochory' sets in wherein seed dispersal is aided by flora and fauna – 'the birds and the bees, and flowers and trees'.

Just like the Miyawaki vision, HMC is seeing a display of lush vegetation to the mined-out area to around 4-6 years.

" This is an exciting case study as the people expect to see more forests and greeneries in the communities," remarks Torres.



*NAC planted 5.3 Million trees from 2009 to 2020 in its mined-out areas.*

For NAC and all its subsidiaries – Cagdianao Mining in Dinagat Islands (CMC); Dinapigue Mining in Isabela (DMC); Rio Tuba Nickel Mining in Palawan (RTN) and Taganito Mining (TMC) in Surigao del Norte; and of course, HMC – environment-conservation is a critical part of business strategy, and, 'building forests' are 'key performance indicators' across the organization.

According to Rogel C. Cabauatan, AVP for Environment and Community Relations at NAC, the company has been a part of the Philippine government's national greening program since its inception and has recorded some P5.3 Million trees planted across the organization from 2009 to 2020.

" We have proof of concept in all our mine sites where you can now find dense forests in mined-out areas that are a prominent part of our showcase as a proud responsible mining company," Cabauatan says.



*NAC hopes to show off the forests they helped build to the communities.*



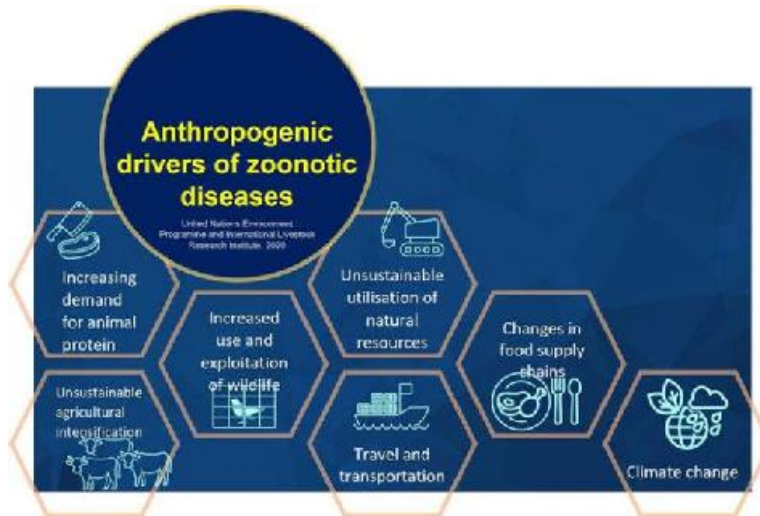


Engineer Francis J. Arañes, Jr., HMC Resident Mine Manager, cannot wait to open the site to visitors.

"We look forward to when this health crisis is over, because we have great visuals at the mine site that we want to share with the communities. As conscious stewards of the environment, it will be an honor to show-off the forests we helped build," Arañes remarks.

# 'One Health' approach vs Covid-19, future pandemics

By Jonathan L. Mayuga  
November 29, 2020



*The anthropogenic drivers of zoonotic diseases—or human activities that cause the jump of illnesses from animals to humans—as illustrated by the United Nations Environment Programme and International Livestock Research Institute in 2020 is shared by ACB Executive Director Theresa Munda S. Lim during her presentation at the recent webinar "Wildlife Conservation and Zoonotic Diseases: Halting Species Loss and Tackling Public Health in the Asean."*

As nations continue to reel from the devastating impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, various stakeholders in Southeast Asia are compelled to look deeper into the issue of wildlife conservation and zoonotic diseases.

The concept of "One Health" as a holistic approach to understanding risks to human, animal and ecosystem health is fast becoming the buzzword as a post-Covid-19 recovery strategy in the region.



*A screens hot of the participants of the webinar "Wildlife Conservation and Zoonotic Diseases: Halting Species Loss and Tackling Public Health in the Asean."*

## Emerging infectious diseases

Kung Phoak, deputy secretary general for Asean Socio-Cultural Community, underscored the substantial impacts of emerging infectious diseases that are zoonotic (an infectious disease that has jumped from animals to humans) to human health, agricultural production, tourism and economies.

At a recent webinar dubbed, "Wildlife Conservation and Zoonotic Diseases: Halting Species Loss and Tackling Public Health in the Asean," Phoak said 75 percent of known emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic, all of which have had substantial impacts on human health, agricultural production, tourism and economies.



Organized by the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), in collaboration with Vietnam through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Asean Secretariat, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the webinar aimed to explore the issue of wildlife conservation and zoonotic diseases from the "One Health" perspective.

## Illegal wildlife trade

Describing the illegal wildlife trade as a ubiquitous problem, Phoak said it contributes to the continuously harrowing decrease in populations of wild flora and fauna and emerging infectious pathogens in the region.

"In the long run, such disruptions in ecological systems could provide opportunities for the emergence of zoonotic diseases," he warned.

He said the links between wildlife and human health are particularly complex, and should be addressed with coordinated actions.

## One Health

In the international community, "One Health" has been known as a collaborative and a transdisciplinary approach that recognizes connections between health and people, and animal and the environment, Phoak said.

Such approach, he added, offers a holistic pathway for biodiversity mainstreaming in Asean's post-2020 biodiversity framework and broader sustainable development agenda.

To this end, Phoak said the Covid-19 pandemic and its recovery should be seen as an opportunity to explore ways and leverage on Asean's existing partnership and initiatives toward a more collective and coordinated response to mitigate its multi-faceted impact.

## A wake-up call

According to Phoak, the Covid 19 pandemic has been a wake-up call for the modern society.

"We need to live in harmony with the broader ecosystem as our lifeline reservoir. We need to look after the environment and biodiversity, if not for anything then for humanity's long-term survival," he said.

Hence, Asean's Covid-19 strategy should look at strategies to mainstream sustainability considerations into all dimensions of work, from the environment, health, agriculture, disaster management and to financing.

## Devastating impact

ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim, in her keynote address during the webinar, said most parts of the world, including the Asean region, have experienced the impacts of the global pandemic.

Citing the World Health Organization report as of November 15, she said almost 4 million new cases and 60,000 new deaths led to the world total of 53.7 million confirmed cases and 1.3 million deaths.



"The Asean Biodiversity Virtual Center reported that there are 1,055,110 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the region with a total of 25,055 deaths as of November 16," she added.

## Biodiversity links

Lim said the webinar hopes to broaden the discussion on the links among wildlife and their natural habitats, domestic animals and human activities, and dependence on biodiversity and healthy ecosystems which have been the subject of conversations by Asean on the Covid-19 pandemic and its links to biodiversity.

"While the wildlife species, such as bats and pangolins, have been identified as natural reservoirs for viruses, there needs to be an intermediate host for the virus to be transmitted to humans," Lim, a licensed veterinarian and an expert in zoonotic disease, said.

Viruses, she said, usually do not simply jump from the wildlife species to humans.

However, because of the increasing human-wildlife interactions, there are currently cases of direct transmission, she said, citing the latest Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services report on pandemics.

## Increasing risks

The increasing anthropogenic changes, or alterations as a result of human action or presence, such as land-use change, agricultural expansion and intensification, wildlife trade and consumption, and other drivers, including climate change, substantially increase the risk of a pandemic occurrence, she pointed out.

"As wildlife species are displaced from their natural ecosystems, the instances of interaction with humans in settlements increase. When this happens, natural host-pathogen dynamics are disrupted, increasing opportunities for direct contact between the wildlife species [which are natural virus reservoirs] and humans," Lim explained.

Anthropogenic drivers of zoonotic diseases are now occurring in the same places, amplifying their impact because of the increasing demand for animal protein, she said.

In Southeast Asia, since the 1960s, the share of the region's daily food supply of proteins from animal products doubled to 21 percent, she noted.

"The increasing demand for animal-source foods stimulates the intensification and industrialization of animal production, which then result in the proliferation of genetically similar animals," she said. Meanwhile, the unsustainable agricultural intensification and monoculture approach to livestock-raising narrows down genetic diversity, weakens disease resistance, and makes the population more vulnerable to viral infections, she said.

Lim cited as an example the factory farming of pigs that was said to have promoted transmission of swine flu due to closed confines of the animals.

"The IPBES report likewise cited that more than 25 percent of all—and more than 50 percent of zoonotic—infectious diseases have been linked to agricultural-intensification measures, such as dams, irrigation projects and factory farms since 1940," she said.





## Exploitation of wildlife

Another problem is the exploitation or overexploitation of wildlife, Lim said.

In the region, illegal wildlife trade has become a lucrative business fetching an estimate of \$20 billion annually.

The increased exploitation of wildlife significantly contributes to the risk of zoonotic disease emergence, she said.

"Hunting of wild animals for bushmeat, recreation, consumption, and social norms, as well as presumptions that wild meat is fresh, natural, traditional and safe, often fuel the illegal wildlife trade system," she explained.

"Furthermore, live animal trading for recreation, research, medical, medicinal, commercial, and decorative purposes largely compound to this," Lim added.

## Food supply chains, climate change

According to Lim, longer food supply chains not only contribute to carbon footprints, but also increase opportunities for wider disease transmission.

"It is not a coincidence that more diseases have been spreading as the global temperature rises, as zoonotic diseases thrive and survive in warmer and wetter climates," she added.

According to Lim, a former official of the DENR, the changing environmental conditions may affect the population of host animals, causing ecological imbalance and enabling virus transmissions.

"Clearly, these human-driven activities lead to biodiversity loss and faster spread of diseases. The decline of species can trigger the spillover of viruses that have long been dormant or inactive, leading to their transmission to domestic animals and humans," she explained.

## Era of pandemics

She reiterated that Covid-19 may not be the last pandemic, citing IPBE S's description or reference to the current period as the "era of pandemics."

"There are around 1.7 million unidentified viruses believed to still exist in mammals and water birds that can infect people. The risk of pandemics is increasing rapid, with more than five new diseases emerging in people every year, any one of which has the potential to spread and become pandemic," she said.

## Curbing the risks

According to Lim, curbing the risk of future pandemics would entail the reduction or a complete halt of destructive practices, and the promotion of more nature- and biodiversity-friendly mindset and lifestyle.

She said the most urgent measure that people in Asean must undertake is the conservation of protected areas that serve as habitats of wildlife animals.



This means halting the overexploitation and the unsustainable use of resources in high biodiversity regions to reduce the wildlife-livestock-human contact interface and help prevent the spillover of novel pathogens.

Responsible consumption and reducing consumption of meat from livestock production, she said, can also help to significantly reduce the risk of pandemics.

## ACB's role

As a regional hub for biodiversity conservation, the ACB has a significant role in the ongoing discussions in the region on the development of One Health approach.

One of the ACB's main thrusts now is mainstreaming biodiversity considerations across development sectors, and along with its mandate of fostering regional cooperation among the 10 Asean member states.

Lim said the ACB can support in the adoption of the One Health approach in sub-national, national and regional planning following the Conference on Biological Diversity guidance and the joint work program between CBD and World Health Organization on Health and Biodiversity.

Lim said the webinar aims to bring together the sectors of biodiversity conservation, wildlife trade and enforcement, forestry, agriculture and animal health, human health and infectious diseases in Asean, and tackle an integrated response to the Covid-19 challenge through the lens of One Health approach.

Finally, sharing an editorial cartoon that illustrates the various disasters the world is facing, Lim said the world is only bracing for a fraction of health and ecological threats.

"Focusing on biodiversity—including embedding its considerations across sectors and across pillars—should be our main priority," she said.

*Image credits: [ACB](#)*



# DOH reports 474 new Covid-19 recoveries

By Marita Moaje **November 28, 2020, 7:16 pm**



*(Data from the Department of Health)*

**MANILA** – The Department of Health (DOH) on Saturday reported 474 new recoveries from the coronavirus disease (Covid-19).

The total number of recoveries in the country is now at 388,062 or equivalent to 90.7 percent.

Meanwhile, as of 4 p.m. on Saturday, the total number of confirmed Covid-19 cases is at 427,797 after the DOH logged 1,893 new cases.

The number of active Covid-19 cases is at 7.3 percent or 31,402.

Of the newly reported Covid-19 cases, the city of Davao recorded 200 new cases, topping the list of provinces and cities with the most number of cases.

This was followed by Negros Occidental with 123 new cases, Western Samar with 84, Pampanga with 60, and Quezon City with 57.

The DOH Covid-19 case bulletin also reflected that 84.6 percent of the active cases are considered to be mild, 8.4 percent remain asymptomatic, 4.4 percent are critical, 2.3 percent are severe and 0.25 percent are moderate.

However, the DOH also reported 79 new deaths bringing to 8,333 or 1.95 percent the total number of individuals who died due to Covid-19.

DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, during the Laging Handa public briefing on Saturday aired over state-run PTV4, reminded the public that the threat of contracting Covid-19 is still present.

She said the DOH does not encourage the holding of Christmas parties as mass gatherings are still prohibited to curb the spread of Covid-19. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1123273>



## MAHIGIT P80-B NAKALAAN PARA SA COVID-19 VACCINE SA ILALIM NG 2021 BUDGET

written by **Jaymark Dagala** November 28, 2020



Aabot sa P83-B ang inalaan na pondo ng senado upang ipambili, paglalagyan at pamamahagi ng bakuna kontra COVID-19.

Ito'y makaraang makalusot na sa ikatlo at huling pagbasa ang panukalang P4.5-T national budget para sa taong 2021.

Ayon kay Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sonny Angara, mas malaki ang ipinasa nilang pondo kumpara sa inilaan ng Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Para naman kay Senate Minority Floor Leader Franklin Drilon, makabubuting ilaan na rin para sa COVID vaccines ang mahigit P33-B nakatenggang pondo ng iba't-ibang ahensya ng gobyerno sa Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC).





# UN extends call for help to 'Ulysses'-hit areas in N. Luzon

November 28, 2020, 10:28 am



**MANILA** – Three weeks after launching its response to help address the immediate and early recovery needs of communities worst hit by Super Typhoon Rolly, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners on Friday released a revised Humanitarian Needs and Priorities (HNP) plan, further extending support to areas severely affected by Typhoon Ulysses in northern Luzon.

In its support to the government-led response to “Rolly” and “Ulysses”, country-based humanitarian partners under the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) umbrella will focus on life-saving and time-critical recovery needs of people, especially women and girls, living in the hardest-hit provinces of Albay and Catanduanes in the Bicol region and the most-affected areas of the province of Cagayan in the Cagayan Valley region.

The revised HNP brings together collective humanitarian activities from November to April next year with a new total funding request of USD52.6 million (PHP2.5 billion).

The call for resources will directly assist 278,100 affected people in terms of food, access to clean water - sanitation - hygiene (WASH) facilities, emergency shelter and livelihood, health, and early recovery.

Following a review of overall needs, 18,100 most vulnerable people who were severely affected by “Ulysses” in Cagayan were added to the original target of 260,000 people in Albay and Catanduanes.

On November 23, UN resident coordinator and humanitarian coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez joined the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) and ambassadors from Germany and the Netherlands in visiting Tuguegarao to directly coordinate with Cagayan’s provincial government to identify the needs and gaps, as well as prioritize humanitarian interventions in the flood-affected areas.

This followed a visit earlier in November to see first hand the impact of “Rolly” on communities in Albay.

“I had the opportunity to visit Tuguegarao and consult with local government officials and people directly affected by the floods. This and my earlier visit to Albay highlighted to me the extraordinary efforts made by the government at all levels to protect vulnerable communities. I was also impressed by the spirit of Filipinos as they worked within their battered communities to recover and rebuild their lives,” Gonzalez said in a news release.

As various agencies continue to support response efforts for the two typhoons and to accelerate the stabilization of conditions faced by the affected population, UN Undersecretary General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, has approved an allocation of USD3.1 million (PHP150 million) for the Philippines from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

The CERF funding was awarded to Unicef, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the UN World Food Program (WFP), prioritizing water supplies, sanitation services, hygiene, emergency shelter, and food to address time-critical needs.

All three agencies are mandated under the CERF to focus on life-saving assistance of the most vulnerable, particularly the poorest single-headed households, elderly, and persons with disabilities in Albay and Catanduanes.



Related needs, such as mental health, nutrition, and psychosocial support, Covid-19 infection prevention and control, camp management for larger and congested evacuation centers, and logistics will be addressed through a collaborative and multi-sectoral approach. The agencies will work with local implementing partners.

Other recent contributions include donor agencies, such as ECHO and USAID, that have raised additional funding support for humanitarian response and recovery efforts, USD1.3 million (PHP60 million) and USD3.5 million (PHP169 million) respectively, which will enable local humanitarian partners to provide relief to displaced communities and people-at-risk in the most-affected areas.

A total of USD11.6 million (PHP562 million) has been successfully mobilized through the HNP to date.

Humanitarian partners in the country – the UN, non-governmental organizations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the private sector – are supporting national and local authorities with the response to the typhoons, building on established partnership agreements and relationships strengthened over years of collaboration.

“With (the) continuing influence of La Niña, this may not be the last major storm we have seen this season. The UN and humanitarian partners in the Philippines are not waiting and we are already adapting our approach to meet such challenges, including by building on partnerships for resilience,” Gonzalez added. **(PR)**



## Families flee homes anew as nonstop rains cause flooding in Tuguegarao

Published November 28, 2020 2:25pm

By JAMIL SANTOS, GMA News

About 40 families on Saturday were evacuated from a barangay in Tuguegarao after the city in Cagayan experienced flooding anew resulting from incessant rains brought by the tail-end of a cold front.

Residents in Coreshelter, Barangay Annafunan East experienced ankle-deep floods as of 8:30 a.m.

At least 39 families have already been evacuated at the Annafunan East Evacuation Center, as Sangguniang Kabataan chairman Gerald Valdez said, preemptive evacuation is still being conducted in their area.

Nakaranas muli ng pagbaha sa Coreshelter, Barangay Annafunan East sa Tuguegarao dahil sa walang tigil na pagulan...

Posted by [GMA News](#) on [Friday, November 27, 2020](#)

The provincial road at Annafunan East going to Linao and Atulayan via Coreshelter became impassable.

Earlier on Saturday, the National Irrigation Administration-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (NIA-MRIIS) warned residents in Northern Luzon of possible flooding as it announced it is [discharging almost 800 cubic meters per second](#) (cms) of water from Magat Dam.

Some residents in Cagayan Valley partly blamed Magat Dam's release of water for the massive flooding in the region during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses earlier this month.

PAGASA on Saturday said cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms due to the tail-end of a cold front are expected over mainland Cagayan, Isabela, Apayao, Abra, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, Aurora and Benguet. —LBG, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/766011/families-flee-homes-anew-as-nonstop-rain-cause-flooding-in-tuguegarao/story/>



# Logistics

[FIRST PERSON](#) - [Alex Magno](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 28, 2020 - 12:00am

We always tend to think there are simple solutions to comprehensive problems. It is simply reassuring to do so.

When floods hit Cagayan Valley earlier this month, people blamed it on Magat Dam releasing water. That was a seductive theory. All we have to do is to improve dam management rather than think through difficult things like deforestation and climate change.

When several vaccine manufacturers released encouraging findings last week, we thought it was simply a matter of administering the dosages and then putting the pandemic behind us. It is not going to be that easy.

First we have to find the money to buy the vaccines. We are competing with the rest of humanity for our share of them.

If we choose vaccine varieties that require a super cold chain, we might not be ready to store and distribute the stuff. The cost of distribution could actually be larger than the cost of acquisition. The prospect of mass vaccination will surely challenge areas where our economy is weakest: the public health system and our inefficient logistics backbone.

When we do get stocks of the vaccine, we have a fairly clear idea of the order of priorities. Our healthcare workers, exposed daily to the infected, will be first in line. Our security forces, pressed into enforcing health protocols in the streets, will be next. Then follows the elderly, the people with co-morbidities and those who reside in hotspots.

In a word, one cannot simply go to a health facility and demand to be vaccinated – unless, of course, one is a duly elected senator. This is the way our world works.

At the moment, government is confident that it can afford to underwrite the costs of vaccination. The indigents, at least, will be vaccinated for free.

The most optimistic scenario is that we will get supplies of efficacious vaccines by the middle of next year. There is no truth to the rumor that next Christmas will be virus-free.

In the meantime, much of the public health restrictions in place will remain. There is good news on the testing front, however. Scientists have begun developing cheaper testing kits, including variants that may be self-administered. Saliva tests are now widely used. Soon our senators might be able to test themselves first thing every morning.

There could be breakthroughs in therapeutics, as well. They could dramatically bring down the death rate and shorten hospitalizations months down the road. Trust science to deliver – especially when profitability is ensured.

It is now possible to imagine we can soon pop some pills to address an infection, much like we now take an antibiotic dose to address a painful boil on our skin.

In some airports, canines are being trained to detect COVID-positive travelers. Artificial intelligence is being deployed in the effort to fight the pandemic, not only to track and trace but to actually identify infected persons. Lockdowns could soon become a thing of the past, a distant memory of how utterly unprepared the global health system was to meet the surge of a pandemic.





But things are not going to be easy or cheap.

While images of a massive, inclusive and effective vaccination program done in a matter of months may dance in our heads, this is not likely yet. The authorities are now telling us it could take between three to five years to vaccinate 60 million Filipinos. This means that even Christmas next year will still be haunted by health protocols.

Those students of the Ateneo calling for a student strike can march in the streets all they want, demanding some magical response from government against this curse of a pandemic. But the timetable announced by our vaccine czar is probably the best our systems, institutions and processes can deliver. The good Jesuits might do well to include in the education they provide a healthy dose of realism.

This pandemic is not about to evaporate overnight. It will require a long grind that will test us all.

And this is not just a health crisis that has already taken too much of a toll. The pandemic has deepened lines of inequality in societies. It has forced the diversion of resources from poverty alleviation to disease control. It has eradicated jobs that will never return. It has forced all of humanity to examine our vulnerabilities. It has forced all of us to reexamine our lives, separating the essential from the non-essential.

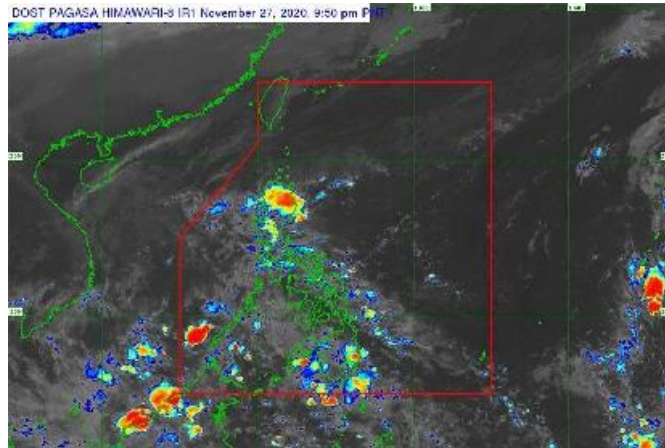
The experience scars us all. The ghost of this pandemic will haunt us long after this particular virus had been determined extinct.

We have not managed this pandemic spectacularly, to be sure. But we have not done too badly either. We rank about 14th in the world in terms of population and 27th in the number of infections. Certainly our coronavirus response has not been the sort of abject failure we see in many developed countries.

Most likely, our vaccination response will have the same middling characteristics. It will be slow and probably spotty. It will be the same difficult grind as our early stage response to infections. But it will be grounded on science rather than wishful thinking.

Our economic recovery, anchored on the protection of public health, will be slower than some rapidly rebounding countries but quicker than some of the rest. Some might begrudge government for that – although this will be a fruitless exercise. We are heir to all our economy's frailties.

The worse we could do, however, is to politicize both the health protocols and the vaccination program.



The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) in its climate outlook said that moderate to strong La Niña has further strengthened.

PAGASA

## PAGASA sees 1 or 2 more cyclones for 2020

[Romina Cabrera](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 28, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The state weather bureau said at least one or two more tropical cyclones could enter the country before the end of the year, with La Niña likely to persist until May 2021.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) in its climate outlook said that moderate to strong La Niña has further strengthened.

The weather phenomenon is already at its peak through January and will likely continue until March-May 2021.

La Niña means that there is an increased likelihood of above normal rainfall conditions that could lead to potential adverse impacts such as heavy rainfall, floods or landslides over highly vulnerable areas.

There could be at least one tropical cyclone to enter in the months of January to March. Without the La Niña phenomenon, there would be zero or a slim chance for a tropical cyclone.

Most of the country will see above normal rainfall conditions, except for some areas in Mindanao where it is forecast to see near normal conditions.

The country could see back-to-back La Niña events, as there have been six such weather events since 2007.

PAGASA yesterday launched four new forecast products that are expected to help various sectors in preparing for adverse effects of extreme weather disturbances, such as tropical cyclones.

These include the radar mosaic and quality controlled radar data, the PAGASA integrated system for typhoon operations and two subseasonal to seasonal (S2S) products.



The S2S products include the two-week rainfall exceedance probability forecast, and the two-week tropical cyclone threat forecast.

These products are expected to fill gaps in existing forecasts and help sectors, such as agriculture, water resources and national security, better prepare to avoid possible calamities.

PAGASA administrator Vicente Malano said these new programs help the forecast capability on weather, marine meteorology and short-range climate program.



# Scattered rains, thunderstorms to prevail over 8 areas —PAGASA

Published November 28, 2020 5:03pm

By JOAHNA LEI CASILAO, GMA News

Cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms are expected to prevail over six regions and two provinces across the country, state weather Bureau PAGASA said Saturday.

Areas particularly [affected by the weather condition](#) include: Cagayan Valley, Cordillera Administrative Region, provinces of Aurora and Quezon, the Regions of Bicol, Eastern Visayas, Caraga, and the Davao.

In its [24-hour forecast](#), the weather agency said this is due to the Tail-end of a Frontal System and warm winds from the Pacific Ocean or the Easterlies.

PAGASA warned that affected residents of possible flash floods or landslides during moderate to, at times, heavy rains.

Meanwhile, the Northeast Monsoon or Amihan may bring cloudy skies with rains over the Ilocos Region and the rest of Central Luzon.

Flash floods and landslides are also possible.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country may, meanwhile, experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms.

PAGASA said severe thunderstorms may cause flashfloods or landslides. —LBG, GMA News







- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article

**NIA-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System**  
20 hours ago

Please share to everybody for their information and guidance.

**Abian Carlo** • NIA-MARIS-DHD Flood Forecasting and Warning System Dam Operation (FFWSO)   
 11/29/2020 at 11:10 AM - 400 views - 2h

**Doct. pagasa**  
Government Organization 4,120,572 Likes · 10

Magat River Basin Flood Bulletin # issued at San, 11/29/2020

**NIA-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System**

**HYDROLOGICAL FORECAST**  
MAGAT RIVER BASIN  
ISSUED: 29-11-2020 10:00 AM  
ISSUED BY: EN-AM/TECH/ENR

Sub-Basin	Forecasted Rainfall (mm)	Forecasted Runoff (mm)	Forecasted Peak Flow (m³/s)	Forecasted Peak Time
UPPER MAGAT	100-150	50-75	1000-1500	11/30/2020 10:00 AM
MIDDLE MAGAT	100-150	50-75	1000-1500	11/30/2020 10:00 AM
LOWER MAGAT	100-150	50-75	1000-1500	11/30/2020 10:00 AM

Evacuation, landslide

About 40 families on Saturday were [evacuated](#) from a barangay in Tuguegarao after the city in Cagayan experienced flooding anew resulting from incessant rains brought by the tail-end of a cold front.

In San Mateo, Isabela, 50 families had their houses [flooded](#) after the irrigation canal nearby overflowed its banks following heavy rains from the tail-end of a frontal system.

Meanwhile, a rescue van from Cagayan got stranded in mud and was hit by rocks after a landslide occurred in Mt. Province. Authorities already conducted clearing operation.



Isabela and Cagayan were placed under state of calamity earlier this month after Typhoon Ulysses' onslaught as massive flooding submerged houses, and residents had to seek shelter on rooftops.

The NIA received criticisms that the release of water from Magat Dam caused widespread flooding in Cagayan and Isabela two weeks ago.

NIA Administrator Ricardo Visaya however said the gates of Magat Dam [had to be opened](#) amid heavy rains from Ulysses to prevent the dam from breaking and causing a bigger catastrophe.

Visaya also maintained that the opening of the water gates of Magat Dam was [not the major cause](#) of the flooding in Cagayan and Isabela.

The House Committee on Agriculture and Food thus [conducted an investigation](#) to look into the decision of NIA to open the spillway gates of Magat Dam, and if such a move was done following established guidelines and protocols.

At the hearing, Visaya said the [Magat Dam was not designed for flood control](#), as he cited their operations manual that said "[i]t is emphasized that there is no provision for the storage of floodwater in the Magat reservoir unless the reservoir is below the full supply level of 193 (meters) when the flood arrives."

Visaya further said the P5 to P10-million annual budget for the maintenance of the Magat Dam is not enough. —Jamil Santos/KG/LBG, GMA News



FUTURE PLANET | CLIMATE CHANGE

## A 'mass experiment' for the climate

(Image credit: Emily Kasriel)



By Emily Kasriel 25th June 2020

### Has the pandemic helped individuals and leaders get any closer to tackling the environmental crisis?

“I was so worried about the dangers of going too far,” says Sally Capp, Lord Mayor of Melbourne, when she now thinks about her pre-pandemic leadership on the environment. The leader of Australia’s second most populated city believes Covid-19 has helped her clarify what’s important to her as an individual and as mayor. “I have become much more resolute about my values, prioritising humanity and protecting the environment, so they can play a larger role in driving my agenda.”

The pandemic has created the most significant economic shock since the Great Depression, besides being a public health crisis like no other in living memory. The existential threat that it has posed has set many individuals, cities and national leaders on a new track. In Capp’s case, it has meant taking very different decisions on the environment, leading in a way that focuses on what’s truly important. Capp believes this trend needs to continue post Covid-19.

There is indeed a large movement to “build back better” from the pandemic in a way that confronts the climate crisis. Attitudes are changing. But however good our intentions as individuals, it will take determined moves by industry, national and local government to modify the environment so that we can all build on any attitude changes. Has the pandemic helped us make the changes needed to tackle the environmental crisis?

Many people across the world retreated into radically different lives during the lockdown. The desire to stay safe created some dramatic mass behaviour changes that some academics have likened to a massive experiment.

*When you are spending time at home, working there or because you’ve lost your job or been furloughed, you could see for the first time how much energy you are using or how much food you are throwing away – Elise Amel*

Many of these changes in the way we act have had a sustainable dimension, such as curtailing the vast majority of our long-distance travel. Our reduction in movement has led to the biggest carbon crash ever recorded. (Read more about *how coronavirus helped the environment*.)





*The short-term changes in behaviour we have seen in lockdown won't necessarily translate to the post-lockdown world - but will they shift our perspective? (Credit: Emily Kasriel)*

As the world has changed around us, how has that changed our perception of the environment and our behaviour towards it? Elise Amel, a professor in psychology at the University of St Thomas in St Paul and Minneapolis, points out that **when people can see the impact they cause – when the invisible becomes visible – they behave differently**. “When you are spending time at home, working there or because you’ve lost your job or been furloughed, you could see for the first time how much energy you are using or how much food you are throwing away, which may make you stop, think and change your behaviour,” says Amel.

Many of these temporary sustainable shifts have been incidental side effects of our response to the danger of the virus, rather than being motivated by our concern for the planet. However, if we continue to walk and cycle more it may mean we will take up other pro-planet behaviours, which environmental psychologists term the “spillover effect”. For example, **recycling plastics may foster our identity as someone who cares about protecting our planet**, which in turn could make us want to eat less meat.

However, Jo Hale, a research fellow at University College London who studies sustainability and health in urban environments, warns that if we take part in one pro-environmental activity we may feel we have a moral license to stop there, a tendency known as “single-action bias”. As we have ticked the sustainable box we may think we have played our part.

One impact of staying local during lockdown has led to many of us spending more time in nature, with rich **rewards for our wellbeing**. Google Trends shows that during worldwide lockdowns the global number of online searches for “bird sounds”, “identify trees”, and “growing plants” reached double what they were a year ago.



*The feeling of awe while being in nature could be one mechanism by which time outdoors affects how we act towards the environment (Credit: Emily Kasriel)*

Research indicates that this greater immersion in nature may also change our attitudes toward the environment. Matthew White, an environmental psychologist at the University of Exeter, conducted a large-scale study prior to Covid 19 which found a positive correlation between **our exposure to the natural world and pro-environmental behaviours like planting trees** or managing hedgerows for birds. There is also evidence suggesting a **causal link between time spent in nature and more sustainable behaviour**, though this is less well documented.



One of the mechanisms by which contact with nature may encourage us to take **more green actions may be the feeling of awe that we experience when we spend time in the natural world**, according to early research. This experience of wonder we feel when we look up at the multitude of stars in our Milky Way, or the expanse of a tree trunk whose canopy is lost in the mist can enable us to see our own diminished self in the context of a much larger whole. This new perspective can encourage us to behave more generously to others and to our planet.

*There has always been a huge focus on behaviour change when it comes to global warming mitigation, but now the public is demanding that industry and government pull their weight – Jessica Long*

However, White points out that this correlation between contact with nature and pro-environmental behaviours doesn't hold true when it comes to our holiday travel. Research pre-Covid indicated that **spending time in nature has no impact on our willingness to jump on a plane for a city break or a seaside experience**.

There are also other significant challenges to behaviour change. Many of us from New Delhi to Los Angeles have savoured the clearer skies and less polluted atmosphere flowing from the cut in our travel and emissions during lockdown, but extensive research underlines the common-sense knowledge that old habits die hard. "There is good reason to believe that as soon as life starts up, people will be triggered back into old habits, like jumping automatically into your car," says Wendy Wood, a professor at the University of Southern California who is a world-renowned expert on habits and author of the book *Good Habits, Bad Habits*. The framework of our old ordinary lives is still there – the car waiting on the driveway and the kids who need fetching from school.



*Environmental policies that are initially unpopular often gain the traction of public support after they are up and running (Credit: Emily Kasriel)*

Three years ago, Wood conducted a study in which she shared evidence with a group of people about how much healthier it was to avoid sugar in food and drink. "It was easy to convince them this was a good idea, as there is lots of powerful information out there to back this up, so armed with the knowledge, they changed their attitudes dramatically."

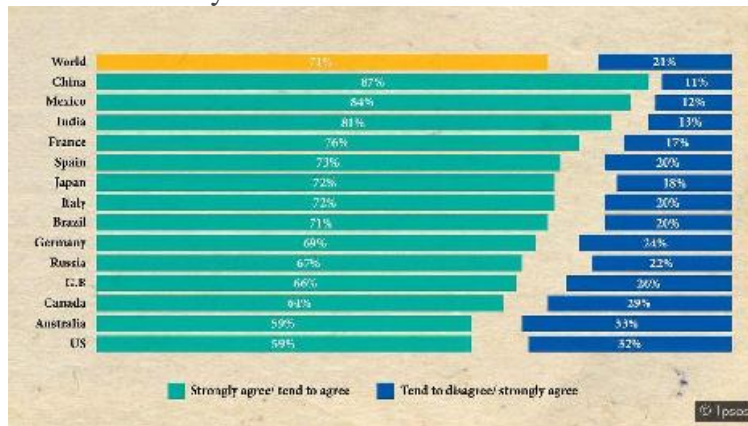
But later that day, Wood gave the same group a choice of drinks to sample in a taste test, among them sugary options like fizzy orange or cola. "The vast majority chose to drink a sugary beverage." While Wood agrees that any change of attitude may have more of an impact when it comes to us making larger considered decisions, like the purchase of a car, choosing what to drink or how to get to work is a result of a habit, based not on our considered thoughts but on our daily experience.

### Turning point

However, Wood believes the massive disruption in our routines caused by the pandemic may present an opportunity for us to move to a more sustainable lifestyle, but only if leaders are willing to take decisive steps to alter the cues around us. Otherwise, we are likely to slip into old patterns. Wood is on an advisory board of the Los Angeles Metro and focuses on helping get people in LA out their cars and into the habit of using mass transit. However, as mass transit is not a healthy option right now, there is a search for other sustainable alternatives. "My impassioned appeal to the transit authority is to start **opening the streets to scooters, cycles and pedestrians**," she says, "but so far, they've only agreed to open 20 miles of road, a drop in the ocean of LA's freeways".



Research also indicates that while politicians may think it is challenging at such a disruptive time to implement policies that they believe to be unpopular, many of these policies, whether **charging for plastic bags** or putting in place a **congestion charge**, often develop far more support when they are implemented as people can see the benefits to their city and to their environment.

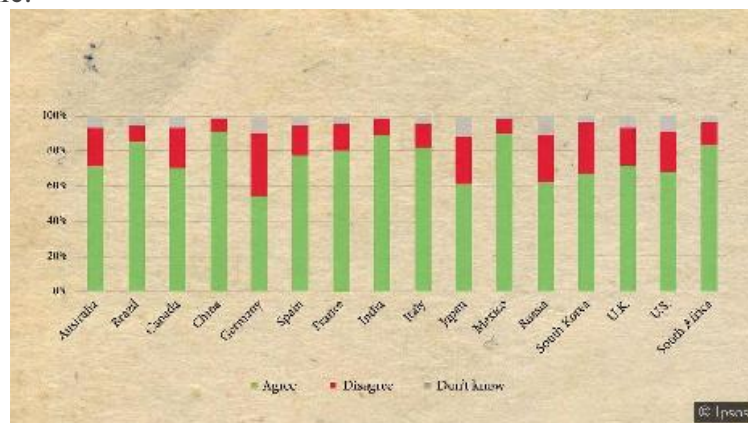


An Ipsos Mori survey in April 2020 asked 28,029 adults whether they agreed with the question: in the long term, climate change is as serious a crisis as COVID-19 (Credit: Ipsos)

It is, of course, not just governments that can encourage positive environmental changes enacted during lockdown. Hale points to the opportunity business has to implement systemic sustainable policies in response to Covid-19 lockdown experiences. The technology company Twitter has **permitted all staff to work from home** indefinitely. The global management consultancy company McKinsey, which advises CEOs of some of the world’s largest companies, has **prompted** corporations to seize the moment to decarbonise, arguing that companies have fresh opportunities to “make their operations more resilient and more sustainable as they experiment out of necessity”. There is also a close interplay between corporate and government actions. A number of large firms have **written** to the UK government, prompting them to make the recovery green.

A recent global Ipsos Mori poll found a recognition by the public that individuals aren’t the biggest actors in the story of climate change.

“There has always been a huge focus on behaviour change when it comes to global warming mitigation, but now the public is demanding that industry and government pull their weight,” says Jessica Long, the pollster’s head of sustainability. In the **May 2020 poll**, three in four people polled across 16 countries expect their government to make protection of the environment a priority when planning a recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.



Another Ipsos Mori survey asked international respondents if they thought their government should make environment protection a priority in recovery from Covid-19 (Credit: Ipsos)

Long says across the countries that Ipsos Mori polled in 2019 “the number one global issue was the environment. Four out of five people polled felt that we are headed towards an environmental disaster”. What took Long and her pollster colleagues by surprise were the results of the recent polling which indicates that Covid-19 hasn’t detracted from this. “Over 70% of respondents across the world report that, in the long term, climate is as serious a crisis as Covid-19. In April 2020 poll, well over half of the international sample said that they would be put off voting for a political party whose policies didn’t deal seriously with climate change.



Are political leaders ready to take more radical action to protect the planet and address man-made climate change? This challenge is especially pertinent when many of them are negotiating one of the most challenging economic landscapes in living memory alongside mass unemployment. In addition, with many people feeling public transport is no longer safe, there are pressures to allow private cars greater freedom in the city, which could roll back sustainable city improvements made over decades.

In April, Emmanuel Macron, the President of France, spoke to the Financial Times in the mid of the country's lockdown. "We all face the profound need to invent something new, because that is all we can do," he argued. "We have stopped half the planet to save lives, there are no precedents for that in our history." People have come to understand "that no one hesitates to make very profound, brutal choices when it's a matter of saving lives. It's the same for climate risk," he added. However, this public promotion of a radical reset hasn't convinced some environmentalist members of Macron's own party, who have since abandoned their leader to create a new more left-leaning and ecological party.

Perhaps the change will be driven by cities, not countries. Mark Watts leads C40, a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change. Since Covid-19 he has been convening a bi-weekly meetings of the big city mayors to discuss tackling the epidemic and how to manage a green recovery. Watts told me the sense of possibility is palatable, even in a virtual meeting. "The mayors are treating this time as a massive game-changing moment. This epidemic experience will have been the greatest pressure that most of these individuals have been under, as hundreds of thousands of people have been dying in their cities. But with increased public trust in government, they are sensing this is the moment they have to be strong and bold to take radical steps to protect our environment."

Since coming into power two years ago, Melbourne's Mayor Capp has been committed to climate action, declaring a climate and biodiversity emergency in 2019. However, Covid-19 has given her permission to radically accelerate environmental improvements to her city. "Now we're rolling out some of our bicycle lane ambitions in one year, improvements which were meant to take place over a decade," she says. The city has also just announced it will be planting 150,000 trees, shrubs and grasses in the next six months, a unprecedented greening of the Melbourne landscape, in contrast to far more tentative pre-Covid steps. As Capp explained with a smile in her voice, "Now I've got more chutzpah."

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*Additional research by Kate Provornaya*

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*The emissions from travel it took to report this story were 0kg CO<sub>2</sub>, as the writer interviewed sources remotely. The digital emissions from this story are an estimated 1.2g to 3.6g CO<sub>2</sub> per page view. **Find out more about how we calculated this figure here.***





# Countdown begins to China's total ban on imported waste

Guo Rui, South China Morning Post

Posted at Nov 28 2020 02:15 PM

China is pressing ahead with a total ban on imports of solid waste, with the order set to come into effect at the start of next year, according to Chinese authorities.

The ban was underlined in a joint statement on Wednesday by the country's environment and commerce ministries as well as the National Development and Reform Commission, and the customs administration.

Under the ban, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment will no longer issue import licences for solid waste, according to the statement.

Xiao Jianjun, chief executive of Guoheng Plastic Technology in the southern city of Dongguan, applauded the move, saying it was good for the waste processing industry.

"It lays out clear guidelines and specifications for businesses to follow in promoting environmental protection," Xiao said.

The ban is the latest in a series of policies introduced by China in recent years to tackle the mountain of pollution from imported waste.

In July 2017, the State Council introduced new rules banning the import of "foreign garbage", halting the import of four categories of solid waste, including scrap plastics. Then in mid-2018, China announced that it would end all import of foreign solid waste by the end of 2020.



Before the bans, imports of such waste had surged in China.

In March 2018, then environment minister Li Ganjie said that about 20 years earlier, the country imported about 4-4.5 million tonnes of solid waste.

"Twenty years later, the volume of solid waste has grown to 45 million tonnes," Li said.

But the tide has turned.

According to customs data, China's imports of solid waste - including plastic, scrap paper and metal - roughly halved in 2018. And imports of scrap plastic have almost totally stopped.

In the aftermath of the bans, many Chinese companies in the industry headed overseas to set up factories to handle the initial stages of waste processing.

Xiao said he looked for new suppliers from abroad and set up new factories in Malaysia.

"Now the waste has to be processed abroad and turned from solid waste into reusable raw materials before it can be imported. Before, there were no restrictions, and any garbage could be imported," he said.

But that did not happen without a lot of pain.

"The painful period was in 2016 and 2017 and the entire industry was in distress," he said.

"Then (the pain) slowly eased, as we asked our upstream suppliers to do better in meeting national standards.

"But the original suppliers and the old industrial chain could not work any more. So we have to find suppliers all over again and the whole industry has gone through this painful period."

Interpol tracks crime gangs smuggling plastic rubbish into China for illegal waste recycling

Mao Da, executive director of Shenzhen Zero Waste, an environmental NGO based in Shenzhen, said cleaning up of pollution caused by imported waste could take years and was expensive.

"China's policy has set an example for the global waste trade and cross-border transfer of pollution so that developing countries will not easily become the rubbish dumps of developed countries," he said.

"Only when developing countries become aware of the problems and adopt domestic legislation and effective controls, can they break the cycle and curb this unfair trade.

"We can't just rely on the conscience of developed countries, or international treaties, which are very weak and can't impose substantial restrictions (on the polluters)."



Du Huanzheng, head of the Circular Economy Research Institute at Tongji University in Shanghai, said China's solid waste ban met strong international resistance when it was introduced, particularly from the United States "because the US does not have an industrial chain for waste treatment".

"Now they are building up their own waste disposal industry chain. Western countries should shoulder their environmental responsibility - not transfer it to developing countries," Du said.

He said there had been economic costs for China as a result of the import bans, including higher business costs, disruptions to supplies of raw material supplies, and a decline in local tax revenues.

But there were environmental benefits and pressure on industry to add value to its products.

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Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/11/28/20/countdown-begins-to-chinas-total-ban-on-imported-waste>