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“With COVID-19, we have rediscovered the benefits of cycling and walking – saving money, getting fit, and helping to reduce pollution and mitigate climate change. We can choose to keep this momentum,” Roy Cimatu said.

Senate PRIB/Cesar Tomambo

DENR chief vows government support for biking

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 30, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has promised to deliver projects that will encourage more people to use the bicycle as a means of transportation.

In a statement issued for yesterday’s National Bicycle Day celebration, he said that aside from its health benefits, biking also reduces air pollution and could help mitigate the impact of climate change.

“With COVID-19, we have rediscovered the benefits of cycling and walking – saving money, getting fit, and helping to reduce pollution and mitigate climate change. We can choose to keep this momentum,” Cimatu said.

President Duterte issued Proclamation 1052 last Nov. 18 to declare the fourth Sunday of November of every year as National Bicycle Day to promote bicycle as a “sustainable and environment-friendly” mode of transportation.

Cimatu said that bike riding plays an important role in fighting climate change as it could help reduce carbon emissions from motor vehicles.

“If no changes are made on the climate front, the global average temperature will exceed the two degrees centigrade temperature limit set by the Paris Agreement by 2030,” he noted.

He added that “a 20-percent increase in cycling worldwide could cut carbon dioxide emissions from urban passenger transport by nearly 11 percent in 2050.”

To further promote biking in Metro Manila, Cimatu revealed that the government would be constructing interconnected and protected bike lanes equipped with racks, spanning 600 kilometers.

The government, he added, will also introduce bicycle-sharing systems.

Cimatu said the project would be funded with a P1.3-billion allocation from the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act or Bayanihan 2.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/11/30/2060381/denr-chief-vows-government-support-biking>



Cimatu: Bike vs climate change ipagpatuloy



November 29, 2020 @ 5:09 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines-Umaasa si Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na ipagpapatuloy ang paggamit ng bisikleta bilang paraan ng transportasyon laban sa climate change kahit tapos na ang coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

Sinabi ni Cimatu na dahil sa COVID-19, muling nadiskubre ng karamihan ang kabutihang dulot ng cycling at walking, na umano'y malaking katipiran, nagiging fit ang isang tao at nakatutulong para mabawasan ang polusyon at mapagaan ang climate change.

Kasabay nito, ibinigay ni Cimatu ang kanyang todong suporta sa bicycle movement sa pagdiriwang ng National Bicycle Day ngayong Linggo.

Nabatid na Nobyembre 18 nang ilabas ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang Proclamation No. 1052 na nagdedeklara sa ikaapat na linggo ng Nobyembre kada taon bilang National Bicycle Day upang itaguyod ang bisikleta bilang "sustainable and environment-friendly mode of transportation."

Dahil sa deklarasyon na ito, sinabi ni Cimatu na makatitiyak ang mga Filipino na magkakaroon ng mas maayos na kalidad ng hangin.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang paggamit ng bisikleta ay may mahalagang papel sa paglaban sa climate change dahil nababawasan nito ang carbon emissions.

"If no changes are made on the climate front, the global average temperature will exceed the 2 degrees centigrade temperature limit set by the Paris Agreement by 2030. A 20% increase in cycling worldwide could cut carbon dioxide emissions from urban passenger transport by nearly 11 percent in 2050," aniya.

Upang makahikayat ng mas maraming tao na gumamit ng bisikleta sa Metro Manila, magpapagawa ang gobyerno ng 600-km na interconnected at protektadong bike lanes at racks at magpapatupad din ang bicycle-sharing system.

Ang proyektong ito ay popondohan ng P1.3 billion allocation mula sa Bayanihan to Recover as One Act o ang Bayanihan 2 Act. SANTI CELARIO

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/cimatu-bike-vs-climate-change-ipagpatuloy/>



DENR chief pushes bicycles as public transport

Published November 29, 2020, 3:53 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu is hoping that the use of bicycles as public transportation will continue even after the coronavirus pandemic is over, citing its potential to mitigate the impact of climate change.



(JANSEN ROMERO / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

“With COVID-19, we have rediscovered the benefits of cycling and walking –

saving money, getting fit, and helping to reduce pollution and mitigate climate change. We can choose to keep this momentum,” Cimatu said in a statement Sunday.

President Duterte issued on Nov. 18 Proclamation No. 1052 declaring the fourth Sunday of November of every year as National Bicycle Day to promote bicycle as a sustainable and environment-friendly mode of transportation.

With the declaration, Cimatu said Filipinos can be assured of “better air quality and a healthier environment.”

According to the DENR chief, bike riding could play an important role in combating climate change as it could reduce carbon emissions.

“If no changes are made on the climate front, the global average temperature will exceed the two degrees centigrade temperature limit set by the Paris Agreement by 2030,” Cimatu said.

“A 20 percent increase in cycling worldwide could cut carbon dioxide emissions from urban passenger transport by nearly 11 percent in 2050,” he added.

To encourage more people to use bicycle in Metro Manila, the government will construct a 600-kilometer interconnected, protected bike lanes and racks, and bicycle-sharing systems.

This project will be funded by a P1.3-billion allocation in Bayanihan to Recover as One Act or the Bayanihan 2 Act.

“Every kilometer of bike ride helps reduce road congestion and air pollution, and improves riders’ health,” Cimatu said.



Transport permit for non-timber forest products in typhoon-hit areas waived for 3 months

By: [Tonette Orejas](#) - [@ttorejasINQ](#)

[Inquirer Central Luzon](#) / 06:38 PM November 29, 2020

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—For the next three months, a permit to transport non-timber forest products from private and titled lands will no longer be required if these are to be used for rebuilding houses in areas devastated by typhoons Rolly and Ulysses.

The temporary waiving in the issuance of transport permit in the Cordillera Autonomous Region, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon), Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan) and Bicol has been allowed by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu in a memorandum on Nov. 27.

Non-timber forest products include bamboo, nipa and anahaw.

However, the transport of uprooted and fallen trees that naturally grew or were planted in private or titled lands in those seven regions needs permits from local officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Cimatu tasked the regional executive directors to supervise the implementation of his order, requiring officials to cite in reports the names, addresses of applicants, number of trees and species, volume, and geotagged photographs.

/MUF



CL DENR unveils new P5.8M hanging bridge

Sunday, November 29, 2020 Steve A. Gosuico29

CARRANGLAN, Nueva Ecija – A 60-meter-long hanging bridge worth about P5.8 million was unveiled on Thursday here by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Luzon in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Central Luzon DENR regional executive director Engr. Paquito T. Moreno Jr. led the blessing and inauguration of the new Calaocan Hanging Bridge in Bgy. Burgos here which is envisioned as a vital link in the rehabilitation of the more than 44,000-hectare Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed (PCW) area.

“This Calaocan hanging bridge, which traverses the Diguirig River, will be of great help not just in the conduct of developmental activities within the watershed, but will also be instrumental in uplifting the lives of the local communities as this will serve as a channel to increase local trade and productivity,” Moreno said.

The inauguration was also graced by second district Rep. Micaela “Mikki” S. Violago, Mayor Mary B. Abad, her son ABC president Rogelio Abad, board member Joseph Ortiz and Marlon Atienza, of the DENR-central office-Forest Land Management Project (FMP).

Moreno said its construction was funded by JICA as an Agroforestry Support Facility sub-project which is included in the 10-year FMP of the PCW.

He added the FMP aims to connect farm areas to market towns to reduce transport cost of agri-products, minimize post-harvest losses and ensure easier access to social services such as health and education.

PENRO Joselito M. Blanco identified at least three groups of upland farmers who stand to benefit from this newly-completed joint DENR-JICA-LGU project – the Calaocan Burgos Upland Farmers Asso-Inc. (CBUFAI), the Diguirig Farmers Ass-Inc. (DFAI), and the Sitio Utang Mountain Flanter Ass-Inc. (SUMFAI).

Blanco said the areas where these farmers’ groups live are within the Pinagloriahan Sub-water of the PCW reserve area.

“Kaya kapag malaki ang ilog, hindi na makatawid iyung mga tao kaya malaking tulong sa kanila itong tulay, they can now bring their own produce to the market rain or shine,” Blanco told People’s Tonight.



Bong Go: Crackdown vs illegal logging seryosohin, palakasin

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 29, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — 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 DILG ang crackdown sa illegal logging at mining, sa koordinasyon na rin ng DENR.

“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.

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.

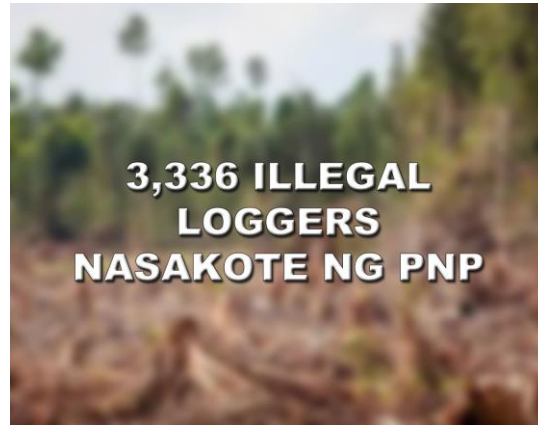
At dahil palaging nabubugbog ng mga kalamidad ang bansa, muling nanawagan si Go sa mga kasamang mambabatas na tulungan siyang maipasa ang inihain niyang Senate Bill No. 205 na maglilikha ng Department of Disaster Resilience.

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.



3,336 ILLEGAL LOGGERS NASAKOTE NG PNP

12 hours ago [jake](#)



IBINIDA ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) na umabot sa 3,336 illegal loggers ang nasakote ng Philippine National Police (PNP) sa buong bansa mula Enero hanggang Oktubre ng taong kasalukuyan.

Inilabas ng DILG ang datos upang ipakitang hindi pabaya ang PNP sa isa sa mga trabaho nito laban sa iba't ibang klaseng kriminalidad.

Ang ilegal na pagtotroso ay isa sa mga krimen sa bansa.

Ang mga nahuli, ayon sa tagapagsalita ng DILG na si Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya, ay resulta ng 6,710 operasyon ng PNP habang umabot sa kabuuang 3,663,173 board feet ng mga kahoy ang nabawi mula sa mga nagtotroso.

Umabot naman sa 1,145 kaso ang isinampa sa iba' ibang korte, susog ni Malaya.

Sa kabila nito, inamin ni Malaya na "There are still many violators of our environmental laws".

Ang ilegal na pagtotroso ang isa sa pinaniniwalaang mga dahilan ng malawakang pagbaha sa ilang rehiyon sa bansa nang magkakasunod na rumagasa ang mga bagyo sa Luzon.

Ang pinakamatindi sa mga bagyo ay ang "Ulysses" na nagpalubog sa ilang barangay sa Lungsod ng Marikina, maraming barangay sa mga bayan ng Rodriguez at San Mateo sa lalawigan ng Rizal, at maraming bayan sa Rehiyon ng Cagayan.

Ang iba pang pinaniniwalaang rason sa malawakang pagbaha ay ang illegal quarrying at pagmimina.

Sa kabila ng nagawa ng PNP laban sa ilegal na pagtotroso, magpupulong ang pamunuan ng DILG at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang magbalangkas ng malinaw na plano upang paigtingin pa ang kampanya ng pamahalaan laban sa illegal logging at illegal quarrying, pahayag ni DILG Secretary Eduardo Año.

Idiin ni Malaya, sina Año at DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu ay nagkaisa "to mobilize all resources to stop the further destruction of our remaining forest resources".

Ang pagsasanib-pwersa ng DILG at DENR ay nakabatay sa Executive Order No. 23 (EO 23) na inilabas noong 2011. (NELSON S. BADILLA)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/probinsiya/3336-illegal-loggers-nasakote-ng-pnp/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR1rXoCI_En1czf84hTVge_q4xrUNWphTQQRRejvu6v2IU1WtzBIN_bnmX4



OPEN PIT MINING, ILLEGAL LOGGING IPATIGIL NA



November 30, 2020 @ 12:10 AM 5 hours ago

MAHIGPIT ang kautusan ni DILG Secretary Eduardo Año sa kapulisan at mga lokal na opisyal na paigtingin ang kampanya laban sa walang habas na pagputol ng kahoy at pagmimina bunsod sa dulot nitong malawakang pagbaha sa Luzon at iba pang bahagi ng bansa.

Namulat ngayon ang gobyerno na ang labis na pagkakalbo ng ilang natitirang kagubatan natin at paggiba ng bundok ang dahilan kung bakit nalubog sa baha ang Cagayan at Isabela, mga lalawigan ng Kabikulan at Marikina ng magkakasunod na bagyong Rolly at Ulysses.

Matagal nang nangyayari ang mga iligal na gawaing ito ngunit bulag at bingi ang gobyerno dahil nga ayon kay Secretary Año, nakikinabang ang ilang mayor at iba pang opisyal ng lokal na pamahalaan kaya hindi maawat ang panggagahasang ito sa mga kabundukan natin.

Kabilang sa walang puknat na pagtabas ng dambuhalang kabundukan sa lalawigang kong mahal ang Filminera Resources Corporation na halos 15 taon nang binura sa mapa ng Aroroy ang dating malalaking puno rito dahil sa open pit mining nito.

Susmaryusep kahit may mga papeles ang kompanyang ito sa kanilang pagmimina ngunit batay sa sandamakmak na reklamong ipinaabot sa atin noon pa, tinapalan lang ng kwarta ang ilang ahensya ng gobyernong dinaanan ng mga dokumento nito kaya animo'y ligal ang paggiba nito sa mga kabundukan.

At hanggang ngayon ay malaking katanungan pa rin sa mga kababayan ko kung paano ito nabigyan ng permisong magputol ng kahoy gayong kahit bulatlatin pa ng sinoman ang rekord ay timberland ang klasipikasyon nitong ipinababawal ang anomang uri ng gawaing makasisira ng lugar.

Alam n'yo bang bago gibain ng Filminera ang napakalawak na kabundukan sa Aroroy ay makapal ang kagubatan dito bagaman may ilang malilit na minero ang nagkakalkal ng ginto rito upang pantawid-gutom naman sa kanilang pamilya?

At alam n'yo rin ba na konting patak lang ng ulan ngayon ay binabaha na ang karamihan sa mga lugar na nasa baba ng kompanyang ito bunsod sa ito ngayon ang catch basin ng rumaragasang tubig mula sa tinabas na kabundukan?

Ilang ektarya na kaya ng lupaing makapal ang kagubatang kinamkam ng Filminera mula sa ligal na mga may-ari nito na ngayon ay animo'y basang sisiw na dahil tinanggalan ng karapatan ng kompanyang ito?



At ilang lalawigan ngayon sa bansa ang pinahintulutan ng gobyerno ang open pit mining dahil malaki ang buwis na ibinabayad nito ngunit kapalit naman ang malawakang pagbaha rito?

Bagaman may mga papeles nga ang mga kompanyang itong pag-aari ng ilang dayuhang malakas ang impluwensya sa gobyerno ngunit ang libo-libong ektaryang tinatabas ng open pit mining ang itinuturong dahilan ng paglubog sa baha ng ilang lalawigan may operasyon nito.

Sabihin na nating ang illegal logging at mining talaga ang dahilan ng mala-delubiyong nangyaring baha sa Luzon ngunit kung titingnan natin ang pinsala ng open pit ay mas malawak pa kung ihahalintulad sa nabanggit na mga iligal na gawain.

At sa puntong ito, kailangang mamulat na ang gobyerno na hindi lang illegal logging at mining ang dapat matigil kundi ang mapang-abuso at mapanira sa kalikasang open pit na pagmimina ang kailangan talagang matuldukan.

Para sa inyong komento o suhestiyon mag-text sa 09999388537/email normanlaurio17@gmail.com.



Brutal war vs illegal logging?

By Dody Lacuna -November 30, 2020



'...Congress has not lifted a finger to pass a law raising the DENR's enforcement capability.'

THE war against illegal logging is now one of the priorities of the PNP after massive flooding hit Cagayan and Isabela at the height of typhoon Ulysses. Entire cities and towns had to be submerged before the national government finally decided to take action.

Illegal logging has doomed the hills and mountains of Cagayan for five decades now and, yes, the DENR is absolutely inutile to enforce the law. Presidential spokesman Harry Roque admitted the DENR has "limited enforcement," especially in Cagayan and Isabela.

Certainly, provincial and local officials have long turned a blind eye to indiscriminate tree-cutting and mining due to considerable material benefits. And Congress has not lifted a finger to pass a law raising the DENR's enforcement capability. The ranks of the undermanned and ill-trained forest rangers are no match to the fully-armed private armies and security escorts of illegal loggers.

Is the PNP thinking of applying the brutality of the drug war against illegal loggers and miners in Cagayan and Isabela? Their brazen defiance of the law was very evident last Saturday in Cagayan when illegal loggers fired at apprehending policemen, wounding the deputy police chief of Penablanca town, Randy Baccay.

Powerful loggers backed by armed groups will make this a real war with the police, who unlike in the lopsided drug war will now face genuine deadly encounters. Highly-paid lawyers and political connections will drag the cases in court while logging workers will enjoy bail.

The PNP has long accepted the fact that the ruling political elite has lorded it over these criminal activities and is protected by syndicates of local officials, fiscals, judges and even its own officers.

Please accept my apology for some inaccuracies in my column Monday of last week, specifically on the emergency landing of a passenger plane on the Hudson River in New York. I wrote about two soldiers from Afghanistan and Iraq with hands clasped in prayer as the pilot made the miraculous landing after a bird strike had disabled both engines. There was only one, and not two, soldier on the plane. The book "Psalm 91: God's Shield of Protection" by Peggy Joyce Ruth and Angela Ruth Schum gives the actual account: "Andrew Gray has recently returned from his second tour in Afghanistan – one of those long, fifteen-month stints. He had served twelve months in Afghanistan before that. During each tour his mother had spent many hours praying Psalm 91 protection over him on a daily basis.

Returning from a trip in New York City for the birthday of his fiancée, Stephanie, Gray found themselves on that flight that had gone down on the river. God had been all over the flight – placing Chesley Sullenberger at the helm of the plane, keeping the usually busy Hudson clear of ferries, barges and boats and keeping the plane in one piece long enough for all the 155 passengers to be rescued."

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_opinion/brutal-war-vs-illegal-logging/



Umatake sa mga pulis sa anti-illegal logging ops 'tauhan' ng mayor – PNP



November 29, 2020 @ 11:23 AM 20 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Iniimbestigahan na ng Philippine National Police (PNP) Region 2 ang mga ulat na bata ng alkalde sa Cagayan ang naarestong suspek na umatake sa mga pulis sa ikinasang anti-illegal logging operation nito.

Sa interbyu ng DZBB ngayong Linggo kay PNP Region 2 director Police Brigadier General Crizaldo Nieves na iniimbestigahan ng kapulisan ang ulat na protektado umano ng isang alkalde ang naarestong suspek na si Ernest Sibbaluca.\

“Actually, vina-validate nga namin ‘yan,” ani Nieves.

“Yun ang sinasabi, but, alam mo mahirap magsalita until we have confirmed it. Finile naman namin ang kaso. Sa akin naman, kahit sino naman ang backer niya, e ‘di isama natin kung kailangan basta may ebidensiya,” dagdag pa ng hepe.

Nang matanggap umano nila ang nasabing report ay agad niyang ipinag-utos ang imbestigasyon.

“We have given instruction to the provincial commander and the chief of police para malaman kung ano ang extent ng involvement,” aniya pa.

Maging ang ilang politiko at lokal na pulisya ay iniimbestigahan na rin sa posibleng pagkasasangkot sa insidente.

Matatandaan na nitong Sabado ay iniatas ni PNP chief Police General Debold Sinas ang malawakang manhunt laban sa mga illegal logger na umatake umano sa mga pulis sa Cagayan nitong Huwebes.

Batay sa ulat ng Cagayan Provincial Information Office na sugatan si Police Lieutenant Randy Baccay matapos na pagbabarilin ng ilang suspek sa Barangay Minanga, Lagtum Area. *RNT*



Sinas orders crackdown on armed illegal loggers in Cagayan Valley

Sunday, November 29, 2020 [Alfred P. Dalizon12](#)

PHILIPPINE National Police chief, General Debold M. Sinas has ordered a massive pursuit operation against a 'armed and dangerous' illegal loggers in Cagayan who were involved in a shootout with a police team in Peñablanca last Thursday which resulted in injuries to a young lieutenant, the Journal Group learned.

"More aggressive operations will continue against illegal logging activities on orders of President Rodrigo Duterte despite this temporary setback," said Sinas as he instructed Police Regional Office 2 director, Brigadier Gen. Crizaldo O. Nieves to press charges against at least eight suspects who remained at-large after shooting it out with the Cagayan policemen for nearly 20 minutes. Nieves said the suspects opened fire at a police team checking the reported presence of illegally-cut timber piled along the riverbank in Sitio Dalayat, Barangay Minanga, Peñablanca, at around 4:50 p.m. Thursday hitting Lt. Randy Baccay, deputy chief of the Peñablanca Municipal Police Station.

The incident occurred as the Cagayan Police Provincial Office headed by Colonel Ariel N. Quilang continued its anti-illegal logging operations in the province while still rebuilding from the aftermath of the massive flooding that swept the region in the wake of powerful typhoon 'Ulysses' two weeks ago.

"Our policemen were working to drift the illegally-cut timber when they were fired upon prompting them to seek cover from the rocks along the river. A 2nd burst of gunfire hit Lt. Baccay in his right butt," said Quilang.

Sinas instructed Nieves to extend a P50,000 financial assistance for the medical expenses of Baccay who was immediately evacuated to the Dr. Ronald P. Guzman Medical Center in Tuguegarao City for treatment.

Quilang said the policemen were inspecting and documenting the illegally-cut logs when the suspects fired at them while hiding in vantage positions. Although Baccay was hit, other members of the team retaliated triggering the shootout.

Follow-up operations conducted by PRO2 and Cagayan policemen led by PRO2 Deputy Regional Director for Operaitons, Col. Romaldo Bayting lee to the arrest of Ernest Sibbaluca, a 45-year old businessman from Bgy. Minanga who was identified as among the attackers. A background check showed Sibbaluca was previously arrested for violation of Presidential Decree 705 or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines in September 2019.

The suspect is now facing criminal charges for qualified direct assault upon an agent of authority, frustrated murder and multiple attempted murder, said Peñablanca police chief, Captain Rohaina Asalan.

Brig. Gen. Nieves and Colonels Quilang and Bayting pinned the PNP Medalya ng Sugatang Magiting to the wounded policemen.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/provincial/sinas-orders-crackdown-on-armed-illegal-loggers-in-cagayan-valley/>



Province-wide manhunt operations inilunsad vs illegal loggers sa Cagayan Valley

By **Bombo Analy Soberano** -November 29, 2020 | 10:40 AM



Isang province-wide manhunt operation ang isinasagawa ngayon ng Cagayan Valley Police Provincial Office laban sa mga suspek na umatake sa mga pulis na nagsasagawa ng operasyon laban sa illegal logging activities sa probinsiya.

Ito ay base sa direktiba ni PNP chief Gen. Debold Sinas na maglunsad ng crackdown laban sa mga illegal loggers.

Sugatan ang isang police lieutenant sa isinagawang pamamaril ng mga suspek, kaya pinasisiguro ni Sinas na maaresto ang ibang mga suspek na at-large sa ngayon.

Iniulat ni Brigadier General Crizaldo Nieves, regional director ng Police Regional Office-2 sa Cagayan Valley region hinggil sa nangyaring shooting incident na ikinasugat ni PLT Randy Baccay, deputy chief of police ng Pañablanca Police Station.

Binigyan ng P50,000 tulong pinansiyal ni Sinas ang sugatang tinuyente bilang medial expenses nito.





Ayon kay Nieves, tumugon ang grupo ni Baccay sa ulat hinggil sa presensiya ng mga ilegal na namumutol ng kahoy sa Sitio Dalayat, Minanga, Lagum Peñablanca, Cagayan nuong Huwebes ng gabi.

Habang iniinspeksyon ng mga pulis ang mga dokumento ng mga illegally cut logs, bigla na lamang nagpapatok ang mga armadong katao at tinamaan si Baccay.

Agad na naglunsad ng counter action ang mga kasamahang pulis.

Naaresto ng mga pulis si Ernest Sibbaluca, 45, residente ng Barangay Minanga, Peñablanca, Cagayan na positibong tinukoy na isa mga umatake sa mga pulis.

Kaagad namang dinala sa hospital si Baccay para sa medical treatment habang si Sibbaluca ay kasalukuyang nakakulong sa Peñablanca Police Station at sumasailalim sa imbestigasyon.

Ayon kay Captain Rohaina Asalan, chief of police ng Peñablanca Police Station, ang suspek na si Sibbaluca ay mayroong arrest record noong September 2019 dahil sa paglabag sa PD 705 o ang Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

Si Sibbaluca ay nahaharap ngayon sa kasong criminal dahil sa direct assault upon an agent of authority and frustrated murder.

Ongoing sa ngayon ang follow-up operations para ma-recover ang armas na ginamit sa pag-atake.



Cagayan police probe mayor's involvement in illegal logging

[THIRD ANNE PERALTA-MALONZO](#)

November 29, 2020

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) is verifying reports that the illegal loggers who assaulted a team of policemen in Cagayan province are being protected by a mayor.

Police Regional Office Cagayan Valley Director Crizaldo Nieves said they have received reports that Ernest Sibbaluca, one of the arrested suspects for the assault, is working for a mayor. He declined to identify the mayor.

“Actually, vina-validate nga namin 'yan,” Nieves said.

“Yun ang sinasabi, but, alam mo mahirap magsalita until we have confirmed it. Finile naman namin ang kaso. Sa akin naman, kahit sino naman ang backer niya, e 'di isama natin kung kailangan basta may ebidensiya,” he added.

Nieves said he has already ordered concerned police commanders to conduct an investigation on the extent of involvement of politicians policemen and other personalities in illegal logging activities.

On Saturday, November 28, 2020, PNP Chief Debold Sinas ordered a province-wide manhunt against the group of illegal loggers who fired at the police conducting operations in Sitio Dalayat, Minanga, Lagum Peñablanca, Cagayan on Thursday evening, November 26.

Police Lieutenant Randy Baccay, deputy chief of police of Pañablanca Police Station, was wounded in the said incident.

Sibbaluca was arrested while the others were able to escape.

Police Captain Rohaina Asalan, chief of police of Peñablanca Police Station, said Sibbaluca has an arrest record in September 2019 for violation of Presidential Decree 705 or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

Sibbaluca is facing criminal charges for direct assault upon an agent of authority and frustrated murder.

Illegal logging activities, aside from the release of excess water from Magat Dam, were blamed for the devastating floods that inundated a large part of Cagayan and Isabela provinces after Typhoon Ulysses (Vamco).

Earlier, Department of the Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año admitted that some local government executives were involved in the illegal activities.

Meanwhile, Nieves said a total of 804 people in Isabela and Cagayan were evacuated anew due to the threat of another flooding brought about by the increase in water level in Cagayan River near the Buntun Bridge.

The water level has already reached 8.48 meters, which falls within the alert level.

He said the evacuation of the families in the vulnerable communities started at around 5 a.m. Sunday, November 29.



The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said as of 7 a.m. Sunday that low-lying areas near the lower portion of Cagayan River may experience flooding due to the rain brought about by the tailend of a frontal system and the easterlies.

These include Peñabalanca, Tuguegarao City, Enrile, Solana, Iguig, Amulung, Alcala, Baggao, Lasam, Gattaran, Lallo, Camalaniugan and Aparri.

At 6 a.m. Pagasa said two gates of Magat Dam remained open to release excess water. **(SunStar Philippines)**



Alkalde sinisilip sa mga 'alaga' na illegal logger

By Abante News Online — Last updated Nov 29, 2020

METRO



5 0

Biniberipika ng Philippine National Police (PNP) Region 2 ang ulat na ang grupo ng naarestong suspek, na bumaril sa mga pulis sa isang anti-illigal operation ay pawang mga nagtatrabaho sa isang mayor sa Cagayan.

Sa isang panayam sa radyo nitong Linggo, sinabi ni Region 2 Police Regional Office Director Brig Gen. Crisaldo Nieves na ang grupo ng naarestong si Ernest Sibbaluca ay mga tao at pinoprotektahan ng isang alkalde.

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"Actually, vina-validate nga namin 'yan," saad ni Nieves. "Yun ang sinasabi, but, alam mo mahirap magsalita until we have confirmed it. Finile naman namin ang kaso. Sa akin naman, kahit sino naman ang backer niya, e 'di isama natin kung kailangan basta may ebidensiya."

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Matapos na matanggap ang ulat sa naganap na pamamaryl ng mga illegal logger kay PLt. Randy Baccay, Deputy chief of police ng Peñablanca Police Station, ay agad na inutusan ni Nieves ang Provincial commanders at hepe ng kapulisan sa siyang sumasakop sa lugar ng malawakang imbestigasyon.

Bukod pa sa mga pulitiko ay iniimbestigahan din ni Nieves kung mayroong partisipasyon ang lokal na pulisya at iba pang ahensya sa illegal logging.

Nauna na ring sinabi ni Interior Secretary Eduardo

Año na may mga alkalde na sangkot sa illegal mining at logging operation na siyang sinisisi sa malawakang pagbaha sa Cagayan at Isabela sa kasagsagan ng bagyong 'Ulysses'. (Edwin Balasa)



Learning from the Cagayan Valley deluge

Cagayan Valley flooding highlights role of geohazard maps in strengthening disaster response

By: [Inquirer Northern Luzon](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:00 AM November 29, 2020

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan, Philippines — When deadly flash floods and landslides strike unsuspecting communities, people who lost their property and loved ones will almost always point their fingers at illegal logging or mining.

But ideally, local governments have been prepared for these disasters due to geological hazard maps that have been put out between 2010 and 2011 by government scientists, according to Clarence Baguilat, former regional director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

These are not the first hazard maps developed by the government, which has archival materials on typhoons, landslides, floods and volcanic eruptions that date back to the Spanish colonial era.

The Philippines has always been classified as vulnerable to natural calamities due to its geography and terrain. In the last decade, geohazard maps featured scales that were improved from 1:20,000 to a larger scale of 1:50,000 (1 centimeter represents half a kilometer).



WATER RELEASE Residents in low-lying towns and cities along the Cagayan River and its tributaries in Cagayan Valley region expect floodwaters to swamp their villages whenever Magat Dam in Isabela releases water. In this 2018 photo, the dam in Ramon town releases water into the Magat River, a major tributary of Cagayan River, in preparation for the landfall of Typhoon “Ompong” (international name: Mangkhut). —RICHARD A. REYES

Political will

Baguilat, a geologist, said this scale was made particularly for “developed or developing settlements and populated areas.”

“These [geohazard maps] are good enough tools to begin and work with,” said Baguilat, who had participated in the mapping project.

How it has been used is another matter.

Baguilat said the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), which spearheaded the geohazard mapping project, should “do a post evaluation of local governments to determine how they used their geohazard maps” in light of the latest disasters, such as the widespread flooding in Cagayan Valley last week.

He said the review could also determine how hazard information had impacted their planning and policymaking on the environment and land use.

“That will also determine who are those politicians with political will and those who just wait for a disaster to happen before they do anything at all,” Baguilat told the Inquirer.

The geohazard mapping project was initiated in 2010 when Typhoon “Juan” (international name: Megi) tore through Cagayan and Isabela, raising concerns about food supply because of the devastation of rice farms in the two provinces.



‘PEPENG’S’ WRATH In this photo taken in 2009, floods triggered by rain dumped by Typhoon “Pepeng” (Parma) leave a trail of destruction in the village of Tumana in Rosales town, Pangasinan province. —WILLIE LOMIBAO

Pangasinan’s experience

In 2009, raging waters triggered by Typhoon “Pepeng” (Parma) swamped towns and villages in northern Luzon.

Like the floods that forced Cagayanos to flee to rooftops on Nov. 14, Pangasinan residents spent hours waiting for help atop their houses in 2009 when the San Roque Dam opened its floodgates as nonstop rains inundated towns.

At least 36 towns in Pangasinan were submerged due to the abrupt and excessive volume of water released from the dam, causing loss of lives and much damage to crops and lands.

The peak of the water discharge from San Roque was recorded at 3 a.m. on Oct. 9, 2009, when the dam’s elevation was at 289.05 meters above sea level. The watershed’s maximum critical level is 180 masl.

At that time, all six gates (or 27 meters) of the dam were opened, spilling 5,072 cubic meters per second volume of water (each cubic meter is equivalent to the size of a “balikbayan” box of water).

The gates of San Roque Dam were closed on Oct. 12 when water was down to 280 masl, the spilling mark. By then, many dikes had been breached in several Pangasinan towns.



CITY FLOODS A large portion of downtown Tuguegarao City in Cagayan province is submerged as Cagayan River breached its banks due to heavy rain accompanying Typhoon “Ulysses” (Vamco) and the release of water from Magat Dam in Isabela province on Nov. 13 and Nov. 14. —DAVID TE/CONTRIBUTOR

Extra careful

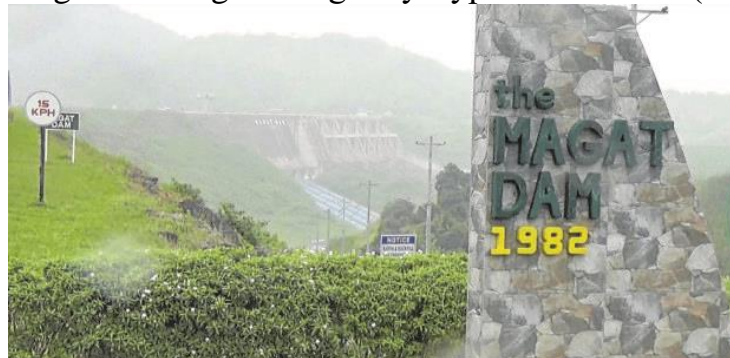
San Roque Dam releases water to the Agno River, Luzon's third longest river, next to Cagayan and Pampanga rivers.

After the 2009 massive flooding, National Power Corp. (Napocor), which operates the San Roque Dam, became extra careful in opening the dam's gates to release water.

The dam opened its gates in 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2018, but these did not cause floods as the release was calibrated and strictly followed protocols.

"Normally, Napocor starts opening gates when water reaches 280 masl, depending on the typhoon intensity, water inflow and rainfall intensity," said Tom Valdez, vice president for community affairs of San Roque Power Corp.

In 2012, then President Benigno Aquino III placed the entire country under a state of calamity following the damage wrought by Typhoon "Pablo" (Bopha).



POWER AND IRRIGATION Magat Dam, built from 1976 to 1982, is one of the major sources of electricity for the Luzon power grid and irrigation water for farms in Isabela. —VILLAMOR VISAYA JR.

Supertyphoon 'Yolanda'

The DENR began advising local governments to examine their geohazard maps for flood prone areas in their localities so they could launch evacuations.

The maps, however, would not have anticipated the strength of Supertyphoon "Yolanda" (Haiyan) in 2013 which wreaked havoc in Leyte and neighboring provinces.

The subsequent typhoons were fiercer, such as Typhoon "Ompong" (Mangkut) in September 2018 and the series of storms that struck late November that year.

"As soon as the MGB finished the geohazard mapping of the whole country way back 2010-2011, they went on a massive information and educational campaign covering all local governments, distributing geohazard maps and giving them (city and municipal disaster managers) basic education as to how they should read the maps and incorporate them in their land-use planning and disaster management, or at least that was the plan," Baguilat said.

Budget issue

In many cases, budgetary issues plagued towns that intended to build new communities for people who would need to leave danger zones.

The social impact of relocating communities was also staggering. When a massive landslide buried a community called Little Kibungan in La Trinidad, Benguet province, due to Typhoon Pepeng, then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo facilitated the relocation.



Eleven years later, many families in Little Kibungan have not moved owing to issues over ancestral land rights at their relocation site, their refusal to leave relatives behind, and new confidence about their safety when government engineers put up a wall around a vulnerable mountain.

“Economics would come into play [when interpreting the geohazard maps],” Baguilat said. He said local governments must decide which is more costly: Moving out people from high-risk areas and settling them to safer areas or letting them remain but providing and maintaining engineering and disaster control measures.

At the height of the massive flooding in Cagayan Valley, 47,600 families, or 164,400 people, were affected. Since last month, four typhoons that crossed Luzon and affected Cagayan Valley left farm damage worth at least P2 billion.

At least 29 fatalities were recorded due to the severe flooding that hit the region. Most of them died due to drowning and landslides.

Most local governments have yet to collaborate as clusters in addressing danger zones and to pool resources and “build better.”

“Geohazards and the environment know no political boundaries as they are governed by nature,” Baguilat said.

—*Reports from Vincent Cabreza, Yolanda Sotelo and Villamor Visaya Jr.*



Rizal governor stops small-scale mining, quarrying, land projects

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

November 30, 2020

MORE than two weeks after the massive flood in Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon, Rizal Governor Rebecca Ynares has issued an order stopping mining and quarrying operations and urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to do the same for large-scale operations in the province.

While the move was welcomed by anti-mining and environmental groups who blame the “Great Luzon Flood” during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses early this month to the massive degradation of critical watersheds, the DENR is deferring action on the quarry operations in Rizal pending investigation by the DENR.

Rizal Provincial Governor Ynares, in Memorandum Order No. 2020-01 cited the attribution to mining and quarrying operations and related activities in Rizal the loss of lives and the millions in damage to property as a result of flooding caused by heavy rain induced by typhoons such as Ulysses.

The order covers only small-scale mining or quarrying permits issued by the Provincial Government of Rizal under the Small-Scale Mining Act.

“In the interest of public safety and welfare and ensure environmental protection and sustainability and to address, as well the complaints and concerns on threats and impacts thereof, more so, during typhoons, and similar natural disturbances, all quarry operations and related activities permitted and actively operating in the Province of Rizal over a total land area of 38.24 hectares, more or less, are hereby ordered stopped and shall remain to be such unless and until authorized to resume operations for just cause or reason,” Ynares said.

Ynares also urged the DENR to cause the immediate stoppage of all operations of mining, quarrying, and related activities that it granted under the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, which the official stated covers a total of 4,964.32 hectares, including crushing plants.

“Likewise, all local government units in this Province are strongly advised to cause the immediate stoppage of all land development activities, including subdivision development, permitted under RA 7160, unless assessed and found to be compliant with the pertinent laws, rules, and regulations,” the order stated.

Ynares directed the Provincial Director of the Philippine National Police to strictly implement the order and apprehend any violator.

DENR's reaction

Sought for reaction, DENR Undersecretary Jonas R. Leones said the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) have ongoing assessment of quarry operations in the Province.

Leones, the DENR's Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs, said the even before the Provincial Government of Rizal issued the order, the DENR had already directed the DENR MGB and EMB to assess quarry operations.

The investigation was ordered a week after Typhoon Ondoy.

He said the DENR is not keen on hastily issuing suspension orders for quarry operations with Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) in Rizal Province saying flooding in Marikina and other low-lying areas in Rizal and Metro Manila cannot be attributed to quarrying.



Compared to quarrying in Albay, where there are over 100 quarry permits all around Mayon Volcano, quarrying in the Marikina watershed is minimal.

“Out of the 53,000 hectares in Marikina Watershed, only around 200 hectares are the open quarry operations or disturbed areas,” says Leones.

Most quarry operations, he said, are in the lower Marikina Watershed or lower stream of the Marikina River.

He added that excessive rainfall induced by typhoons in the last two months before Typhoon Ondoy have already caused the Marikina River to reach its saturation point.

Worst, he said that the Marikina River is already heavily-silted, which explains why the DENR is eyeing engineering intervention like widening the river to boost its carrying capacity and help prevent flooding.

A welcome move

Anti-mining group Alyansa Tigil Mina and Kalikasan-People’s Network for the Environment (Kalikasan-PNE) welcomed Ynares’s order.

“We welcome this order of the Rizal provincial government to stop all quarrying operations. We hope that the local government will commit time, personnel finances to monitor and close all these quarrying operations,” ATM National Coordinator Jesus Vicente C. Garganera said.

Garganera added that the move by the Office of the Governor was somehow surprising because it didn’t activate the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board (PMRB) to communicate and implement this order.

Meanwhile, he called on the DENR and the MGB to heed the call of the Rizal provincial government that all mining tenements in Rizal be immediately suspended.

Garganera said ATM looks forward to a Congressional inquiry on the flooding caused by Ondoy, specifically in Marikina City and other areas in Metro Manila and nearby Rizal towns.

Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan-PNE said it is high time that the Duterte administration start closing down destructive quarrying and mining projects situated in critical watersheds.

“It has been a cat and mouse game since Typhoon Ondoy first exposed the disastrous consequences of the Marikina watershed’s degradation in 2009. A national audit of watersheds should be conducted specifically investigating extractives, land conversion, and infrastructure encroaching on forests and waterways,” Dulce said.

According to Dulce, the recent issuance of a climate emergency declaration in the House of Representatives should translate into more concrete, binding actions such as this stoppage of quarrying in Rizal.



DENR urges more climate investments

By Eireene Jairee Gomez

November 28, 2020

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has called for more private- and public-sector investments to strengthen the country's preparedness for calamities caused by extreme climate events.

“[The] Covid-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) and the recent climate disasters have shown that we must step up investment in preparedness now, instead of waiting for the next crisis to hit. The choice is clear, either delay and pay or plan and prosper. We know that investing in natural disaster preparedness is worth it, both in human lives and economic returns,” said Environment Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change Annaliza Rebueta-Teh during the Pilipinas Conference 2020 virtual forum hosted by Stratbase ADR Institute on the theme, “Towards Green Economic Recovery: Designing Climate Resilient and Sustainable Communities.”

She highlighted the long-term benefits of effective pre-disaster planning that allows a comprehensive and integrated understanding of community-based objectives. These efforts, Teh noted, result in resilient communities with an improved ability to withstand, respond to and recover from disasters.

“One of the important things that the government could do, today, is investing in better collection and analysis of data of the disaster risk that the country will face. Simply having a 24 hours' notice of the storm can cut the resulting losses by 30 percent, while spending \$800 million on early warning systems in developing countries could actually save \$16 billion a year,” Teh explained.

“Community resilience must be at the heart of a green recovery, and it requires integrating sustainable measures in government policies, programs, and plans to achieve transformational changes in health, climate, environment, and eradication of poverty,” the DENR official added.

Currently, Teh said there is a strong need for the government to “rethink” its strategies and science. “We need to analyze our responses” that will in turn pave way for significant government policies and important changes in behaviors among Filipino communities.

In light of Covid-19, Teh said some mitigating measures Filipinos can contribute to reducing the country's greenhouse gas emissions include cutting down food wastes and reducing non-essential consumption. “We need that to alter our recovery. We need to alter our lifestyle,” she added.

Meanwhile, Cavite Second District Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. chairperson of House Committee on Natural Resources, stressed the role of public sector in promoting green investments and developments. He said his committee remained determined to institutionalize relevant environmental laws such as the Sustainable Forest Management Act and Wildlife Conservation Act.

The act, Barzaga said, entails the formulation of strategies and ways in protecting the country's forestlands as well as utilization of forest developments.

“It also creates community based forest law enforcement teams. The forest management agreement [meant] for exploration, development and utilization of westlands and forest resource is also introduced. Forest developmental fund for projects proposed by qualified forest managers,” he said.



The Wildlife Conservation Act, on the other hand, calls for stiffer penalties and escalation of fines against those convicted of illegal wildlife trading. “It also expands the existing list of illegal activities attempting to trade illegal wildlife,” Barzaga said.

The execution of these laws lies in the hands of public officials, particularly mayors and governors, who, Barzaga lamented, are the ones who are directly involved in illegal wildlife and environmental activities. “Perhaps it’s the time for these public officials to be persecuted.”

“We don’t have to anticipate the problem because we have experienced that for a long time. Next year, we can expect that what we experienced now will happen again,” Barzaga added.



House chief Velasco backs declaration of climate emergency here

Published November 29, 2020, 1:31 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

After witnessing the effects of typhoons “Rolly” and “Ulysses” first hand, Speaker Lord Allan Velasco backed Sunday the declaration of a climate emergency over the country.



Rampaging floodwaters inundate residential areas beside the national highway in Barangay Kisante, Makilala, North Cotabato (Photo courtesy of DXND-Kidapawan via PNA/ MANILA BULLETIN)

“Declaring a climate emergency means recognizing that climate crisis is the fight of our lives and that there is an urgent need for a massive-scale mobilization to protect Filipinos and the environment from climate change and its devastating impacts,” Velasco said in a statement.

According to the Marinduque lawmaker, the Philippines has been facing climate emergency for decades now with millions of Filipinos left to suffer the catastrophic effects of extreme weather events made stronger and more deadly by climate change.

He said this is the reason why the Philippines is considered as one of the most disaster-prone and climate-vulnerable countries in the world.

Velasco said the massive devastation caused by recent typhoons –including Rolly and Ulysses which claimed 73 lives and caused the worst flooding in Metro Manila and Cagayan Valley in years – has made it imperative for the country to pursue stronger climate-adaptive and -resilient measures.

“There will be more typhoons that will come our way, and we have to become better at preparations and in handling situations that call for sound judgment to prevent devastating death tolls and economic costs of future calamities,” he said.

The House of Representatives had earlier unanimously adopted a resolution endorsed by the Committee on Climate Change to declare a climate and environmental emergency.

House Resolution (HR) No.1377 also sought to mobilize government agencies and instrumentalities, together with local government units, to effectively implement environmental, climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

The House Committee on Disaster Resilience has adopted HR No.535 expressing the sense of the legislative body that there is a disaster climate emergency requiring a “whole-of-government, whole-of-society, and whole-of-nation policy response to anticipate, halt, reduce, reverse, address, and adapt to its impacts, consequences and, causes.”

Velasco said the declaration of a climate emergency would amplify the country’s demand for climate justice from developed nations and help achieve its goals under the landmark Paris Agreement on Climate Change.



The Paris Agreement calls all signatory countries to submit stronger climate targets, known as Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs, every five years.

The NDCs state what each country will do at a national level to reduce emissions, enhance their resilience to climate change threats, and help finance climate action.



Velasco backs climate emergency call

Published 5 hours ago on November 30, 2020 12:20 AM

By [Jun Yap](#)



House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco on Sunday has expressed his full support for the declaration of a climate emergency to encourage swift action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Velasco made the remark even as a group of environmental defenders urged the House of Representatives to pass “urgent, concrete, and binding solutions” as it recently passed a climate emergency declaration.

Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE) said that a climate emergency declaration is urgently needed and climate actions must be taken seriously and holistically.

In a statement, Velasco noted that the Philippines has been facing climate emergency for decades now with millions of Filipinos left to suffer the catastrophic effects of extreme weather events made stronger and more deadly by climate change.

The House leader said it is for this reason why the Philippines is considered as one of the most disaster-prone and climate-vulnerable countries in the world.

“Declaring a climate emergency means recognizing that climate crisis is the fight of our lives and that there is an urgent need for a massive-scale mobilization to protect Filipinos and the environment from climate change and its devastating impacts,” Velasco said.

Velasco said the massive devastation caused by recent tropical cyclones — including super typhoon “Rolly” and typhoon “Ulysses” which claimed the lives of 73 people and caused the worst flooding in Metro Manila and Cagayan Valley in years — has made it imperative for the country to pursue stronger climate-adaptive and -resilient measures.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) also warned of more typhoons that could enter the country, thus the need for all to be prepared always.

More typhoons

“There will be more typhoons that will come our way, and we have to become better at preparations and in handling situations that call for sound judgment to prevent devastating death tolls and economic costs of future calamities,” Velasco said.

The House of Representatives recently unanimously adopted a resolution endorsed by the Committee on Climate Change declaring a climate and environmental emergency.

House Resolution (HR) 1377 also sought to mobilize government agencies and instrumentalities, together with local government units, to effectively implement environmental, climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.



At the same time, the Chamber's Committee on Disaster Resilience has adopted HR 535 expressing the sense of the legislative body that there is a disaster climate emergency requiring a "whole-of-government, whole-of-society and whole-of-nation policy response to anticipate, halt, reduce, reverse, address and adopt to its impacts, consequences and causes."

Velasco said the declaration of a climate emergency would amplify the country's demand for climate justice from developed nations and help achieve its goals under the landmark Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The Paris Agreement calls all signatory countries to submit stronger climate targets, known as Nationally Determined Contributions or NDC, every five years. The NDC state what each country will do at a national level to reduce emissions, enhance their resilience to climate change threats, and help finance climate action.

So far, over three quarters of the world's countries have formally committed to strengthen their NDC by the year-end. However, only 17 countries have actually submitted their NDC to the United Nations and only 13 of those NDC contained improved climate targets.

The Philippines is currently working to submit a revised NDC.

At the recently concluded virtual conference of lawmakers from 48-member-nation Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), Velasco said the country's NDC will show "the world our resolve to pursue low carbon development, as well as the support we need from developed countries in terms of climate finance, capacity building and technology transfer in the context of climate justice and in accordance with the Paris Agreement."

Velasco, along with Senate President Vicente "Tito" Sotto III, Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda and House Committee on Climate Change Chair Edgar Chatto, represented the Philippines in the CVF conference.

During the forum, Velasco said there is a need for the country to set enabling policies that will accelerate its transition to low carbon and climate-resilient economies notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also emphasized the need for other nations to support the Philippines in its fight against climate change.

"We need to address gaps in climate action and the implementation of our climate change laws and policies," Velasco told the forum attendees.

"We are your people, our local emergencies are your global emergencies. The increasingly violent typhoons, hurricanes and floods caused by climate change are becoming the new normal all over the world and the Philippines has been unfortunate receiving end of the worst of them," he added.

Concrete aid

Leon Dulce, National Coordinator of Kalikasan PNE, however, said a Climate Emergency Declaration is empty if it doesn't provide concrete aid to millions of victims in the recent typhoon and flood disasters.

"It is an insulting tokenism if it doesn't not hold accountable polluters and plunderers who destroyed our watersheds and contributed to global warming. The government cannot claim preparedness if the damage gets bigger each time," Dulce said.



Super typhoon “Rolly” and typhoon “Ulysses” hit Luzon in the first half of November, which caused mudflows to submerge communities in Bicol and Rizal, as well as flash floods in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Isabela and Cagayan.

“If the Duterte (administration) claims that the response to climate change needs to be given the same level of priority as the COVID 19 pandemic. Then it’s time they walk the talk. Because as it is, the blunders in the implementation of quarantine guidelines is just as appalling as how it values the environment,” Dulce said.

Dulce said for Kalikasan PNE, the declaration of a climate emergency should come with the accountability of firms and government officials that have contributed to the squandering of natural resources and a holistic policy that mitigates the impacts of climate change.

They added that environmental plunder prevailed because of vested interests.

“The declaration of a climate emergency that will not legally bind national government agencies and local governments to adopt policies will not gesture legitimate change and will only be lip service. Make everyone, including government officials who have been conniving in permitting destructive practices in the extraction industry, accountable. Let the ax fall where it may,” Dulce said.

Kalikasan PNE is also eyeing for ‘Green New Leadership’ that will set the foundation of climate-smart, people-centered, environment-focused initiative actions laid down to 10-points.



Pagdedeklara ng climate emergency isinulong sa Kamara



November 29, 2020 @ 3:02 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines-Suportado ni House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco ang pagsusulong ng deklarasyon ng climate emergency upang maaksyunan ang mga idudulot pang kalamidad at pinsala ng climate change.

Naniniwala si Velasco na sa panukalang ito ay mapipilitan ang mga nasa gobyerno kabilang ang Kongreso at iba pang sektor na unahin ang usapin ng climate change sa anomang ilalatag na polisiya at plano sa hinaharap.

“Declaring a climate emergency means recognizing that climate crisis is the fight of our lives and that there is an urgent need for a massive-scale mobilization to protect Filipinos and the environment from climate change and its devastating impacts,” ani Velasco.

Giit pa ng mambabatas na nahaharap ang Pilipinas sa climate emergency kung saan milyong Filipino ang maaaring maapektuhan ng malaking pagbabago ng climate change na tunay na mapaminsala at nakamamatay.

Ito rin aniya ang dahilan kung bakit ang bansa ay ikinukonsidera bilang isa sa “most disaster-prone and climate-vulnerable countries” sa buong mundo.

Ang matinding sakuna na idinulot ng mga nagdaang malalakas na bagyo kabilang ang Rolly at Ulyses na nag-iwan ng 73 kataong patay at labis na pagbaha sa Metro Manila, Cagayan Valley at Isabela ay pampagising sa Pilipinas upang tiyakin ang mga hakbang at panukala na makatutulong para maibsan ang matinding epekto ng kalamidad.

Ipinasa kamakailan sa Kamara ang isang resolusyon na inendorso ng House committee on climate change kung saan nagtutulak ng pagdedeklara ng gobyerno para sa “climate and environmental emergency.”

Ang House Resolution 1377 ay naglalayon ding pakilusin ang lahat ng ahensya ng gobyerno at LGU na mahigpit na ipatupad ang mga batas ukol sa pangangalaga sa kalikasan.

Ipinasa rin ng committee on disaster resilience ang HR 535 na nagsusulong naman ukol sa kaalaman ng lahat na ang Pilipinas ay nahaharap na sa disaster climate emergency kung kaya dapat nang kumilos ang lahat para sa pagtutulongan upang mailatag ang pamamaraan na makapagpapabawas sa epekto ng kalamidad sa tao. Meliza Maluntag



GABAY KALIKASAN PROGRAM: PLDT-Smart to deploy drones to help preserve Philippines' peatlands

By ... -November 30, 2020



Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary

The country's largest integrated telecommunications company PLDT and its wireless subsidiary Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart) will soon deploy more digital innovations to help protect key biodiversity areas throughout the Philippines.

PLDT-Smart's most recent initiative under its Gabay Kalikasan environmental stewardship program is for the protection of the Caimpugan Peatlands in the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS). Named as a wetland of international importance by the Ramsar Convention, the area holds the only recorded remaining intact peat swamp forest—the largest of its kind—in the Philippines.

"We are committed to help curb the effects of climate change by protecting these fragile ecosystems, which people still know so little about," PLDT Chairman and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan says.

Made of carbon-rich soil derived from dead and decaying plant matter under high water saturation condition, peatlands can store twice as much carbon as all the world's forests combined. However, its crucial role in mitigating climate change, as well as the huge costs that arise when these natural carbon sinks are damaged, remains largely overlooked.

The three-year peatlands conservation program will be implemented by PLDT and Smart in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)—through its Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and CARAGA Regional Office. PLDT is the first private company in the Philippines to engage with DENR on peatlands conservation.

PLDT and Smart will also support peatlands management strategies by equipping Bantay Danao volunteers with digital and communication tools such as radio devices, mobile phones, and drone equipment to support them in their enforcement activities. Formed in 2017, the Conservation Group was deputized by DENR- CARAGA to protect the AMWS.

Guarding the rainforest

A similar tech-based environmental stewardship program of PLDT-Smart is a collaboration with US-based NGO Rainforest Connection, for an Internet of Things (IoT) solution of the same name.

Launched in the first quarter of 2020, Rainforest Connection is a collaborative effort between Smart, the DENR, and Huawei Technologies Philippines (Huawei).



The program uses old cell phones, all powered by solar panels and wireless technology, to monitor and record ambient sounds of DENR-identified priority forest areas. The bio-acoustics are then uploaded to a cloud service using Smart's mobile network connectivity.

The collected data are accessible to DENR forest rangers, who also receive real-time alerts on sounds of chainsaws, trucks, and other sounds of forest destruction. Since the deployment, several alerts of illegal logging have so far been verified and foiled by the forest rangers.

Restoring mangroves

The PLDT Group's Chief Sustainability Office is also geared to scale up Smart's joint initiative with network vendor Ericsson for Connected Mangroves.

Deployed in the Bangkung Malapad Critical Habitat and Eco-tourism Area in Sasmuan, Pampanga, the IoT for mangroves protection uses wireless connectivity to collect critical data relevant to the survival of these plants, such as water level, temperature, soil moisture, and other conditions in the mangrove area. The information, which is being collected by the mangrove sensor system, is transmitted over a cloud system to a dashboard accessible to the fisherfolk communities and authorities.

Mangrove forests help protect seaside communities from typhoons, flooding, erosion and other coastal hazards, and serve as a vital habitat for various aquatic life forms.

Innovating solutions for the environment

Both Rainforest Connection and Connected Mangroves were featured in the GSMA Digital Dividends report, released on World Environment Day 2020. The latter was also lauded by GSMA in its Case for Change initiative in 2019, as one of the global mobile industry's contributions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSGDs).

For more information about PLDT and Smart's sustainability initiatives, visit www.pldt.com; follow Gabay Kalikasan on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram; or send an email to ChiefSustainabilityOffice@pldt.com.ph.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_special_feature/gabay-kalikasan-program-pldt-smart-to-deploy-drones-to-help-preserve-philippines-peatlands/



LCSP sa LFTRB: Tree-planting gawing penalty kesa requirement

Sunday, November 29, 2020 | Jun I. Legaspi



Si LCSP founder Atty. Ariel Inton habang nagpapaliwanag na gawing penalty ang pagtanim ng puno sa mga franchise violators imbes na requirement kasama ang kayang mga bisita sa kanyang weekly vlog. Kuha ni JUN I. LEGASPI

MAS magandang gawing penalty ang pagtanim ng puno kesa requirement, ayon sa commuter group.

Ito ang giit ni Atty. Ariel Inton, founder ng Lawyers for Commuters Safety and Protection (LCSP) sa inilabas na Memorandum Circular 2020-076 ng Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

“Mas magandang bilisan na lang ng LTFRB ang processing ng mga franchises ng publiko, at kapag bumilis na ang kanilang processing baka hindi lang isang puno ang itanim ng publiko. Magandang penalty itong pagtanim ng puno sa mga mahuhuling bumibiyaheng out-line, cutting trip, colorum, over charging at iba pang franchise related violations, pero para gawin requirement sa pagkuha ng franchise eh ang masasabi natin red tape yan,” saad ni Inton sa kanyang weekly vlog.

Mungkahi pa ng LCSP sa LTFRB, i-block list ang mga operator at mga may ari ng truck na ginagamit sa illegal logging. Iminungkahi rin nila sa Land Transportation Office (LTO) na huwag nang i-renew ang registration ng mga truck na ito.

Handa namang tumalima ang mga PUV operators pero dapat din aniyang siguraduhin ng LTFRB na mapapabilis ang pag-iisyu nila ng prangkisa.

Nangangamba rin si Inton na magresulta ng korapsyon ang bagong policy ng LTFRB.

Nanawagan si Inton kay LTFRB Chairman Martin Delgra III, i-review ang memo na ginawa ng kanyang dalawang board member.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/metro/lcsp-sa-lftrb-tree-planting-gawing-penalty-kesa-requirement/>



A tree for every vehicle program, and urban reforestation

By Thomas M. Orbos

November 30, 2020



Thomas M. Orbos

STREET TALK

Recently, the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board issued Memorandum Circular 2020-06, requiring all public transport operator-applicants to engage in tree planting in order for them to be granted their franchise. This is welcome news considering the environmental damage due to the carbon emissions from fossil fuel fed vehicles. Based on the directive, franchise applicants need to plant one tree for every public transport franchise applied for. Following their lead, I have some further suggestions.

First, why not apply the reforestation program to all motorized vehicle registrations and not just limited to those who operate public transport? On the road, there is no difference. All motorized vehicles emit harmful carbon particulates. A tree for every vehicle program makes sense, and this will dramatically increase the number of trees to more than 10 million, which is equivalent to the number of vehicles registered annually. This will equate to more carbon reduction and cleaner air. The program can even be designed to increase the number of trees one is required to plant according to the type of engine and engine displacement of the vehicle. It should be so, because bigger ones consume more fuel and therefore emit more harmful particles. There will, however, be exemptions, such as those seeking to register electric and hybrid vehicles. And such exemptions, bundled with other built-in incentives and subsidies, will encourage and reward motorists shifting to non-fuel vehicles, which is beneficial to all in the long run.

Second, let's tweak this program to focus on urban reforestation. Rather than tree-planting in general, it would be more relevant if we apply the program to the urban jungles of our cities, for a number of reasons. One, trees in urban areas contribute to greater carbon mitigation—at source. Transport currently account for the second highest source of greenhouse gases in our country. And most transport related activities happen in urban areas. Hence, having reforestation where the most carbon emissions happen will provide the greater margin of carbon reduction. This does not downplay, of course, the need to recover forested areas in our mountain ranges. But there are already existing government reforestation programs that just need to be strictly enforced and monitored.

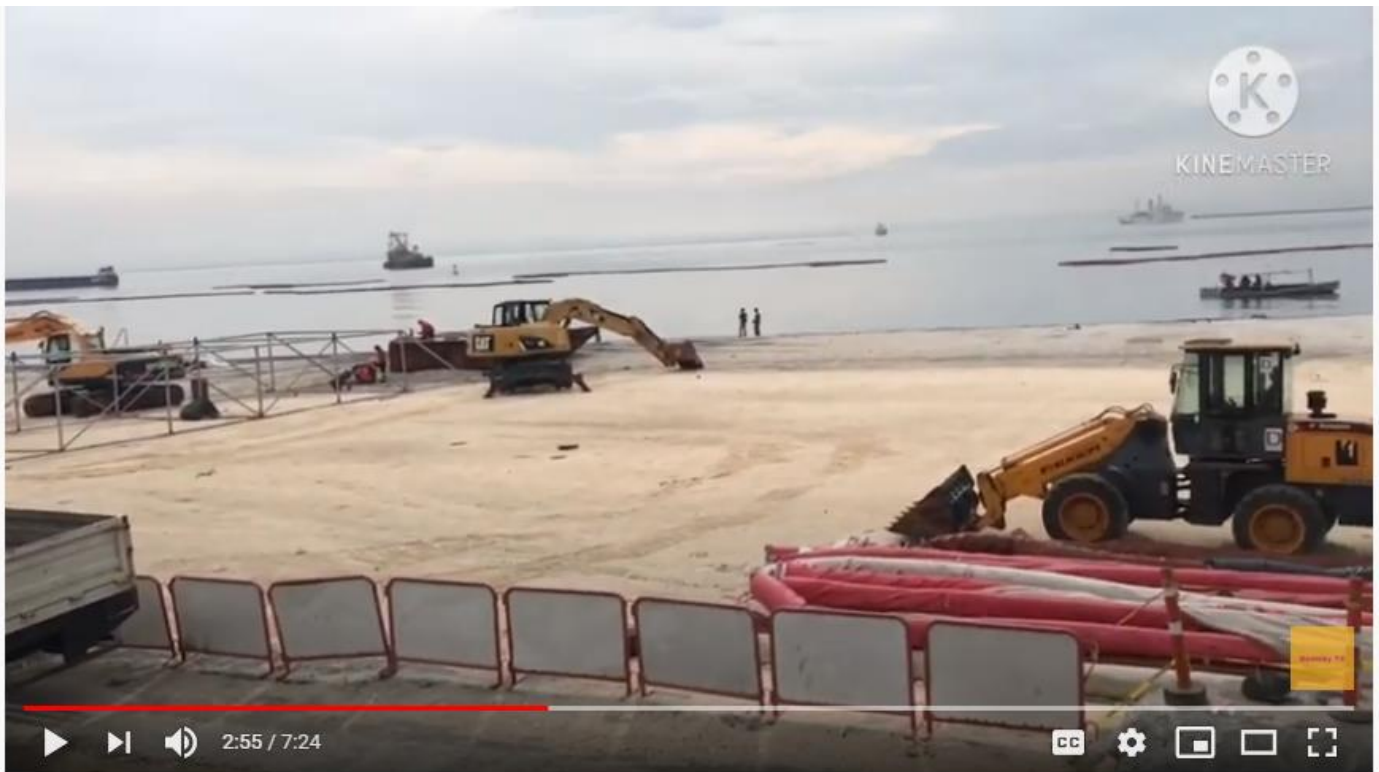
There are other benefits to urban reforestation. They prevent soil erosion and are natural flood control defenses. Trees also provide city habitat for disappearing species of birds and wildlife and make good noise absorption, helping de-stress the already high-strung city populace. Then planting some fruit-bearing trees (and vegetables) will naturally help increase urban food supply. Plus, we all talk about encouraging everyone to bike and walk. Urban reforestation provides an encouraging environment for such activities, leading to lesser public health costs, and the budget can then be re-aligned to other priorities such as education and social welfare. Having all of the above will equate to a better quality of life that will also increase the overall value of urban real estate, as more and more people will be attracted to live in these areas.



Managing these urban forests can even be tied in to motor vehicle usage. Have the vehicle owners that planted such trees take care of them at least for six months or until the trees can survive on their own. Have traffic violations connected to plant management activities, similar to community services. In this manner, maintenance costs of these urban forests can be brought down, not to mention the social impact it will bring to the public, especially to the motoring community.

There are only pluses and not minuses to the tree-planting program that the government initiated. And expanding this to cover all other vehicles and concentrating this on urban reforestation will all the more add value to such initiative. Urban cities, in the normal course of things, cause much harm to the environment given the carbon footprint that city activities leave behind. But done properly and given the proper direction and support by the government, our urban way of life can help reverse the damage being done. A tree for every vehicle program and urban reforestation can be a good initiative to make this happen.

*Thomas "Tim" Orbos is currently a transport policy advisor for an international organization and worked in government on transport and urban development matters. He is an alumnus of Georgetown University and the MIT Sloan School of Management. He can be reached via e-mail—
tmo45@georgetown.edu /thomas_orbos@sloan.mit.edu*



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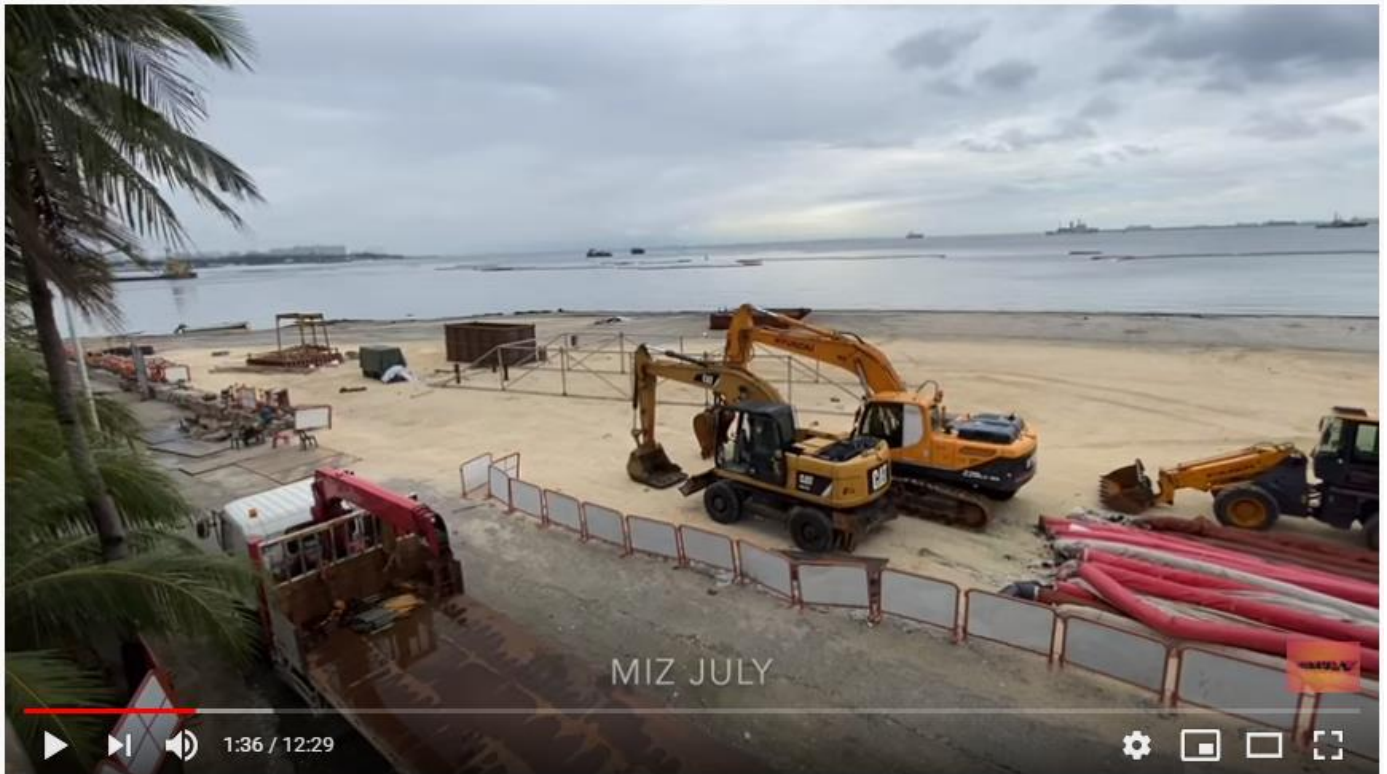
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Naga, Cebu to ban single-use plastics starting January

Published November 29, 2020, 12:56 PM

by [Calvin Cordova](#)

CEBU CITY—Starting January, the City of Naga in southern Cebu will implement “Green Days” or the ban on single-use plastics.

In an ordinance, food chains, restaurants, supermarkets, eateries and other commercial establishments in the city will be prohibited from using single-use plastics.

“(They) shall not dispose of all of their stocks of food and products packages made from plastics, styrofoams and similar non-biodegradable materials and shall replace them with environmentally-friendly materials such as paper plates, paper bags, paper cups, paper board-food packs and other similar biodegradable materials,” read Ordinance 2020-11, or the Integrated Solid Waste Management Ordinance of the City of Naga, Cebu.

The ordinance was passed January this year, but it will only be next year that it will be fully implemented.

It was in July when the city gradually implemented the ordinance, declaring “no plastic days” on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

The City Environment and Natural Resources Office was tasked to strictly monitor the compliance of the ordinance.

Violation of the ordinance carries a fine of P500 to P5,000 and rendering a community service or an imprisonment of up to six months.

The ordinance also requires households and establishments to segregate biodegrade and non-biodegradable wastes.



Co-processing: Addressing the nation's waste management crisis

November 29, 2020 | 6:13 pm

By Angela Edralin-Valencia



REPUBLICCEMENT.COM

DUE TO rapid population growth and continued development in both urban and rural areas, the waste generated every day in the Philippines has steadily increased from over 37,000 tons per day in 2012 to over 40,000 tons per day in 2016. In Metro Manila alone, an average of over 9,000 tons of waste per day was recorded as of 2018. Of this, only 85% of the solid waste is collected and brought to landfills or dumpsites, while the remaining 15% remains uncollected and mostly ends up in waterways and bodies of water.

Despite the passage of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, solid waste management remains a major challenge in the country due to improper waste disposal, inefficient waste collection and the lack of disposal facilities.

Now more than ever, co-processing presents a viable waste management solution to help address this public health and environmental concern. It entails the use of waste as either raw material or source of energy — or both — in industrial processes, especially in energy-intensive sectors. With the reuse or recovery of the thermal and mineral properties of qualified waste materials, natural mineral sources are conserved and non-renewable energy sources such as fossil fuel are avoided.

Since the early 2000s, Republic Cement has been utilizing the cement kiln co-processing method. Pre- and post-consumer waste, primarily plastic, is gathered efficiently in partnership with local government units as well as fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) manufacturers. In a single combined operation in the kiln or the main cement production chamber, co-processing completely destroys the qualified waste-turned-fuel at optimal temperatures of 1,450 degrees Celsius. Any waste byproducts such as ash are fully integrated into the microstructures of the clinker, a key ingredient of cement. Upon exiting the kiln, the clinker is quenched and quickly cooled, ensuring complete stability without any other ash residue. Any noxious gases produced are also completely controlled because of the gas and material counterflow within the cement kiln and pollution control devices.

The recovered minerals are similar to the chemical composition of sand and clay, and effectively replace traditional raw materials used in cement production.

While co-processing involves the application of heat to destroy waste, it is distinct from incineration. In cement kiln co-processing, fumes are contained and managed within the kiln and the ash is effectively reused as raw material for cement. Meanwhile, some forms of incineration are purely for waste disposal without any energy or material recovery aspects. There is a higher chance of noxious gases being released into the atmosphere and the ash byproduct usually still ends up in landfills.



Landfilling produces leachate, a highly toxic substance that can pollute land, ground water, and waterways. The decomposition of waste in the landfill also produces greenhouse gases. In the waste management hierarchy, methods such as prevention, minimization, and recovery of materials through recycling and reusing are still preferred over co-processing. However, when these options are no longer available, co-processing remains preferred over unsustainable methods such as incineration, chemical and physical treatment of waste, and landfilling.

The promise of cement kiln co-processing as an institutionalized process in the industry is its far-reaching, collective nature — necessitating collaboration and partnership with other industries and sectors to address the problem of waste at its sources as much as possible. It presents a long-term, sustainable solution that has a massive impact in terms of waste management, environmental conservation, and decarbonization.

Most importantly, it helps keep the local construction materials industry alive and less dependent on external factors such as the geopolitics of fossil fuels and the dangers of substandard imported products. Co-processing is a compelling case for building resiliency, not only of the industry, but overall paves a clear path towards a greener and stronger republic.

Angela Edralin-Valencia is the director of Ecoloop, the co-processing arm of Republic Cement. The cement manufacturer is a partnership between diversified Filipino business conglomerate Aboitiz and leading building materials company CRH headquartered in Ireland.



Philippine Eagle takes flight on international stage in 'All The Birds of the World'

By [BusinessMirror](#)

November 29, 2020



Philippine eagle 'Makilala-Hiraya'

Haring Ibon-Birds in Focus, Inc. launched historic ornithology books *All the Birds of the World* and *Birds of the Philippines* at the online Manila International Book Fair last November 27, 2020.

Published by international press Lynx Edicions, *All the Birds of the World* was created for a broad public, from novice birders to expert ornithologists and anyone interested in the spectacular diversity of birds, with over 20,000 illustrations of bird species and subspecies, over 11,000 distribution maps, and all 3313 one-country endemic species marked.

“For the first time ever, you can contemplate all the birds of the world together in a single, easy-to-use volume with high-quality illustrations and updated distribution maps for all the species of the birds of the world,” says Dr. Josep del Hoyo, Senior Editor of *All the Birds of the World* and co-founder of Lynx Edicions.

On the volume’s cover is the iconic Philippine Eagle photograph “Ang Banog” by acclaimed wild bird photographer Alain Pascua, an opportunity that he considers as an honor not just for him, but for the Philippines as well. “Higit sa akin, ang pagkilalang ito sa Philippine Eagle, o Haring Ibon, ay isang malaking karangalan at tagumpay ng lahing Pilipino at ng bansang Pilipinas.” (*“More than mine, this recognition of the Philippine Eagle, or Haring Ibon, is a great honor and victory for the Filipino people and our beloved Philippines.”*)

Pascua, who is also the Undersecretary for Administration of the Department of Education (DepEd), has previously published his own coffee table book *Haring Ibon – The Great Philippine Eagle* which is the first publication that gives focus to the Philippines’ national bird.

Guidebook *Birds of the Philippines* by Desmond Allen, which captures in vivid illustrations the endemic, resident, and migratory birds found all over the archipelago, was also launched at the online event.



“This book, the *Birds of the Philippines*, is indeed very timely. It has been 20 years since our last field guide to the birds of the Philippines,” remarks Dr. Juan Carlos Gonzalez, professor of ornithology and Director of the Museum of Natural History at University of the Philippines-Los Baños. “It is quite interesting that this particular book comprises not only the list of birds in the Philippines but also highlights the inclusion of all the different subspecies that will be very useful in the field, and will help us in teaching ornithology in the Philippines.”

Notable Filipino scientists and special guests shared their support and expertise at the launch: Prof. Blas Tabaranza, Jr., Professor of Ornithology and President Emeritus of the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines, Mr. Winfred Paler, President of the Wild Bird Photographers of the Philippines (WBPP), Mr. Mike Lu, President of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP), and Dr. Angel Alcala, Multi-awarded Biologist and National Scientist. Department of Education Secretary Leonor Briones also gave a special message at the end of the launch.

All the Birds of the World and *Birds of the Philippines* are monumental additions to the growing ornithology literature in the country. Both publications are now sold out, but they are available for pre-order at www.haringibon.com.

Image credits: [Philippine Eagle Foundation](#)



Hinatuan Mining's version of a 'Miyawaki' forest

By [The Manila Times](#)

November 30, 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'.

Opposite to the traditional approach of reforestation, 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 HMC's Environment Manager Forrester Manuel Torres

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 four to six years.



For NAC and all its subsidiaries, environment-conservation is a critical part of business strategy, and, ‘building forests’ are ‘key performance indicators’ across the organization.

According to Rogel 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.



Environmental groups call on DPWH to reconsider cutting trees for road works



Photo by Save Heritage Trees FB page

[JENNIE P. ARADO](#)

November 29, 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL groups have called on the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Davao City District Engineer's Office to reconsider the proposed plan of a new laybay, which would include the cutting of eight trees planted along the sidewalk of Ateneo de Davao University (AddU) Grade school/High school Matina campus.

On Thursday, November 26, Ecoteneo and the Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis) sent a letter of concern to Engr. Richard Ragasa of the City District Engineering Office after learning that eight old trees, mostly Narras, are planned to be cut to give way to the laybay or road widening plan discussed between AddU and the DPWH two weeks ago.

"These Narra trees are part of the Heritage Trees project initiated by the Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (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. 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," read the letter, a copy of which has also been sent to the City Mayor's Office.

In an interview with Idis Executive Director Chinkie Golle, she said the trees are already 60 to 70 years old as per their geotagging.

Golle said what they see as an ideal option is to revise the laybay development plan and incorporate more trees instead of cutting the existing ones. Another option is for AddU to "move their fence a little bit" to provide more space for the laybay and the McArthur Highway sidewalk.

Golle also said they are hoping that Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio would issue a public statement or a policy to stop the removal of trees in the urban area in the city.

"We will continue to do multimedia campaigns. We also plan to conduct ribbon tying of trees just like what we did with Dacudao Avenue trees. We will continue to monitor the trees along McArthur Highway. We urge the city council members to act on this because this is a relevant issue. We know that all the projects also have to secure the resolution of no objection so they should start working on the development of a policy that will regulate the continuous urban deforestation," added Golle.



SunStar Davao reached out to DPWH Davao Region but has yet to be given a response on the issue. A statement from the AdDU engineers as well as the copy of the proposed plan is currently being sought.

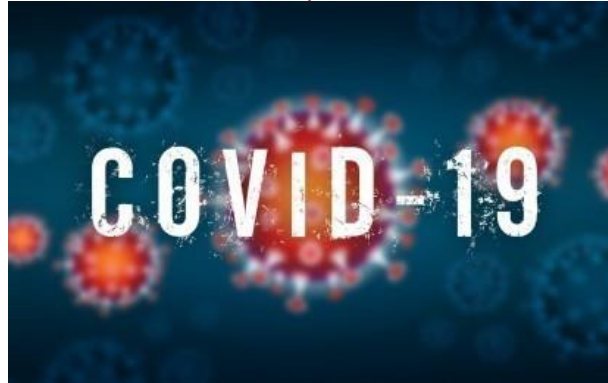
This is not the first time that trees in downtown Davao were cut. By the later portion of 2019, trees planted on Clifford Park, an island fronting Davao City Central Post Office, were also cut to give way to the Clifford Freedom Park Development Plan. This move by the government drew negative comments from environmental groups and netizens.

Duterte-Carpio apologized to the public shortly after through a statement and committed to “carrying out more programs to establish rural and urban green spaces, promote ecological balance, sustainable utilization and management of resources, and to continue raising public awareness of the importance of environmental protection.” **(JPA)**



PH Covid-19 recoveries climb by over 10K to 398,624

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor November 29, 2020, 5:13 pm



MANILA – The country's total number of recovered cases from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) rose to 398,624 after the Department of Health (DOH) reported 10,579 new recoveries on Sunday.

In its 4 p.m. case bulletin, the DOH said the figures represent 92.7 percent recovery rate from Covid-19 among Filipinos.

It also reported 2,076 new cases while 40 have died. These numbers bring the total number of active cases to 22,867 and the death toll to 8,373.

Of the active cases, about 82.9 percent were classified as mild, 7.4 percent as asymptomatic, 3.2 percent as severe, 0.34 percent as moderate and 6.1 percent in critical condition.

"Two duplicates were removed from the total case count, and, of these, two were recovered cases. Moreover, eight cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths and seven recovered cases found to be negative were removed from the total case count," the DOH said.

Quezon City topped the list of areas where new Covid-19 cases were logged with 137 infections.

It is followed by Laguna with 122, Cavite with 103, Batangas with 96, and Angeles City with 79 cases.

A November 28 DOH report showed that 1,473 or 6.1 percent of 23,968 who were tested for Covid-19 turned positive.

The DOH also said it remains to have 21,300 total bed capacity for patients with Covid-19.

About 57 percent of intensive care unit beds, 63 percent of 13,500 isolation beds, and 71 percent of 5,900 ward beds are available for patients' use.

It added that 82 percent of 2,000 ventilators are also available for patients with Covid-19. (PNA)



Duterte to disclose new quarantine classifications by Monday —Año

Published November 29, 2020 1:21pm

By ERWIN COLCOL, GMA News

President Rodrigo Duterte will be announcing the new community quarantine classifications in the country on Monday, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said Sunday.

In a Dabol B sa News TV interview, Año, who also serves as vice chairperson of the National Task Force (NTF) Against COVID-19, said they are set to meet with the President on Monday night to discuss the new quarantine classifications.

New classifications will then be announced during the President's televised address following the meeting, he added.

"Ang Pangulo na rin ang magde-decide at mag-a-announce ng bagong quarantine classification para sa iba't ibang areas at LGUs," Año said.

Duterte earlier placed the National Capital Region and six other areas under general community quarantine (GCQ) from November 1 to 30 to further prevent the spread of COVID-19.

However, NTF COVID-19 chief implementer Carlito Galvez Jr. said Metro Manila mayors still want the region to remain under GCQ during the holiday season.

Año said there will be another meeting with Metro Manila mayors later in the day to hear their recommendations on the succeeding quarantine classifications.

"Kailangan pakinggan din natin yung kanilang opinyon at ang kanilang rekomendasyon. Gayunpaman, actually, nakapag-usap usap na rin naman ang ating mga mayor, at sa kanila, patapusin natin ang Christmas under GCQ," he said.

"Nangangamba tayo kasi na baka magkaroon ng spike or surge kapag ang mga tao ay maglabasan at maggawa ng kung anu-anong activities katulad ng party, caroling," he added.

As of Saturday, a total of 427,797 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the Philippines, of which 31,402 are active while 8,333 are fatalities. —**LBG, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/766081/duterte-to-disclose-new-quarantine-classifications-by-monday-a-ntilde-o/story/>

Experts recommend GCQ extension in Metro Manila until Dec. 31

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Nov 28, 2020 10:49:15 AM



(FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 28) — The research team that monitors and evaluates COVID-19 trends favored retaining the general community quarantine for Metro Manila because of still rising infections.

“We don’t think (we are) ready na tayo sa pag (to) further relax because we are seeing some alarming indicators,” University of the Philippines Professor Guido David of OCTA Research Team told CNN Philippines’ Newsroom Weekend on Saturday.

David noted the average number of infections recorded daily in Metro Manila rose by 15 percent, from 350 last week to around 400 this week.

It remains unclear what triggers the surge, but the OCTA research fellow said it may be due to increased mobility, community transmission, or testing backlogs as some COVID-19 laboratories were forced to suspend operations because of successive typhoons.

Guido said further easing restrictions and increasing capacity in establishments in Metro Manila “could lead to a genuine increase in the number of cases.”

On the other hand, while the cities of Baguio and Davao are still classified as high-risk due to high positivity rate and dwindling capacity to cater to patients, their situation is significantly improving, Guido said. This is due to the intensified efforts of concerned local governments, he added.

But the same cannot be said for Metro Manila, Calabarzon and Central Luzon, whose situations are “getting worse,” he said, adding people should remain vigilant against the virus.

Metro Manila mayors have also suggested keeping existing protocols in place to reduce possible infections during the holidays.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque earlier said that President Rodrigo Duterte will address the nation on Monday, Nov. 30, to announce the quarantine rules for Dec. 1 to 31.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/11/28/Metro-Manila-GCQ-status-recommendation-.html>



Solon seeks appointment of disaster czar

Published November 29, 2020, 3:02 PM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

The massive flooding in Cagayan and Isabela has highlighted the need for the Philippines to have its own disaster czar who will solely keep an eye on the country's disaster response and mitigation efforts, Bagong Henerasyon partylist Rep. Bernadette Herrera said Sunday.



This recent undated handout photo received from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) on November 14, 2020 shows coast guard personnel evacuating residents from their flooded home in Cagayan province, north of Manila, days after Typhoon Vamco hit parts of the country bringing heavy rain and flooding. (Photo by Handout / Philippine Coast Guard / AFP / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

The House deputy majority leader said since some senators remain cold on the proposed creation of the Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR), it would be better for the Duterte government to designate a czar that would lead and manage the country's disaster risk reduction and management efforts.

"Kung ayaw pa ipasa ng Senado 'yung DDR (bill), siguro kailangan magkaroon ng person in-charge of disaster, or disaster czar. Kasi kailangan may tumutok dito, 'yung nakikita ang implikasyon (ng mga disasters)," she told DZBB in an interview.

(If the Senate does not want to pass the DDR bill, maybe we need a person in-charge of disaster, or disaster czar. Because we need somehow who would lead and focus on this, who would see the implication of these disasters)

She said the failure of various agencies to be more proactive in their disaster preparedness measures has contributed to the disaster situation in Cagayan Valley.

According to the House leader, the massive flooding in Cagayan and Isabela proved that there has to be a department or a person-in charge that would be on the top of the disaster situation.

"Yung natural calamities hindi natin kayang iwasan, pero 'yung mitigating factors kaya natin iwasan," Herrera said.

(We cannot avoid natural calamities, but we can avoid the mitigating factors)

"We don't have someone na nakatutok para pag-aralan ng adverse effects ng calamity (We don't have someone who will be primarily responsible to study the adverse effects of the calamity)," she lamented.



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Herrera said there is also a pressing for the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) to review the Magat Dam protocols as the NIA relayed to the House joint panel last week during its hearing on the Cagayan flooding that there have been changes in the topography of the area.

She said they are also eyeing to fund the proposed dredging activities of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in Cagayan as laid down in its 2002 master plan.

“We will take a serious look at that so that for this coming 2021, baka naman sa bicam (maybe in the bicam), we can still do something about it,” she said.



Dost pagasa
22 hours ago

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA)
Northern Luzon PAGASA Regional Service Division
CAGAYAN RIVER BASIN FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING CENTER
Tel. Fax: (078) 504 - 3994

**HYDROLOGICAL FORECAST
CAGAYAN RIVER BASIN**
ISSUED AT: 7:00 AM 29 NOVEMBER 2020
VALID UNTIL: 7:00 AM TOMORROW

BASIN SUB AREA	GENERAL WEATHER CONDITION (FORECAST)	PRESENT RIVER STATUS	FORECAST RIVER TREND	POSSIBLE IMPACTS
UPPER CAGAYAN INCLUDING TRIBUTARIES: SUKANDI AND MAGAT	Cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. (Maaaring na kalangitan na may kati-kati na mga pag-ulap at paghulog-pagkabit.)	Above Alert Level (Mas mataas sa antas ng Alert Level ang kalugan)	Continuous slow rise in water level. (Patuloy ang anti-antiing pagtaas ng lebel ng tubig)	Flooding is still possible
MIDDLE CAGAYAN INCLUDING TRIBUTARIES: SIPERABUCAL AND PINACANAUAN RIVERS OF LAGAL, TUMALINE and SAN PABLO	Cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. (Maaaring na kalangitan na may kati-kati na mga pag-ulap at paghulog-pagkabit.)	Above Alert Level (Mas mataas sa antas ng Alert Level ang kalugan)	Continuous slow rise in water level. (Patuloy ang anti-antiing pagtaas ng lebel ng tubig)	Flooding is still possible
LOWER CAGAYAN INCLUDING TRIBUTARIES: PINACANAUAN DE TUGUEGARAO, ONDO, PARE and DUMMUN.	Cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. (Maaaring na kalangitan na may kati-kati na mga pag-ulap at paghulog-pagkabit.)	Above Alarm Level (Mas mataas sa antas ng Alarm Level ang kalugan)	Continuous slow rise in water level. (Patuloy ang anti-antiing pagtaas ng lebel ng tubig)	Flooding is threatening

PREPARED BY:

AED/UM/RRP
Duty Forecaster

NOTED BY:

LED L. BUÑAG
DIC, NLRSD

Cagayan River Basin
Hydrological Forecast
Issued at 7:00 AM (Nov. 29, 2020)

45 10 24

Cagayan residents warned of flooding as river reaches Above Alarm Level

Published November 29, 2020 7:36am

Updated November 29, 2020 8:17am

Residents living near the lower part of Cagayan River were advised on Sunday morning to take the necessary precautions after the Cagayan River reached the Above Alarm Level.

In its 7 a.m. hydrological forecast for the Cagayan River Basin, PAGASA said flooding is threatening in Lower Cagayan River and its tributaries Pinacanauan de Tuguegarao, Chico, Pared and Dummun.

PAGASA warned of continuous rise in the water level of Lower Cagayan River since scattered rain showers and thunderstorms are expected.

In its 7 a.m. flood bulletin for the Cagayan River Basin, PAGASA said flooding is threatening in the low-lying areas near the lower part of Cagayan River.

These low-lying areas are Penabalanca, Tuguegarao City, Enrile, Solana, Iguig, Amulung, Alcala, Baggao, Lasam, Gattaran, Lallo, Camalaniugan and Aparri.

Meanwhile, the Above Alert Level was raised over Upper Cagayan and Middle Cagayan River and their tributaries.

PAGASA said flooding is still possible in these areas.



Flood in Isabela, Nov. 28, 2020, due to heavy rains from tail-end of a frontal system. 24 Oras

Over 800 people evacuated in Cagayan, Isabela due to threat of flooding

Published November 29, 2020 9:31am

Updated November 29, 2020 12:45pm

A total of 804 people in Isabela and Cagayan have evacuated from their homes due to the threat of flooding amid heavy rainfall, the Philippine National Police Region 2 said on Sunday.

Interviewed on Dobol B sa News TV, PNP Region 2 director Police Brigadier General Crizaldo Nieves said the water level of Cagayan River near the Buntun Bridge has already reached 8.48 meters, which is at the Alert Level.

"May mga evacuation ngayon. Ongoing, as of this 5 a.m., may pag-ulan pa rin," Nieves said.

"Yung areas kasi doon, especially 'yung pangsuikat natin doon sa level ng baha sa Buntun Bridge, as of 5 a.m., is 8.48 meters," he added.

According to Nieves, at least 62 families or 236 people have evacuated in Cagayan.

Meanwhile in Isabela, at least 138 families or 422 people evacuated in Cabatauan, while 65 families or 158 people evacuated in Alicia, Nieves said.

Cagayan

Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba on Sunday said they are closely monitoring the level of water in Cagayan River.

"Tumataas ang tubig. Naka-monitor ang mga tao natin... Baka umabot ng 10 meters, sa critical level," he said in an interview on Dobol B sa News TV.

Mamba confirmed preemptive evacuations were conducted in four low-lying barangays along the Cagayan River in Tuguegarao on Sunday morning, with over 200 people evacuated.

"May phobia ang mga tao. Takot na takot na maulit ang nangyari," he said, referring to the situation two weeks ago when Typhoon Ulysses dumped heavy rains, causing widespread flooding in Cagayan and Isabela. People sought refuge on rooftops as floods submerged their houses.

Mamba said all communities along the Cagayan River are prepared for any possible flooding due to heavy rains from the tail-end of a cold front this weekend.

"Lahat ng mga bayan along Cagayan River, naapektuhan. Lahat po 'yan nakahanda rin po. Sanay na rin po sila, huwag lang sobra-sobra tulad nang nangyari," he added.



"Ang kinatatakutan namin ay ang patuloy na pag-ulan sa Isabela, Mt. Province at Quirino," Mamba said, saying that the waters from these upland areas flow into Cagayan River.

Relief operations

Nieves said relief operations in the two provinces, which were recently hit by widespread flooding amid the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses, are still ongoing.

He added that they are coordinating with the Office of Civil Defense, provincial disaster risk reduction and management offices, Philippine Coast Guard, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines for these operations.

Mamba said donations of relief goods are still coming in for victims of the flooding due to Typhoon Ulysses.

"Dumarating pa rin ang relief goods na dino-donate," he said.

"Tuloy-tuloy rin po ang pagbigay ng relief goods," Mamba said.

The governor said with the state of calamity still in effect, a price freeze is observed by establishments.

PAGASA warning

On Sunday morning, residents living near the lower part of Cagayan River were advised to take the necessary precautions after the [water reached the Above Alarm Level](#).

In its 7 a.m. hydrological forecast for the Cagayan River Basin, PAGASA said flooding is threatening in Lower Cagayan River and its tributaries Pinacanauan de Tuguegarao, Chico, Pared and Dummun.

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These low-lying areas are Peñabalanca, Tuguegarao City, Enrile, Solana, Iguig, Amulung, Alcala, Baggao, Lasam, Gattaran, Lallo, Camalaniugan and Aparri.

The Above Alert Level was raised over Upper Cagayan and Middle Cagayan River and their tributaries.

PAGASA said flooding is still possible in these areas.

[Scattered rain showers](#) and thunderstorms are expected over Cagayan Valley and four other areas on Sunday due to the tail-end of a frontal system and the easterlies, PAGASA said. —**Joviland**

Rita/KG, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/766062/over-800-people-evacuated-in-cagayan-isabela-due-to-threat-of-flooding/story/>



Disaster management & the Marikina Watershed

[AS A MATTER OF FACT](#) - [Sara Soliven De Guzman](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 30, 2020 - 12:00am

During Typhoon Ulysses, all eyes were on the Marikina River. The tragedy that beset the Marikeños and their neighboring areas like Cainta and Pasig during Typhoon Ondoy can never be forgotten. One would think both national and local governments would have learned from the very painful experience, swearing it will never happen again. Unfortunately, it did!

After Typhoon Ulysses left, it also left many homes under water. No one was prepared. The Marikeños did not expect this kind of flood. As they try to analyze what happened, they continue to be perplexed. They suspect that the floodways were never opened. Usually, when it rains, the rainwater flows from San Mateo and Antipolo mountains down to the Marikina River and out to the Pasig River. This time the locals noticed that the water was coming from Pasig flowing back to Cainta and Marikina. While the mayor, Marcelino Teodoro blames everything on the release of water from Angat Dam, he never mentioned anything about the possibility of the floodwater coming from the Marikina Watershed. By the way, I think we need to restudy our Geography. Does the water from Angat Dam really pass through the Marikina River as Mayor Marcy insists?

* * *

In 2001, Proclamation 296 was issued declaring the Marikina Watershed Reservation in Rizal as a protected area. It was renamed the upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape.

It was granted protection under Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, which means the area is “protected against destructive human exploitation.” Despite this, illegal activities have not stopped.

It is said that floodwaters from Ulysses could have been prevented if the government “seriously restored” the forest a decade ago. The Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) is a 26,000-hectare protected area in Rizal which plays an important role in regulating water flow towards the National Capital Region.

What is a watershed? A watershed is an area of land that drains or “sheds” water into a specific body of water. In this case, water from the Sierra Madre Mountains flows through areas such as Antipolo, Baras, General Nakar, Rodriguez, San Mateo and Tanay, all the way down to rivers and waterways such as Pasig River, Marikina River and Laguna de Bay.

However, the continued destruction of the forest has affected the watershed’s natural ability to hold stormwater. When Ondoy hit in 2009, massive loss was recorded due to a failing watershed. Note that the Marikina Watershed has been protected from settlement, entry, sale and disposition since 1904 when we were still under the US colonial government.

Yet, more than a century later, rampant illegal activities such as land grabbing, illegal logging and quarrying continue. Decades of mismanagement, corruption and neglect has led us from one disaster to another. Shouldn’t the Marikeños fight to protect their environment for the future generations? It’s about time Marikeños become privy to the state of matters of their city.

The past mayor and the present mayor have been at each other’s back trying to protect their interest. Enough is enough, have some pity on your constituents who suffer every year from these catastrophes.



* * *

Project Noah hailed by the international community as one of the best in the world for disaster resilience, big data analytics and use of high-technology for disaster response plans was trending in social media during the aftermath of Typhoon Ulysses. People continue to look for it.

It was created in the aftermath of Typhoon Sendong in 2011 and formally launched in 2012. Then president Benigno Aquino III called it the country's ark against deluge. Project NOAH was composed of disaster mitigation and prevention component projects funded by the Department of Science and Technology. It had been instrumental in identifying areas that would be hit by hazards at a particular time. It provided hydrometeorological hazard maps, which included barangay-level flood hazard maps for major river basins, storm surge maps for coastal communities, landslide hazard maps and even hazard maps for debris flows.

Project NOAH also developed an impact assessment tool called WebSAFE and mobile application Arko that provided users with location-specific flood hazard maps, as well as storm surge and landslide hazard maps. Despite all these, the project was put to a stop due to "lack of funds." According to then DOST Secretary Fortunato dela Peña, the deliverables of Project NOAH had already been met and the government, particularly PAGASA, would adopt the technologies produced by the program. But this never happened. They totally shelved Project NOAH.

Many government agencies who were affected by the presence of Project NOAH and who saw it as competition for funding during congressional budget hearings played it down. In fact, those in charge of climate change under the DOST must be asked why they removed Project NOAH and why they were taken off from the NDRRMC.

Whenever a disaster happens in the country, who do the media or mayors call for? Most of the time, it is Dr. Mahar Lagmay of the UP Resilience Institute who is popularly sought in making us understand the natural disaster happening and possible management that can be done.

In June 2017, UP launched its Resilience Institute (UPRI), which is tasked with providing the public with data for disaster prevention, response and mitigation. This is now led by Dr. Mahar Lagmay. Central to the institute is the NOAH Center, which is directed to assist the people and communities in climate change actions and disaster risk reductions by providing timely, reliable and readily accessible information against possible disasters, and support disaster risk reduction and management and climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.

It is also tasked to generate science-based information, models and applications that can be used for disaster risk reduction and management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, resource management, water conservation and planning, land use, urban development and engineering designs.

Without Project NOAH, Filipinos have to rely on the PAGASA Facebook page or NDRRMC text messages, both of which do the job well but don't provide everything the Project NOAH apps offered before. LGUs are now being told to handle disasters on their own.

In the first year of President Duterte, he called Congress to create a Department of Disaster Resilience. He said he wants a "truly empowered department characterized by a unity of command, science-based approach and full-time focus on natural hazards and disasters, and the wherewithal to take charge of disaster risk reduction; preparedness and response; with better recovery and faster rehabilitation."



House Bill 8165 was passed for the creation of the Department of Disaster Resilience. The version of the House Bill, which underwent intensive deliberations of the joint committees on government reorganization and national defense and final approval by the committee on appropriations with a proposed initial budget of P21 billion, was presented during the plenary at the House of Representatives on Sept. 5, 2018. After it was transmitted to the Senate, I never heard anything about it anymore. It vanished in thin air. I wonder what happened?

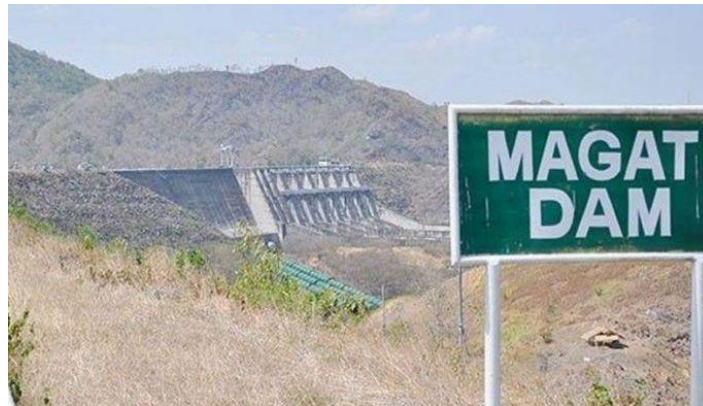
Anyway, during this time of “blame games,” it’s good to take heed of Dr. Lagmay’s wit as he wrote in his scientific report titled, “Lessons from Disasters in the Philippines.”

“There’s no such thing as a natural disaster because all disasters are caused by human error. All disasters are man-made; they are never natural. It is the people’s poor understanding on how to address hazards and failure to use appropriate science and technology as well as hazard mitigation plans that create disasters.”



Magat dam nagpakawala ng tubig, 2 barangay muling binaha

By [Angie dela Cruz](#), [Joy Cantos](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 29, 2020 - 12:00am



Sinabi ni Mark Timbal, Spokesman ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, dahil sa pagbaha ay nagsilikas ang mga residente mula sa dalawang naapektuhang barangay ng Linao at Annafunan. STAR/File

MANILA, Philippines — Dumanas muli ng matinding pagbaha ang mga residente sa Tuguegarao City, Cagayan matapos na magpakawala ng tubig ang Magat dam nitong Sabado ng umaga.

Sinabi ni Mark Timbal, Spokesman ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), dahil sa pagbaha ay nagsilikas ang mga residente mula sa dalawang naapektuhang barangay ng Linao at Annafunan.

Tinatayang daang katao mula sa 40 pamilya sa Brgy. Annafunan at 30 pamilya sa Brgy. Linao ang isinailalim sa preemptive evacuation ng pamahalaang lungsod ng Tuguegarao dahil sa pagbaha at hindi rin madaanan ang provincial road sa Anafunan East patungong Linao at Atulayan via Coreshelter ng lungsod.

Nauna rito, naglabas ng "flood warning" ang National Irrigation Administration-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (NIA-MRIIS) at Reserivior Division dakong laas-5 ng umaga sa mga residente sa Northern Luzon lalo na sa mga nasa upper, middle at lower Cagayan na maaaring maapektuhan sa posibleng pagbaha sa mga river channels sa kanilang lugar dahil sa pagrelease ng nasa 800 cubic meters per second (cms) ng tubig dahil aapaw na ang dam sa sobrang tubig.

Sa paalala ng NIA-MRIIS , sinabing bubuksan nila ang Gate 4 ng Magat dam ng may dalawang metro upang maipalabas ang sobrang tubig na may 393 cms alas-9 ng umaga kahapon. Ang Gate 3 naman ay nagbukas ng isang metro bandang alas-8 ng umaga para mailabas ang may 179 cms ng tubig.

Dahil dito, agad nag-isyu ng precautionary advisories ang Cagayan Valley Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (DRRMC) para sa paglilikas upang matiyak sa kaligtasan ng mga residente.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2020/11/29/2060266/magat-dam-nagpakawala-ng-tubig-2-barangay-muling-binaha/amp/>



Kanlaon Volcano registers 3 volcanic earthquakes in 24 hours

Published November 29, 2020 1:47pm

Three volcanic earthquakes were recorded in Kanlaon Volcano in 24 hours, according to a bulletin issued by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) on Sunday.

PHIVOLCS also said the volcano's sulfur dioxide emission reached an average of 336 tonnes/day on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Since June 2020, there seems to be a slight inflation of the volcano's lower and mid slopes, based on ground deformation data from continuous GPS measurements.

Meanwhile, "short-term electronic tilt monitoring on the southeastern flanks recorded inflation on the lower to mid slopes that began on 21 June 2020."

PHIVOLCS said these observations may point to hydrothermal or magmatic processes going on beneath the volcano.



Alert Level 1 is still raised over Kanlaon Volcano, meaning it is in an abnormal condition and a period of unrest.

"Hindi naman po ito karamihan pero ang mga volcanic earthquakes na naitala natin at pamamaga ng bulkan ay ibig sabihin abnormal ang kondisyon ng bulkan pero wala naman dapat ikaalarma," PHIVOLCS Officer-in-Charge and Science and Technology Undersecretary Renato Solidum Jr. told Dobol B sa News TV in an interview on Sunday.

"Ang importante ay hindi sila (residents) papasok sa apat na kilometro na permanent danger zone," he said.

"May mataas na posibilidad na magbuga ng usok pero dahil ito sa pagkulo ng tubig," Solidum said. "'Yan din ang sanhi ng pamamaga ng bulkan."

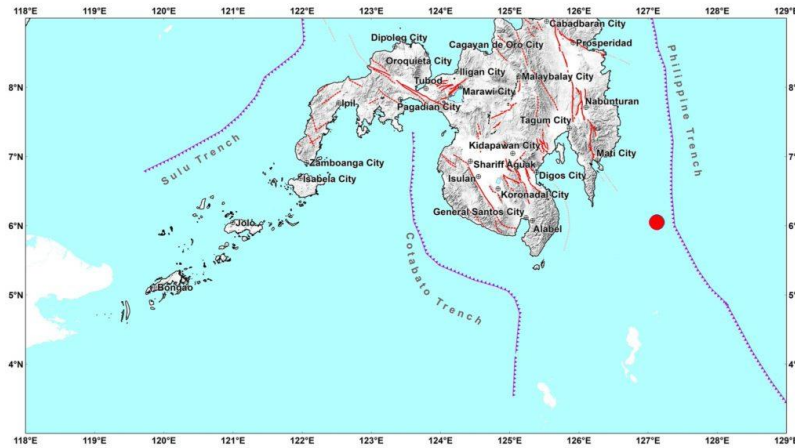
Most of Kanlaon Volcano's eruptions were not violent, but the last one with magma occurred a long time ago, in the early 1900s, he said.

"Araw-araw tayo nagpapalabas ng impormasyon," Solidum said. —**KG, GMA News**



Magnitude 3.3 na lindol, naramdaman sa Davao Oriental

By Angellic Jordan November 29, 2020 - 01:27 PM



Tumama ang magnitude 3.3 na lindol sa Davao Occidental.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, tumama ang lindol sa 135 kilometers Southeast ng Governor Generoso.

Naramdaman ang pagyanig bandang 12:53 ng tanghali.

186 kilometers ang lalim ng lindol at tectonic ang origin.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, wala namang napaulat na pinsala sa mga karatig-bayan.

Wala ring inaasahang aftershocks matapos ang pagyanig.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/277477/magnitude-3-3-na-lindol-naramdaman-sa-davao-oriental-2>



The battle to save a biodiversity hotspot in India

Published 21 hours ago



GETTY IMAGES

image captionGoa is a popular holiday destination in India

Goa, a lush, popular tourist spot on India's western coast, has seen weeks of protests against three infrastructure projects. Locals fear the works will damage the state's biodiversity and turn it into a coal hub, reports freelance journalist Dielle D'Souza.

During an evening stroll on Goa's Querim beach, Claude Alvares holds up a lump of coal he has found in the sand. Mr Alvares, a local activist, says the piece of black rock travelled all the way to Goa's northern-most tip from Mormugao Port Trust (MPT), about 70 kms (43 miles) away in the middle of the state.

"This coal is very light," he says. "It gets into the water and the waves distribute it over Goa's beaches. Chances are, if you are walking on a beach anywhere in Goa, you may find this under your feet."

Goa's only port, MPT, is embroiled in protests. It currently handles around nine million tons of imported coal bound via road and rail mainly for steel plants in neighbouring states.

Reports suggest that MPT aims to import 51.6 million tons by 2030 to transport it through Goa to other states for companies such as the Adani Group, JSW Group and Vedanta.

So when the government announced three new projects - expansion of a highway, double-tracking of an existing railway line and setting up of a transmission power line - environmentalists said it was to make coal transportation easier.

Goa's government has denied this, saying the projects have nothing to do with coal. It says the new power line will provide the state much-needed electricity, **the highway will meet the demands of growing traffic** and the extra railway line will allow more goods and passenger trains to run.

But environmentalists are concerned, especially since all three projects cut through a protected wildlife reserve in south Goa, threatening forests that they say are older than the Himalayas.

The state's tourism industry is also anxious. Goa's lush forests and stunning beaches, which span the range from crowded to untouched, draw millions of tourists, both Indian and foreign, every year. They fear that projects such as these could hurt an industry that relies on adventure and wildlife, from trekking to bird-watching to surfing.

The biodiversity at stake

The protected area in question spans 240sq km (93 sq miles) of India's Western Ghats, recognised by Unesco as one of the **world's eight 'hottest hotspots' of biological diversity**. It is the site of a 12th Century Hindu temple, verdant tropical forests and waterfalls, including Dudhsagar that is a big tourist draw.

The reserve is home to 128 endemic plants, birds, butterflies, reptiles and a variety of wild mammals including leopards, Bengal tigers and pangolins.

One species of dragonfly has been recorded in only one location in Goa close to the proposed railway tracks, while the transmission line site is one of only two locations in India where a reclusive ant species has been found.

Herpetologist and conservationist Nirmal Kulkarni says it was in these forests that he discovered his love for snakes on his first visit during a school picnic. The area was not identified as a reserve then, but he recalled "a small gurgling stream flowing slowly into a deep emerald-green forest".



GETTY IMAGES

image captionThe reserve is home to lush forests and waterfalls

"I've come to Mollem National Park many times after that. These tropical forests have an amazing diversity of reptiles and amphibians, some of which are not found anywhere else in the world, and it is this diversity that we need to protect," Mr Kulkarni said.

He is among hundreds of concerned citizens, scientists, activists, students and others who have signed letters to representatives in the state and central government, including India's Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar, asking for the projects to be scrapped over threats to the park and a nearby sanctuary.

Saving Mollem

Local resistance - involving several groups and independent protesters - began after Mr Javadekar cleared several infrastructure projects over video conference, barely two weeks after India went into a coronavirus lockdown in March.

Campaigners question the manner in which the projects were cleared and want a review of it. But on a recent visit to Goa, **Mr Javadekar did not answer questions** about this. And when asked about concerns raised by locals, he only said he "will definitely study" any petitions they send him.



CHEVON RODRIGUES

image captionThousands of campaigners camped out on a railway line to protest its expansion



Soon after, thousands of protesters camped overnight at the railway track in Chandor, calling against its expansion. Six of them were charged with rioting and unlawful assembly, although others present say there was no sign of unruly behaviour and the charges are uncalled for.

"We had to risk our lives [to gather during the pandemic] so the government could pay attention to us," says Sherry Fernandes, who attended the protest. "It was a success in terms of creating more awareness about the issue, but it was not a success in terms of our demands and will not be until the government listens to us."

The protesters want the government to scrap the three new projects and stop all transportation and handling of coal.

Is coal driving the expansion?

"We also want a coal-free Goa and a pollution-free environment," Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant recently said. "We are searching for alternatives for coal. We will reduce the quantity of coal being transported over the years and eventually stop it."



CHEVON RODRIGUES

image caption Protesters have been performing traditional dances to raise awareness about local communities

But campaigners are not convinced. They say the government's claims that the new power line will meet Goa's shortage doesn't add up because the amount of power purchased from other states over the last nine years has grown only marginally. And in 2018-19, not all of it was consumed - by domestic or industrial users.

They also say the infrastructure plans cutting through the reserve are part of the nation-wide federal government initiative to build new ports and improve connectivity to and from the existing ones.

"All the documents point to Goa becoming a coal hub," says activist Abhijit Prabhudesai. "We have shared these documents with the government more than five months ago, but they are still unable to produce a single document to refute our claims."