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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Horror as ‘Kristine’ death toll tops 90; damage estimated at P2.2 billion

BY MARTIN SADONGDONG

Oct 27, 2024 12:57 PM



A resident clears his house of mud following heavy rains brought by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine in Kawit, Cavite on October 25, 2024. (Photo by Mark Balmores / MANILA BULLETIN)

The reported death toll due to Severe Tropical Storm “Kristine” further increased to 90 while the combined damage to agriculture and infrastructure reached P2.2 billion, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said on Sunday, Oct. 27.

However, the situation is a little tricky as OCD Administrator, Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno said that only nine deaths have been validated so far while the others are still being confirmed by the Department of the Interior and Local Government’s Management of the Dead and Missing (DILG-MDM) if they are indeed related to the storm.

“Iva-validate pa ho ‘yan. Ibig sabihin, hinihingi pa namin ang official report from DILG na talagang sadyang may kinalaman sa nangyaring bagyo (These will still be validated. That means, we are still awaiting the report from the DILG which will confirm that [the fatalities] are really related to the storm),” Nepomuceno said in a radio interview over dzBB.

The validated deaths are all recorded in Bicol Region (Region 5) which bore the brunt of Kristine.

The number is feared to further rise as Nepomuceno said 36 individuals were also missing and 71 were injured.

Most of the casualties were due to landslides as the soil became saturated due to non-stop rains that lasted for days and flooding. In Talisay City, Batangas alone, at least 19 people were buried alive due to a landslide caused by Kristine. In other areas, floodwaters have reached the second floor of many houses.

“Marami talaga sa landslide lalo na ‘yung nakita natin sa Talisay. Sila ang malaking casualty sa landslide. Mayroon din mga nalunod at ilang mga kababayan natin na nagpumilit mangisda (Many casualties were due to landslides especially the one in Talisay. The landslide there had a big chunk in our casualties. There are some who also drowned and others who insisted on going into fishing ventures [despite the bad weather]),” Nepomuceno said.

At present, a total of 5,784,298 individuals or 1,415,438 families have already been affected by the storm in 16 of 17 regions across the country. Of this, around 400,000 individuals were seeking shelter in evacuation centers or other people’s homes.

There were 642 flooded areas in Ilocos Region (Region 1), Cagayan Valley (Region 2), Central Luzon (Region 3), Calabarzon (Region 4A), Mimaropa (Region 4B), Bicol Region (Region 5), Western Visayas (Region 6), Eastern Visayas (Region 8), Zamboanga Peninsula (Region 9), Soccsksargen (Region 12), Caraga (Region 13), Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), and National Capital Region (NCR), making humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations difficult.

There were 218 roads and bridges that were also not passable to the public since they were either flooded or damaged.

More than 25,000 houses were also partially damaged while 2,000 more were completely destroyed.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said that it monitored no more stranded passenger or vessels in all ports nationwide.

"All shipping and fishing operations have resumed their normal operations," the PCG noted.

### **Agri, infra damage**

The estimated cost of damage to agriculture was P 1,432,229,305.62 after 31,670.26 hectares of crops and many livestock, poultry and fisheries were destroyed, affecting 35,918 farmers and fisherfolk.

Meanwhile, 207 infrastructure projects were damaged resulting to a loss amounting to P825,130,698.3. These include damaged roads, bridges, flood control, schools, health facilities and other government and utility services facilities.

A total of 158 cities and municipalities in Regions 1, Calabarzon, 5, 8, 12, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), and NCR were also placed under a state of calamity due to the extent of damage caused by Kristine.

The OCD said that P562 million worth of assistance have been given to more than 142,000 affected families.

"Marami pang lugar na mahirap puntahan, kinakailangan pa magbangka o rubber boats, hindi pa kaya ng regular na land vehicle. Pero napupuntahan naman natin, hindi lang ganoon kabilis dahil hindi pa kaya ng sasakyan (We find it hard to reach many areas since we need to use boats or rubber boats, we cannot reach them via land vehicle. But we are reaching them albeit slowly since the land vehicles cannot pass through)," Nepomuceno said.

A resident clears his house of mud following heavy rains brought by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine in Kawit, Cavite on October 25, 2024. (Photo by Mark Balmores / MANILA BULLETIN)

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[https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/27/horror-as-kristine-death-toll-tops-90-damage-estimated-at-p2-2-billion#google\\_vignette](https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/27/horror-as-kristine-death-toll-tops-90-damage-estimated-at-p2-2-billion#google_vignette)

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Lower rice prices seen as India scraps MEP on white rice

[Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas](#) - The Philippine Star

October 27, 2024 | 12:00am



India set a \$490 per metric ton MEP on all non-Basmati rice exports after it resumed shipments to the world market in late September.

MANILA, Philippines — The scrapping of India’s minimum export price (MEP) on its non-Basmati white rice bodes well for the Philippines as it would further boost global grain supply and could lead to lower retail prices of the commodity, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said.

“If India removed it, it would be a sign that world rice prices would drop. If world prices go down, then our rice prices will also decline,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. told The STAR.

Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. president Danilo Fausto said removing the MEP would make Indian non-basmati white rice more competitive against other exporting countries. Fausto pointed out this could influence prevailing global rice prices, resulting in the softening of export prices from other countries.

“It will have an effect on the imported price of rice, which is seen to be much lower than other countries. Thus, it will bring down world rice prices, ultimately benefiting our domestic consumers,” he told The STAR.

India scrapped the MEP for its non-Basmati white rice recently, which international reports noted would allow Indian rice to compete better in the world rice market, especially against its Pakistani counterpart.

India set a \$490 per metric ton MEP on all non-Basmati rice exports after it resumed shipments to the world market in late September.

Despite the presence of a MEP, pundits previously noted that the prevailing Indian non-Basmati rice prices were relatively lower than the prevailing prices from Vietnam and Thailand.

Earlier this month, Thai white rice five percent broken – a long grain category of white rice – fell by 11 percent soon after the return of Indian non-Basmati white rice to the export market.

Experts and industry players earlier pointed out that India could serve as a viable source of imported rice for the country because of its competitive prices.

“Considering that it is cheaper compared to Vietnam and Thailand, it can be an option for additional rice supply and import diversification,” University of Asia and Pacific Center for Food and Agribusiness executive director Marie Annette Dacul said.

Government data showed that the country’s rice imports from India remained at 22,039 metric tons, almost a month after the South Asian country resumed exporting non-Basmati rice.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/10/27/2395472/lower-rice-prices-seen-india-scraps-mep-white-rice>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

## **Amid the dark clouds, there is a silver lining**



### **BABE'S EYE VIEW FROM WASHINGTON D.C. - Ambassador B. Romualdez - The Philippine Star**

October 27, 2024 | 12:00am

The recent typhoon that hit our country has once again brought to center stage the devastation and suffering our people have to endure due to climate change. But amid all the bad news, there is some good news coming out of the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings in Washington, DC that gathered an estimated 10,000 participants composed of global finance chiefs, leaders and policy makers as well as experts and members of civil society groups to discuss the most pressing issues and challenges for the global economy.

Our embassy in Washington participated in the briefing conducted by the World Bank's chief economist for East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) Region, Aaditya Mattoo, that provided an update on the region's economic situation.

EAP economies continue to outperform economies in the rest of the world, the briefing highlighted, with the region's projected growth at 4.8 percent in 2024 but slowing down to 4.4 percent in 2025 because of the projected decline of growth in China from 4.8 percent this year to 4.3 percent in 2025. The World Bank projects a GDP growth forecast of 6.1 percent in 2025 from 6 percent in 2024 for the Philippines, up from 5.9 percent in its April 2024 forecast.

At a briefing conducted by IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, he said "there is geopolitical risk, with the potential for escalation of regional conflicts" that could affect commodity markets. "There is a rise of protectionism, protectionist policies, disruptions in trade that could also affect global activity."



According to Gourinchas, global growth is expected to remain stable but underwhelming, with the growth projection virtually unchanged at 3.2 percent in 2024 and 2025 from the July 2024 World Economic Outlook Update and the April 2024 World Economic Outlook. Growth for the Philippines is projected to increase from 5.5 percent in 2023 to 5.8 percent in 2024 and 6.1 percent in 2025.

I hosted a lunch for members of the Philippine delegation headed by Finance Secretary Ralph Recto, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Philippine Central Bank) Governor Eli Remolona and Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

During our conversation, they all agreed that the IMF-World Bank projections were clear indications that the outlook for the Philippine economy remains positive with an upward growth trajectory. The Philippines, in fact, is one of the fastest growing economies in the ASEAN+3 region (which includes China, Japan and South Korea) in 2024 and in 2025, according to ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) chief economist Hoe Ee Khor, with growth expected at 6.1 percent.

Our dollar reserves at the end of September, according to the BSP, are at an all-time high of \$112 billion, with Secretary Recto expressing optimism that the economy would likely grow by 6 percent, more so now that inflation has been declining.

According to BSP governor Eli Remolona – who was recognized by the Global Finance magazine as one of the top-performing central bank governors globally – the Philippines is on track with its pursuit of an inclusive sustainability agenda, with initiatives to increase capital flows and green finance designed to benefit the most climate vulnerable segments that include the agriculture sector.

The agriculture sector is definitely getting a special boost from the government and the timing couldn't be more opportune because Rizome, a Florida-based bamboo company that partnered with a friend of mine whom I haven't seen for a long time – former agriculture secretary Cito Lorenzo – received the Award for Corporate Excellence (ACE) for Climate Resilience from the US Department of State. With us during the awarding ceremony were US Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Carlson and Rizome founder David Sands.

Rizome, whose flagship manufacturing plant in the Philippines is located in Cagayan de Oro, was awarded for pioneering the use of engineered bamboo dubbed as “miracle timber” with the use of innovative technology to produce eco-friendly and sustainable building materials that are “strong as steel” and “tough as concrete.” The giant bamboos are sourced from the Bukidnon farm of Cito that has greenhouses that can accommodate as many as 80,000 seedlings each, with over 3.5 million seedlings having been planted to date.

The economic policies and reforms that have been set in place are now being noticed globally especially in the US, and we are really at the top of our game right now with

a lot of positive developments happening – contrary to the bleak picture some people are painting, obviously because it's now “election season” even if the campaign period has yet to officially begin.

There is a lot of renewed interest in the Philippines among foreign investors, particularly from the US, which is definitely an offshoot of the foreign trips that the President has taken. But lest I sound biased because of my relationship with the President, here's an opinion piece by Prof. Antonio Contreras titled, “The audacity of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.”

As things go now, PBBM may be proving his critics wrong, says Contreras, noting that even among critics in the academe, “Marcos appears to have surprised many with his declared support for scientific research and innovation.”

On criticisms about the President's trips abroad, Contreras points out that “what we got in return were investment commitments, trade agreements and a lot of goodwill” – all of which contradict ridiculous claims that the Philippines is on the road to hell.

There is absolutely no doubt our country is on the right track towards economic prosperity that can bring about economic security – which the President has repeatedly emphasized as central to his foreign policy.

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/10/27/2395493/amid-dark-clouds-there-silver-lining>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# 730 schools damaged in Kristine onslaught

[Neil Jayson Servallos](#) - The Philippine Star

October 27, 2024 | 12:00am



Residents waded through knee-deep floodwaters in Moonwalk, Parañaque on October 24, 2024 due to heavy downpour brought upon by #KristinePH.

Jesse Bustos / The Philippine STAR

MANILA, Philippines — Damage to public schools nationwide have risen to over P2 billion after the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine, which left nearly a thousand elementary and high school facilities needing rebuilding or repairs.

Data from the Department of Education (DepEd) showed that as of yesterday, 730 schools were damaged from flooding and 34 schools, mostly in the Bicol Region, were hit by landslides.

The number represents 863 wrecked classrooms needing reconstruction worth P2.1 billion and 1,026 classrooms that require major repairs worth P513 million.

Schools also lost 381,551 learning materials including computers and books and 17,575 school furniture, such as desks, appliances and chairs.

Overall, the DepEd said nearly 43,000 schools and offices were exposed to the tropical storm, meaning they are within areas where authorities had issued warnings against flooding, heavy rainfall, storm signals and a call for pre-disaster risk assessment.

DepEd said about 21.4 million students and nearly 900,000 teachers and school workers were within these areas.

Education Secretary Sonny Angara earlier said DepEd has access to P2 billion to P3 billion for calamity funds that could be used to repair and rehabilitate damaged classrooms.

## **P1.69 billion in damage to agriculture**

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said Kristine caused P1.69 billion worth of damage to agriculture, which equates to about 108,226 metric tons in production volume loss.

The rice sector bore the brunt of the damage, accounting for 95.15 percent, with losses pegged at P1.61 billion. The is followed by high value crops, which sustained P63.51 million in losses and corn, P8.57 million.

According to the DA, damage to agricultural infrastructure was at P3.24 million. It added that at least 2,821 heads of livestock and poultry were affected.

The DA said that it is giving interventions to farmers, including the release of P531.72 million worth of agricultural inputs and the distribution of rice stocks from the National Food Authority for relief distribution.

The agency also opened its P1-billion quick response fund for the rehabilitation and recovery of affected areas, aside from the P500-million Survival and Recovery Loan Program that loans P25,000 to affected farmers.

In Bulacan, provincial disaster risk reduction management officer Manuel Lukban Jr. said the damage to the agriculture sector was at P56.8 million.

Lukban added that several barangays in the towns of Balagtas, Calumpit, Hagonoy, Guiguinto, Bocaue, Bulakan, Obando, Paombong and Marilao and in the cities of Malolos and Meycauayan were submerged in floodwaters.

In Pangasinan, the damage to infrastructure was pegged at P665 million. The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) also estimated the damage to agriculture to be at more than P323 million.

The PDRRMO also said in its report the 51 barangays in 10 towns were flooded and that 33 barangays in two cities and seven towns reported a storm surge.

It added that 55,715 families in Pangasinan, or about 232,139 individuals, were affected.

## **Quezon province declares state of calamity**

Meanwhile, the Quezon provincial board declared the entire province under a state of calamity on Friday.

After its session, the board passed approved Provincial Resolution 2024-274, which declared Quezon province under a state of calamity “due to the widespread flooding, landslides and damage caused by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine.

The measure allows the provincial government to access its calamity fund or quick response fund, accelerating the conduct of relief operations and the delivery of aid to affected citizens.

The provincial government will release P20 million to address the damage caused by the typhoon. — **Romina Cabrera, Ramon Efren Lazaro, Cesar Ramirez, Michelle Zoleta**

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/10/27/2395557/730-schools-damaged-kristine-onslaught>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# DA: Kristine caused P3.11B agricultural damage

By: [Faith Argosino](#) - Reporter / [@FArgosinoINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:06 PM October 27, 2024



People cross a river next to a bridge that collapsed after the river overflow due to heavy rains brought about by Tropical Storm Kristine in Laurel, Batangas province, south of Manila on October 25, 2024. Philippine rescue workers battled floodwaters on October 25 to reach residents still trapped on the roofs of their homes as Tropical Storm Trami moved out to sea after killing at least 40 people. (Photo by Ted ALJIBE /AFP)

MANILA, Philippines — The damage caused by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami) to the country's crop and fisheries sectors has climbed to P3.11 billion, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

In its bulletin issued on Sunday, DA said the damage affected 74,554 farmers.

Kristine's impact covers 72,329 hectares (ha) of agricultural areas, and volume of production loss at 160,107 metric tons (MT).

DA said the damaged commodities amount to P2.87 billion for rice with 69,976 ha of affected land, and a volume of production loss at 152,440 MT.

Meanwhile, the value of production losses for corn amounts to P22.27 million with a 783 ha affected land and volume of production loss at 1,461 MT.

Below is the breakdown of the damaged commodities:

- **152,440 MT for palay/rice**
- **1,461 MT for corn**
- **126 MT for cassava**
- **6,014 MT for high-value crops**
- **66 MT for fisheries**

To aid affected farmers and fishers, the DA will be providing the following items:

- **P541.02 million worth of agricultural inputs (rice, corn, and vegetable seeds, drugs, and biologics for livestock and poultry)**
- **Bags of rice stocks from the National Food Authority for distribution as relief by LGUs, DSWD, and other relief agencies to families affected**
- **Deployment of Kadiwa stores to affected areas**
- **P1 billion Quick Response Fund for the rehabilitation and recovery of affected areas, among others**

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1998048/da-kristine-caused-p3-11b-agricultural-damage>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Kristine damage reaches P4.36B

By: [Jordeene B. Lagare](#), [Kathleen de Villa](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:50 AM October 27, 2024



**AERIAL INSPECTION** Photo shows a helicopter carrying President Marcos over flooded rice fields in Batangas. —Marianne Bermudez

**MANILA, Philippines** — As damage reports continued to pour in from across the country, the government reported that damage to farms and schools caused by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami) has so far reached P4.36 billion.

In its bulletin posted on Saturday, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said storm losses stood at P1.69 billion million as of Saturday, surging by over 1,000 percent from the P143.47 million in damage reported a day before.

The Department of Education, on the other hand, reported damage to school infrastructure has reached P2.67 billion as of Saturday, including P2.1 billion for reconstruction and P513 million for repairs.



Education Secretary Sonny Angara earlier said the agency has “quick response” funds for the repair of classrooms and school equipment.

This allocation would go to the repair of a total of 863 classrooms reported to be “totally damaged,” while schools have their own funding for “smaller repairs,” Angara said.

A total of 1,026 classrooms were reported to be “partially damaged” as of Saturday.

Angara said he was “deeply concerned” with the number of students affected by the class suspensions, which stood at about 19.5 million.

“We are collating the number of missed classes and [the number] of those who were forced to cancel classes ... because we might reach a point that there are so many missed classes that we’re not able to recover them anymore since typhoons are becoming frequent,” Angara noted.

“We have a plan for that. We’re already studying how to resolve that ... especially for those who are capable with internet connections,” he said on Thursday on the sidelines of an artificial intelligence conference.

Asked whether there would be weekend classes, Angara said in Filipino: “It depends on the principals and teachers and their schedule. We just have to be flexible.”

The DA, on the other hand, said Kristine affected 42,346 farmers in the regions of Cordillera, Ilocos, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western and Eastern Visayas and Soccsksargen.

### **Estimated farm losses**

The volume of production loss is pegged at 108,266 metric tons (MT) spanning 37,590 hectares of agricultural areas.

“As field assessments continue, further damage and losses are expected in the affected regions,” the agricultural department added.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said on Friday that substantial losses in rice production are expected following the typhoons and weather phenomena that have hit the archipelago so far this year.

The damage to rice already reached more than 500,000 MT even before the onslaught of Kristine, said de Mesa, concurrently spokesperson for the DA.

Despite the projected 10 to 15 percent increase in vegetable prices, the DA assured the public that the country has ample supply of agricultural products.

So far, Kristine damaged P1.61 billion worth of rice, accounting for 95.15 percent of the overall damage. It wiped out 104,198 MT of rice, the majority of which are in reproductive and maturity stages.

High-value crops (P63.51 million), corn (P8.57 million), cassava (P6.55 million), livestock and poultry (P3.24 million) and farm structures (P3.24 million) sustained losses as well.

The DA is prepared to provide P531.72 million worth of farm inputs, including rice, corn and vegetable seeds, drugs and biologics for livestock and poultry through its regional offices.

It also deployed Kadiwa stores in affected areas.

For its part, the National Food Authority has bags of rice stocks for distribution to affected families by local governments, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and other relief agencies.

The DA already requested an additional P1 billion from the Department of Budget and Management to aid rehabilitation efforts in storm-hit areas, which it expects to be released in November.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1997829/kristine-damage-reaches-p4-36b>

# Stop romanticizing resilience

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 04:15 AM October 27, 2024



Resilience is the most abused and overused term to describe what helps Filipinos survive calamities. The word has started to sound like a backhanded compliment because being resilient for many simply implies that it is the only way for them to survive difficult situations in the absence of long-term, sustainable solutions. As Albay Rep. Joey Salceda found out when he wrote on his Facebook page in a now-deleted post, “Good day Global Albay. We are resilient,” resiliency is no longer viewed positively especially when it only exposes and highlights the abject failure of the government to address perennial problems such as heavy flooding during typhoons. And then there was Camarines Sur Rep. LRay Villafuerte who said residents in his jurisdiction—one of the areas hardest hit by Severe Tropical Storm “Kristine”—were already “accustomed” to typhoons.

Kristine dumped two months’ worth of rain in several provinces affecting 2.3 million Filipinos; over 40 have been reported dead and about 250,000 displaced. The Department of Agriculture estimated damage to crops amounting to P143 million. Many areas including Cavite, Quezon, Samar, and Bicol have been placed under a state of calamity. No one should be accustomed to such disasters.

## **Most disaster-prone**

That the Philippines is the most disaster-prone country in the world has been established by the World Risk Index, which has ranked it at the top for the third consecutive year due to its exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters, as well as the lack of coping and adaptive capacities. But aside from these factors, Katrin Radtke, a senior researcher specializing in disaster preparedness at the Ruhr University Bochum in Germany, said poverty and high levels of corruption hugely contribute to the country's risk ranking.

As Kristine battered Luzon and the Visayas, viral social media posts laid bare the plight of many Filipinos: desperate appeals for help by affected residents trapped in their homes or forced to climb to the roof to escape the rising floods, many more braving waist-deep or even deeper waters to save family, property, or pets—scenes reminiscent of many previous typhoons that had hit the country. At one point, Bicol's Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council announced that its rescuers could no longer respond to the numerous calls for rescue due to the shortage of rubber boats and advised residents to look for safe areas (“humanap muna ng puwedeng ligtas na lugar”). Even President Marcos said he felt a “little helpless” and that all the government could do was “sit tight, wait, hope, pray that there's not too much damage, that there are no casualties.”

## **Reactionary mindset**

The government, given the resources it has at its disposal, is the last institution that should feel helpless. It has billions of funds allocated for projects that are meant to avoid the very situations Filipinos found themselves in during the onslaught of Kristine. But, as cited in last Tuesday's editorial, an Oxfam report has found that 70 percent of funds meant for mitigating disasters are almost untouched. This reflects the reactionary mindset prevalent among government officials, which must change.

Resilience is not bad in itself, but only when there are established systems that prepare communities for disasters, prevent them from suffering huge losses, and help them restore and rebuild stronger for future extreme events. The government must take decisive action and shift its disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) policy from being reactive and hyper-focused on relief and rescue to one that is proactive and

aimed at mitigation. This could include tapping technology to help communities anticipate the amount of rainfall and determine hazardous and flood-prone areas, provide vulnerable households with survival kits, and build better flood-control infrastructure, stronger dwellings, and permanent shelters so there won't be any need to resort to using schools or basketball courts as temporary evacuation centers.

### **Clear environmental platforms**

It must also stop development projects that are destructive to nature, specifically, forests and mangroves, which act as shields against typhoons and tsunamis. Sierra Madre, for example, an Isabela official believes, spared the province from the brunt of Kristine's wrath. This makes the protection of mountain ranges and forests from denudation and deforestation of paramount importance. Filipinos are not helpless either. In the coming midterm elections, they can choose to vote for leaders who have clear environmental platforms. Do they have sound DRRM plans or will they ride their version of Noah's Ark to distribute cash to their desperate constituents in the middle of the floods to cover up for the lack of disaster preparedness? Ecological issues are as equally important as economic matters and those running for public office must be scrutinized on where they stand on them. This vicious cycle that enables politicians to exploit and romanticize people's resilience must end.

<https://opinion.inquirer.net/177869/stop-romanticizing-resilience>

**REMATE:**

# Agri damage kay Kristine tumaas sa P1.69B

October 27, 2024 09:18



MANILA, Philippines – Lumobo pa sa P1.69 bilyon ang pinsala sa agrikultura dulot ng Severe Tropical Storm Kristine.

Sa ulat ng Department of Agriculture, ang mga apektadong lugar ay ang Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos Region, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Western and Eastern Visayas, at SOCCSKSARGEN.

Dagdag pa, apektado rin ng bagyo ang 42,346 magsasaka at 37,590 ektarya ng taniman, na may 108,266 metriko toneladang dami ng mga nasirang produksyon.

Pinakamalaki sa mga napinsala ay ang bigas sa 104,198 MT.

Napinsala rin ang mga mais, kamote, high-value crops, livestock at poultry, at agricultural facilities.

Magsasagawa naman ng field evaluation ang DA sa oras na gumanda na ang panahon.

Ayon sa DA, mayroong P531.72 milyong halaga ng agricultural inputs ang handang maipamahagi sa mga apektadong magsasaka.

Tutulungan din nito ang mga magsasaka sa pamamagitan ng Quick Response Fund, Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program, at Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/agri-damage-kay-kristine-tumaas-sa-p1-69b/>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# Pangasinan storm damage hits P863M

By [Gabriel L. Cardinoza](#) and [Leander C. Domingo](#)

October 27, 2024

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan — The estimated damage to agriculture and infrastructure in Pangasinan due to Severe Tropical Storm Kristine has reached P863.34 million, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) reported on Friday.

In his situational report as of 5 p.m. on Friday, PDRRMO chief Rhodyn Luchinvar Oro said that damage to agriculture was P241.39 million, while damage to infrastructure was P622.05 million.

Agriculture damage included P123.55 million worth of palay (unmilled rice), P5.21 million worth of corn, P44.82 million worth of fruits, P1.98 million worth of vegetables and P64.87 worth of fisheries.

Hardest-hit areas were San Manuel town with P45.46 million worth of palay destroyed, Mangaldan with P12.56 million worth of fruit trees destroyed, and Dagupan City, which lost P34.42 million worth of bangus (milkfish) to the sea.

Oro also reported that 51 villages in 10 towns were flooded while 33 coastal villages in seven towns and two cities were hit by storm surge.

Some 42 houses were also damaged because of strong winds spawned by Kristine as it crossed Luzon to exit to the West Philippine Sea on October 24.

As the skies cleared on Saturday, five evacuation centers in Dagupan City had closed, but 16 more evacuation centers in 14 villages continued to accommodate 509 families because of flooding in their villages.

On Friday, the Sangguniang Panlungsod held a special session and passed a resolution placing Dagupan City under a state of calamity.

As of 9 a.m. on Saturday, the water level at the Sinocalan River in Santa Barbara town has exceeded its normal level, according to the PDRRMO.

Sinocalan, which is one of Pangasinan major river systems, has its headwaters on Mt. Ampucao in Benguet province, and cuts through the towns of San Manuel, Binalonan, Laoac, Mapandan, Santa Barbara and Calasiao, and Dagupan City before exiting to the Lingayen Gulf.

In San Manuel town, the San Roque Dam had closed its spillway at 6 a.m. on Saturday.

The dam opened one of its spillway gates on October 23 to lower its water elevation in anticipation of the expected heavy inflow due to Kristine.

As of 8 a.m. on Saturday, San Roque Dam has a water elevation of 276.69 meters above sea level (masl), about 3.31 meters from its maximum level of 280 masl.

Located downstream of the Agno River, the dam catches the water spilled by Binga Dam upstream of the river in Itogon, Benguet.

The Binga Dam had closed four of its spillways, leaving only two spillways open at half meter each and releasing water at 124 cubic meters per second (cms).

The dam's water level was 574.01 masl, just 0.99 meter from its maximum level of 575 masl.

The Ambuklao Dam has also reduced the amount of water it was releasing to the Agno River by closing three spillways. Only one spillway is now open at 0.5 meter, discharging water at 55 cms.

#### Floods destroy over P10.45-M crops in Ilagan City

Thousands of hectares of agricultural land here were flooded due to the heavy downpour brought by Typhoon Kristine, as a result of which more than P10.45 million in crops were destroyed, according to the city government.

City public information officer Paul Bacungan noted that based on the initial data from the Department of Agriculture in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley), some 1,366 hectares of rice fields in this city were inundated.

Bacungan said around 638 cornfields were also damaged by the flood, of which 285 hectares were newly planted and 353 hectares are in the reproductive stage.

During the onslaught of the typhoon, floodwaters have reached the roofs of some houses in this city, especially those near the Baculud Bridge and other low-lying areas.

Some roads in the city became impassable due to floodwaters and used jet skis for residents to cross heavily flooded areas.

Bacungan said the city government continues to distribute relief goods to affected individuals.

[https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/27/regions/pangasinan-storm-damage-hits-p863m/1991987?fbclid=IwY2xjawGLwMNleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHY5GaTs5eMO2whhSBm6IWVZsoiRtzJEtELw86YDrL8y0VDYKuWxrR8bwDQ\\_aem\\_CtEYYgnSnyOlbZf4nAMdZQ](https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/27/regions/pangasinan-storm-damage-hits-p863m/1991987?fbclid=IwY2xjawGLwMNleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHY5GaTs5eMO2whhSBm6IWVZsoiRtzJEtELw86YDrL8y0VDYKuWxrR8bwDQ_aem_CtEYYgnSnyOlbZf4nAMdZQ)