



# Nuclear-Free Bataan Movement

Email. [nfbmsecretariat@yahoo.com](mailto:nfbmsecretariat@yahoo.com) / [nfcbm@protonmail.com](mailto:nfcbm@protonmail.com)

Contact No. 047- 2373282 / FB account: <https://www.facebook.com/coal.bataan.5/>

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**For interviews:**

**Derek Cabe**  
Coordinator  
Nuclear-Free Bataan Movement  
Contact (63) 9237298769

**Pablo Rosales**  
National Chairperson  
PANGISDA-Pilipinas  
Contact No. 09089919595

**Edlyn Rosales**  
Secretary General  
PANGISDA-Pilipinas  
Contact No. 0916461373

**Bhabes Brozo**  
Spokesperson  
NAGSAMMA-Lamon Bay  
Contact No. 09811635580

## **Fishers, youth, and communities urge Japanese government: 'Protect our rights vs TEPCO's plan to contaminate Pacific ocean'**

Two years ago today 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2021, the Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has officially announced its decision supporting TEPCO's plan to discharge the radioactive wastewater from the Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Power Plant to the Pacific ocean in summer of 2023. The announcement has gained criticisms from Asian countries such as China, South Korea and Taiwan calling the decision as extremely irresponsible and unacceptable.

Today, April 13, 2023, without backtracking from its 2021 decision, the Japanese government is expected to push through with the discharge of the 1.3 million radioactive wastewater to the Pacific Ocean. Thus, a Global Call to Action from the Japanese people and other Asian countries specially belonging to the Pacific Islands Forum to protest the dumping of the radioactive waste water to Pacific Ocean.

This wastewater is contaminated with Tritium, Carbon-14, Strontium-90, Cobalt-60, Iodine-129, Rutherfordium-106 and Cesium-137 that harms all organic life. Furthermore, daily 100-tons of contaminated wastewater built up everyday is to be released subsequently if the plan is not stopped.

As part of one ecosystem in the Pacific, the fisherfolk communities, environmental and anti-nuclear advocates, members of the **Nuclear-Free Bataan Movement (NFBM)**, **Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KILUSAN)**, **PANGISDA Pilipinas**, **Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda (NAGSAMMA) Lamon Bay**, **LORENA -Kaisa-Ka** and **Young Bataenos for Environmental Advocacy Network (YoungBEAN)** has pressed on the Japanese government to be pro-people and pro-environment by prioritizing their rights and welfare and to categorically find responsibility against TEPCO, the operator of the nuclear power plant, that cause harms as a consequence of their neglect in doing their business. Hence, they are calling on the Japanese government to act in preference of protecting the lives, livelihood, and future of their families.

**Pablo Rosales**, Chairperson of the **PANGISDA Pilipinas** said *"We view with concern the plan to release radioactive water from the beleaguered Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. We believe this is an unfair sacrifice to sections of the population like us fishers who depend on the ocean and other aquatic resources for our livelihood. Not only will it adversely affect our livelihood but also the overall environment."*



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*"We feel the concerns of our fellow fishers in Japan and other countries along the Pacific ocean as this plan would surely contaminate our source of food, the future of our children and our health as a people as we believe this radioactive wastewater has adverse effects to the body and to all marine life in the oceans",* adds **Bhabes Brozo, Spokesperson** of **NAGSAMMA Lamon Bay**.

**Edlyn Rosales** of **PANGISDA - Bataan** said fishing communities are already suffering from the impacts of fossil-fuel energies like coal in the province, as well as destructive activities such as reclamation and seabed mining/quarry projects in various bodies of water like the Manila bay and Lamon Bay, *"Our daily problems such as the declining fish catch is due to these destructive business practices which are all proofs that corporations are committing violations to our human rights. Hence, the dumping of contaminated water if not stopped would only worsen the problem as we know for sure that this would bear negative impacts to our oceans and the marine ecosystem that sustain our daily lives."*

**Jochelle Magracia, Chairperson** of **Young Bataenos Environmental Advocacy Network (YoungBEAN)**, urged the Japanese government to heed the calls of the fishers, including the youth, who are bearing the brunt of this disaster.

*"We are standing up against this plan not just for Bataenos, but also for the Filipino youth because we refuse to inherit a dying sea. We believe that this continuing nuclear disaster can be addressed, but only if we hold the culprits responsible and liable for the damage they're causing,"* Magracia said.

In a statement, **Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KILUSAN)** added that the Japanese government should re-think its decision to release contaminated radioactive water into the ocean. It will be passing on an untenable environmental burden to neighboring countries who share the resource of the Pacific Ocean.

For countries like the Philippines who have suffered World War II atrocities like military sexual violence and the comfort women stations, Japan will be compounding its inability to apologize and owe up to its war crimes with another disastrous decision with far-reaching and intergenerational consequences. We urge more prudent alternative measures not convenient shortcuts that will only serve to take away responsibility from TEPCO rather than push the erring company to owe up to its shortcomings

*"We demand our government, the Philippine government thru the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in Manila to join the Pacific Island countries on their demand and to petition the Japanese government to stop its dangerous plan to dump the radioactive wastewater to Pacific ocean and to look into the responsibility of TEPCO, the operator of the Dai-Ichi nuclear power plant for human rights harms arising from its failure to clean up its mess since 2011 and to manage the issue of the wastewater that have been jeopardizing our present and the future's generation"* adds **Derek Cabe**.

*"This disaster should have served as a living reminder to countries like the Philippines and other Asian neighbors who are toying with the idea of building and operating nuclear power plants. Simply put, the risks are not worth it and it should never be,"* added by **Derek Cabe. ###**

For more information, please contact  
**Derek Cabe, 09237298769**