

14 June 2023 Wednesday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





06-14-23

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Build large water facilities outside NCR—Marcos

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday bared his administration's plan to build "large" water impounding facilities in areas outside of Metro Manila in an effort to control flooding in the country's metropolis.

Mr. Marcos made the pronouncement in a video message after his sectoral meeting with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) at Malacañan Palace in Manila to discuss the flood control programs.

He said the proposal will not just focus on flood mitigation as the impounded water could also be used for agricultural purposes.

"Let us not waste the water because we will need that. That's why we are also looking for a way to impound the water. We are now looking for areas outside Metro Manila where we can build large impounding areas," Mr. Marcos said.

"We will control the flow of water and stop that from submerging Metro Manila. We would also be able to collect the water and use that for other purposes such as agricultural purposes," he added.

During the sectoral meeting, Mr. Marcos also directed the Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to come up with a "comprehensive" plan to protect coastal communities and Metro Manila from flooding, Communications Secretary Cheloy Garafil said in a statement.

This as Mr. Marcos noted that the DPWH's flood control projects in Metro Manila and its surrounding areas have an estimated cost of P351 billion.

"President Marcos underscored the need for a comprehensive plan to control where the floodwaters should go and what should be done," Garafil said.

Aside from the flood control initiatives, Mr. Marcos said the government is also monitoring the climate crisis because of its devastating effects to various sectors.



D6 14-23

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## WATER-IMPOUNDING INFRA EYED NEAR NCR

**T**O control flooding and ensure water supply in Luzon, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has ordered the construction of water-impounding facilities near Metro Manila.

Marcos gave the instruction after being briefed by members of the Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) and other government agencies on the government's comprehensive water management plan.

"So that will be the location where we will control [floodwaters] so it will no longer enter Manila and we will be able to collect water for agriculture and other uses," Marcos said.

"We should not waste [flood] water because we need it. So let us find a way to store it," he added.

The President said they are now eyeing several possible locations for the impounding facilities.

During the meeting, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) gave updates on their P351-

billion flood control programs, and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) on their management of dammed rivers.

Marcos ordered a review of the flood control projects of DPWH to determine if the agency need additional funds for the purpose.

Among those highlighted in the briefing were the ongoing flood control projects in Pampanga, Cavite, Leyte and Cagayan De Oro City; as well as those in the pipeline in the Abra River Basin, Ranao River Basin, Tagum-Libuganon River Basin, and the Central Luzon-Pampanga.

Also discussed were the P5.86-billion rainwater collection system program under Republic Act No. 6716; installation of 6,002 rainwater collection systems nationwide; and the construction of access roads leading to irrigation areas identified by the NIA under the Katubigan Program implemented jointly with the DPWH.

*Samuel P. Medenilla*





06-14-23

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## DENR alarmed over decreasing forest cover

**BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya:** With the decreasing forest cover in the province, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) urged Novo Vizcayanos to act together and redeem what has been lost in the fight against climate change.

"We are appealing to the people of Nueva Vizcaya to help in the improvement, protection and preservation of the province's forest cover which is slowly diminishing," Penro chief Giovannie Magat said.

Because of its location within the watersheds of the Caraballo and Cordillera mountain ranges and its distinction as the major source of fruits and vegetables in the region, Nueva Vizcaya is hailed as a "watershed haven and agro-forestry hub" in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley).

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has recorded a decrease in forest cover in the province at the rate of 7.6 percent, or 14,106.65 hectares in the span of five years from 2015 to 2020.

Magat said the forest cover in the province from 2015 to 2020 has decreased from 183,310 hectares of the open and closed forest combined in 2010 to 169,909 hectares in 2015 and 169,203 hectares in 2020.

In his "State of the Environment in Nueva Vizcaya" speech during the DENR Caravan and People's Day at the Nueva Vizcaya State University gymnasium on Thursday, June 8, Magat appealed for support in the reforestation program of the government.

"We need everyone's support and action to further improve our forest cover. Our programs and services are ready for our partnership," he said.

Magat said the forest cover in Nueva Vizcaya in 2020 only covers 42 percent of the province's total land area of 403,758 hectares.

Thus, aggressive tree-planting activities are needed, especially during the rainy season, to ensure the growth of the planted trees in various plantation areas in the province, he added. **LEANDER C. DOMINGO**





## Maynilad to produce 5.5 MLD from Imus modular plant

By DANESSA RIVERA

West zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. will produce an additional 5.5-million liter per day (MLD) of potable water this month once it starts partially operating its newly constructed modular treatment plant (ModTP) in Imus, Cavite.

One of four similar facilities that Maynilad is constructing in the Cavite area, the 12.2-billion ModTP will get raw water supply from the Anabu River.

The new project will serve as a dedicated supply source for Imus, which does not yet have 24-hour water supply due to its distance from Maynilad's main raw water source, the Angat Dam in Bulacan.

Maynilad said the initial output of 5.5 MLD is enough to supply the needs of more than 13,000 customers.

Once fully operational by the latter part of this year, the Anabu ModTP can produce a total of 16 MLD, which can serve around

114,000 people in the area.

"With the commissioning of this new facility, we can lengthen supply availability in this part of the West concession that has yet to be provided with 24-hour water service. We aim to enhance service reliability by building more treatment facilities that tap alternate raw water sources," Maynilad COO Randolph Estrelado said.

The Anabu ModTP is part of Maynilad's measures to mitigate the possible impact of El Niño on the availability of water supply.

Apart from this project, Maynilad earlier said it was accelerating its supply augmentation projects amid the threat of El Niño, which could yield around 163 MLD of additional water supply from alternate sources.

The supply augmentation projects include the reactivation of 45 deep wells in the west zone.

The project also covers tapping of additional cross-border points with Manila Water Company Inc., construction of an auxiliary filtration system at Putatan water

treatment plant, and production of an initial 50 MLD from its new water treatment plant in Poblacion, Muntinlupa.

The additional supply to be generated from the projects will help improve supply reliability for some 700,000 Maynilad customers in parts of Manila, Parañaque, Pasay, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, and Cavite.

Maynilad is the largest private water concessionaire in the Philippines in terms of customer base.

It is the concessionaire of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for the west zone of the Greater Manila Area, which is composed of the cities of Manila (certain portions), Quezon City (certain portions), Makati (west of South Super Highway), Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon all in Metro Manila; the cities of Cavite, Bacoor and Imus, and the towns of Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario, all in Cavite Province.





1/2

## 15K ALBAY FOLK BRACE FOR LIFE IN SHELTERS 'FOR MONTHS'

By Ma. April Mier-Manjares  
@MaAprilMierINQ

LEGAZPI CITY—Some 15,000 people who fled their homes around the rumbling Mayon Volcano in Albay province may have to remain in temporary shelters for months, authorities said on Tuesday, as the volcano continued to spew lava and noxious gases.

Incandescent lava was seen flowing slowly from the mouth of the 2,462-meter volcano, which was placed on a high alert level last week following seismic tremors and hundreds of rockfall events.

According to the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office, a total of 4,286 families, or 15,241 people, were staying in evacuation centers.

They are being housed in 14 public schools, 10 local government-owned evacuation centers, and other buildings in the cities of Ligao and Tabaco and Sto. Domingo, Malipot, Guinobatan, Camalig and Daraga towns.

"Based on our previous experiences, this volcanic

A3





TITLE:

2/2

PAGE

DATE

## FROM A1

activity may persist for a few months," Teresito Bacolcol, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), said in a radio interview, adding that residents living within a 6-kilometer radius of the volcano, the designated permanent danger zone, would have to stay in evacuation centers.

Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office officer in charge Eugene Escobar said the provincial government was "looking at a 90-day evacuation."

"The longest that we had for Mayon Volcano was more than five months and we were able to sustain that," he said in a television interview.

### Test of stamina, patience

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda appealed for "patience and stamina" from government agencies extending predisaster relief and evacuation support for thousands of affected residents, noting that the wait for an actual eruption could take weeks or months.

"Historically, the scenarios are 45, 90, or 110 days. It could be even longer than that. This will be a waiting game," he said in a statement.

"Until an explosive eruption happens, or the alert level goes down, we can't really do much other than evacuate and wait. So this will really require stamina and patience," said Salceda, who represents Albay's second district, where five towns are located within the danger zone.

Larry Llenaresas, an Albay community leader, said in a radio interview there was a need for more food and drinking water for the displaced.

Evacuees are also struggling with nonfunctional toilets and a lack of water supply, said Dr. Rosa Maria Balisnomo-Rempillo, chief of the local health support division and communications management unit of the Department of Health in Bicol.

In Tabaco City, Hugo Buen, chief of the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, said toilets were clogged in some areas while there was water shortage in others.



**ESSENTIALS** Villagers who left their communities within the danger zone of Mt. Mayon in Guinobatan, Albay, on Tuesday receive hygiene materials, blankets and water jugs from the Philippine Red Cross at a community college that will become their temporary home while the volcano remains restive. —MARK ALVIC ESPLANA

"We are doing some remedies by installing temporary latrines, but these are still manageable since the evacuees are not yet congested in the evacuation areas," Buen said in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

President Marcos, who is scheduled to visit Albay on

Wednesday, is "monitoring the situation carefully," Social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian told a Palace briefing on Tuesday.

He said the President ordered the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to look into giving out cash assistance to affected fam-

ilies besides family food packs.

### Most active

Mayon is among the most active of the Philippines' 24 volcanoes, having erupted more than 50 times in the last four centuries. Its most destructive eruption came in February 1814 when lava flows buried a town and killed 1,200 people.

In its Tuesday bulletin, Phivolcs noted a very slow outflow of lava from the summit's crater over the past 24 hours.

Only one volcanic earthquake was monitored compared to the 21 instances recorded on Sunday and rockfall events also slightly dipped from an average of 260 to 221 on Monday.

Sulfur dioxide emissions increased a little from 642 tons on Sunday to 723 tons on Monday.

Phivolcs also monitored a moderate emission of plume with northeast drift and one pyroclastic density current event in the volcano, which still remains under alert level 3.

Classes in 18 schools in Bicol region have been suspended.

In its June 12 situation re-

port, the Department of Education (DepEd) said several schools in Camalig, Daraga, Guinobatan, Malilipot, Ligao City and Tabaco City had suspended classes.

According to DepEd, two schools are situated within the 6-km permanent danger zone of Mayon Volcano while 45 schools are within the 7- to 8-km danger zone.

Also on Tuesday, the DSWD and the Department of the Interior and Local Government thanked the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for donating over 50 tons of food for the families affected by the volcanic activity.

Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos extended the President's gratitude to UAE's royal family and government, saying it was "the very first international aid that we received for the victims of Mayon volcano unrest."

The donated goods, including rice, cooking oil, powdered milk, salt and sugar, were flown via chartered flight. —WITH RE-

PORTS FROM REUTERS, JANE BAUTISTA, JULIE M. AURELIO, NESTOR CORRALES, FRANCES MANGOSING AND DEXTER CABALZA INQ





1/3

# Phivolcs: Mayon unrest may last for months

The slow unrest at Mayon Volcano may mean that the volcanic activity could persist for a longer time and could take up to months to quiet down, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said yesterday.

Phivolcs director Teresito Bacolcol said that there has been "very slow effusion of lava" from the summit crater that emplaced lava flow and debris within approximately a kilometer

from the crater.

"Based on our previous experiences, this activity may persist for a few months. In case of violent eruption, this will probably just take a few days to weeks. But if it's like this, that it's slow, it will probably take several months," Bacolcol explained.

One volcanic earthquake and 221 rockfall events were observed in the 24 hours since Monday. There was

Turn to Page 4



Tourists take selfies with a restive Mayon Volcano as backdrop at the Nuestra Señora de la Porteria Parish Church, commonly known as Daraga Church, in Daraga, Albay.

EDD GUMBAN





PAGE



UPPER  
LOWER



PAGE 1  
STORY



BANNER  
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

06-14-23

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

2/3

## Phivolcs **From Page 1**

also a dome-collapse pyroclastic density current that was observed, which lasted two minutes.

Bacolcol said Mayon is not exhibiting signs of a hazardous eruption yet as it is following a quiet eruption similar to 2014.

"We are not seeing signs of hazardous eruption. What we are seeing now is it's following the template of the 2014 eruption, which was a quiet eruption, effusive eruption. Just like in 2014, we have rockfalls and short lava flow and it stops. We hope this is the case here. If explosive eruption, the PDZ needs to be extended and many people need to be evacuated," he said over *Teleradyo*.

Bacolcol noted during the previous two times that there was unrest at the volcano, it lasted for a couple of months, such as January to March in 2018 and also the same number of months in 2014.

Phivolcs also observed thin ash and continuous moderate degassing from the summit crater that produced steam-laden plumes. There was also fair crater glow or "banaag" and incandescent rockfall shed from new fluidal lava at the summit crater.

Alert Level 3 has been raised over Mayon, meaning there is a relatively high level of unrest as magma is at the crater and hazardous eruption is possible within weeks or even days.

### Evacuees

Some 3,701 families or 13,179 persons remain in temporary shelters as Mayon continues to spew lava and release gas, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) reported.

There was a slight decrease in the number of affected residents from 14,360 on Monday to 13,811 individuals as of yesterday.

However, only 175 families or 632 persons are staying outside 21 different evacuation centers.

Meanwhile, the Department of Education (DepEd) said at least 14 schools in Albay are currently being used as evacuation centers for displaced residents.

Data as of June 12 showed that 18 schools in six areas – Camalig, Daraga, Guinobatan, Malilipot, Ligao City, Tabaco City – have so far suspended classes.

Two schools are within the six-kilometer danger zone, while another 45 schools are within seven to eight kilometers from the volcano, the DepEd added.

Earlier, DepEd spokesman Michael Poa said there are contingency plans in place in case of class suspensions due to the unrest of Mayon Volcano.

In a message to **The STAR** last week, Poa said affected schools will resort to remote learning and modular assessments if in-person classes do not resume before the end of the school year this month.

### Cash assistance

President Marcos has ordered the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to study the possible distribution of cash aid to residents affected by the Mayon Volcano unrest to ensure that all their needs are provided.

During a press briefing with Palace reporters yesterday, DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian said not all the necessities of evacuees, such as milk for their children, are in the food packs being distributed by the government.

"I am talking with the local government, upon the instruction of the President, there might be a need to provide them with financial assistance. So I am talking with (Albay) Governor (Edcel Greco) Lagman on how and why we will provide the financial assistance and how much," Gatchalian said in Filipino.

"We are also talking to the congressional representation of Albay to get all the varying inputs on how we can help," he added.

The government usually provides

food and non-cash items to people displaced by disasters.

Gatchalian assured the public that Marcos is monitoring the situation in Albay carefully and is communicating constantly with agencies since last week to ensure that the evacuees have food to eat.

"We know that the operation of evacuation centers are (among) the responsibilities of the local government units. But the DSWD, upon instruction of the President, will give them the necessary logistics support," the social welfare chief said.

According to Gatchalian, there will be five waves of food distribution that target 8,000 families. Each wave will be good for three days.

"Around 38,000 food packs are now with the local government units to include the provincial government," he said.

Gatchalian explained that the local governments will take care of the first 15 days of food distribution while the next six days will be handled by the provincial government to prevent the overlapping of resources.

"After the six days, that brings us to 21 days, the DSWD will again come in (for) another 15 days. So, it's wave after wave. Then that would bring us close to 45 days, which is historically the minimum or sometimes, an eruption happens and it lasts up to 45 days," he said.

If the Mayon Volcano unrest lengthens to 90 days, the DSWD would sit down with the local government to make sure that there is an arrangement on who feeds on what days.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda yesterday asked for "sustained government support" weeks or even months to ensure the safety of Albay residents affected by the eruption of Mayon Volcano.

"This could be protracted," Salceda said as he asked the national government agencies for "patience and stamina" in their pre-disaster and evacuation support for displaced residents.





PAGE



UPPER  
LOWER



PAGE 1  
STORY



BANNER  
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

06-14-23

TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

3/3

Historically, he noted that "scenarios" could take 45 up to 110 days and it could even be longer than that. "This will be a waiting game. Until an explosive eruption happens, or the alert level goes down, we can't really do much other than evacuate and wait," he added.

For his part, Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa said many of the evacuation centers are getting overcrowded and need wash facilities. He vowed to increase the number of health care personnel in the area.

"Take care of your health workers... make sure they will not experience burnout. So those are my instructions to them, and I will send another team to augment them... So, we need to send more health teams to the area and I was informed, it may last for 90 days. So, it looks like this is a long drawn-out activity," Herbosa said.

### UAE aid

Some five truckloads of sealed food packs donated by the government of the United Arab Emirates have arrived in Albay.

Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office officer-in-charge Eugene Escobar said they could not yet determine the amount of the donated food items as their inventory was still going on as of press time yesterday.

Escobar said that, at present, Albay province has food stockpile that could last for 45 days. "But we are confident that more assistance coming from national government agencies and even abroad would pour in as Mayon's unrest continues," he added.

Due to the ongoing lava flow, as of noon yesterday, evacuees rose to 3,906 families or 13,987 persons coming from the danger zones of Daraga, Camalig, Guinobatan, Bacacay, Malilipot, Sto. Domingo, Ligao City and Tabaco City, all areas surrounding Mayon, Escobar said.

For its part, the Diocese of Legazpi Albay is soliciting food and non-food donations intended for the thousands

of residents who have been displaced by the continuing unrest of the Mayon Volcano.

In its Facebook page, the diocese's Social Action Center executive director Fr. Eric Matillano asked for donations of water, sanitation and hygiene; food; health and shelter and non-food items.

Gov. Lagman yesterday urged residents to wear N95 masks to protect themselves from hazardous emissions as five of the nine municipalities affected by the volcano's unrest have started experiencing ashfall.

He added that sulfur dioxide from Mayon can exacerbate the conditions of those with asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory illnesses.

### Notice to airmen

The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) updated their notices to airmen (NOTAM) regarding the situations of the Mayon, Taal and Kanlaon volcanoes.

NOTAM B2095/23 cautioned flight operators on Mayon, which is currently undergoing eruption with a vertical volcanic ash cloud rising up to 10,000 feet. Volcanic ash is not identifiable from satellite data.

NOTAM B2093/23 advised flight operators to avoid flying close to the summit of Taal Volcano, which is currently on Alert Level 1 (low-level unrest). Airborne ash and ballistic fragments from sudden explosions may pose hazards to aircraft from surface up to 10,000 feet.

NOTAM B2092/23 stated that Kanlaon Volcano is on Alert Level 1 (abnormal condition). Flight operators are advised to avoid flying close to the volcano's summit due to possibilities of sudden and hazardous steam-driven eruptions that may pose hazard to aircraft up to 10,000 feet.

- Romina Cabrera, Michael Punongbayan, Evelyn Macairan, Emmanuel Tupas, Rudy Santos, Cet Dematera, Alexis Romero, Janvic Mateo, Sheila Crisostomo









TITLE:

PAGE

2/3

# Mayon unrest may last for months 1◀

News Agency. "Based on our previous experiences, this activity may persist for a few months," he said in a separate radio interview, citing the eruptions in 2014 and 2018 also lasted for several months.

## 1-km downslope lava flow

The lava flow from Mayon Volcano reached about one kilometer down its south and southeast gullies during the previous 24-hour monitoring of the active volcano in Albay, Phivolcs said on Tuesday.

"Very slow effusion of lava from the summit crater emplaced lava flow and collapsed debris on the Mi-isi and Bonga gullies within approximately a kilometer from the crater," Phivolcs said in its bulletin issued at 8 a.m.

It also detected one dome collapse pyroclastic density current (PDC) that lasted two minutes.

In the past 24 hours, Mayon Volcano had one volcanic earthquake and 221 rockfall events, based on Phivolcs' seismic and visual observations.

Thin ash from rockfalls was observed, as well as continuous moderate degassing from the summit crater, which produced steam-laden plumes that bent and crept downslope before drifting northeast.

"Fair crater glow or 'banaag' and incandescent rockfall shed from new fluidal lava at the summit of Mayon Volcano was observed," Phivolcs said.

Phivolcs said the slow lava dome and short lava flow extrusion were observed in the 2014 eruption. If the current rate of extrusion and low-level parameters persist, the activity may last for months, it said.

Lava fountaining and lava flow with occasional explosions and PDC within the six-km PDZ, on the other hand, were recorded in 2018.

Bacolcol said the 2018 eruption lasted from January to March, while the 2014 eruption lasted for "almost the same number of months."

On Tuesday, Phivolcs said one volcanic earthquake, 221 rockfall events, and one PDC were recorded in Mayon Volcano's 24-hour observation period.

Very slow effusion of lava, moderate plume emission, and an average of tons of sulfur dioxide were also recorded.

Entry into the six-km PDZ, as well as flying close to the volcano are prohibited as ash from any sudden eruption can be hazardous to aircraft.

Under Alert Level 3, Mayon is exhibiting a magmatic eruption of a summit lava dome, with increased chances of lava flows and hazardous PDCs affecting the upper to middle slopes of the volcano and of potential explosive activity within weeks or days.

Flights to and from the Bicol Region have been utilizing flight paths not affected by the ash cloud formation.

Phivolcs warned the public to be cautious of PDCs, lahars, and sediment-laden stream flows along channels draining the volcano edifice.

It pointed out that heavy rainfall could cause channel-confined lahars and sediment-laden stream flows in channels where PDC deposits were emplaced.

Likewise, it said that ashfall events may "most likely" occur on the south side of the volcano, based on the current prevailing wind pattern.

Phivolcs advised civil aviation authorities to ask pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano because ash from sudden eruption may pose hazards to aircraft.

## Enough food, water for Mayon evacuees

With the projected prolonged unrest of Mayon, the national government is ready to augment the resources of local government units (LGUs) in Albay to make sure of the basic needs of the evacuees.

Diego Agustin Mariano, head of Office of Civil Defense's (OCD) joint information unit, made the assurance on Tuesday as he bared that the number of affected residents in Albay already reached 3,876 families or 13,811 individuals.

Of the number, 3,701 families or 13,179 individuals from Camalig, Ligao, Daraga, Guinobatan, Malilipot, and Tabaco were staying in 21 evacuation centers.

Right now, there's enough supply or resources and assistance for people affected by the unrest of the volcano. But if ever it gets depleted, national government agencies, including the OCD and DSWD, are prepared to augment the assistance that we can give to our people," Mariano said in a public briefing.

The OCD has also started to prepare the deployment of rescue personnel and prepositioning of relief goods from member-agencies of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) in case the situation worsens at Taal Volcano in Batangas and Kanlaon Volcano in Negros Island.

The alert levels are still low so we are just ensuring that there are no residents or the activities are lessened in the danger zone areas of the two volcanoes," Mariano stated. "The LGUs are ready, same with the member-agencies of the NDRRMC. So, the resources and the evacuation





PAGE



UPPER  
LOWER



PAGE 1  
STORY



BANNER  
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

06-14-23

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

3/3

are ready. This is no longer new to them that's why the LGUs are prepared whatever happens or if the situation worsens at the two volcanoes,"

Mayon is currently under Alert Level 3 while Taal and Kanlaon are under Alert Level 1.

Entry into the six-km radius PDZ of Mayon Volcano is prohibited, while individuals are barred from entering the Taal Volcano Island at Taal Volcano, and the four-km radius PDZ of Kanlaon Volcano.

#### DSWD eyes distribution of cash aid

The DSWD, meanwhile, is considering giving cash assistance to families affected by Mayon Volcano's ongoing unrest.

According to DSWD Secretary Rex T. Gatchalian, the plan to distribute cash aid aims to empower individuals and families displaced by volcanic activity in Albay.

"We can empower them with the right to choose. You give them cash, they can go to their grocers to buy their family needs," the DSWD chief said in a television interview on Monday, June 13.

Gatchalian said the cash assistance will assist affected families in purchasing other needs, such as powdered milk for older persons and infants, which is not included in the DSWD's family food packs.

As "disasters are crisis situations," he said, the cash aid will come from the DSWD's Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation program.

The DSWD reported 9,338 families or 36,814 people from 26 barangays in Albay affected by Mayon's volcanic activity as of June 12.

Its Bicol regional office is also constantly monitoring the situation of the affected families in the various evacuation centers in Albay.

On June 12, DSWD Field Office V (FO V) Director Norman Laurio inspected four evacuation centers in Daraga City, where a number of deficiencies were discovered and were promptly addressed.

DSWD FO V immediately ordered the delivery of 69 sleeping and hygiene kits for the newly arrived additional evacuees at Gabawan Elementary School.

Laurio worked with the local Bureau of Fire Protection to arrange for the immediate deployment of a fire truck to provide water to evacuees staying at the Budiao Elementary School.

Through the intervention of the FO V, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce was asked to provide 500 bottles of six-liter distilled water to the evacuees at San Andres Elementary School.

#### UAE provides aid amid Mayon unrest

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has extended assistance to those affected by Mayon's unrest.

UAE Ambassador to the Philippines Mohammed Obaid Al Zaabi led the bestowment ceremony of the 51 tons of aid from the Gulf nation on Monday.

Al Zaabi said providing assistance to the country "is an extension of the strong relations between the UAE and the Philippines in many fields."

"The wise leadership of the UAE is keen to contribute to mitigating the severity of disasters and humanitarian crises experienced by many countries in the world," he said.

The sending of the aid, Al Zaabi said, reflects "solid values of the UAE in contributing to enhancing international response in crises and disasters and providing essential requirements, especially food supplies, needed by many affected populations."

"It also aims to provide urgent relief to countries in times of need," he added. (With reports from Martin Sadongdong and Joseph Pedrajas)





06-14-23

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# Editorial

## Climate investment must be good business

**O**VER the past few months, a common theme among institutions concerned with combating climate change is that there must be a substantial increase in private sector investment in climate adaptation and mitigation. Public sector resources coursed through various institutions such as the UN-managed climate funds, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other multilateral development banks (MDBs) are simply not enough to cover the enormous amount that is needed to protect vulnerable countries and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts.

The challenge this poses to climate-vulnerable countries like the Philippines that need funding for climate adaptation is that attracting private sector investment is an entirely different value proposition than that for institutional funding. If this challenge cannot be overcome, the negative impacts on communities and people may become unmanageable.

Climate adaptation refers to measures to help populations cope with the impacts of climate change, while mitigation refers to measures intended to reduce those impacts. As the Philippines is not a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions but is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, adaptation is the chief concern here. Some simple examples of climate adaptation measures that might be implemented include flood control projects, seawalls and mangrove planting to protect against stronger storm surges, and relocating at-risk populations to safer areas.

All of this takes money, of course, a lot of it. At the landmark Paris climate summit in 2015, a target of \$100 billion per year was agreed, but it has since been recognized that even this figure is woefully inadequate. According to estimates from the MDBs, who all seem to agree on the question, the actual funding need for both adaptation and mitigation is somewhere between \$1 trillion and \$1.6 trillion per year through at least 2030, and probably beyond. Thus, the emphasis on calls for more private sector investment, since that is where those vast amounts can be found.

According to World Bank executives at a climate finance conference held in Spain last week, however, the world is falling short on investments in technology for climate adaptation because of a lack of metrics that can measure clear financial returns or help investors quantify the impact these investments have on affected communities. Investment in mitigation technology, things like renewable energy systems and electric vehicles, which produce more measurable returns and can even be profit-generating, is not a problem, but adaptation investment is being avoided because, as one World Bank executive explained, it is seen by investors as costly if they cannot foresee the net benefits of their investments. As a result, investments in mitigation, which primarily go to developed countries where the most mitigation is needed, currently outweighs adaptation investment by about 10 times, whereas investment in the two purposes ideally should be approximately equal.

To be clear, it is not strictly necessary that an investment in climate adaptation generate a return in the form of revenue, and most responsible private investors account for this in their environmental, social and governance (ESG) frameworks. However, the effectiveness of ESG from the point of view of stakeholders is judged according to whether or not an investment has clear positive results. The outcomes of potential adaptation investments are often not clearly defined, hence the critical shortfall in investment.

Developing a global set of standards to measure adaptation impacts has proved difficult, and in the view of the World Bank and its peers, might be impossible due to differences in the needs for different countries. Therefore, it becomes critical for the Philippines to prioritize the development of a clear and applicable set of standards for its own adaptation needs and create a value proposition for prospective investors in adaptation. This means defining exactly what constitutes a climate adaptation-relevant investment, and defining exactly what outcome in quantifiable terms that investment is supposed to achieve. It is a difficult undertaking, but there are examples — Colombia is one cited by the World Bank — of countries whose models Philippine policymakers can study and adapt to our needs.





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

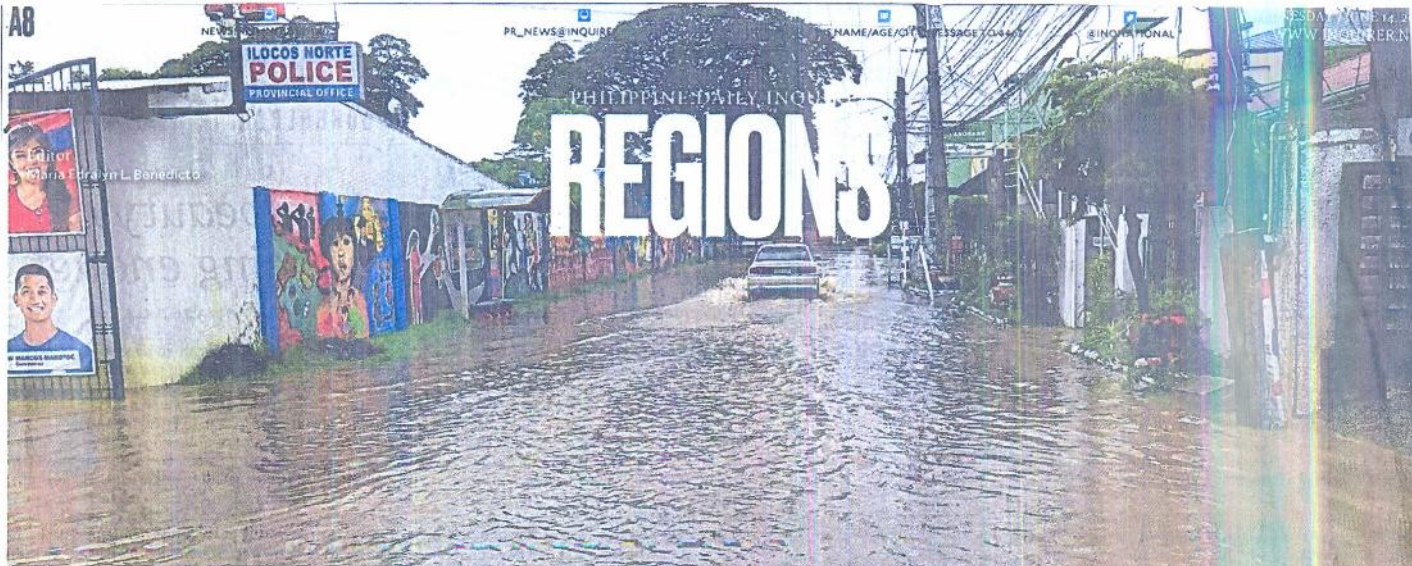


06-17-23

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE



**FLOODED STREET** A number of streets in Ilocos Norte's capital Laoag City are flooded on Tuesday due to incessant rain spawned by the southwest monsoon, including this road in front of the provincial police headquarters. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# 'Habagat' forces class suspension in parts of Luzon

**Provinces in central and northern Luzon experience heavy to intense rains spawned by southwest monsoon; several areas flooded**

LAOAG CITY—Inclement weather due to the enhanced southwest monsoon, or "habagat," was experienced in a large part of northern and central Luzon, prompting several local government units to suspend classes on Tuesday.

In Ilocos Norte, classes in the towns of Solsona and Vintar were suspended to ensure the safety of the students following the incessant rains, according to their respective local governments.

Classes were also suspended in Batac City and the towns of Pinili, Marcos, Carasi, Pagudpud, Currimao, Pasuquin, Bacarra, also all in Ilocos Norte.

### Overcast skies

In a weather bulletin on Tuesday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the Ilocos region (Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, La Union, Pangasinan), and the provinces of Zambales (Central Luzon) and Batanes (Cagayan Valley) experienced heavy and intense rains caused by habagat.

The Cordillera region also experienced overcast skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms due to the southwest monsoon.

The state weather bureau and the Office of Civil Defense warned of flash floods and landslides in these areas, especially in low-lying communities and those near rivers and mountain slopes.

**That is why we would like to remind our fellow Filipinos to remain cautious of the possible flash floods or landslides that may be caused by heavy rains brought by the southwest monsoon**

**Veronica Torres**  
Pagasa weather specialist

In Pangasinan, at least 10 local government units suspended classes in both public and private schools in their jurisdictions as the province experienced cloudy skies with scattered rain, thunder and lightning.

Classes at all levels were suspended in the towns of Bani, Bolinao, Aguilar, Mangatarem, Urbiztondo, Calasiao, Malasiqui, Basista and San Carlos City.

In Pangasinan's Infanta town, only classes from pre-



**UMBRELLA DAY** Students of Dagupan City National High School use umbrellas to shield themselves from the rain dumped by the enhanced southwest monsoon, or "habagat," in this photo taken on Tuesday. The biggest secondary school in Dagupan opted to continue holding classes despite the inclement weather, unlike other schools in at least 10 localities in Pangasinan province that suspended classes due to heavy rains. —WILLIE LOMIBAO

school to senior high school were suspended.

### Yellow, orange alerts

The enhanced southwest monsoon also dumped heavy rains over Olongapo City and nearby Zambales province on Tuesday, forcing the suspension of classes from elementary to high school level, both in public and private schools.

In an advisory, Olongapo Mayor Rolan Paulino Jr. said the class suspension was necessary after Pagasa issued a

yellow rainfall alert for the city.

Under the heavy rainfall warning system, a yellow rainfall advisory is raised when the expected rainfall amount is between 7.5 millimeters and 15 millimeters within one hour and likely to continue.

Paulino also advised the students to stay home as torrential rain threatened to trigger floods in the city.

In Zambales, classes in the towns of Subic, Castillejos, San Felipe, Cabangan, Botolan, Iba, Masinloc, Candelaria and Sta.

Cruz were also suspended due to the bad weather.

Pagasa issued an orange rainfall alert to the entire province as cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms were also experienced there.

The orange rainfall advisory is raised in areas where rainfall is between 15 mm and 30 mm within an hour. Flooding is a definite threat in communities under orange alert, the weather bureau warned.

### Reminder

"That is why we would like to remind our fellow Filipinos to remain cautious of the possible flash floods or landslides that may be caused by heavy rains brought by the southwest monsoon," Pagasa weather specialist Veronica Torres said Tuesday.

She added that no typhoons were expected to enter the country soon, a few days after Typhoon "Chedeng" (international name: Guchol) moved away from the Philippine area of responsibility. The typhoon had enhanced the effects of the southwest monsoon, based on the recent forecasts by Pagasa.

On the other hand, Metro Manila and other parts of the country could expect a more fair weather but with possibilities of localized thunderstorms in the afternoon and at night, Torres said. —REPORTS FROM JOHN MICHAEL MUGAS, YOLANDA SOTELO, JOANNA ROSE AGLIBOT AND DEMPSEY REYES INQ