

17 January 2023, Tuesday



DENR

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DENR policy-making body gears for improved land governance

THE Land Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has put in place groundbreaking policies geared toward more efficient and effective land administration and management in the country in 2022.

LMB Director Emelyne Talabis said the bureau takes pride in the new policies and other accomplishments on its priority programs that resulted in improved delivery of land-related services to Filipinos this year.

The LMB is a policy-making body of the DENR created for the efficient and effective land management and administration of alienable and disposable public lands in the country.

Apart from the issuances, the LMB had also successfully integrated the Land Administration Management System database of 16 provincial and community environment and natural resources offices into their respective regional offices.

The respective Regional LAMS databases of DENR-NCR and DENR-

Calabarzon also were integrated into LMB-LAMS.

The country's land statistics and records are consolidated through LAMS, a computerized information system built for quick and simple land information processing, tracking and retrieval.

Talabis said these achievements are anchored to LMB's policy directions toward evidence-informed and socially sensitive land governance.

"We are proud to attain feats this year and we will remain steadfast to improve our services through digital transformation, development of our people, and policy studies for a better and efficient system on land surveys and titling, among others," she said.

Foremost among these new policies is Land Management Circular 2022-001 entitled "Guidelines on the Use of Global Navigation Satellite System in the Conduct of Control and Land Surveys," which the LMB issued in February last year.

It provides geodetic engineers with the proper procedures for the use of GNSS as a complementary and alternative instrument in land surveys.

The LMB also issued LMC 2022-002 that clarified the qualifications for agricultural free patent applicants and the requirements for posting notice of free patent application.

This was an addendum to DENR Administrative Order 2021-38 or the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 11573, also known as "An Act Improving the Confirmation Process for Imperfect Land Titles."

In March 2022, the LMB also issued LMC 2022-004 to provide "Procedures on the Selection and Establishment of Calibration Baseline for Survey Instrument Testing and Registration." This circular also delegates the renewal of registration and transfer of ownership of the calibration baseline to DENR regional offices.

To date, the DENR has signed 219 partnership agreements with LGUs.



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LMB's policies in place for 2023 onwards -- DENR

By Joel dela Torre

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)'s Land Management Bureau (LMB) takes pride in saying it has put in place groundbreaking policies in 2022 geared towards a more efficient and effective land administration and management for 2023 onwards.

LMB is a policy-making body of the DENR created for the efficient and

effective land management and administration of alienable and disposable public lands in the country.

According to LMB Director Emelyne V. Talabis, the bureau is confident that these implemented priority programs and other accomplishments that resulted in improved delivery of land-related service to Filipinos will be carried over in the upcoming years.

"We are proud to attain feats this year and we will remain steadfast to

improve our services through digital transformation, development of our people, and policy studies for a better and efficient system on land surveys and titling, among others," Talabis said.

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NDRRMC: Rains death toll reaches 28; flights scrapped

THE National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) on Monday reported that the death toll in the heavy rains across the country since Jan. 1 has reached 28, but only 15 have so far been confirmed, with the remaining 13 still for validation.

Meanwhile, the local NDRRMC office in Davao de Oro reported that 24 families were affected by a landslide caused by the torrential rains. However, there were no reports on casualties in the incident.

In a related development, the persistent inclement weather has forced the cancellation of multiple flights by local airliners.

In its updated report, the NDRRMC said eight fatalities were reported in Zamboanga, seven each in Eastern Visayas and Northern Mindanao, five in Bicol, and one in Davao Region.

A total of 1,397,296 people or 347,105 families were affected by the bad weather in 1,930 barangays in Cagayan, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga, Northern Mindanao, Davao, Soccsksargen, Caraga, and Bangsamoro, the NDRRMC said.

At least 38,108 affected families were staying inside 489 evacuation centers, over 56,000 families stayed with friends or relatives.

A total of 1,307 houses were reported damaged, 935 of them partially and 372 totally. The NDRRMC estimated damage to agriculture P274.1 million and to infrastructure at P171.5 million.

The National Irrigation Administration also reported P25.6 million worth of damage to irrigation projects. Authorities have declared a state of calamity in San Miguel and Santa Fe in Leyte; the entire province of Eastern Samar; Gandara, Basey, San Jorge, and Calbayog in Samar; Laoang in Northern Samar; Sirawai in Zamboanga del

Norte; and Tubod in Lanao del Norte. The national government has so far released P74.2 million for assistance to the affected communities, the NDRRMC said. Engr. Ariel Capoy of the Davao de Oro NDRRMC quoted the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) as saying the affected locality was landslide prone, and that the villagers have been advised to evacuate during prolonged rainfalls.

"Base sa MGB, ito po ay highly susceptible to landslide at alam na po ng mga naninirahan doon. Isa sa mga SOP (standard operating procedure) namin doon na kapag may prolonged rainfall...aalis na talaga sila," he said.

The Manila International Airport Authority logged the following canceled flights:

- PAL Express (2P) 2932/2933 Manila-Basco-Manila
- 2P 2035/2036 Manila-Caticlan-Manila
- Cebgo (DG) 6035 Manila-Busuanga

- AirSwift (T6) 110 Manila-El Nido
- T6 113 El-Nido Manila
- T6 114/115 Manila-El Nido-Manila
- T6 126 Manila-El Nido
- T6 122 Manila-El Nido
- T6 130 Manila-El-Nido
- T6 130D Manila-El Nido
- T6 143D El-Nido Manila
- T6 133 El Nido-Manila
- T6 146D Manila-El Nido
- T6 146 Manila-El Nido
- T6 143 El Nido-Manila
- T6 151 El Nido-Manila
- T6 153D El Nido-Manila
- T6 154D Manila-El Nido
- T6 149 El Nido-Manila
- T6 154/155 Manila-El Nido-Manila
- T6 151D El Nido Manila

Meanwhile, the weather bureau PAGASA said a low pressure area (LPA) last tracked 205 km. east of Maasin City, Southern Leyte was unlikely to develop into a tropical cyclone.



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Are 'natural disasters' natural? (1)

We think of natural disasters as manifestations of nature's wrath. This speaks of our tendency to deflect the blame on nature for calamities that have ravaged our communities. We never reflect on how we have behaved—both individually and collectively—in dealing with nature.

Nature—our environment as a whole—is a gift to nurture our bodies as we navigate through life's challenges on a daily basis. Yet we never think of it in this light. We think it is our right as the more superior creatures on this planet to cultivate or even exploit nature for what it can give us. But many times, we do it rapaciously, draining it of whatever it can provide us, almost to its breaking point. This crucial point in the life cycles of many elements of nature has led to disastrous consequences of flooding, long droughts, and eventual extinction of some species that have weaker adaptive capacities to extreme weather events or what is popularly now known as climate change.

These thoughts came to mind while reading about current daily realities in many parts of our country, especially in northern and central Mindanao which bore the brunt of recent typhoons and flooding.

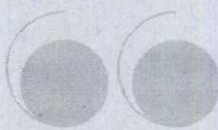
The reality of extreme weather events is no longer far-fetched, as some regional officials used to think about two years ago, before the devastating consequences of Typhoon "Paeng" (Nalgae) that hit many parts of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) last October 2022.

Perhaps this is why the Philippine program of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations decided to gather regional government functionaries designated as disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) officers last week here in General Santos City, from Jan. 10 to 13. I was invited to share with them the results of a just-completed exploratory study on climate fragility



KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

RUFA CAGOCO-GUIAM



THE REALITY
OF EXTREME
WEATHER EVENTS
IS NO LONGER
FAR-FETCHED

risks and their intersections with violent conflict. I took part in it as the cultural anthropologist/sociologist tasked to gather primary narrative data from four municipalities that are located within the country's biggest wetland, the Ligawasan (marsh). (The word "ligawasan" is Magindanawn for marsh).

About two years earlier, when I started working on this research (funded by the United States Institute for Peace and led by Dr. Laurence Delina, an environmental science professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), I interviewed a few

key officials of the region about the effects of climate change. Among 10 people I had conversations with, half of them considered climate change as a reality that is "not yet felt seriously" in the BARMM, and is more experienced in highly urbanized areas in the country like Metro Manila. All these perceptions were proven wrong when Paeng struck. Many communities in the mainland areas of the region reeled from massive devastation, including the deaths of more than 50 individuals, with many still considered missing up to now. Some families who lost their loved ones in this "natural disaster" are still slowly coming to terms with this painful reality in their lives.

The study was exploratory in nature, but it was the first of its kind done in the low-lying communities of the region, which also happen to be some of the areas frequently affected by armed conflict, both in the past and in the present. During the martial law years under President Marcos Sr., there was a more vertical type of armed encounters between the forces of the state, military, and police, against the Moro National Liberation Front. Presently, the episodic armed violence in these areas within the Ligawasan (Datu Piang, Datu Salibo, Rajah Buayan, and Pagalungan) is attributed to violence courtesy of horizontal protagonists, families competing for local political power, or those involved in the culture of vengeance or "rido," as it is popularly known. Land disputes are among the more serious and common reasons for rido there.

Our key findings pointed out that devastating effects of both violent conflict and extreme weather events have surfaced and exacerbated existing deficits and debilities in local governance, among them the lack of appropriately trained government functionaries heading local government DRRM offices.

(To be continued)

Comments to: rcguiam@gmail.com



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Nationwide RoundUp

New department aims to integrate water sector, but will it mean better access, reasonable rates?

A COMMUNITY in the small town of Danao in Bohol is among many countryside areas in the Philippines where there is water service up to the household level, but supply is limited to just a few hours per day under the best of circumstances.

Resident Gonzala T. Bacotcot, whose own faucet had been broken, goes over to a neighbor to collect 10 buckets of water daily between 5 to 8 a.m. when the supply pipes are open.

"I pay our neighbors P100 monthly," she said.

But when it rains, such as in recent weeks due to a low pressure area, Ms. Bacotcot said they had to wait for three days until clear and potable water from the river could be distributed.

Improving access to such a most basic need in a sustainable manner is among the overarching objectives of a proposed law that will consolidate the country's water resource management through the creation of a Department of Water Resources.

The measure will be on the priority table when Congress resumes next week, with grueling discussions expected given the myriad of issues relating to water sourcing, distribution, sanitation, flood management, and irrigation, among others.

Around 32 bills were filed at the House of Representatives to create a department that will provide oversight to all water-related issues. It is currently pending at the committee on government reorganization.

Albay Rep. Jose Ma. Clemente S. Salceda, author of one of the bills, said the proposed measure will create an "umbrella department" that integrates all stages of water resource management.

"There is currently no water regulatory system to speak of. Power and authority is scattered in some cases, (overlapping) in others, and is vague or even non-existent in other areas," Mr. Salceda said in a Viber message.

Among the existing agencies involved in the water sector are: the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and Local Water Utilities Administration as regulators; National Irrigation Administration; the Laguna Lake Development Authority; and several bureaus under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Public Works and Highways.



PHILIPPINE STAR/EDD GUMBAN

Local governments are also involved in their respective water districts, which are effectively set up as cooperatives.

Guillermo Q. Tabios III, professor emeritus of the University of the Philippines Institute of Civil Engineering, said the proposed water department is necessary as it would harmonize land and coastal resources, including the control of water-related hazards.

"The job of the (proposed) Department of Water Resources is to integrate and oversee among the various water sub-sectors to optimally plan, design and operate the natural or physical water resources recognizing the possible conflicting, competing or complementary uses of water," Mr. Tabios said via email.

Campaign group Water for the People Network (WPN), however, cautioned that deliberations for establishing a water department should have a clear direction as to the future of the sector, particularly the provision of water services in remote areas.

Reginald S. Vallejos, WPN spokesperson, said via Messenger chat, "We wish the issue were as simple as whether decentralized or consolidated water supply management will be more effective."

"The objective must be clear first. Is it to ensure safe efficient accessible affordable water for the public or to ensure return on investment or profits for the private sector involved in the operations?" he said. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**

FULL ROUNDUP

Read the full story by typing the link
< bit.ly/BWTheNation >



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Enhancing PH capacities on climate action

IT won't be long before climate information services become more accessible to Filipinos.

The Climate Change Commission announced that the German Development Cooperation South-South Collaboration on Climate Information Services Project Team paid a courtesy call on CCC vice chairman and executive Robert Borje, the overall program director, on Friday to discuss the next steps in the implementation of the SSCIS.

The five-million euro (P298.8-billion) SSCIS project aims to provide climate information services to national and local government and the academe, and establishes a South-South Center of Excellence as a venue for knowledge exchanges among climate-vulnerable countries.

"During the meeting, Borje welcomed the SSCIS Project Team tasked to handle project operations under the guidance of the CCC as the lead gov-

ernment partner, in coordination with relevant agencies and institutions," the CCC said.

He described the SSCIS Project as an opportunity for CCC and the Philippine government "to further enhance knowledge and capacities in data management, including collecting, generating, and analyzing climate data as a basis of climate action".

"The South-South Center of Excellence will allow us to further deepen our engagement with the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), promoting a whole-of-world approach in enhancing climate resilience of communities," he said.

The CVF is an international partnership of countries highly vulnerable to a warming planet, according to its website. It serves as a South-South cooperation platform for participating governments to act together to deal with global climate change.

The SSCIS Project Team was led by

Dr. Bjoern Surborg, principal advisor of the SSCIS Project and cluster coordinator for climate change and disaster risk management for GIZ Philippines Office.

"The GIZ Philippines, through the South-South Project, remains committed to work with the Philippine government in promoting data-driven climate action to enhance local knowledge on climate change," Surborg said.

He was joined by chief adviser Jimmy Loro and team members Theresa Lim, Denise Ann Suarez, Richard Antonio, and Rufe Ylade.

The country's geographical location and archipelagic formation make it one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change.

Based on Germanwatch Institute's 2021 Global Climate Risk Index, the Philippines is the fourth most affected country in the 20-year period from 2000 to 2019.



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DENR, Globe hail winners of Klima-likasan Awards

IN celebration of the 2022 National Climate Change Consciousness Week, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Globe recognized the efforts of individuals, groups and local government units (LGUs) to address climate change, contribute to disaster risk reduction, and promote cultural and behavioral shifts.

In line with its commitment to climate resiliency, Globe partnered with the DENR Climate Change Service and was the lone private sector co-presenter of the 2022 Mga Kuwentong Klima-likasan: A Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards.

Entries were evaluated based on

their climate and disaster resiliency content (60 percent), visual appeal of photos and videos (30 percent), and the geographical reach of the initiative (10 percent).

Composed of representatives from the Climate Change Commission, the Office of Civil Defense and Globe, the board of judges chose individuals, groups and LGUs that had gone a long way in their efforts to address the impact of climate change within their communities or beyond.

As the county's leading digital solutions provider, Globe continued to recognize that climate change was a huge challenge that required collective action; hence, the need to support and highlight the efforts of



■ The 2022 Klima-likasan winners are recognized for addressing climate change, contributing to disaster risk reduction, and promoting cultural and behavioral shifts. CONTRIBUTED SCREENSHOT

Filipinos from around the country.

"We see technology, which is a key enabler of industries, to help accelerate the just transition to a green economy," said Yoly Crisanto, chief sustainability and corporate

communications officer of the Globe Group.

"Let us all work together to build a sustainable and climate-resilient Philippines. It is our fervent wish that by giving recognition," added Crisanto.



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UN adopts sabotage as new climate policy

THE United Nations has apparently become dissatisfied that its weak, performative action since the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement is not working quickly enough to ensure that the world is incapable of stopping or slowing global warming. Not content with simply being the bureaucratic briar patch it has always been, it has now turned to outright sabotage to prevent coordinated climate action.



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organizations, and the vast swath of the global business community involved in climate mitigation and adaptation efforts as Jaber's appointment to head COP28 is.

One of the main reasons for the failure of COP27, held last year in Egypt, to achieve any substantial results was the presence and energetic activity of a large number of fossil-fuel industry lobbyists, many of them having come from the UAE, according to people who were there. The conference subsequently failed to reach any agreement on additional emissions cuts, failed to reach an agreement on reductions in coal use, and really only accomplished one thing, which was to agree in principle to compensate at-risk countries for climate-related losses. That agreement, however, is utterly toothless at this point despite the UNFCCC's efforts to talk it up as some kind of historic achievement; all the draft agreement specified was that a committee would be formed to study the

issue, and make recommendations for its implementation at this year's COP28.

The COP28 that is being held in a petro-monarchy, and chaired by the head of the national oil company. One reaction that I read somewhere summed it up best: "This is like appointing an arms dealer to preside over a peace conference." No analogy would likely be too awful or inappropriate to describe how bad a decision this is: putting a fox in charge of guarding the henhouse, hiring a pedophile to teach kindergarten, having some Brownshirts provide security for a bar mitzvah.

For his part, Jaber reacted to his appointment by issuing a statement that repeated the UAE's official BS policy toward climate action, which is just about what one would expect to hear from one of the world's biggest petroleum producers. "We will bring a pragmatic, realistic and solutions-oriented approach that delivers transformative progress for climate and for low carbon economic growth," Jaber said. "I sincerely believe that climate action today is an immense economic opportunity for investment in sustainable growth."

The UAE has for several years been trying to diversify its economy away from oil and gas

— the petroleum industry now accounts for about 30 percent of GDP — but that is because that dusty little corner of Arabia is running out of the go juice, and not necessarily because of climate concerns. The UAE's own commitments under the Paris Agreement are not impressive; it has adopted a national policy of supplying half of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2050 and achieving domestic carbon neutrality — which pointedly excludes any calculation of the carbon footprint of its oil and gas exports.

At the same time, almost in the same breath, the UAE government has said that the Gulf states will need to invest at least \$600 billion in the oil and gas industry every year through 2030 — six times the global target for funding of climate adaptation and mitigation efforts set by the Paris Agreement — in order to keep up with demand.

So, how does it intend to do that and still achieve "domestic carbon neutrality?" As far as the UAE is concerned, there is no problem caused by technology that cannot be solved by more technology, so it has positioned itself as a leader in carbon capture and storage development — the ludicrously energy-intensive concept that cannot possibly be deployed on a

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UN adopts sabotage as new climate policy

large enough scale to even make a noticeable dent in the atmosphere's carbon dioxide concentrations. That's the "immense economic opportunity" Jaber is talking about.

Jaber's appointment to chair COP28 would be appalling under any circumstances, but what made the announcement even more unimaginably atrocious was that on the very same day it occurred, the journal *Science* published a study that revealed that in-house research by oil giant ExxonMobil had, as far back as the 1970s, developed "astonishingly accurate" anthropogenic climate change models, more accurate than even the best models developed by climatologists in the

past 10 years or so. How accurate? As one example, a 1982 "proprietary simulation" circulated internally at ExxonMobil pegged the current level of global warming — 40 years later — at exactly the 1.2 C over pre-industrial levels that it actually is now.

ExxonMobil's response to its own findings that continued fossil fuel use would result in "dramatic environmental effects before the year 2050" was to suppress the information. A 1988 internal memo uncovered by researchers was a typical reminder to company executives and its PR machinery: "Emphasize the uncertainty in scientific conclusions regarding the potential enhanced greenhouse effect."

Although the revelations about ExxonMobil's research and its active efforts to cover it up were astonishing for their detail, they were not really surprising for their existence. Oil companies and industry groups such as the American Petroleum Institute have engaged in a conspiracy to suppress and misdirect climate efforts since the late 1950s, and just about every major oil company has been involved: ExxonMobil, Shell, Total and, of course, although being somewhat latecomers to that particular party, the big Gulf concerns such as Saudi Aramco and Adnoc.

And this is who the UNFCCC thinks is a good choice to lead the world's annual climate summit. The message

that the intentions toward climate action are completely insincere, cynical even, could not be clearer. If the entire UNFCCC Secretariat leadership and staff doesn't resign in shame, along with that spineless simulacrum of a UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, who is responsible for them being there, the rest of the world should stop wasting its time, boycott COP28, demand its contributions to accounts like the Global Climate Fund be returned, and handle climate-related concerns as best it can without the poisonous interference of the UN and the bloated plutocrats it lets pull its strings.

ben.kritz@manilatimes.net



Climate activist Greta Thunberg carried away by police during anti-coal protest in Germany

CLIMATE activist Greta Thunberg on Sunday was detained by police during an anti-coal mining protest in Germany, German daily Bild reported.

Thunberg was taken away by police in the German village of Lutzerath, where protesters are trying to save the village from being destroyed by a coal mine.

She was hauled away from the protest by two armored police officers, but was not seen being handcuffed.

Speaking at the protests on Saturday, the famed Swedish activist claimed that Germany is "embarrassing itself" and added: "I think it's absolutely absurd that this is happening in 2023."

Thunberg was one of the many demonstrators who flocked to the location on Saturday, which has come to represent opposition to fossil fuels.

She apparently returned on Sunday and was among the final demonstrators evacuated from the area, amid criticism of what some called a heavy-handed police crackdown.



SWEDISH climate activist Greta Thunberg (center) speaks to press members during the demonstrations of climate activists in Lutzerath located a German state of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany.

German police on Saturday clashed with anti-coal activists at a protest camp in the abandoned western village of Lutzerath as demonstrators tried to prevent it from being mined for coal, according to private broadcaster n-tv.

Baton-wielding police used pepper spray and water guns to disperse the mainly masked protesters, who braved rain and strong winds.

There were no immediate reports of arrests or injuries, as the situation did

calm down later in the evening, according to police.

Anti-coal activists expressed dismay at the crackdown in Lutzerath.

"What we are experiencing today and the last few days is pure police violence. We are shocked at how the police are proceeding and condemn this behavior. We remain steadfast because we know what we are fighting for: climate justice!" tweeted one activist of the anti-coal group Lutzerath bleibt.

More than 10,000 peo-

ple took part in the anti-coal protest as police were completing the eviction of the remaining protesters who retreated to underground tunnels.

"The situation in Lutzerath is a huge international embarrassment for the federal (German) government," Thunberg told the German Press Agency in Cologne.

"People have been defending Lutzerath for years as part of a global justice movement. The fact that people are taking action is a sign of hope," she added.

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Bulkang Taal nag-alboroto, 140 pagyanig naitala

MULING nag-alboroto ang bulkang Taal makaraang makapagtalang 140 volcanic earthquake sa nakalipas na magdamag iniulat kanina Enero 16, 2023 (Lunes) ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Nabatid sa Phivolcs bukod sa pagyanig nakataas sa alert level 1 ang paligid ng bulkang Taal.

Ayon sa Phivolcs na

naitala rin ang pagbuga ng usok sa bunganga ng bulkang Taal na may taas na 1000 metrong taas.

Nabatid pa sa Phivolcs na namataan ang maikling pamamaga ng bahagi ng timog-silangang bahagi ng bulkang Taal.

Sinabi pa ng Phivolcs na mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang pagpasok ng sino sa paligid ng bulkang Taal lalo na malapit sa bunganga ng bulkan.

Ipinagbabawal din ang pagpapalipad ng anumang uri ng aircraft malapit sa tuktok ng bulkan dahil sa banta ng volcanic earthquake at pagbuga ng manipis na ash-fall.

Ang bulkang Taal ay itinuturing na aktibong bulkan dahil sa mga nakalipas na pag-aalboroto nito na matatagpuan sa lalawigan ng Batangas.

(Boy Celario)



Kabahayan, iskul at simbahan nasira

Leyte nilindol ng 5.1 magnitude:

8 sugatan

Walo katao ang iniulat na sugatan matapos na tumama ang magnitude 5.1 na lindol sa Leyte nitong Linggo ng gabi, Enero 15.

Alas-8:28 ng gabi nang tumama ang lindol at sentro nito ay may 3 kilometro ng timog-

silangan ng Leyte, Leyte. Maliban sa napaulat na nasaktan, nagtamo rin ng pinsala ang ilang mga tirahan, simbahan at kalsada.

Nauna nang idineklara ni Leyte Mayor Arnold James Ysidoro ang suspensyon ng klase sa

nabanggit na munisipalidad upang tiyaking ligtas ang mga paaralan sa mga pinsalang naidulot ng lindol.

Bumuo na rin si Ysidoro ng grupo na binubuo ng mga tauhan mula sa Municipal Engineering Office, Municipal

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Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine National Police, Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office, Ru-

ral Health Unit, at lokal na pamahalaan upang busisiin ang structural integrity sa mga bahay at gusali na naapektuhan ng lindol sa bayan.

Nanawagan din ang alkalde sa mga residente na hintayin muna ang go-signal mula sa inspection team bago tuluyang bumalik sa

kani-kanilang mga tirahan.

Sa ngayon, may mga aftershocks pa rin na nararamdaman ang mga residente.



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6 katao sugatan sa 5.1 na lindol sa Leyte

Nina ZAIDA DELOS REYES & JUN I. LEGASPI

ANIM katao ang nasugatan sa 5.1 lindol na yumanig sa isang bayan ng Leyte nitong Linggo ng gabi.

Batay sa ulat ng Philippine National Police (PNP), nakilala ang mga nasugatan na sina Leah Delima, 36; Jean Rosa Abilar, 12; Flora Mae Lugo, 22; Ma. Elena Quir, 64; Luciano Quir, 64; at Althea Sofia Abarca, 7, pawang mga residente ng Leyte, Leyte.

Ayon sa update na inilabas ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), ang pagyanig ay naitala dakong 8:28 p.m. (Enero 15), sa 3 kilometers southeast ng Leyte.

Dahil sa malakas na pagyanig, nagd-esisyon si Leyte Mayor Arnold James Ysidoro na magdeklara ng suspensiyon ng trabaho at klase nitong Lunes (Enero 16) upang matiyak ang kaligtasan ng lahat.

"We have deployed five groups composed of department heads and person-

nel from different offices to assess the damage caused by the earthquake," pahayag ni Ysidoro.

Nakiusap din ang alkalde sa mga residente na i-report sa kinauukulan kung may makikita silang crack o basag sa mga gusali.

Naramdaman ang Intensity III na pagyanig sa mga bayan ng Alangalang, Carigara, Babatngon, Barugo, Tacloban City, at Ormoc City, lahat ay matatagpuan sa probinsya ng Leyte.

Sinasabing may ilang mga kabahayan ang napinsala ng lindol sa mga sumandaling ito.

Naitala din ang Intensity IV sa Carigara, Leyte; Intensity III sa Alangalang at Ormoc City, Leyte; Intensity II sa Calubian, Albuera, Leyte at Intensity I sa Borongan City, Eastern Samar at Bogu City, Cebu.

Dagdag ng Phivolcs, posibleng magkaroon ng aftershocks ang lindol.