

07 July 2023 Friday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

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# Earth scorches for 3rd straight day

## Manila heat index hits 37°C

**MAINE** – Earth’s average temperature remained at a record high Wednesday, after two days in which the planet reached unofficial records. It’s the latest marker in a series of climate-change-driven extremes.

The average global temperature was 17.18 Celsius (62.9 degrees Fahrenheit), according to the University of Maine’s Climate Reanalyzer, a tool that uses satellite data and computer simulations to measure the world’s condition. That matched a record set Tuesday of 17.18 Celsius (62.9 Fahrenheit), and came after a previous record of 17.01 Celsius (62.6 degrees Fahrenheit) was set Monday.

Meanwhile, in Metro Manila, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) recorded the hottest day so far for the month of July also on Wednesday.

PAGASA said that a sweltering 37.0 degrees Celsius was recorded at Port Area in Manila. This is just 0.5 degrees lower than the highest recorded temperatures in Metro Manila for July.

For this year, the hottest recorded so far in the Philippines was recorded in Isu, Echague in Isabela when temperatures reached 39.0 degrees Celsius last May 7.

Scientists have warned for months that 2023 could see record heat as human-caused climate change, driven largely by the burning of fossil fuels like coal, natural gas and oil, warmed the atmosphere. They also noted that La Niña, the

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## Earth scorches From Page 1

natural cooling of the ocean that had acted as a counter to that warming, was giving way to El Niño, the reverse phenomenon marked by warming oceans. The North Atlantic has seen record warmth this year.

"A record like this is another piece of evidence for the now massively supported proposition that global warming is pushing us into a hotter future," said Stanford University climate scientist Chris Field, who was not part of the calculations.

University of Maine climate scientist Sean Birkle, creator of the Climate Reanalyzer, said the daily figures are unofficial but a useful snapshot of what's happening in a warming world.

While the figures are not an official government record, "this is showing us an indication of where we are right now," said National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration chief

scientist Sarah Kapnick. And NOAA indicated it will take the figures into consideration for its official record calculations.

Even though the dataset used for the unofficial record goes back only to 1979, Kapnick said that given other data, the world is likely seeing the hottest day in "several hundred years that we've experienced."

Scientists generally use much longer measurements – months, years, decades – to track the Earth's warming.

But the daily highs are an indication that climate change is reaching uncharted territory. Some parts of the world saw extraordinary heat waves.

High-temperature records were surpassed this week in Quebec and Peru. Beijing reported nine straight days last week when the temperature exceeded 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit), and ordered a

stop to all outdoor work Wednesday as more high temperatures were forecast to pass 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit).

That included communities that aren't used to feeling such heat. In North Grenville, Ontario, the city turned ice hockey rinks into cooling centers as temperatures Wednesday hit 32 degrees Celsius (90 degrees Fahrenheit), with humidity making it making it feel like 38 degrees (100 degrees Fahrenheit).

"I feel like we live in a tropical country right now," city spokeswoman Jill Sturdy said. "It just kind of hits you. The air is so thick."

On Wednesday, 38 million Americans were under some kind of heat alert, Kapnick said.

Cities across the US from Medford, Oregon to Tampa, Florida have been hovering at all-time highs, said Zack Taylor, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

But according to data from the Climate Reanalyzer, many of the larg-

est temperature anomalies this week were seen over the world's oceans, especially the Antarctic Ocean.

"Temperatures have been unusual over the ocean and especially around the Antarctic this week, because wind fronts over the Southern Ocean are strong pushing warm air deeper south," said Raghu Murtugudde, professor of atmospheric, oceanic and earth system science at the University of Maryland and visiting faculty at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

Murtugudde said that ocean heat is also going deeper.

"Oceans take up 93 percent of additional heat we are generating because of increasing greenhouse gases and they are now a huge reservoir of heat," he said.

Some places experienced unusually cold weather for the time of year, including southeast Australia and much of India.

With many places seeing temperatures near 38 degrees Celsius (100.40

degrees Fahrenheit), an average temperature record of 17.18 Celsius (62.9 degrees Fahrenheit) might not seem very hot.

But Tuesday's global high was nearly a full degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) higher than the 1979-2000 average, which already topped the 20th- and 19th-century averages.

In Manila, PAGASA said that the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is affecting Southern Mindanao while the easterlies are affecting the eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao.

The ITCZ will bring scattered rain-showers over Zamboanga peninsula and the southern portion of Palawan.

Easterlies and localized thunderstorms will bring isolated rainshowers over Metro Manila and the rest of the country.

Days after announcing the onset of El Niño, PAGASA warned of possible flash floods or landslides during heavy rains. – Romina Cabrera, AFP





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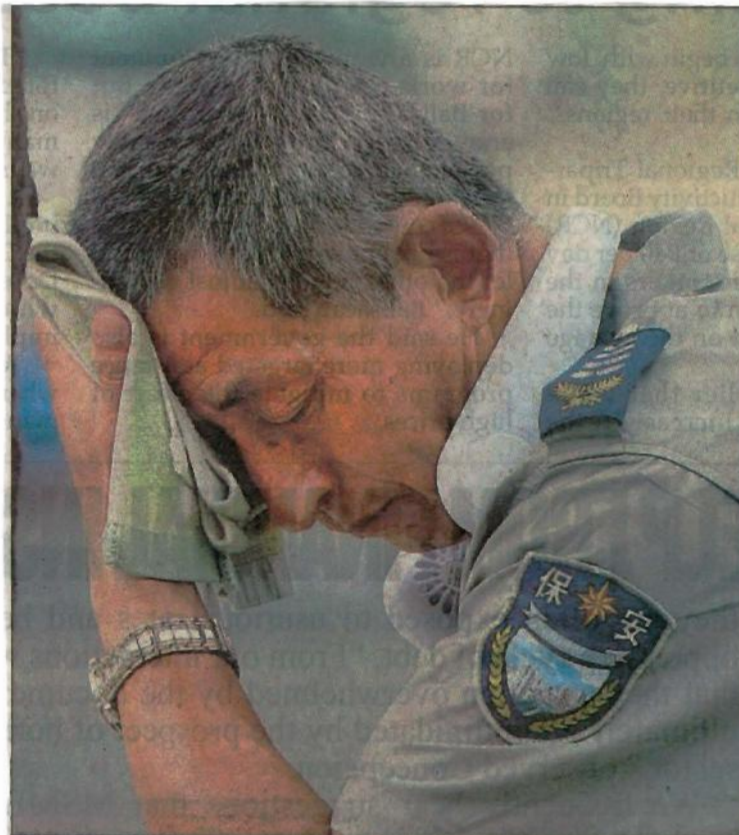
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**GLOBAL HEAT:** For a third day Wednesday, it was the hottest day on Earth as the global average temperature matches the record of 17.18 C (62.9 F) set Tuesday and comes after a previous record was set Monday. Photos show (clockwise from top left) a security guard wiping his sweat on a hot day in Beijing; a dead fish on the cracking earth of a dry marsh in Iraq's Dhi Qar province; tubers floating along the cool Comal River in New Braunfels, Texas; dogs cooling off from the hot weather in a downtown city fountain in Warsaw, Poland, and Chinese children cooling themselves with pocket electric fans as they take a rest near the Forbidden City in Beijing. AP





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# THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

  
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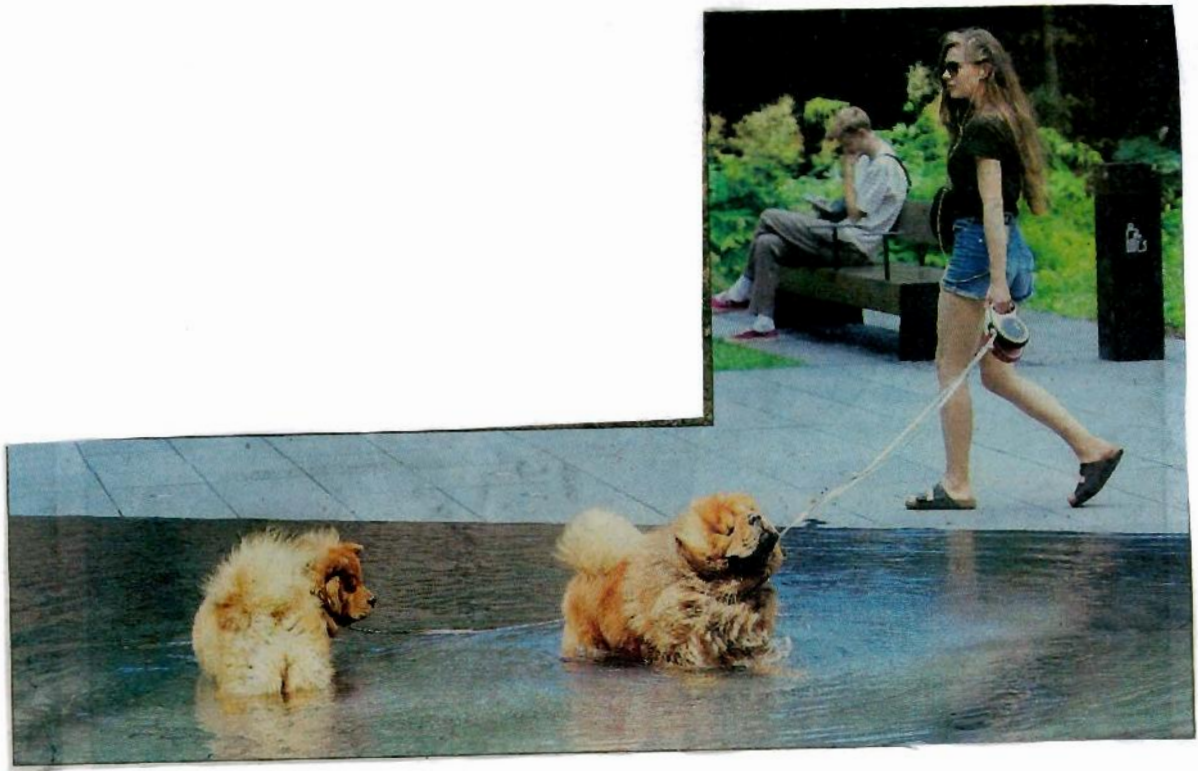
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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900  
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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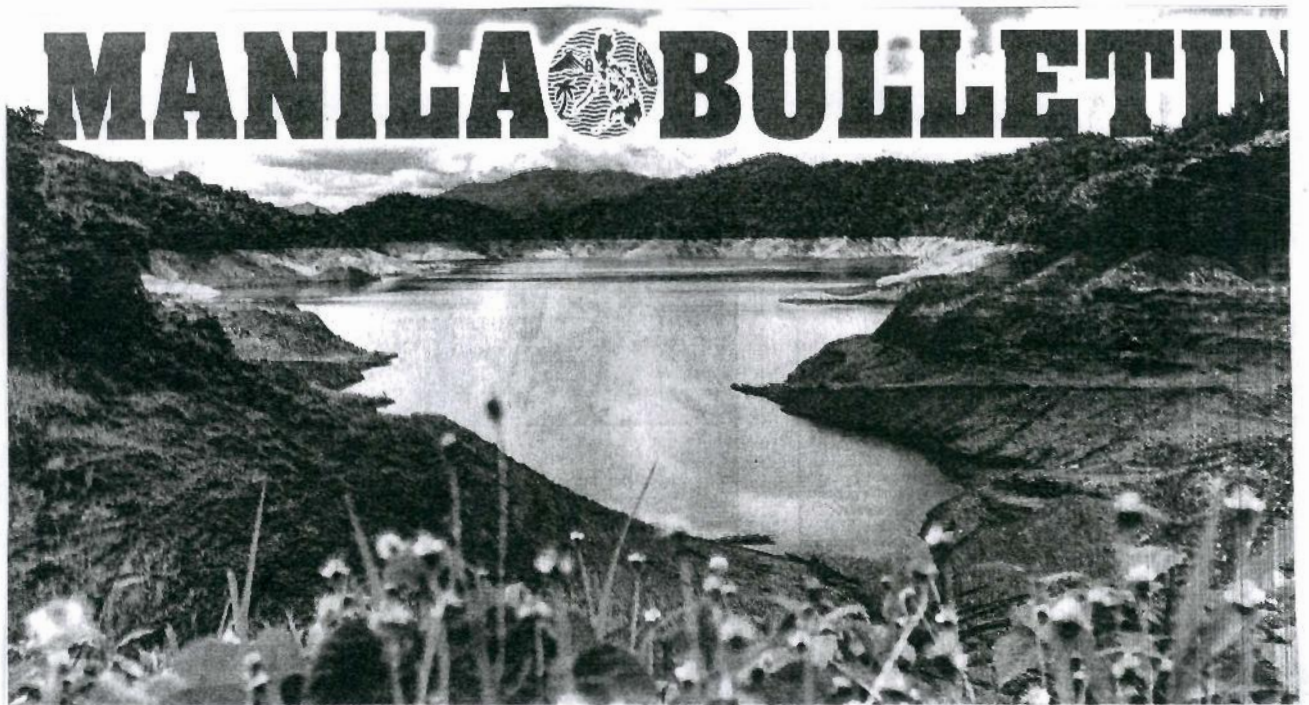
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ANGAT WATER LEVEL — The Angat Dam in Barangay San Lorenzo, Norzagaray, Bulacan went down to its minimum operating level of 100 meters on Thursday, July 6, 2023. Story on Page 2. (Noel B. Pabalate)

# El Niño intensifying

## Probability of 'moderate to strong' event increasing — PAGASA

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

**T**he Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said the El Niño climate phenomenon may intensify in the coming months and reach a "moderate to strong" level by the end of 2023 or early 2024.

Ana Liza Solis, chief of PAGASA's

Climate Monitoring and Prediction Section, said in a televised public briefing on Thursday, July 6, that there is an 86 percent chance that the El Niño will become a moderate event around November–December 2023 or January 2024.

Meanwhile, there is a 56 percent chance that the El Niño will become strong by December 2023 or January–February 2024. ▶6





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## El Niño intensifying 1◀

Earlier on July, PAGASA confirmed the presence of "weak" El Niño conditions over the equatorial Pacific. However, the probability of an intensified event has increased.

According to Solis, a weak El Niño is comparable to a person having a low-grade fever, a moderate El Niño is similar to having a moderate fever, and a strong El Niño is comparable to having "convulsions."

When an El Niño is strong, the sea warms up significantly, causing the country to experience warmer temperatures and less rainfall than it would during a weak or moderate event, she explained. This also means that the effects of El Niño on the country may last longer.

Solis warned that the country may experience a dry spell or drought due to lower rainfall forecast for the coming months.

There is also an increasing possibility that air temperatures will be warmer, particularly next year, she said.

### 'Habagat' may still bring some rains

Solis said most of the country may still experience some rains from the southwest monsoon, also known as the habagat, which will last until September.

During this period, there are still tropical cyclones, other rain-bearing weather systems, and the habagat, which can be sometimes enhanced by cyclones, she pointed out.

Solis said there may still be 10 to 14 cyclones that may enter or form within the country's area of responsibility until the end of the year—two to four in July, two or three in August, two or three in September, two or three in October, one or two in November, and one or two in December.

She noted that although there are tropical cyclones that may not make landfall, some of them can intensify the effects of habagat, which may cause rains over the western parts of the country.

However, there are early manifestations of El Niño conditions during the habagat season, one of which is the decrease in the country's cyclone activity, she added.

Only three tropical cyclones have affected the country so far this year. These are cyclones Amang, Betty, and Chedeng.

There has been no tropical cyclone recorded in the country so far this July, but based on PAGASA's climatological record, two to four typhoons may enter or form within the Philippine area of responsibility this month.

Solis said the widespread effect of El Niño, manifested by drier and warmer conditions, may be felt as early as October.

### 'Agri can overcome El Niño'

Despite the El Niño, President Marcos is confident the Philippines can overcome its effects on the country's

poultry, livestock, and aquaculture industries.

"The problem with the water I think is solvable when it comes to—in terms of the livestock. Ang mahihirapan sa crops. Sa fisheries, hindi gaano (Crops will have difficulty dealing with it. On fisheries, not so much effect), as you can imagine. So, I think I'm confident when it comes to livestock and the broilers, the hogs, and the cattle)," Marcos said in a media interview.

The President believes that if the government is able to fix the system, the expected impacts of El Niño, including food supply, will be handled well. (With a report from Betheena Unite)





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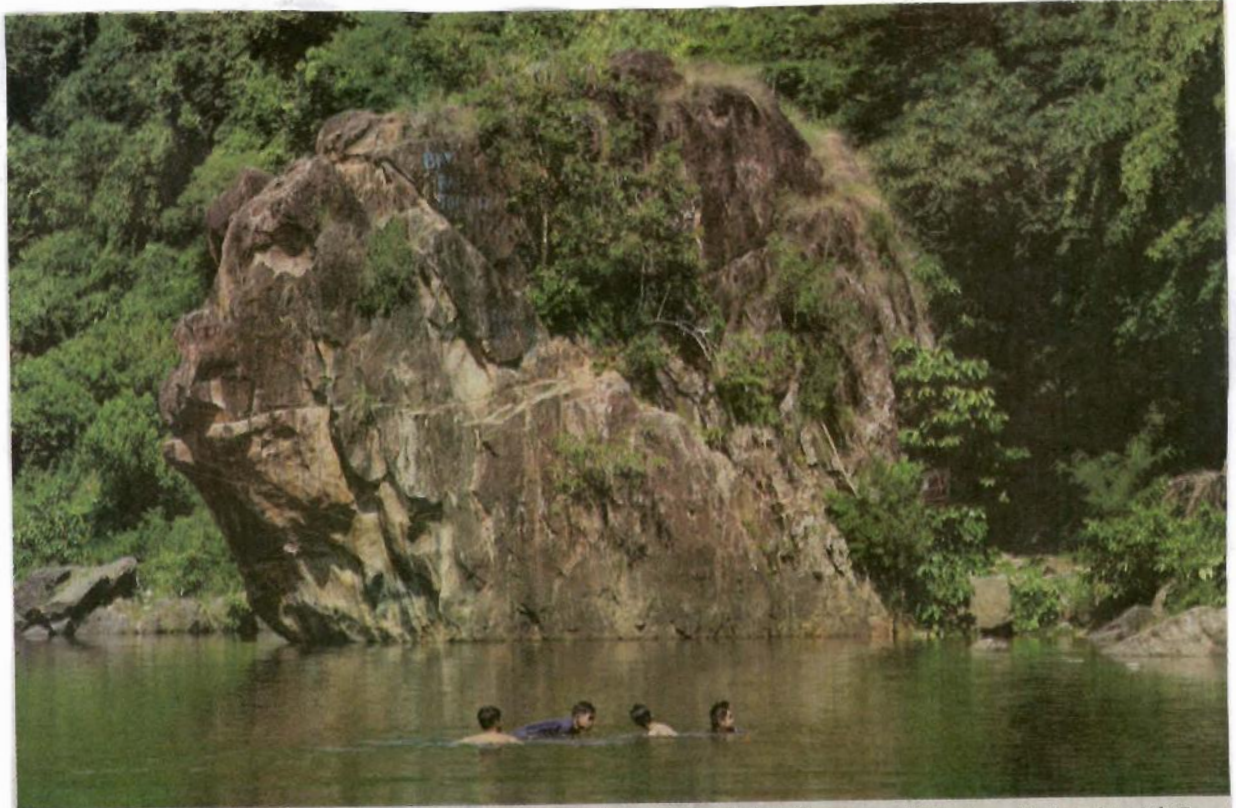
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**EL NIÑO IS HERE** – A group of people swim at the Bitbit River in Barangay San Mateo, Norzagaray, Bulacan, on Wednesday, July 5, 2023. Angat Dam located in Norzagaray is approaching critical level after the declaration of the onset of the El Niño phenomenon. (Mark Balmores)





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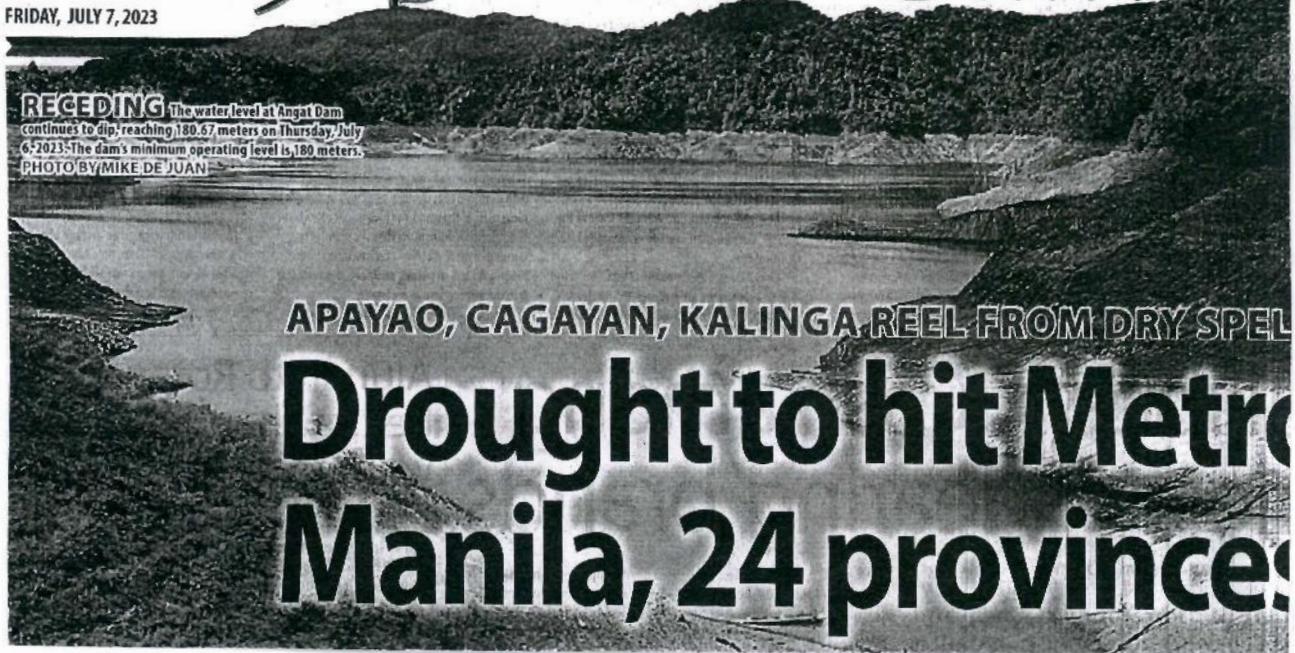
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FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2023

Trusted since 1898  
**The Manila Times**

**RECEDING** The water level at Angat Dam continues to dip, reaching 180.67 meters on Thursday, July 6, 2023. The dam's minimum operating level is 180 meters.  
PHOTO BY MIKE DE JUAN



APAYAO, CAGAYAN, KALINGA REEL FROM DRY SPELL

**Drought to hit Metro Manila, 24 provinces**

BY ARLIE O. CALALO AND FRANCIS EARL CUETO

**M**ETRO Manila and 24 provinces will be hit by drought in January next year as El Niño bites, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) warned on Thursday.

It said that the strong impact of El Niño in the tropical Pacific will be felt in the country by the end of 2023 up to the first quarter of 2024.

Pagasa Climate Monitoring and Prediction Section chief Ana Liza Solis said during the "Laging Handa" public hearing that a number of areas in Luzon, including the provinces of Tarlac and Isabela, have begun

experiencing dry condition since June while the provinces of Apayao, Cagayan and Kalinga were reeling from dry spells.

Solis said a dry condition occurs when rainfall is 40 percent to 80 percent below normal for two consecutive months. A dry spell, on the other hand, happens when rainfall is below normal for three

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# Drought to hit

consecutive months or less than 40 percent way below normal for two consecutive months.

An area is declared under drought when rainfall is below normal for five consecutive months or way below normal for three consecutive months.

Based on gathered data, Solis said the following places will experience dry condition by end of December: Abra, Batanes, Cagayan, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Bohol, Cebu, Siquijor, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Bukidnon, Camiguin, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Davao de Oro, Davao del Sur, Davao Occidental, Davao Oriental, South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Basilan, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

With only Camarines Norte likely to encounter drought during this period, Solis added that the other areas in Luzon that will experience dry spell include Metro Manila, Abra, Benguet, Ifugao, Apayao, Mountain Province, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Isabela, Nueva Viscaya, Quirino, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Batangas, Laguna, Rizal, Quezon, Marinduque, Mindoro, Romblon, Palawan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales, Spratly Islands, Camarines Sur and Catanduanes.

"But let us take note that Agusan del Norte, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur will potentially be under dry spell at the end of October," she said.

By the end of January next year, Solis said drought will hit Metro Manila, Abra, Benguet, Ifugao, Apayao, Mountain Province, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Batangas, Laguna, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales and Spratly Islands while Cagayan, Cavite, Antique, Guimaras, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental and Siquijor, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Misamis Occidental, Sultan Kudarat, Basilan, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi will experience dry spell.

Solis said the country can still expect normal to above-normal rainfall from July up to November due to a number of rain-bearing weather systems.

"Particularly, the onset of the southwest mon-

soon or 'habagat' which will largely bring rain during these periods, but it will weaken by November as the strong impact of El Niño will start to be felt," she said.

The weather agency said 10 to 14 storms are likely to enter or develop within the country's area of responsibility from July to November.

"Some of these tropical cyclones may not make landfall, but they will enhance the southwest monsoon that will dump rain just the same," Solis said.

Meanwhile, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) on Thursday said that it will reduce the water allocation for water concessionaires servicing households in Metro Manila and for irrigation once the water level Angat Dam falls below the normal operating level of 180 meters.

The dam's water level on Thursday morning was 180.89 meters.

The board said the allocation for water concessionaires will be reduced from 50 cubic meters per second to 48 cubic meters per second and for irrigation, from 28.5 cubic meters per second to 20 cubic meters per second.

"We have to prioritize the NCR residents," NWRB Executive Director Seville David Jr. said, referring to the National Capital Region.

Earlier, the NWRB has allowed Metro Manila's water concessionaires to tap deep wells to augment their supply.

Angat Dam supplies more than 90 percent of Metro Manila's potable water needs.

A farmers group said that the impact of El Niño will not be immediately felt.

"We are not feeling the wave of El Niño yet," Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (Sinag) chairman Rosendo So told The Manila Times.

He said that farmers in Tarlac have started planting. "In Southern Visayas and Mindanao, it's also raining, which starts our cropping season," he said. "To us, El Niño does not have much of an effect this cropping season."

Despite Pagasa's forecast that there will be no rain in October, So believes storms could still hit agricultural areas.

"This cropping season is not a problem. What Pagasa is saying that by next year, the problem they will see will be between January and February," he said.

"We do not see much problems this year, maybe by next year, we should see if farmers could not plant again by December to January," he said.

**ARIC JOHN SY CUA**





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# Manila Standard

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## NCR scorches with 37°C, highest heat index in 50 yrs

By Rio N. Araja and Macon Ramos-Araneta

MANILA registered its hottest day of the month on Wednesday as the heat index in the Port Area hit 37 degrees Celsius, the state weather bureau said.

Water level at Angat Dam, on

the other hand, continued to drop, with the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) warning that al-

location for domestic use in Metro Manila will be

reduced to 48 cubic meters per second (CMS) if the 180 meters minimum operating level is breached.

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**SWELTERING HEAT.** People shield themselves from the sun as they visit the Dolomite Beach in Manila. The National Capital Region logged its highest heat index with 37°C on Wednesday, the state weather bureau said. **AFP**





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## NCR...

From A1

"The Board decided to modify the allocation if the level of Angat Dam falls below the minimum operating level of 180 meters. For MWSS (Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System), 48 cubic meters per second, NIA (National Irrigation Administration), up to 20 CMS until the end of July," NWRB Executive Director Sevilla David Jr. said.

The 37°C heat index in the National Capital Region surpassed the previous record of 36.5°C at the same station on July 2, 1973.

Tuguegarao City, meanwhile, recorded a 36.4°C heat index on Wednesday at 1:05 p.m., the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said.

Clark registered a temperature of 36.1°C, while Sangley Point, Cavite, Daguapan City, and Aparri recorded 36°C.

A 35.6°C heat index was also recorded at the Science Garden in Quezon City and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Pasay City.

Weather forecasters said despite the heat and the coming El Niño, the country can expect 10 to 14 tropical cyclones before the end of the year.

Analiza Solis, chief of the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division at PAGASA, said some may hit land while others might just pass the Philippine area of responsibility.

Some may enhance the southwest monsoon, she added.

Senator Loren Legarda warned the effects of El Niño on weather patterns, agriculture, water resources, and ecosystems can have far-reaching consequences on food security, economies, and overall well-being.

She said the impact of El Niño is indeed a serious concern that requires urgent and decisive actions.

"We must implement measures to mitigate its impacts, promote climate-resilient practices, ensure equitable allocation of resources, and foster regional and international collaboration to address this challenge effectively," she said.

She said the government and the private sector must prepare and work together in reducing the risk and negative effects of El Niño on the coun-

try and its people.

"We must prioritize water supply and food security," she said.

"Our country's adaptation program must be all set to lessen the effects of El Niño on our farmers and fisherfolk who are already burdened by extreme climate events and disasters," she added. "We can surpass this dry season if we consolidate all efforts and adequately prepare for its effects."

Meanwhile, the European Union's climate monitoring service said the world saw its hottest June on record last month, as climate change and the El Niño weather pattern looked likely to drive another scorching northern summer.

The announcement from the EU monitor Copernicus marked the latest in a series of records for a year that has already seen a drought in Spain and fierce heat waves in China and the United States.

"The month was the warmest June globally at just over 0.5 degrees Celsius above the 1991-2020 average, exceeding June 2019 — the previous record — by a substantial margin," the EU monitor said in a statement from its C3S climate unit.

Temperatures reached June records across northwest Europe while parts of Canada, the United States, Mexico, Asia and eastern Australia "were significantly warmer than normal," Copernicus noted.

On the other hand it was cooler than normal in western Australia, the western United States and western Russia, it said.

It was the latest in a series of heat records over recent years, reflecting the impact of global warming driven by greenhouse gases released from human activity.

Preliminary readings published Wednesday by US meteorologists indicated Tuesday was the hottest day ever recorded, based on data from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers for Environmental Prediction.

Copernicus noted that sea surface temperatures were higher globally than any previous June on record, with "extreme marine heatwaves" around Ireland, Britain and the Baltic.

Antarctic sea ice reached its lowest extent for June since satellite observations began, at 17 percent below average.

C3S scientist Julien Nicolas said the June record was driven largely by "very warm ocean surface temperatures" in the Pacific and Atlantic due to El Niño, a periodic warming phenomenon.

"On top of that is this warming trend of the ocean absorbing 90 percent of heat released by human activity," he added.

The global temperature was 0.53 C above the 30-year average at an average of 16.51C (61.72F), he calculated.

"June 2023 is way above the others. This is the kind of anomaly we are not used to," Nicolas said.

Petteri Taalas, secretary-general of the UN's World Meteorological Organization, warned on Monday that El Niño "will greatly increase the likelihood of breaking temperature records and triggering more extreme heat in many parts of the world and in the ocean."

He urged governments "to mobilize preparations to limit the impacts on our health, our ecosystems and our economies."

El Niño is a naturally occurring pattern associated with increased heat worldwide, as well as drought in some parts of the world and heavy rains elsewhere.

In addition, human activity — mainly the burning of fossil fuels — is continuing to emit roughly 40 billion tonnes of planet-warming CO2 into the atmosphere every year.

As well as withering crops, melting glaciers and raising the risk of wildfires, higher-than-normal temperatures also cause health problems ranging from heat-stroke and dehydration to cardiovascular stress.

In the United States, local officials said last week that at least 13 people died from an extreme heat wave in Texas and Louisiana.

China issued its highest-level heat alert for northern parts of the country as Beijing baked in temperatures around 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit).

After a record hot June in Britain, water use restrictions were imposed in parts of southeastern England, and Scotland put regions on water scarcity alert.

The world has warmed an average of nearly 1.2 C since the mid-1800s, unleashing extreme weather including more intense heatwaves, more severe droughts in some areas and storms made fiercer by rising seas. **With AFP**





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## NWRB to further cut Angat water allocation

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has decided to further reduce allocation for water supply and irrigation once the Angat Dam falls below the minimum operating level, which is projected to happen this weekend.

In a text message yesterday, NWRB executive director Sevilla David said the board would modify the raw water allocation for the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and National Irrigation Administration (NIA) if the level of Angat Dam falls below 180 meters.

The MWSS will get an allocation of 48 cubic meters per second from the current 50 CMS.

The NIA will receive up to 20 CMS from 38.5 CMS until end-

July, according to David.

Once Angat reaches the minimum operating level, the NWRB official said water supply for Metro Manila would be prioritized over irrigation.

David noted that the NIA allocation would be for the farmlands in Bulacan and Pampanga.

"This allocation will still be reviewed based on the development of the level of the dam," he said.

Based on the monitoring of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, Angat's water level further dropped to 181.18 meters yesterday from 181.53 meters on Wednesday.

With Angat just 1.22 meters

away before reaching its critical level, David said they project the dam water level to fall below 180 meters this weekend.

"So our advisory is, once it falls below 180 meters, allocation will automatically adjust, which is also in preparation for El Niño," he said.

MWSS division manager Patrick Dizon said they would review the impact of the reduced Angat allocation with Maynilad and Manila Water Company Inc.

MWSS deputy administrator Jose Dorado Jr. said Metro Manila mayors should pass ordinances regulating golf courses, car wash and swimming pools amid the dry spell. — Danessa Rivera, Bella Cariaso





97-07-229

# Maynilad expanding

## Putatan capacity

By DANESSA RIVERA

West zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. is spending P580 million to expand the capacity of its Putatan water treatment facility to meet the growing requirements in the southern portion of its concession area in anticipation of El Niño.

Maynilad is implementing the Putatan Water Treatment Plant (PWTP) expansion project in Muntinlupa City, based on a notice of public hearing published by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) yesterday.

"The objective of the project is to optimize the operation of the current treatment plants and increase its production capacity from 300,000 cubic meters per day to 340,000 cubic meters per day," the notice read.

The project will also "provide additional 22,000 cubic meters per day

production through a modular treatment plant which will augment the supply deficiency on the southern part of the concession area."

In a text message, Maynilad corporate communications head Jennifer Rufo said this project is eyed for completion within the year in time for the impact of El Niño.

"This involves the installation of an auxiliary treatment facility, among other enhancement works, that can increase plant production by around 20 million liters per day (MLD). Estimated project cost is P580 million. This is part of our program to augment water supply in time for El Niño," she said.

At present, Maynilad has two treatment plants in Putatan, Muntinlupa City that provide 300-MLD - or 300,000 cubic meters per day - of water supply for around 1.7 million customers in the south.

The water company said this current capacity is already stretched to meet the current requirements of its customers in

the south.

In a radio interview, Rufo said the current raw water intake from Laguna Lake is of good quality.

"The quality of raw water from laguna lake has improved so we have high water production from the Putatan treatment plant," she said.

Earlier this year, its PTWP Supply Zone experienced water service interruptions for 15 days due to the reduced production in the water treatment plant "resulting from a damaged sludge removal equipment, coupled with a rise in turbidity levels of the raw water from Laguna Lake."





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## Angat Dam nears critical level

The water level of Angat Dam continues to drop.

It is only less than two meters before reaching its critical level, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) said on Wednesday, July 5.

The critical level is 180 meters and was 181.22 meters on Wednesday.

But NWRB Executive Director Sevillo David Jr. said the continuous drop of elevation in water reservoirs in the Philippines is not yet an effect of the El Niño phenomenon.

He said that its impact is expected to kick in late this year until the first quarter of 2024.

David said that there is no adjustment for water allocation at present in Angat. However, this may change if

its water level reaches below 180 meters.

If this happens, the NWRB has no choice but to reduce the allocation for irrigation and prioritize supplying the needs of National Capital Region (NCR) residents.

David revealed that they have been in contact with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to seek other alternative water sources such as deep wells.

He is hoping that the months of July to September which are usually the times when the country experiences the southwest monsoon or "habagat" would avert the continuous drop in the water level of the country's reservoirs. (Nicole Magmanlac)





07-07-26

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## Phivolcs: Mayon spews more volcanic debris

Mayon Volcano continues to be restive as nine pyroclastic density currents (PDCs) and 243 rockfall events were monitored in the past 24 hours, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

Phivolcs said there were seven dome-collapse PDCs locally known as *uson* or an avalanche of volcanic ash and hot gases that lasted for one to four minutes. Two lava-front PDCs that generated 300-meter-high plumes were also monitored.

Collapsed debris was deposited around 4,000 meters from the crater.

Continuous moderate degassing from the summit crater produced plumes that rose 500 meters while sulfur dioxide emissions averaged 1,621 tons on Wednesday.

Phivolcs reiterated its warning of a possible hazardous eruption within weeks or days.

The agency recommended the evacuation of residents within the six-kilometer permanent danger zone due to the threat of PDCs, lava flow, rockfalls and other volcanic hazards.

Mayon had spewed 7.3 million cubic meters of volcanic materials since last month, according to Phivolcs.

Paul Alanis, resident volcanologist at the Lignon Hill Observatory in Legazpi City, allayed fears that lava flow had spilled over the major gullies of the volcano.

"What they observe at night are the detached or collapsed debris from the oozing lava. These are not part of the lava flow. Lava flow remained confined in the Mi-isi and Bonga gullies," he said.

### EU aid

Meanwhile, the European Union (EU) is allocating 50,000 euros or approximately P3 million in emergency humanitarian assistance to families affected by Mayon's unrest.

The EU funding will support the Philippine Red Cross in the distribution of emergency shelter items, sleeping and hygiene kits as well as primary health-care assistance.

The aid will also be used to increase access to clean water supplies and sanitation facilities.

The funding is part of EU's contribution to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

- Romina Cabrera, Cet Dematera, Pia Lee-Brago





# Mayon rockfalls, PDCs, volcanic tremors continue

By ELLALYN V. RUIZ

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) on Thursday, July 6, continued to observe pyroclastic density currents (PDCs), rockfalls, and volcanic tremors from Mayon Volcano's effusive eruption.

Phivolcs recorded seven PDCs caused by a lava dome collapse lasting one to four minutes and two PDC events caused by a lava front collapse producing a 300-meter-high light brown plume between 5 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5, and 5 a.m. on Thursday, July 6.

It also recorded 243 rockfall occurrences and an ongoing "repetitive pulse tremor" that began around 3:47 p.m. on July 3.

Phivolcs noted that the "very slow" effusion of lava from Mayon Volcano has continued to feed lava flows and collapse debris on the Mi-isi and Bonga gullies.

There were also sustained rockfall and PDC events on the Mi-isi, Bonga, and Basud gullies on the southern, southeastern, and eastern flanks of the volcano, respectively.

Lava flows have progressed along the Mi-isi and Bonga gullies by about 2,800 meters and 1,300 meters, respectively, while collapsed debris has reached a distance of 4,000 meters from the crater.

Phivolcs also pointed out that the Mayon Volcano continues to emit a "moderate" amount of sulfur dioxide, producing a 500-meter-high steam-laden plume that drifted west-southwest and west-northwest.

According to Phivolcs, Mayon Volcano's current activity still shows an "increased tendency toward hazardous eruption," and as such, Alert Level 3 is maintained.

There is still the possibility of a "hazardous eruption within weeks or even days" because of the presence of magma at the crater, Phivolcs said.

Due to increasing unrest, the Mayon Volcano's status has been upgraded twice in the past month, first to Level 2 on June 5 and then to Level 3 on June 8.

Phivolcs strongly advised the evacuation within the six-kilometer permanent danger zone due to PDCs, lava, rockfalls, and other volcanic hazards.

In addition, Phivolcs advised communities to maintain increased vigilance against PDCs, lahars, and sediment-laden stream flows along channels draining the volcano edifice, as heavy rainfall could cause channel-confined lahars and sediment-laden stream flows.

Pilots were also asked to avoid flying close to the volcano because ash from a sudden eruption may pose hazards to aircraft.

According to Phivolcs, communities on the southern side of Mayon Volcano may most likely experience ash fall events based on the current wind pattern.



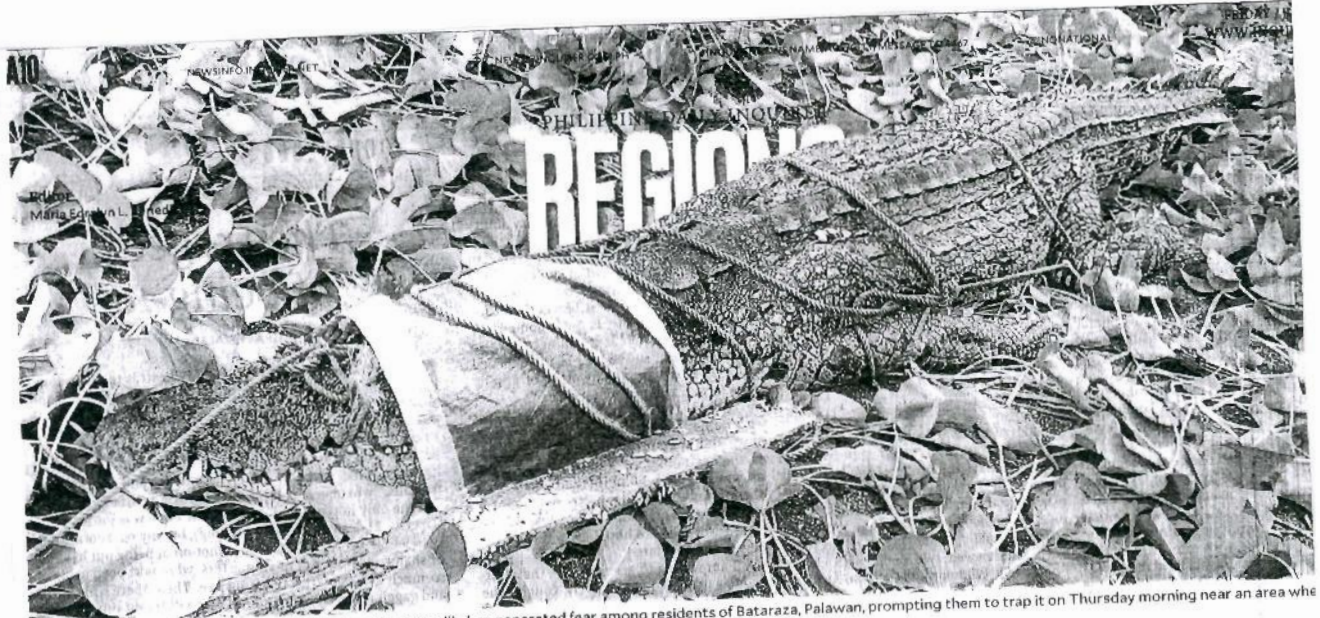


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**TRAPPED** This 4.54-meter long (14.9 feet) saltwater crocodile has generated fear among residents of Bataraza, Palawan, prompting them to trap it on Thursday morning near an area where fishers catch octopus. The crocodile died later, likely from drowning. —PHOTO COURTESY OF BATARAZA MDRMO

### IMPROPER HANDLING IN PALAWAN, LARGE CROC DIES IN CAPTIVITY

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A 4.54-meter (14.9 feet) long saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) died of suspected drowning after residents captured it in the waters off Bataraza town in Palawan province on Thursday morning.

Jovic Fabello, spokesperson for the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS), said residents of Barangay Inogbong decided to trap the crocodile out of fear when they saw it swimming in an area, about a kilometer away from the shore, where they were catching octopus.

"The problem was the trap used by residents was not like the ones used by our experts at the crocodile farm. The crocodile, after it was caught, was not immediately restrained to close its mouth," Fabello said in a phone interview.

The Bataraza public information office said the crocodile was caught in the waters off Sitio Gunob around 8 a.m.

When the field staff from PCSDS arrived with barangay officials at 10 a.m., the crocodile was already dead, said Fabello.

"What happened there, however, was after catching the crocodile, they (residents) just dragged it using a boat going to the shore and it was at this point that [it likely] drowned," he added.

#### Skinny, sickly

Fabello said that upon initial inspection, the PCSDS staff noted that the crocodile appeared skinny and sickly, with some seashells sticking on its body.

A team led by PCSDS veterinarian Glenn Rebong would go to Bataraza on Friday to conduct necropsy on the crocodile to determine the cause of its death and its sex.

This type of crocodile has been classified as "least concern" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List since 1996.

In January, a 4.57-meter (15 feet) long crocodile was captured by residents at Barangay Sumbiling also in Bataraza. The crocodile, however, died later due to bullet wounds.

In April, a 2.07-meter long crocodile (6.8 feet) also drowned while trapped in a fishpen in Aborlan town. A month later, a 1.67-meter (5.5 feet) long crocodile was rescued in Puerto Princesa City after it was trapped in another fishpen. —GERALDFORD TICKE INQ





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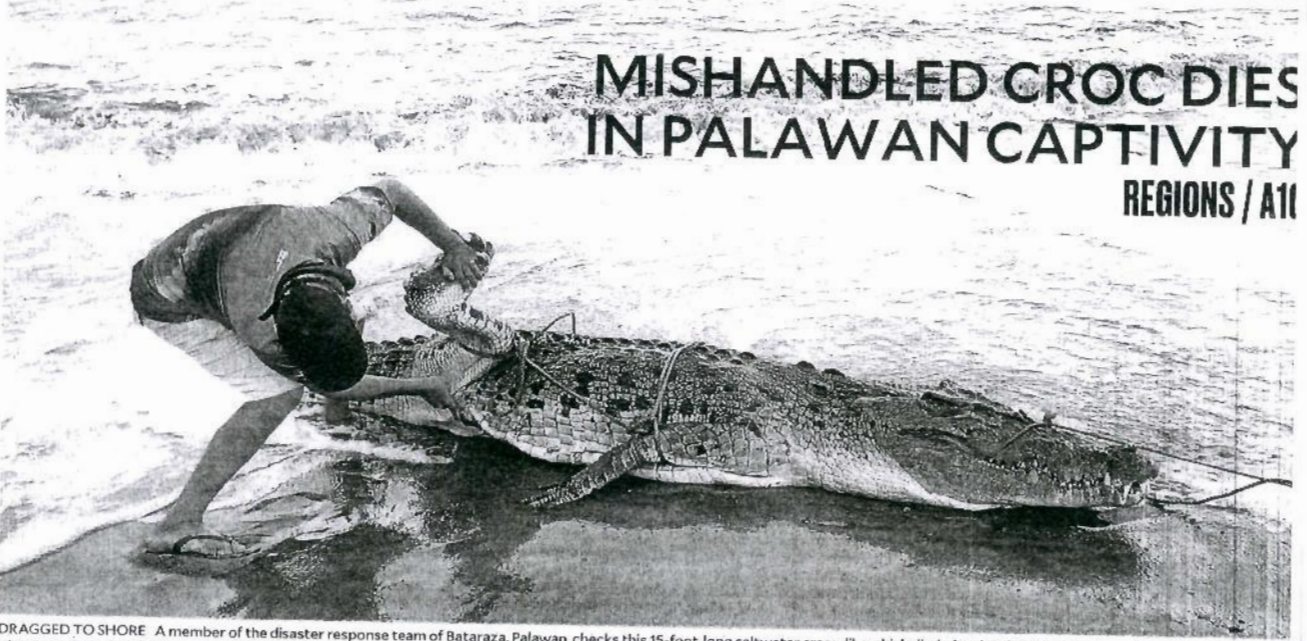
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# MISHANDLED CROC DIES IN PALAWAN CAPTIVITY

REGIONS / A11

**DRAGGED TO SHORE** A member of the disaster response team of Bataraza, Palawan, checks this 15-foot-long saltwater crocodile, which died after local fishermen trapped and dragged it to shore on Thursday. This type of crocodile has been classified to be of "least concern" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List since 1996. —PHOTO COURTESY OF BATARAZA MDRRI





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## 'Pesticides worsen climate emergency'

**LONDON:** Pesticides in food production are overwhelmingly derived from fossil fuels and worsen climate change, an NGO said in a report Wednesday, urging UK government action.

Pesticides exacerbate the climate emergency throughout their life cycle," from manufacture to disposal, Pesticide Action Network UK said.

"Unless we change our approach, the impacts of the climate emergency are expected to lead to an increase in pesticide use, which will create a vicious cycle between chemical dependency and worsening climate breakdown."

Global food systems account for more than a third of all greenhouse gas emissions, including

from agriculture, according to the findings.

The group also said that major companies including ExxonMobil, Shell and Chevron Phillips Chemical, manufacture pesticides or their chemical ingredients.

"Despite this, pesticide reduction as a solution to the climate crisis has largely been ignored," the NGO said in the report published with Pesticide Collaboration, a grouping of fellow campaigners.

The agro-chemical industry presents pesticide use as a "climate mitigation strategy," the report said.

But such a strategy "perpetuates the myth" that "continuous use of harmful chemicals is the only way to guarantee global food security while protecting precious habitats," it said.

The NGO also said the controversial herbicide glyphosate was increasingly being used, comparing its overall impact to the carbon footprint of tens of thousands of long-haul flights from London to Sydney.

Britain has long vowed to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 to help tackle climate change.

"The UK government must take action to transform agriculture in order to avoid the worst effects of today's climate and nature crises," the NGO said. "Policies addressing climate change should, therefore, include a focus on pesticide reduction as a key strategy for tackling greenhouse gas emissions and improving the climate resilience of food and farming system."

AFP





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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# President Marcos eyes solution to flooding and water shortage

**F**looding and water shortage are perennial problems that keep hounding the country year in and year out.

This could have long been resolved, or at least mitigated, if only Republic Act No. 6716—the Rainwater Collector and Springs Development Act of 1989—is being religiously implemented.

Under the current administration, President Marcos is taking a step further in a bid to address these perennial problems.

Last month, President Marcos revealed his administration's plan to construct large water impounding facilities outside Metro Manila as part of his program in addressing these problems.

While previous projects have zeroed in on efforts to control flooding, Marcos is incorporating floodwater management by putting up water impounding facilities. Through this, floodwater will be stored and eventually made to good use during the dry season.

"Let us not waste water because we will need that in the future. 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 facilities," Marcos said in a video message shortly after his sectoral

meeting with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) last month at Malacañan Palace to discuss the government's flood control programs.

Marcos said that through these water impounding facilities, flooding in Metro Manila will be addressed; at the same time the rainwater collected may be used for agriculture, particularly irrigation, when the need arises.

To realize his objective, Marcos has 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. The focus of the plan includes ongoing flood control projects in Pangasinana, Cavite, Leyte, and Cagayan de Oro City.

In his directive, Marcos cited the need for a comprehensive plan for flood control and management—where the floodwaters should go and what should be done.

We hail President Marcos for eyeing a climate resilient plan that shoots two birds with one stone. We, likewise, hope that everyone in the bureaucracy will play his or her role to realize this plan.





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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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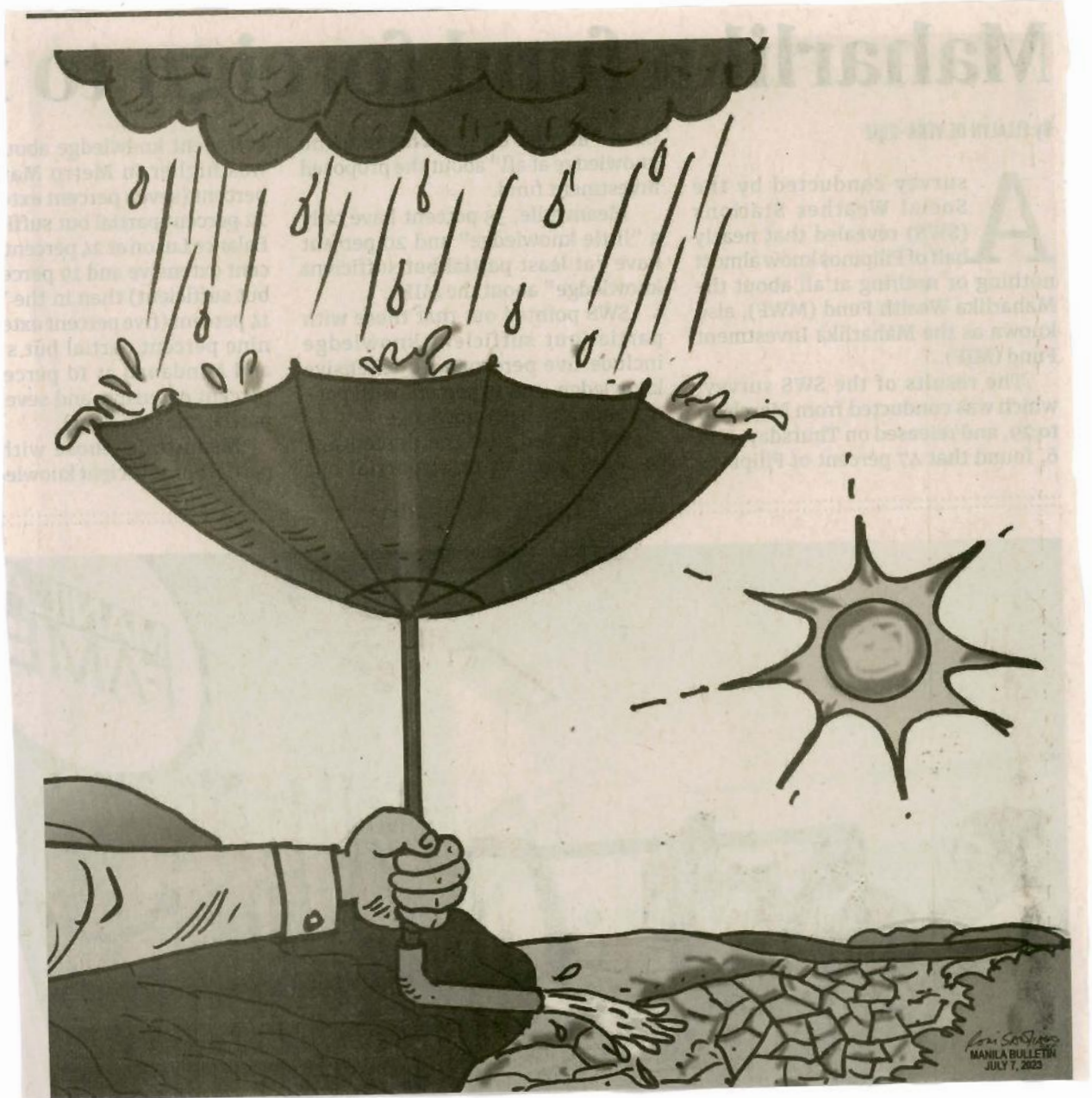
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## 4.8-earthquake jolts Zambales

By ELLALYN RUIZ

A magnitude-4.8 earthquake jolted Zambales on Thursday, July 6.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the earthquake's epicenter was 26 kilometers west of Palauig, Zambales.

It had a shallow depth of 46 kilometers.

Phivolcs said the earthquake

was felt at Intensity III (weak) in Quezon City.

Its instruments also recorded the quake at Intensity III in Botolan, Iba, Cabangan, and San Marcelino in Zambales.

Phivolcs said the earthquake was tectonic, caused by the movement of an active fault near the area.

It does not expect damage or aftershocks from this earthquake.





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Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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Website: r2.emb.gov.ph Tel. #: (078) 396-0724

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On the ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP) of the CAGAYAN NORTH SOLAR POWER PROJECT of NATURES RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVT. (NAREDCO) CORPORATION located in BARANGAY MAGAPIT AND STA. MARIA, LAL-LO, CAGAYAN.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed CAGAYAN NORTH SOLAR POWER PROJECT to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Date/Time	Venue	Details
21 July 2023 (Friday), 9:00 AM <i>(Registration starts at 8:00 AM)</i>	Barangay Gymnasium, Barangay Magapit, Lal-lo, Cagayan	Face-to-Face

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EPRMP of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

<b>Project Name</b>	Proposed Cagayan North Solar Power Project
<b>Project Location</b>	Barangay Magapit and Sta. Maria, Lal-lo, Cagayan
<b>Project Type</b>	Renewable Energy Project
<b>Proponent</b>	Natures Renewable Energy Devt. (NAREDCO) Corporation

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the CLEARANCE AND PERMITTING DIVISION (CPD) of this Office through e-mail at [recordsr2@emb.gov.ph](mailto:recordsr2@emb.gov.ph), three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EPRMP and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable on our website: *(kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/Consultation link found in our website)* while copies will be available in our Office.

**EMB Regional Office No. 02**  
Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan

For more details, please contact the Clearance Permitting Division at this Office at telephone number (078) 396-0724 and look for the Chief, Environmental Impact Assessment Section, For. Patrocinia P. Dalluag.

(PDI – July 7 & 14, 2023)