

12 July 2023 Wednesday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Treated Since 1898

The Manila Times

AS
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

07-12-23

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

P17M A MONTH?

Govt agencies told to conserve water

BY JANINE ALEXIS MIGUEL

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday called on government agencies to reduce their water consumption as some of them rack up millions in water bills a month.

"We have government agencies that exceed P1 million for their water bill; some are more than P10 million per month," DENR Undersecretary Carlos Primo David, who supervises the Water Resources

Management Office (WRMO), said.

David said that in some agencies, the water bills reached P15 million to P17 million.

"These are government compounds, which include 20 [to] 30

buildings inside, but only have one water meter for the whole compound," he added.

David, however, did not identify these agencies.

He said that if government agencies can lower their water consumption by 50 percent, 17,000 households can benefit from a single agency's water savings.

The official said huge amounts of water are lost because of leaks, especially in old government buildings.

To encourage agencies to lower their water bills, David suggested giving incentives instead of penalizing or shaming them.

"It will look better if we could give incentives. As for the next steps, I thought that for every peso that you are able to save in your water bill, you should be able to partly recover it," he said.

He added that the DENR, the Civil Service Commission, and the Department of Budget and Management are collaborating on a water conservation campaign.

The WRMO earlier called on Metro Manila residents to cut down on activities that consume huge amounts of water as the water levels in dams recede and with the looming dry spell brought by El Niño.



07-12-23

TITLE: DENR

PAGE

DATE

2/2

DENR flags high water bills of gov't agencies

FROM A1

Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. to install submeters at all government buildings that share a compound, even if they already have a mother meter.

"This will allow us to determine which of these offices have leaks and which of them actually need to conserve water," he said. "I should also mention that we started helping out these agencies to lower their bill and save precious water."

Apart from the national agencies that need to mind their water consumption, there were also barangay halls that had been incurring up to P100,000 in monthly water billings despite having only a handful of office staff members, David noted.

The DENR has begun checking the water connections of the government compounds with the highest billings and so far found six instances where water leaks had largely gone unchecked, he said.

With the leaks fixed, "we'll see the results of this and [it]

will show the savings in their water bills for the month of July," he said.

The DENR is focusing its attention on the matter to prevent a repeat of what happened in 2019, when Metro Manila and nearby provinces reeled from shortage as the water level at Angat Dam dropped below the critical level of 160 meters.

"We are not yet in that kind of situation but we are doing early interventions so we can avoid that from happening again," he said. "I think this will be the first time in our history that we will enjoin the government, LGUs (local government units), and schools to actually actively participate in our water conservation campaign."

Buy more tankers now

Also on Tuesday, Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian said LGUs must now start setting up their own water storage facilities as a short-term measure in the face of a possible shortage.

"In the short-term, I can see the (local government units) playing a very big role especially in distribution and additional water by having their own



Carlos Primo David
—PHOTO FROM PHILSA WEBSITE

tankers, their own storage—that (option) should be activated," he said in a media forum.

"Water will no longer be (available) 24/7. And as water rationing will be inevitable, we must make sure that even those who live in inaccessible or far-away areas are also given water, and not just limited to those who can afford it or who have the means to pay," he said.

Private investment

He cited the experience of his hometown of Valenzuela City where the local government purchased water tankers which were then assigned schedules and specific target

areas for rationing.

In the long term, he said, the national government should look into bringing in private investors to build new water impounding facilities.

"I am aware that the construction of Kaliwa Dam is still ongoing but that will take time. What our country needs right now is what is being done in other countries—it's called 'pumped storage,' which can supply water in the event that Angat Dam dries up," he said.

Gatchalian said he would file a resolution to assess the current government measures in place to mitigate the adverse effects of El Niño and the dwindling water supply.

"We need to talk about this and I am aware that the Senate committee on natural resources is set to conduct a hearing on this... to find out the budgetary needs for water rationing or to help the LGUs," he said.

"We are looking at three main concerns" arising from the water situation, he said: Its effect on the power supply, agriculture and the operation of medical facilities. —WITH A REPORT FROM MELVIN GASCON INQ



07-12-23

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

1/2

DENR FLAGS HIGH WATER BILLS OF GOV'T AGENCIES

By Dempsey Reyes
@dempseyreyesINQ

As the El Niño phenomenon tightens its grip, the government is stepping up the campaign to conserve water starting with various national agencies, noting that they average around P10 million in water billings a month.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources

(DENR) on Tuesday disclosed that some agencies had apparently been remiss in checking their premises for wastage and leakages that they end up spending P15 million to P17 million a month for water.

In a media briefing, Environment Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science Carlos Primo David said the government offices with the highest water consumption

mostly had compounds made up of multiple buildings that rely on just "one mother meter" for their collective usage.

"They don't have individual water meters, therefore you can't identify which of the tenants or suboffices within a compound actually have water leaks or have high consumption of water," David said.

He declined to name the government agencies, saying

"it's not public information."

The DENR's Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) issued last week two bulletins on water conservation as the onset of El Niño prompted warnings of dry spells lasting until the first quarter of 2024 and as the water level at Angat Dam, the main source of water for Metro Manila, went below the minimum operating level of 180 meters.

In one of the bulletins, the

WRMO directed all government agencies to implement water conservation measures, including having separate water meters, checking for leaks and faulty fixtures, and shutting down the main building's valve from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Government building administrators were also advised not to use potable water for watering plants or cleaning the surroundings.

In the second bulletin, the agency extended the reminder to all residents of Metro Manila and nearby provinces, calling on barangay officials as well as condominium and subdivision managers to cut back on activities like watering lawns or washing vehicles.

David reported that the DENR had initiated a program in partnership with water concessionaires Maynilad **A2**



TITLE :

DENR eyes perk to boost water conservation drive

THE Water Resource Management Office (WRMO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is not keen on cracking the whip on erring government agencies for their failure comply with water conservation measures.

Instead, government agencies will receive incentives for every peso saved through water conservation.

"In my experience with government and dealing with agencies in general, we do not respond with penalties. In fact, *mas maganda pang magbigay ng incentives*. This will be our next step. For every peso we conserve, I will try to talk to DBM *dahil may tubig kang natipid, baka pwedeng bumalik iyong savings for other use*," David told reporters during a virtual news conference on Tuesday.

David said a concerted effort from the government agencies alone would go a long way.

Some government agencies, he said, are accumulating monthly water bills that range from P1 million to P10 million. In extreme cases, in some government compounds with a single water meter, the monthly bill reaches up to P15 million to P17 million.

He said as a corrective measure to determine possible sources of leak, the DENR-WRMO is working with Maynilad and Manila Water to install individual sub-meters for every building.

While some government agencies that occupy compounds are a big problem, equally bigger problems are government offices or agencies whose monthly water bill is way up the expected monthly consumption.

David noted that some barangay halls are overspending on water, with monthly bills reaching up to P100,000 a month. He added that in Metro Manila alone, there are a dozen barangays with monthly bills breaching the P100,000 mark.

He said with monthly water bills this high, the assumption is that there are leak problems. Many of government agencies are occupying old buildings with old piping systems, David noted.

On Monday, David said teams from the DENR-WRMO have started to go from building to building targeting government offices to remind the building administrator of the campaign to conserve water.

David added the situation in Angat is not improving and there are signs that the situation will not improve within the year and may even reach up to the first quarter of 2024.

"In the last few days, we have seen the level of Angat go below the minimum operating level. We have to clarify what that means. The level at Angat is 178.8 meters, which is below the 180 meters minimum operating level of Angat," he said.

David said the DENR-WRMO will also remind government agencies of an order handed down by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) directing the local government units (LGUs) to practice rainwater harvesting.

The official said government agencies should also find a way to harvest rain and use it to reduce dependence on clean water that comes from Angat.

He said DENR Regional Offices, for one, maintain such rainwater harvesting facilities for non-essential water uses like cleaning cars and watering plants.

In the next few months, David said, the campaign to conserve water would be extended to the general public as well as business establishments to conserve water through recycling and rainwater harvesting.

According to David, government offices that occupy old buildings must ensure that leaks are plugged, including faulty toilet facilities like the men's urinals and lavatory tanks must be fixed.

"For every faulty urinal, it means wasting liters of clean water," he said. David said the public should also practice rainwater harvesting.

"Based on the forecast, we are expecting rain in the afternoon of Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday and we really need to harvest whatever little water we can get from the rain to save water," he said.

"We don't want a repeat in 2019 wherein people were compelled to fetch water. At that time, the level of Angat is 157 meters. Literally, we have a few weeks of water, and not a single drop will be available from Angat. We are not yet in that situation which is why we are doing this intervention. Finally, we need rain, hopefully, it will come sooner than later," he said. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Manila Standard



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

07-12-23

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE

Double whammy: No power, water

8-min. Meralco outage latest woe

By Alena Mae S. Flores, Maricel V. Cruz and Macon Ramos-Araneta

IF THE country's dwindling water supplies weren't enough amid the El Niño phenomenon, half a million customers of the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, and Quezon on Tuesday lost power for about eight minutes after a power plant tripped and led to an automatic load drop (ALD).

Meralco said the load drop—triggered by the tripping of the San Lorenzo Natural Gas Power Plant in Batangas -- occurred at 10:58 a.m. and power was fully restored by 11:06 a.m. on July 11 or after eight minutes.

The ALD was implemented following National Grid Corp. of the Philippines'

Next page

SOME WATER, NO LIGHT.

Residents collect water from a community deep well at Tambunting, Sta. Cruz, Manila, while a family uses a candle while waiting for the light to come back on after lunchtime (inset) in Tondo district on Tuesday. **Norman Cruz**





TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

Double...

From A1

declaration of a yellow alert in the Luzon grid from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

NGCP lifted the yellow alert at 4 p.m. due to lower demand and sufficient power reserves.

A yellow alert is issued when the operating margin (of electricity) is "insufficient to meet the transmission grid's regulating and contingency requirement" and leads to temporary brownouts -- lasting minutes, like the one that happened yesterday -- as the system corrects the fluctuations, NGCP said.

A red alert status, meanwhile, often means longer blackouts, as it is issued when the power supply is insufficient to meet consumer demand and the transmission grid's regulating requirement, it added.

Although the San Lorenzo plant is gas-powered, experts have expressed fears of a double whammy, as the country's hydroelectric plants would also go offline and cause more brownouts with the shrinking water levels in hydropower dams nationwide.

National Water Resources Board executive director Sevilla David Jr. previously said water levels in all major dams have

been going down, with Angat Dam's reserve nearing the 180 critical level.

"If the Angat Dam water level continues to go down, it could breach the minimum operating level of 180 meters. We are now at 181.22 or about a meter away from critical level," David said in a separate press briefing at the Palace.

"If the water level falls below 180 meters, we will prioritize the water supply of Metro Manila compared to other users that depend on Angat, including irrigation and the power sector. Angat Dam is currently contributing to power generation going to the Luzon grid," he added.

Meanwhile, Meralco said it activated the interruptible load program and secured de-loading commitments from its big-load customers.

"These customers will be on standby in case there's a need to de-load to help avoid service interruptions. We continue to monitor the situation and are ready to implement contingency measures as needed," Meralco said.

The NGCP declared a yellow alert due to the tripping of the San Lorenzo Power Plant Modules 50 and 60 at 267MW each, at around 10:58 a.m., causing the decline in grid frequency.

The Department of Energy said the contingency reserve fell below the level

of the highest unit online.

"Load dropping (interruptions) were reported to have occurred at NGCP and Meralco feeders following the tripping of San Lorenzo, but were immediately restored at 1106H for Meralco customers and at 1104H for NGCP customers," DOE said.

DOE said it is still coordinating with San Lorenzo and other stakeholders for the cause of the tripping.

Earlier, the Palace said the Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) will issue this week its recommendations to address the effects of the El Niño phenomenon, but provided no specifics

"We will have a plan for the mitigation of the effects of El Niño this week. I just spoke to the Secretary of DENR this morning and she has told me that she will be prepared to make public what needs to be done," President Marcos said during a meeting in Malacanang on government measures

Also on Tuesday, Deputy Speaker and Las Pinas Rep. Camille Villar urged the government to set up a fund that farmers affected by El Niño may tap into as a form of assistance.

"It is important to discuss this now and prepare for contingency measures, especially for our small-scale farmers," Villar said.



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

07-12-23

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

MARCOS ASSURES SUFFICIENT WATER AMID EL NIÑO THREAT

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday assured the public that there would be a sufficient supply of water in the country amid the El Niño weather phenomenon.

Marcos made the statement as more than half a million households within the concession area of Maynilad Water Services Inc. will have to endure service interruptions as the water level of Angat Dam continues to drop.

"Sapat na suplay ng tubig sa gitnang El Niño! Iyan ang sentro ng miting natin kasama ang Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries kahapon (Sufficient water supply in the middle of El Niño! That was the focus of our meeting with the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries yesterday)," he said in a statement.

"We expect in this priority the action of experts in water manage-

ment, even the good implementation of innovative measures such as the use of surface water in irrigation, flood control and power generation," the President added.

On Monday, Maynilad water supply operations head Ronald Padua said that around 591,000 customers in Caloocan, Navotas, Malabon, Valenzuela, Manila and Quezon cities would have their supply cut from 7 p.m. to 4 a.m. **►SufficientA2**

■ SUFFICIENT FROM A1

MARCOS

This, however, will be extended to 6 a.m. in some areas in Caloocan, Malabon and Quezon City because of their distance from Angat Dam.

In a statement on Monday, Presidential Communications Office Secretary Cheloy Garafil said the Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) would release this

week recommended measures to help address the impact of the El Niño phenomenon.

Garafil also said the President issued a directive to all government agencies, including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), to come up with these measures this week.

"We will have a plan for the mitigation of the effects of El Niño this week. I just spoke to the Secretary of DENR this morning, and she has told me that she will

be prepared to make public what needs to be done," Marcos said during a meeting in Malacañang.

The DENR, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) are working with the WRMO to address the dry spell.

The WRMO, created under Executive Order 22, is under the DENR.

Marcos announced he had tapped former DPWH secretary

Rogelio Singson to help the government come up with a solution to the problem.

Singson, a water management expert, will help with the contingency measure for El Niño and in crafting an overall plan for the Philippines.

"Because we have enough surface water. It's just a question of protecting it.

"We are designing now a system of catchment basins not only for flood control. The original plan was only for flood control. But

now, we have said we have to ... that flood control always now includes irrigation and sometimes even power, if we can do it," Marcos said.

The President added that the NIA would rely on the dams for a continuous supply of water for the irrigation of lands.

He said the hot and humid weather being felt today was not yet the onset of El Niño.

"We have a plan. So we are making sure that we will be ready when that time comes," he said.

Senate President Pro Tempore Lorna Regina "Loren" Legarda also on Tuesday urged the public to conserve water as Angat Dam levels have "continued to fall" beyond its minimum operating level.

Angat Dam, the source of over 98 percent of water in Metro Manila, fell below the minimum operating level of 180 meters on Saturday, July 8, when it registered 179.99 meters.

**CATHERINE S. VALENTE,
AND BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO**



PAGE



07-12-23

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE

1/2

OPINION

Preparing for El Niño

AFTER COVID, we face another crisis—this time a climactic induced crisis we call El Niño.

Many parts of the country may experience the impact of El Niño aggravated as it worsens in the coming months, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) has projected.

“If it will happen, the worsening will affect at least 11 provinces by August and then by October it will become 46,” NDRRMC Executive Director Ariel Nepomuceno told CNN Philippines.

Filipinos have developed resilience in coping with scorching temperatures, yet we may be downplaying the potential harm of the upcoming El Niño phenomenon forecasted to impact the nation starting this July.

But what is El Niño?

El Niño is a climatic phenomenon characterized by the warming of sea surface temperatures in the Central and Eastern Pacific Oceans, resulting in significant disruptions to global weather patterns.

In the Philippines, El Niño events occur periodically and have profound implications for the environment, economy, and society.

“El Niño’s impacts are not easy to overcome but good governance and a united society will make it easier for us to ride out this storm.”

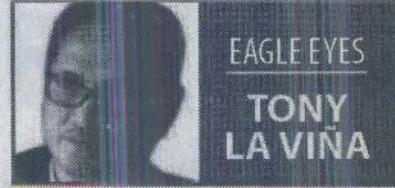
The recent announcement by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) regarding an impending El Niño episode and its potential intensification highlights the importance of understanding and addressing its effects.

This article explores the challenges associated with El Niño in the Philippines, both in terms of the environment and the economy.

El Niño often leads to below-normal rainfall, dry spells, and droughts in the Philippines, which have a profound impact on the environment.

Insufficient precipitation results in water scarcity, reduced water levels in dams, and decreased agricultural productivity.

Droughts damage crops, leading to lower yields and reduced food production. In previous El Niño events, rice production has declined by up to 20 percent, exerting pressure on food security and causing price increases.



Water sources such as rivers and lakes may also experience degradation, impacting aquatic ecosystems and the livelihoods of fishing communities.

Additionally, El Niño can contribute to elevated sea surface temperatures, leading to coral bleaching and the degradation of marine ecosystems.

The Philippine economy heavily relies on the agricultural sector, with over 20% of the labor force engaged in farming.

El Niño’s impact on agriculture can result in substantial economic losses. Crop failures and reduced yields not only affect the livelihoods of farmers but also disrupt the supply chain, leading to price hikes and inflation.

These ripple effects extend to other sectors, as higher food prices strain household budgets and limit consumer spending on non-essential goods and services.

Furthermore, reduced hydropower generation due to low dam water levels can result in power shortages and higher electricity prices. Industries dependent on a stable and affordable energy supply may face production challenges, potentially hindering economic growth.

To mitigate the impacts of El Niño, proactive measures need to be implemented. Government agencies like PAGASA play a crucial role in monitoring and forecasting El Niño events, enabling timely response and preparation.

Diversifying the agricultural sector by promoting resilient crop varieties and sustainable farming practices can help farmers adapt to changing climatic conditions.

Investments in irrigation infrastructure and water management systems can enhance water availability during dry periods. Additionally, promoting renewable energy sources and energy conservation can reduce dependence on hydropower and mitigate electricity supply disruptions.

The one consolation I have is that three of the Cabinet officials in charge of agencies that must address the impacts of El Niño—Environment Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga, Energy Secretary Popo Lotilla, and Science and Technology Secretary Rene Solidum—are also the most qualified persons to lead such agencies.



TITLE:

Preparing for El Niño

PAGE

2/2

DATE

Moreover, diminished water flow affects hydropower generation as some power plants rely on dams for electricity production.

After the official announcement of the start of El Niño, the United Nations and meteorologists from various countries issued a cautionary notice about a well-known consequence that millions of Filipinos are already familiar with: water scarcity.

On July 4, the World Meteorological Organization of the United Nations officially declared the emergence of El Niño conditions in the Tropical Pacific, marking its return after a seven-year hiatus. Experts estimate a 90 percent likelihood of these conditions persisting until the latter half of 2024.

The adverse environmental effects of El Niño extend beyond agriculture.

The dry conditions contribute to an increase in forest fires, endangering wildlife habitats and exacerbating air pollution.

President Marcos, who is his own Secretary of Agriculture, has good officials in the Department of Agriculture, among others Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban, Undersecretary for Policy Mercedita Sombilla, and Assistant Secretary for Regulations Paz Benavidez.

These officials know climate change well and can advise the president properly on how to protect our agriculture and food security from El Niño.

El Niño presents significant environmental and economic challenges for the Philippines, including below-normal rainfall, droughts, and reduced agricultural productivity.

However, through effective monitoring, forecasting, and the implementation of adaptive measures, the country can better manage the impacts of El Niño and build resilience against future climate-related events.

El Niño's impacts are not easy to overcome but good governance and a united society will make it easier for us to ride out this storm.

Website: tonylavina.com. Facebook: [tonylavs](https://www.facebook.com/tonylavs) Twitter: [tonylavs](https://twitter.com/tonylavs)



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

UN declares first week of July world's hottest ever

The first week of July was the warmest week ever recorded, according to preliminary data from the United Nations weather agency.

"The world just had the hottest week on record, according to preliminary data. It follows the hottest June on record, with unprecedented sea surface temperatures and record low Antarctic sea ice extent," the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in a

Turn to Page 4

UN From Page 1

statement.
WMO experts said the global sea surface temperatures reached a record high in May, June and July – and the warming El Niño weather pattern is only just getting started.

The record-breaking temperatures on land and in the ocean have potentially devastating impacts on ecosystems and the environment. They highlight the far-reaching changes taking place in Earth's system as a result of human-induced climate change.

"The exceptional warmth in June and at the start of July occurred at the onset of the development of El Niño, which is expected to further fuel the heat both on land and in the oceans and lead to more extreme temperatures and marine heatwaves," said Prof. Christopher Hewitt, WMO director of Climate Services.

Just last week, WMO announced the onset of El Niño, characterized by a warming of the Pacific Ocean. Combined with the human-induced greenhouse gas effect, the weather pattern is expected to make one of the next five years the warmest on record.

"According to various datasets from our partners in different parts of the world, the first week of July set a new record in terms of daily temperatures," said Dr. Omar Baddour, chief of climate monitoring at WMO.

The WMO and wider scientific community, he said, are closely watching these dramatic changes in different components of the climate system and sea surface temperatures.

The Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), meanwhile, is pushing for incentivizing water conservation for government offices to encourage them to save water amid a looming El Niño-induced dry spell.

At a briefing yesterday, DENR Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science Carlos Primo David said they have opened discussions with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Civil Service Commission and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the possibility of granting incentives to government offices with water conservation measures. – **Danessa Rivera, Romina Cabrera**



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



1
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

07-12-23

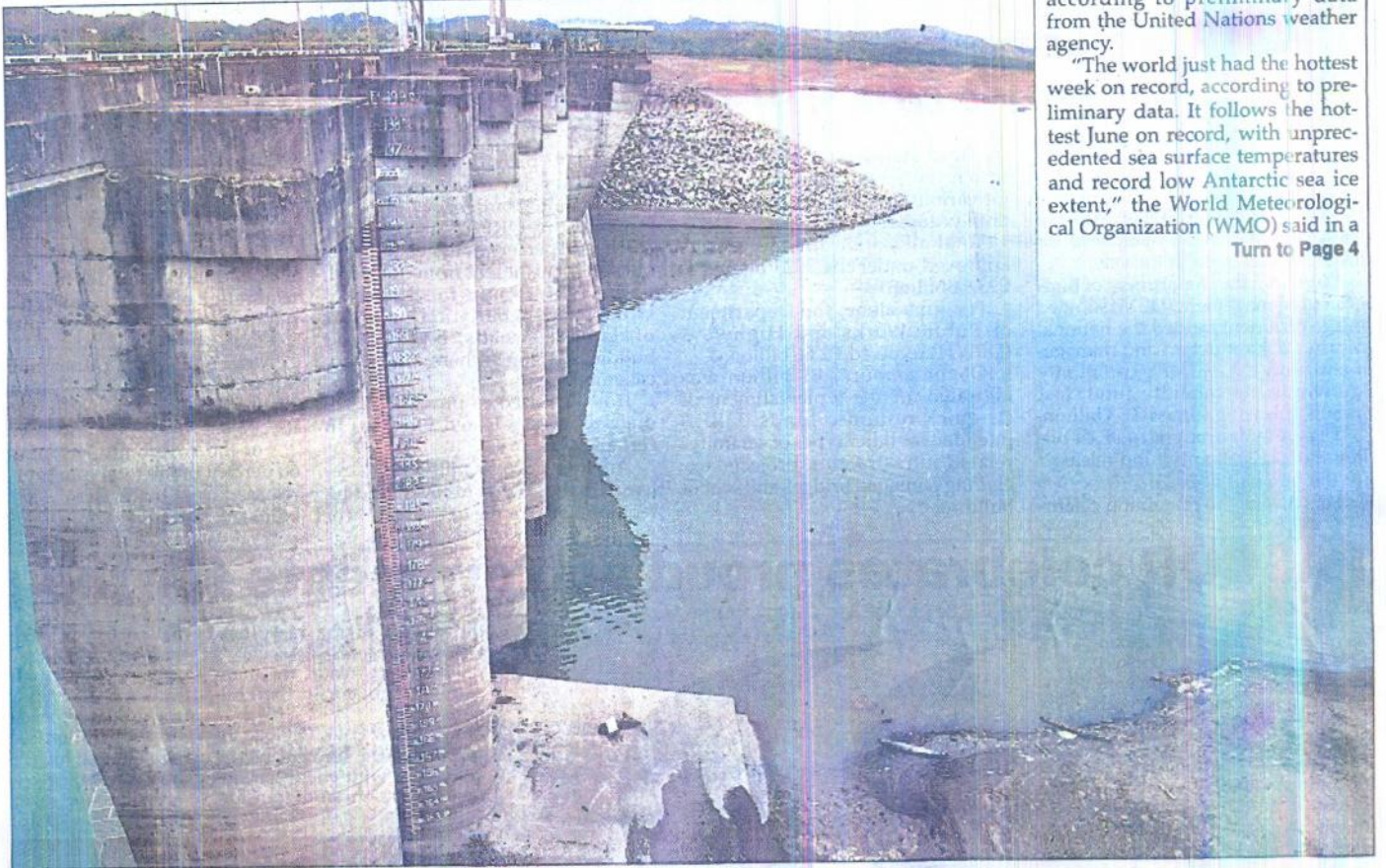
TITLE:

UN delays . . .

PAGE

2/2

DATE



according to preliminary data from the United Nations weather agency.

"The world just had the hottest week on record, according to preliminary data. It follows the hottest June on record, with unprecedented sea surface temperatures and record low Antarctic sea ice extent," the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in a

Turn to Page 4

Photo shows the water level of Magat Dam down to 165.34 meters on Friday from 172.84 meters last month. The dam's level should not drop to 160 meters to be able to continue its hydroelectric operation.

VICTOR MARTIN



07-12-23

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

DENR-STANDARD

FACT.

Jacqueline A. Caangan, CESO III (center) Regional Executive Director for DENR-NCR, is flanked by Manila Standard executives (from left) circulation manager Edgar Valmorida, Publisher Rolando Estabillo, Treasury Manager Anita Grefal, and Printing Press Manager Chito Constantino after signing an agreement with the agency at the Ecology Center in Quezon City on Tuesday.

Manny Palmero





It's getting hot in here

What is going on with the weather? A few weeks after PAGASA declared the start of the rainy season in the country, soaring and searing temperatures have been experienced not just locally but also the entire world. In the past few days, the heat has been particularly brutal even when it rains. Is this the effect of global warming?

It would seem so. CNN has reported that data from two climate tracking agencies have shown a frightening pattern — we are seeing the hottest global temperature ever recorded with Wednesday breaking the record high in average global temperature at 17.18 degrees Celsius. CNN also noted that while these global temperature records dates back to the 1940s, scientists are almost certain these temperatures are “the warmest the planet has seen over a much longer time period... given what we know from many millennia of climate data extracted from ice cores and coral reefs.”

Climate experts have warned that this

may not abate any-time soon as they noted that the “record could be broken several more times this year,” and that we “may well see a few even warmer days over the next six weeks.” I certainly do not want to sound like an alarmist but, well, it is probably time to sound the alarm of the negative effects of global warming.

While the El Niño weather phenomenon is part of the reason for the higher temperatures, climate scientists are also pointing to “human-caused climate change might be fueling unprecedented heat waves that stretch over days and weeks, frequent flooding and megafires.”

In his first year in office, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos has expressed his concerns on the negative impact of climate change and has vowed



OF TREES AND FOREST

MANNY VILLAR
Former Senate President

to use government resources to fight it. When he attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) in Bangkok late last year, he described climate change as “the greatest existential threat” affecting the region.

The President added that even when discussions center around geopolitics, the economy or governance “the subject of climate change will make itself felt,” adding that the world needs to unite in order to mitigate its effect on the globe. He has, in fact, increased the funds allocated for climate change programs this year by about 48 percent.

The President has also urged all instrumentalities of government to anchor their programs on the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) and its thematic priorities: food security, water sufficiency, human security, environmental and ecological stability, sustainable energy, climate smart industries and services, and knowledge and capacity development.

When I was elected to office the first time as representative of the then district of Las Piñas and Muntinlupa, I focused on two key issues: livelihood/entrepreneurship and the environment. And in my 21 years of public service, I would like to think that I have shown my commitment to the preservation and conservation of the environment.

I have done the same in our business. A key

part of the mission of the Vista Land & Lifescapes, Inc., is to “build communities that foster proud family and neighborhood relationships, value the rewards of hard work, and reflect responsible use of resources and our environment.”

The Villar Group has started focusing on our sustainability metrics and our alignment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals that will ensure that we remain a future-ready organization. This is something that we are committed to fulfilling. For instance, following SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, the master planning of our residential projects have employed strategic planning that integrates housing, commercial spaces, and access to green and open spaces which, in turn, aims to make subdivisions self-contained and walkable.

By continuing to contribute to the economic growth of the Philippines, by enhancing our efforts to protect the environment, and by championing the welfare and wellbeing of our people and the communities that we serve, we hope to become a force for good, especially as the country begins to build back a better future.

And it is that future that we are fighting for. A future for my apos and their children. We are the stewards of this planet and it is our responsibility to bequeath a world that is safe, prosperous and livable. (mbv_secretariat@vistaland.com.ph and/or <http://www.mannyvillar.com>.)



1/2

More villages affected by Mayon ashfall

By CET DEMATERA

LEGAZPI CITY – After a series of pyroclastic density currents (PDCs) in the past two days, ashfall from Mayon Volcano reached more foot-slope and nearby villages yesterday, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

Phivolcs said ashfall was monitored in parts of Barangays Mabinit and Bonga in this city; Budiao, Salvacion, Banadero and Mi-isi in Daraga, and Tumpa and nearby areas in Camalig.

“While lava also carries ashfall, the PDCs generate more ashfall once they cool off after effusion,” Paul Alanis, Phivolcs resident volcanologist at the Lignon Hill Observatory, said.

Ashfall had earlier been reported in parts of Tabaco and Ligao cities as well as in Guinobatan town.

Cedric Daep, chief of the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office, advised the public to stay indoors or wear face masks or a piece of cloth to cover their nose and mouth when outdoors.

Daep said ashfall is manageable

when a volcano is under Alert Level 3.

“Ashfall does not pose much threat compared to other hazards from Mayon’s restiveness,” he said.

Phivolcs recorded 38 PDCs generated by partial collapses from the summit lava dome.

Advancing front and margins of the lava flow that traveled one to three minutes within four kilometers of the major gullies in Basud in Sto. Domingo, Mi-isi in Daraga and Bonga were also monitored.

Phivolcs said 511 rockfall events, three volcanic earthquakes, plumes that rose 800 meters and drifted southwest as well as sulfur dioxide emission that averaged 721 tons were observed.

The very slow effusion of lava from the summit crater continued to feed lava flows that remained at approximate lengths of 2,800 meters and 1,400 meters along the Mi-isi and Bonga gullies, respectively.

Collapsed debris had reached 4,000 meters from the crater along the Basud channel in Sto. Domingo town.

– With Romina Cabrera



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



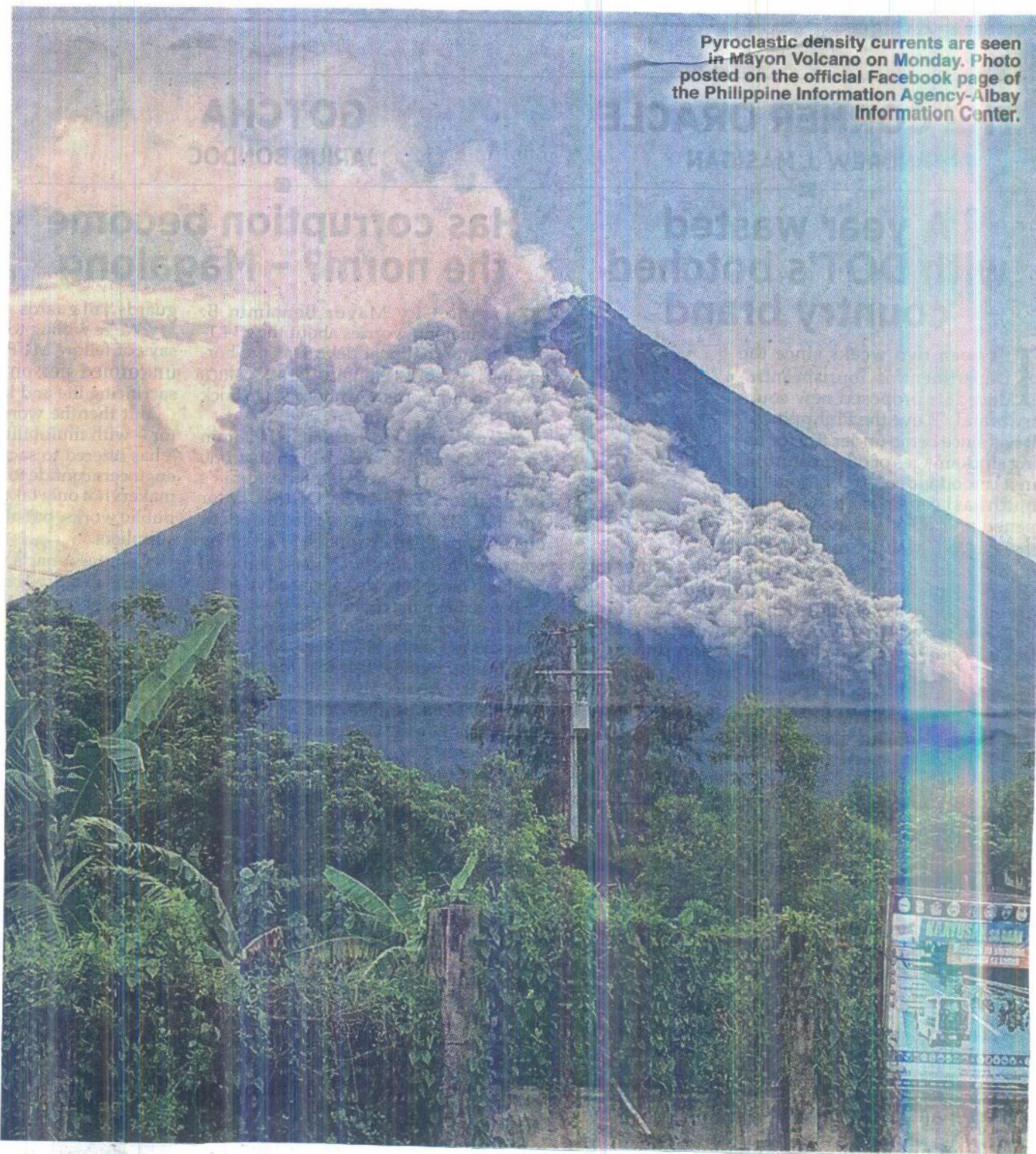
07-12-23

TITLE: More

PAGE _____

DATE _____

2/2



Pyroclastic density currents are seen in Mayon Volcano on Monday. Photo posted on the official Facebook page of the Philippine Information Agency-Albay Information Center.



Phivolcs: Ash from Mayon reaches parts of Camalig, Legazpi City, Daraga

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

The ongoing eruption of Mayon Volcano has caused volcanic ash to

fall on parts of Albay, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said on Tuesday, July 11.

Thin ashfall was said to have been observed in the town of Camalig, as well as in Barangay Mabinit in Legazpi City, and ▶ **6**

Phivolcs: Ash from Mayon reaches parts of Camalig, Legazpi City,



Barangays Budiao and Salvacion in the municipality of Daraga.

According to Phivolcs, ashfall is most likely to occur in areas south of Mayon Volcano due to current wind patterns.

Unrest continues

Phivolcs warned on July 10 that "increased activity" was occurring at Mayon Volcano due to the frequency of pyroclastic density currents (PDCs) and rockfall occurrences.

Between 5 a.m., Monday, and 5 a.m., Tuesday, 38 PDCs, 511 rockfall events, three volcanic earthquakes were recorded by the Mayon Volcano Network.

"The PDCs were generated by partial collapses from the summit

lava dome and the advancing front and margins of lava flows and traveled one to three minutes within four kilometers of the Basud, Mi-isi and Bonga gullies," Phivolcs said.

"Very slow effusion of lava from the summit crater continued to feed lava flows and collapsed debris on the Mi-isi and Bonga gullies as well as rockfall and PDCs on these and the Basud (eastern) gully," it added.

Phivolcs said lava flows have progressed by about 2.8 kilometers (km) and 1.3 km, respectively, along the Mi-isi and Bonga gullies, while collapsed debris has advanced by four km along the Basud gully.

The Mayon Volcano also continued to emit "moderate" amounts of sulfur dioxide, producing an 800-meter-

high steam plume that drifted southwest and south-southwest.

Alert Level 3 still in effect

Mayon Volcano remains under alert level 3, which means there is still an "increased tendency toward a hazardous eruption."

Communities near the restive volcano were advised to maintain increased vigilance against lahar and sediment-laden stream flows along channels draining the volcano edifice, as heavy rainfall could cause channel-confined lahar and sediment-laden stream flows.

Phivolcs has upgraded Mayon Volcano's status twice in the past month, first to level 2 on June 5 and then to level 3 on June 8 due to "intensified magmatic unrest."



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

A4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

07 12 23

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

COASTAL CLEANUP DONE

SPREAD OF OIL SLICK IN LEYTE TOWN CONTAINED

TACLOBAN CITY—The oil spill that spread on the shores of San Ricardo town in Southern Leyte has been contained, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said on Monday.

Lt. Commander Donna Liza Duran, the PCG commander in Southern Leyte, said their personnel collected 20 liters of oil from the coastal villages of Benit and Tambo, the communities hardest hit by the spill.

“The oil spill has been contained already with the last

cleanup ending at 1 p.m. [Monday]. We have to credit this to the immediate response by the Coast Guard as well as by the local residents and officials,” Duran said in an interview.

‘Clear, safe’

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, she said, has conducted water sampling in the area and declared its waters as “clear and safe.”

The PCG is investigating LCT Georgia 1 and MV San Ric

Ferry 20—both of which are docked in a private port in Barangay Benit—as the possible sources of the spill that started on July 7.

Duran said oil samples were taken from the two ships to determine whether these match with those collected from local waters. She, however, declined to provide details pending the result of the PCG investigation.

“But what we can guarantee is that somebody will be

held accountable for this oil spill ... Otherwise, this could happen again,” she said.

The local government of San Ricardo, Duran said, may seek damages for environmental violations.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development in Eastern Visayas has prepared assistance for at least 297 affected families in the villages of Benit and Timba. Most of them earn a living by fishing.

—JOEY GABIETA INQ



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Gov't urged: Expedite renewable energy plan for dry spells

By **DELON PORCALLA**

There is an urgent need for the government to expedite its plans for the utilization of renewable energy, which the country needs in the long term, most especially the vulnerable agriculture sector regularly battered by recurring long dry spells, a congressman said.

Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co, who chairs the House of Representatives appropriations committee, suggested that it is necessary for the Marcos administration to take proactive measures to "mitigate" the potential adverse effects of El Niño phenomenon.

"The proposed solar-powered irrigation facility, coupled with an advanced fertigation (fertilizer incorporated in irrigation) system, holds great promise in ensuring an uninterrupted and environment-friendly water supply for our farmers," Co said.

"We can harness the power of renewable energy to ensure efficient water usage and enhance crop productivity. We can empower our farmers with sustainable and efficient methods to overcome the challenges posed by El Niño and maximize their agricultural output," he added.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services

Administration declared earlier this month the onset of El Niño in the country and that it may intensify in the coming months until the first quarter of 2024.

The drought is expected to bring hotter days as it may affect rainfall patterns in various provinces that may result in decreased water supply, resulting in extended long dry spells that may affect food security due to the damage it will bring to crops.

Co cited, for instance, solar-powered water supply systems that could help ascertain reliable access to clean water, especially in impoverished, far-flung and upland communities.

Adverse impacts

Senior administration lawmakers earlier called on the national government to prepare for the incoming extended dry spell or El Niño and its adverse impacts on various sectors, like food security, among many others.

Deputy Speaker Ralph Recto said the Marcos administration should start a proactive stand and address the threat of El Niño by adopting a whole-of-government approach, if only to ensure food security and spare farmers of the serious problem.

"Scarcity in water leads to scarcity in food. This is not an alarmist statement. It

is a fact, because without water, you cannot grow food," Recto warned, urging a comprehensive nationwide response to the possible impact of an extended drought.

"One big motivating factor" for President Marcos to commission an El Niño response strategy "is that El Niño will hit a sector which is under his jurisdiction - agriculture," according to the former senator.

"This is because our agriculture sector already has pre-existing comorbidities. On top of this is the recent combined fuel-fertilizer crisis. Foul weather should not be the third," Recto cautioned.

For Rizal 4th District Rep. Fidel Nograles, the national government, in coordination or with the help of local government units (LGUs) across the country, should undertake a massive nationwide tree-planting program to help lessen the impact of the extended dry season.

"Tree planting is an excellent communal activity that has a positive effect, and I hope more local leaders will organize and engage in this activity so that we can restore our country's greenness," Nograles said.

He called on LGUs - from regions, provinces, cities and all the way down to municipalities - to continue planting trees to help mitigate the harsh effects of the weather phenomenon.



QC to produce interactive books on climate change for children

THE Quezon City Government is set to produce interactive storybooks for the youth and children with disabilities through the Inclusive Climate Action Cities Fund (ICA Fund) administered by the C40 Cities.

Through the ICA Fund, the city will develop a series of "QC Local Climate Action Plan For Kids" books that will discuss the solutions and initiatives to address the effects of climate change. These will be the inclusive and child-friendly versions of the City's Enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plan for 2021 to 2050.

The books will be designed for pre-school to high school students, spanning ages 4 to 18, and will be crafted in various

versions to accommodate individuals with varying needs and limitations.

"I am proud to join other leading mayors in the world in advancing inclusive and equitable climate action with the support of C40's new Inclusive Climate Action Fund. In Quezon City, we recognize the need for inclusive and accessible information dissemination that caters to all residents, of all backgrounds, educational attainment and age groups, to better engage them in our climate action initiatives," Mayor Joy Belmonte said.

About 45 percent of Quezon City's household population is composed of young QCitizens, including those who experience limitations and disabilities.

The city's climate actions will be presented in an interactive picture storybook or pop-up book format to cater to the most vulnerable sector, including children with disabilities, informal settler families, and out-of-school youth.

They will be made accessible in braille and audiobook formats, ensuring that children of all abilities and ages can actively engage in climate action.

"This shows our continuing commitment to inclusive climate action for all. This project will help address this priority, putting the needs of the youth and children with disabilities at the forefront of its design and delivery," the mayor added.



07-12-23

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP) of the **PUTATAN WATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION** project of **MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.** located in NIA Road, Brgy. Putatan, Muntinlupa City.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the **PUTATAN WATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION** to attend the PUBLIC HEARING on:

July 19, 2023	9:00 AM	McDonald's Putatan Branch, Manila South Road, Brgy. Putatan, Muntinlupa City
---------------	---------	--

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EPRMP of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau-National Capital Region of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The following are the project details:

Project Name	Putatan Water Treatment Plant Expansion
Project Location	NIA Road, Brgy. Putatan, Muntinlupa City
Project Rationale	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, and 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.
Project Components	Putatan Water Treatment Plant 1 Putatan Water Treatment Plant 2 Ceramic Ultrafiltration Modular Treatment Plant Putatan Pump Station and Reservoir (existing) Intake Structure (existing) Silt Curtain (existing) Replacement of Submarine Outfalls along Laguna Lake Construction of an admin building and chemical storage facility
Proponent	MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation or give their opinion(s) in concise position paper to the EIA Section of this Office through mail or through email at cpd.eia_embnrc@gmail.com at least three (3) days before the Public Hearing Schedule. Those who will not able to register or submit their written positions may be given opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The Project's EPRMP and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable at our website: ncr.emb.gov.ph. (Kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing link found in our website).

For more details, please contact the EIA Section of Clearance and Permitting Division of this Office at telephone number 8931-1331 local 1111 through the project casehandler Ms. Riza C. Arjona.

(SGD.) **ATTY. MICHAEL DRAKE P. MATIAS**
Regional Director