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DAY : Wednesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



1/2

2 Phl Eagles flown to Singapore sanctuary

By RUDY SANTOS

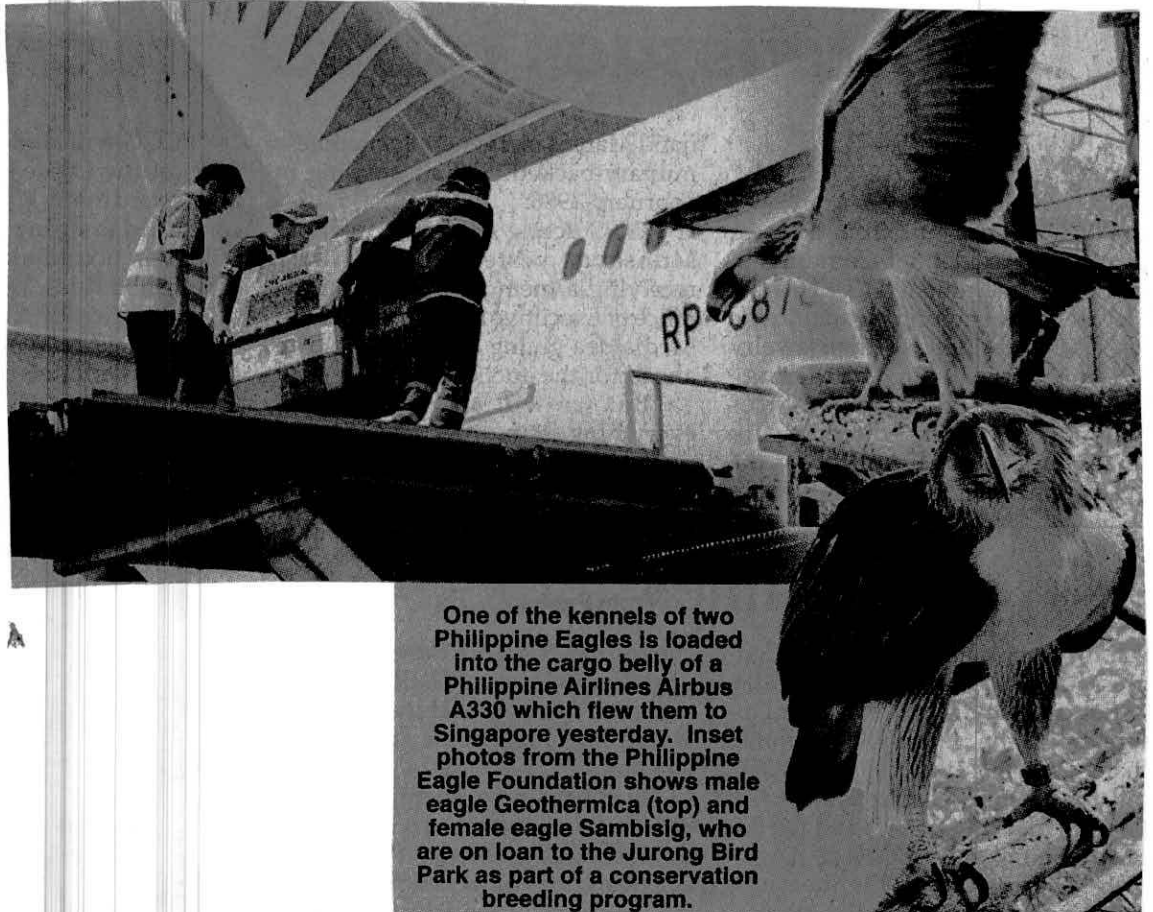
Two Philippine Eagles – the 15-year-old male named Geothermica and 17-year-old female partner Sambisig – were given special treatment at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday morning.

The couple – ambassadors of Philippine biodiversity – was loaned to Jurong Bird Park as part of the international Philippine Eagle Loan Agreement with Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS).

Bearing Philippine passports issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs

(DFA) on June 4, 2019, they boarded Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight PR507 together with some Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) officials, who made sure that all safety precautions were observed at the cargo compartment.

Turn to Page 4



One of the kennels of two Philippine Eagles is loaded into the cargo belly of a Philippine Airlines Airbus A330 which flew them to Singapore yesterday. Inset photos from the Philippine Eagle Foundation shows male eagle Geothermica (top) and female eagle Sambisig, who are on loan to the Jurong Bird Park as part of a conservation breeding program.



2 Phl From Page 1

It is hoped that Geothermica and Sambisig, who both came from the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) in Davao City, will breed during their two-year stay at the Jurong Bird Park, one of the zoological facilities managed by WRS. Their passports will expire on June 26, 2021.

PAL also flew Geothermica and Sambisig from Davao to Manila.

"Through the PAL Foundation, we are flying the loaned eagles to Singapore because we firmly believe in the eagle preservation advocacy of the PEF (Philippine Eagle Foundation)," said Jaime Bautista, PAL president and PEF vice chairman.

While PAL has a long experience in flying animals, this is the first time that a critically endangered species is receiving special treatment during flights.

PEF hopes that the WRS can help secure a gene pool of the Philippine Eagle for species conservation and as insurance against natural calamities that can wipe out the only captive eagle population at the PEC in Malagos, Davao City.

WRS, one of the world's leading zoological institutions, has been supporting conservation efforts across Southeast Asia through wildlife research and awareness campaigns with over 50 wildlife conservation projects.

The preserved gene pool can also be critical in preservation efforts in case of health epidemics like avian flu.

According to the PEF, Geothermica and Sambisig are at the prime age for breeding. They were previously paired with other eagles at the Center but these attempts did not lead to natural pairing. Captive-bred eagles are said to be more resilient than those from the wild.

The PEF manages the PEC where both Geothermica and Sambisig were hatched and reared. Many of the eagles at PEC have corporate sponsors: Geothermica is sponsored by the Energy Development Corp. while Sambisig is sponsored by Dow Chemical Philippines.

PAL is also sponsor to an eagle named Sinag.

Meanwhile, officials in Bulacan province, which is also observing Philippine Eagle Week this June 4 to 10, are validating reports of sightings of Philippine Eagles flying over the Angat watershed.

Emelita Lingap, Bulacan provincial environment and natural resources officer, confirmed to the STAR that their

office has already submitted a report to the DENR regional office for assistance and confirmation to make sure that the birds of prey seen in the area were really Philippine Eagles.

The sightings have been reported since last month, prompting the Bulacan environment office to put up streamers and posters with the message "Save the Philippine Eagle" in several strategic locations at the Angat watershed.

The DENR-Central Luzon said in a statement that its wildlife experts and biologists have been monitoring the vast and diverse mountain ranges of Sierra Madre, especially in portions of Nueva Ecija and Aurora provinces, to confirm the presence of the Philippine Eagle.

It added that local communities have observed in year 2000 large eagles flying in clear skies but could not be sure if these were really Philippine Eagles.

The sightings further gave hope to conservationists to continue their quest to confirm the existence of the Philippine Eagle in the Sierra Madre.

Agawid

In June 2016, an upland farmer found a juvenile female Philippine Eagle, approximately three years old, trapped in a snare or "silo" that was used in catching monkeys inside the Aurora Memorial National Park (AMNP).

This confirmed that the critically endangered species also exists in the Sierra Madre mountain range of Central Luzon.

The young eagle, which they named Agawid – an Ilocano word for "go home" – was turned over to the DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO) in Dingalan town.

In turn, it transferred Agawid to the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), which took care of it for a time before releasing it back to the wild on Oct. 4, 2017.

Before the release, Agawid was transferred to a hack cage and brought back to a forest area in the national park of Aurora for a six-month hacking process, which they hope would ensure her survival and adaptive capacity in the wild.

Agawid weighed approximately 5.31 kilos just before release. She was fitted with a radio transmitter to help DENR authorities monitor her activities.

In April 2018, the DENR in Aurora and BMB conducted a re-trapping and monitoring for Agawid to check on her health condition. – With Ramon Efren Lazaro

2/2



2 PHILIPPINE EAGLES FLY TO SINGAPORE



The PAL Cargo Team carefully loads the two Philippine eagles—Geothermica and Sambisig (inset photo)—on flight PR 507 bound for Singapore.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAL



BY RECTO MERCENE

✉ @rectomercene

& JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

✉ @jonlmayuga

PHILIPPINE eagle pair Geothermica and Sambisig, the first of their species to be covered by a wildlife loan agreement for adoption by a foreign country, was finally flown to Singapore on Tuesday morning.

Four-star carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL) airlifted the two eagles from Davao on board flight PR 507 as part of the agreement between the Philippines and Singapore.

Environment Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon, together with For-

eign Affairs Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Affairs Meynardo Montealegre, Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) Chairman Edgar Chua and PEF Executive Director Dennis Salvador led the ceremonial "send-off" of the country's "Ambassadors for Philippine Biodiversity Conservation" at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2.

The PEF manages the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) where both Geothermica (male) and Sambisig (female) were hatched and reared.

"The flight from Manila to Singapore at exactly 9:55 a.m. via Philippine Airlines went on as scheduled," Calderon, the concurrent director

SEE "EAGLES," A3

of the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) said.

Gerard Ho Wei Hong, the ambassador of Singapore to the Philippines, officially received Geothermica and Sambisig, both products of the PEF captive breeding program which has so far produced 28 captive-bred eagles at the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City.

PAL President and COO Jaime Bautista said Jurong Bird Park will be the home of the two Philippine eagles for the next 10 years. "They will remain a property of the Philippines as the government has issued Philippine passports under their names."

"The PEF hopes that through the eagle loan program, Wildlife Reserves Singapore can help secure a gene pool of the Philippine eagles for species conservation and as insurance against natural calamities that can wipe out the only captive Philippine eagle population at the PEC in Malagos, Davao City," Bautista added.

This is the first international Philippine Eagle Loan Agreement between the governments of the Philippines, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Singapore to increase the eagles' population.

The wildlife loan agreement (WLA) signed between the DENR and WRS last month highlighted the 50 years of diplomatic relations of the Philippines and Singapore, two of the five founding members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The adoption by Singapore of the Philippine eagle pair for the purpose of captive breeding aims to protect and conserve the country's iconic bird, which is currently considered critically endangered.

According to the DENR, there are only around 400 pairs of the Philippine eagle left in the wild.

With the threat of extinction, sending off the Philippine eagle pair is considered an insurance that the species will not be wiped out in case of a deadly disease outbreak in the Philippines.

"With the partnership with the Wildlife Reserves Singapore and Singapore government commemorating 50 years of diplomatic relationship, the wildlife loan agreement highlighted the importance of the Philippine eagle," said Calderon, the DENR's assistant secretary for staff bureaus.

He said the WLA has already gained traction as far as the DENR is concerned, citing the jam-packed theater on Monday for the public screening of the documentary *Bird of Prey* at Cinema 3, UP Town Center.

"The Philippine eagle was highlighted similar to the Sumatra Tiger of Indonesia and the Giant Panda of China," Calderon added.

Considered the largest of the extant eagles in the world in terms of length and wing surface, and among the rarest and most powerful birds in the world, the Philippine eagle has been declared the country's national bird.

Two Philippine eagles Singapore bound

By Anthony Ching

They have wings but they might not need them when flying going to Singapore.

This, after Philippine Airlines (PAL) yesterday volunteered to fly the two Philippine eagles from their sanctuary in Davao City to Singapore via Manila.

The initiative was part of the first International Philippine Eagle Loan Agreement between the country's Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS).

The two Philippine eagles, Geothermica and Sambisig, 15 and 17 years old respectively, are being loaned to WRS to hopefully encourage breeding in Singapore.

They will be released at Jurong Bird Park, one of the zoological facilities managed by the WRS.

The WRS is one of the world's leading zoological institutions and has been supporting conservation efforts across Southeast

Asia through wildlife research and awareness campaigns.

Currently, it has over 50 wildlife conservation projects.

PAL, for its part, has a long experience in flying animals and vowed to give the birds special treatment since they are critically endangered species.

They will be released at Jurong Bird Park, one of the zoological facilities managed by the WRS.

The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) was hoping that the WRS could help secure a gene pool of the two birds for species conservation.

It would also ensure their continued survival since natural calamities greatly affect the birds' population at the Philippine Eagle Center in Malagos, Davao City.

The PEF manages the PEC where both Geothermica and Sambisig were hatched and reared.

According to PEF preserved gene pool can also be

critical in preservation efforts in case of health epidemics like avian flu.

PAL president Jaime Bautista said they flew the two loaned eagles to Singapore because they believe in the eagle preservation advocacy of the PEF.

PEF said that Geothermica and Sambisig are at the prime age of breeding and they were previously paired with other eagles at the center but these attempts did not progress to natural pairing.

Captive-bred eagles are said to be more resilient than their counterparts from the wild.



Saving their future The cages where the two Philippine eagles are to be placed on their way to Singapore via Philippine Air Lines for gene pooling and conservation.



PH eagles fly to S'pore via PAL

By Joel E. Zurbano

THE Jurong Bird Park in Singapore will take care of the two Philippine Eagles from Davao that were sent there via Philippine Airlines in line with the two countries' breeding agreement.

Next page



PH eagles...

From A1

Geothermica (male) and Sambisig (female), aged 15 and 17, respectively, are being loaned to Wildlife Reserves Singapore "to hopefully encourage breeding in Singapore, specifically at the Jurong Bird Park, one of the zoological facilities managed by WRS."

Jurong Bird Park will be the home of the two Philippine eagles for the next 10 years, but they will remain the property of the Philippines as the government has issued Philippine passports under their names.

This is the first international Philippine Eagle Loan Agreement between the governments of the Philippines (through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources) and Singapore to increase the eagles' population.

Philippine Airlines led the simple send-off ceremony for the two eagles.

PAL president Jaime Bautista said "through the PAL Foundation, we are flying the loaned eagles to Singapore because we firmly believe in the eagle preservation advocacy of the Philippine Eagle Foundation."

Bautista also revealed that PAL is the sponsor of another eagle named Sinag.

In a statement, PAL officials said "The Philippine Eagle Foundation hopes that, through the eagle loan program, the WRS can help secure a gene pool of the Philippine eagles for species conservation and as an insurance against natural calamities that can wipe out the only captive Philippine eagle population at the Philippine Eagle Center in Malagos, Davao City. The PEF manages the PEC where both Geothermica and Sambisig were hatched and reared."

Airline officials said the primary objective is to secure the population of the species elsewhere to protect the eagles from threats of outbreak of diseases or calamities.

One example of potential outbreaks was the avian influenza that hit parts of the country in Sulu, which killed at least 37,000 birds in Central Luzon, according to a website.

The preserved gene pool can also be critical in preservation efforts in case of health epidemics like the avian flu, the PAL statement added.

There are 32 eagles under the care of PEC. This is the first time the Philippines is lending Philippine eagles to another country. The Philippines and Singapore mark 50 years of diplomatic relations.



PAL flies eagles with passports; MIAA assures NAIA project's worthiness

DIRECT HIT



By ITCHIE CABAYAN

PHILIPPINE Airlines (PAL) yesterday flew two Philippine eagles from their sanctuary in Davao to Singapore, via Manila, as part of the first international Philippine Eagle Loan Agreement between the governments of the Philippines (through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources) and Singapore (through Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS).

According to PAL spokesperson Ma. Cielo Villaluna, the two eagles named 'Geothermica' and 'Sambisig' -- aged 15 and 17, respectively -- are being loaned to WRS to hopefully encourage breeding while at Singapore, specifically at the Jurong Bird Park, one of the zoological facilities managed by WRS.

Villaluna said the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) hopes that through the eagle loan program, the WRS can help secure a gene pool of the Philippine eagles for species conservation and as insurance against natural calamities that can

wipe out the only captive Philippine Eagle population at the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) in Malagos, Davao City. The PEF manages the PEC where both Geothermica and Sambisig were hatched and reared.

The preserved gene pool can also be critical in preservation efforts in case of health epidemics like the avian flu. Many of PEF's eagles at the bird sanctuary have corporate sponsors: 'Geothermica', a male, is sponsored by Energy Development Corporation while 'Sambisig', a female, is sponsored by Dow Chemical Philippines. PAL is sponsor to another eagle named 'Sinag'.

"Through the PAL Foundation, we are flying the loaned eagles to Singapore because we firmly believe in the eagle preservation advocacy of the PEF," said PAL President and PEF Vice Chairman Jaime Bautista.

According to the PEF, Geothermica and Sambisig are at the prime age for breeding. They were previously paired with other eagles at the center but these attempts did not progress to natural pairing. Captive-bred eagles are said to be more resilient than those from the wild.

Meanwhile, the WRS, one of the world's leading zoological institutions, has been supporting conservation efforts across Southeast Asia through wildlife research and awareness campaigns with over 50 wildlife conservation projects.

Villaluna said that while PAL has a long experience in flying animals, this is the first time that a critically endangered species is receiving special treatment. 'Geothermica' and 'Sambisig' flew on yesterday's Davao-Manila (PR2808) and Manila-Singapore (PR507) PAL flights.

Mind you, they had passports that had two-year validity. Sambisig's birth date is November 17, 2002 while Geothermica's is January 7, 2004. Their stated birthplace -- Davao City and both had Filipino as nationality.

Now that the renovation of the NAIA Terminal 2 is in full swing, passengers and airport workers will have to deal with some forms of inconvenience but Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) general manager Ed Monreal assures these will all be worth it once the works are done.

Since renovation works begun as early as in September last year, Monreal said the past few months have been difficult for passengers as they have to deal with smaller spaces to move around due to board ups in certain area.

In addition, the temperature inside the building is also affected due to air ducts within board up areas that cannot be used.

Monreal is deeply apologizing to the public for the inconvenience that the project is causing. And while he is seeking for more

patience and understanding, Monreal says with certainty that once the renovation is completed, it will be worth all the trouble and discomfort.

The situation particularly poses challenges since it is business as usual at the NAIA Terminal 2 despite ongoing works.

Beauty tip -- Eat Well.

Consume eight to ten glasses a day, five servings of fruits and vegetables and three servings of whole grains for vitamins and minerals. (Source: Dr. Rosary May Canay-Diaz of Californian Bloom Aesthetic Institute and Medical Spa / 4 1 0 8 4 2 4 / 4 6 6 9 5 9 6 / 0 9 1 7 8 0 3 8 2 4 0 / 0 2 5 0 5 3 9 8 7)

Jokjok (from Phillip Valenciana of Sucat, Parañaque)

-- **Anak:** 'Tay, ano po 'yung elevator? **Tatay:** Anak, 'yung elevator, parang kahon na bakal 'yun na tumataas at bumababa sa isang building/ **Anak:** Ahh... eh 'yung escalator 'tay? **Ano naman 'yun? Tatay:** Anak, 'yung escalator, 'yan 'yung naka-slant na gumagalaw na hagdan/ **Anak:** Aahh... eh ito last na 'tay. **Ano naman 'yung calculator? Tatay:** Ay, 'yan ang di ko na alam anak. Di pa ako nakasakay niyan kahit kelan...

Direct Hit entertains comments, suggestions or complaints. Please have them emailed to itchiecabayan@yahoo.com or text 0927-7169778.

 PAGE UPPER
 LOWER PAGE 1
STORY BANNER
STORY EDITORIAL CARTOON

05 JUN 2019

DATE

2 Philippine eagle, pararamihin sa SG

Ibibiyahe ang dalawang Philippine eagle mula sa Davao City patungong Singapore, bilang bahagi ng unang International Philippine Eagle Loan Agreement sa pagitan ng Pilipinas at Singapore, sa pamamagitan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS), ayon sa pagkakasunod.

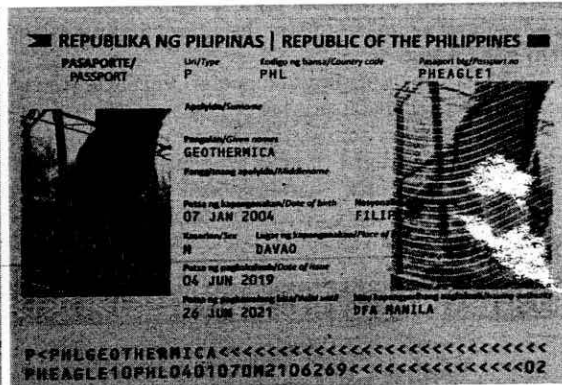
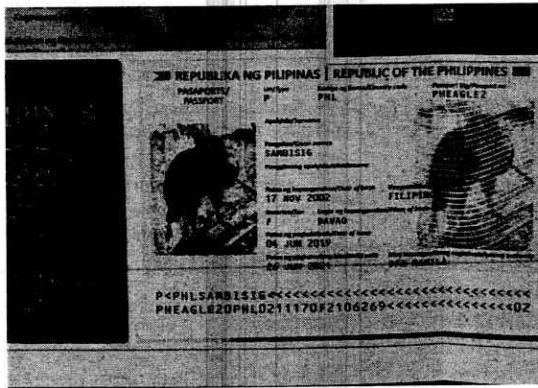
Ayon kay Philippine Eagle Foundation Executive Director Dennis Salvador, ang dalawang agila ay may special accommodation, at sa katunayan ay kinuhanan ng Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) ng pasaporte.

Ang mga agila na sina Geothermica, 15; at Sambisig, 17, ay binigay sa WRS upang magpamahi habang nasa Singapore, partikular

sa Jurong Bird Park, isa sa mga pinamamahalaan ng WRS.

"Through the PAL Foundation, we are flying the loaned eagles to Singapore because we firmly believe in the eagle preservation advocacy of the PEF," ayon kay Jaime J. Bautista, PAL President at PEF Vice Chairman.

Ariel Fernandez



INT'L PHILIPPINE EAGLE LOAN AGREEMENT Makikita sa larawan ang mga pasaporte ng mga agilang ibibiyahe mula Davao City patungong Singapore.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

05 JUN 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE



Matinding pag-iingat ang ipinatutupad ng cargo team sa dalawang Philippine Eagle patungong Singapore lulan ng PAL flight PR 507. (Kuha ni Rudy Santos)



SITWASYON NG TUBIG SA ANGAT DAM

ISANG arkipelago na napaalibutan ng mga karagatan ang Pilipinas, ang pinagkukunan pa rin natin ng malinis na tubig na mainom ay mula sa ilog, lawa, river basins at groundwater reservoirs.

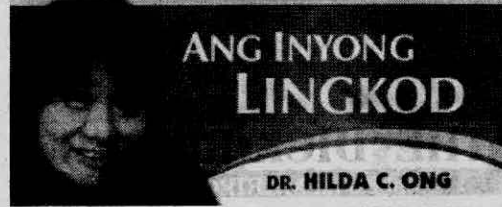
Mayroon tayong four hundred thirty-eight (438) major dams at four hundred twenty-three (423) smaller dams na ginagamit para sa water storage, water supply, irrigation, regulation of flood at sources of hydropower.

Ang buong Metropolitan Manila area at mga karatig lalawigan ng Rizal, Bulacan, Cavite at Pampanga, ay umaasa mula sa tubig na nag-

mumula sa Angat Dam, Ipo Dam at La Mesa Dam.

Noong March 7, 2019, batay na rin sa resulta ng isinagawang imbestigasyon, nagkaroon ng gawa-gawang 'supply crisis' ang Manila Water Incorporated kung kaya't pinagmulat ito ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System ng halagang one point fifteen billion pesos (Php 1.15 Billion) dahil sa perwisyo nitong idinulot sa sambayanan.

Alam naman natin na muli na namang umatake ang El Niño Phenomenon sa ating bansa. Matindi ang nararansan nating init. Base sa ulat ng Bulacan Provincial Disaster



DR. HILDA C. ONG

ANG INYONG LINGKOD

Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC), ang lebel ng tubig noong nakaraang Biyernes ng umaga (May 31) ay nasa 169.37 na lamang, kulang ng 42.63 meters base sa 212 normal high water level (NHWL).

Bago magtapos ang buwan ng Abril, naglabas na ng opisyal na pahayag ang NWRB na hanggang katapusan ng buwan ng Mayo ay 'stable' ang suplay ng tubig sa National Capital Region, ngunit, marami pa rin ang nangangamba para sa malawakang pagrasyon ng tubig, kung patuloy ang pagsadsad ng level ng tubig.

Nakapanayam ng inyong lingkod ang Executive Director ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB), Dr. Sevilla David, Jr. sa programang "HEALTH & TRAVEL @ SERBISYO PUBLIKO" sa DWIZ 882kHz, AM Band.

Ang unang tanong ko kay Executive Director David, kung makakaranas ba

tayo ng pagbabawas sa suplay ng tubig sa ating mga tahanan? Ano ang puwede nating maitulong sa mababang antas ng tubig na ito sa Angat Dam.

Ayon kay Executive Director David, "Dahil nasa below critical level na ang tubig sa Angat dam at kung patuloy ang pagbaba ng level ng tubig ngayong buwan ng Hunyo, pagtitipid sa paggamit ng tubig ang dapat gawin ng bawat pamilya.

Kung mayroon po kayong katanungan kaugnay sa tubig maging ito ay sa suplay, kondisyon sa kasalukuyan at hinaharap, at mga balakin ng NWRB na siya nating pinag-uusapan sa kasalukuyan. Sa mga gumagamit ng ground water, alamin kung papaano mag-apply ng water permit at ano ang mga requirement na kinakailangan? Maaari kayong tumawag sa 02-928-2365 at 920-2641 o bisitahin ang website ng NWRB, www.nwr.gov.ph.



'Eagle awareness' ngayong buwan ng kalikasan

MAKIKIPAGTULUNGAN ang Department of Environment of Natural Resources ng Region 10 (DENR-10) sa Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) upang isulong ang pangangalaga at kapakanan ng mga Philippine Eagle.

Ang hakbang ng DENR-10 ay bahagi ng inisyatibo sa pagdiriwang ng ahensiya ng Environmental Month para sa buong buwan ng Hunyo, gamit ang temang, "Beat Air Pollution," pagbabahagi ni DENR-10 spokesperson Lina Calvez.

Ayon kay Calvez, kabilang sa mga aktibidad ng ahensiya ngayong buwan ang isang linggong ritwaring Philippine Eagle Week mula Hunyo 4 hanggang Hunyo 10.

Kaugnay nito, sabay-sabay na idaraos ang interactive public awareness campaign kabilang ang photo exhibit at public screening ng "Bird Of Prey" sa SM CDO Downtown Premier sa Cagayan de Oro City at ang public screening ng "To Save Our Eagle" sa barangay Guilang-guilang sa Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon.

Bilang tugon sa tumataas na bahagdan ng polusyon sa plastic, sinabi ni Calvez na ang "plogging" activity ay idaraos sa 5 barangay Bulua patungong Bugo Highway ng Cagayan de Oro.

Ang Plogging ay isang bagong "environmentally conscious fitness trend" na pamumulot ng basura habang tumatakbo. Pangungunahan ito ng City Local Environment and Natural Resources Office (CLENRO) at dadaluhan ng mga empleyado ng DENR-10.

Magdaraos din ng patimpalak para sa Ms. Kalikasan 2019 sa Hunyo 20, kasabay ng paglulunsad ng "green film" festival sa iba't ibang mga paaralan, tampok ang mga pelikulang tumatalakay sa kalikasan.

Sa Hunyo 21 naman, isang Environmental Quiz Show para sa mga mag-aaral ang idaraos na susundan ng environmental quiz bee para sa mga empleyado ng DENR-10 sa Hunyo 25. Sa susunod na araw, isa ring environmental symposium ang gaganapin sa Libertad National High School at Intra National High School sa probinsiya ng Misamis Oriental.

Upang naging matatag ang bawat isa na makilahok sa pagsusulong ng mas malusog na ecosystem, magkakaroon din ng Arbor Day Celebration, idinaraos tuwing ika-25 ng Hunyo, sa pamamagitan ng pagtatag ng mga bakawan sa mga komunidad ng Molugan at Taytay sa El Salvador City, Misamis Oriental.

Ayon kay Calvez ang culmination program sa Hunyo 28 ay katatampukan din ng mga aktibidad tulad ng paggagawad ng sertipiko at plake sa Best Performing National Greening Program Peoples Organization, Best Institutional Partner, Best DENR-10 Employee, Service Award for Employees with 32 years in public service, Best Land Administration and Management System (LAMS) Verifiers, at iba pang nagwagi sa mga idinaos na patimpalak.