

DATE : FEB 08 2020

DAY : Saturday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



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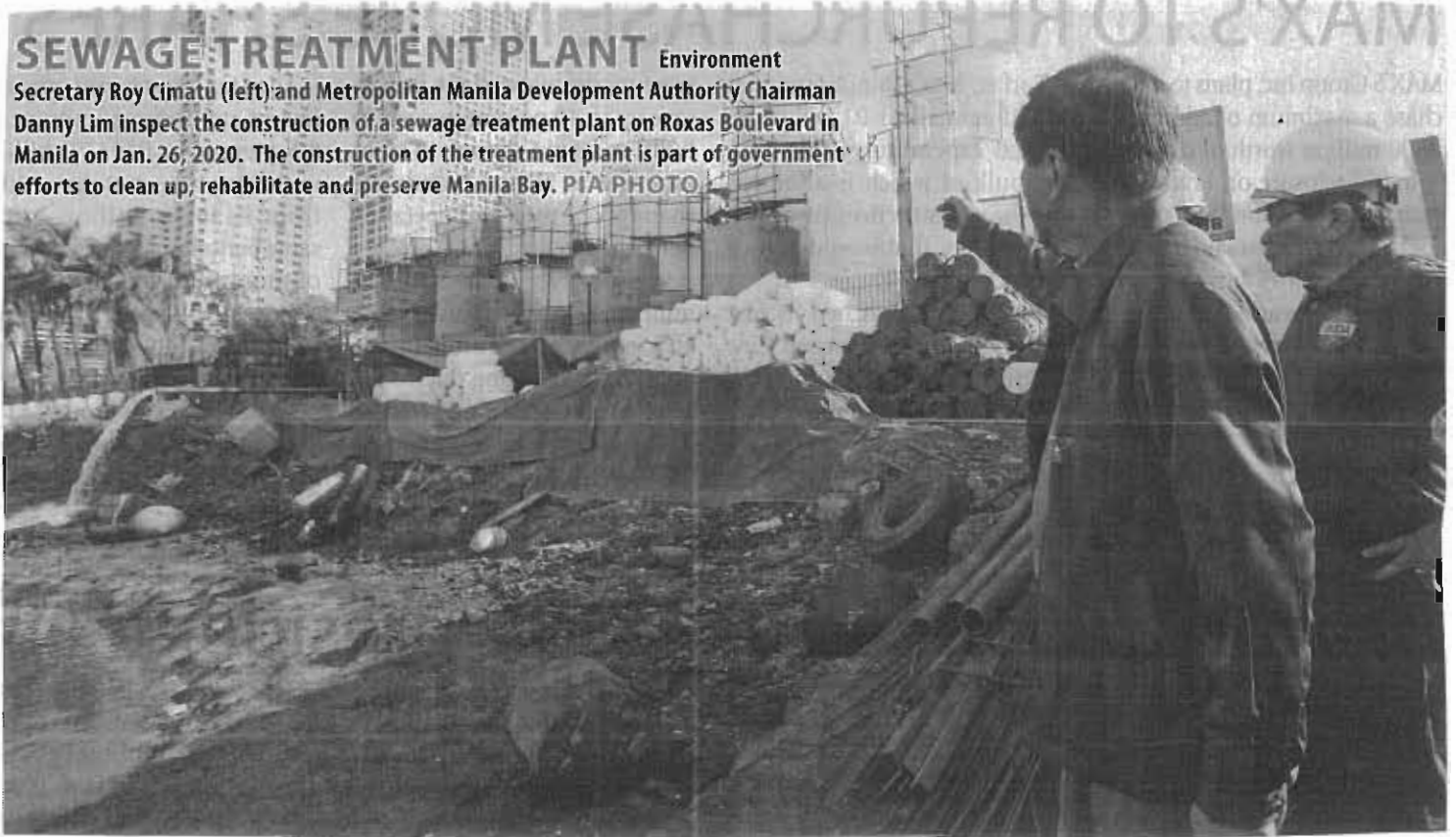
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PAGE 1/

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## SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT Environment

Secretary Roy Cimatu (left) and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chairman Danny Lim inspect the construction of a sewage treatment plant on Roxas Boulevard in Manila on Jan. 26, 2020. The construction of the treatment plant is part of government efforts to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay. PIA PHOTO





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

FEB 08 2020

PAGE 11

DATE

## Maynilad to rehabilitate 5 Manila esteros for ₱1 B

West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) will rehabilitate five esteros in Manila over a period of three years, a move that will require the company to invest more than ₱1 billion.

Maynilad's "Adopt an Estero" initiative covers Estero dela Reina, Estero de Sunog Apog, Estero de Magdalena, Estero de Concordia, and Estero de San Antonio Abad.

It involves the laying of around 10 kilometers of sewer lines to catch wastewater flow from Maynilad customers along the creeks who could not be served by individual sewer connections. The collected wastewater will then be diverted to the nearest sewer network of Maynilad.

The project is expected to benefit some 62,000 people.

"Even as we install the sewer lines that will prevent

wastewater from flowing directly to esteros, we seek the help of all local government units to ensure that solid waste does not pollute these same esteros that we are trying to clean," said Maynilad President and CEO Ramoncito S. Fernandez.

"This would render our investment in the wastewater infrastructure useless," he added.

Since Maynilad launched its estero rehab initiative in November 2018, it has completed the installation of 323 meters of interceptor pipes along Estero dela Reina, which already benefits over 5,300 residents in the area.

This initiative is part of Maynilad's comprehensive plan to help clean up the Manila Bay and all the tributaries feeding to it. (Madelaine B. Miraflores)



FEB 08 2020

TITLE:

PAGE 17

DATE

## DENR moves for Baguio rehab

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Friday identified six areas of concern in the rehabilitation of Baguio City, the country's summer capital.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said air quality, water quality of rivers, solid waste management, forest cover, traffic woes, and even proliferation of informal settlers and illegal structures must be addressed in order to restore the reputation of Baguio City as "mountain paradise."

"We are looking to improve these areas, which have deteriorated drastically during the past few decades," he added.

Citing a study done by the National Economic and Development Authority, he said the most critical urban carrying capacity indicators that needed to be considered were road length and area, solid waste collection, water supply, liquid waste treatment capacity, forest cover, and urban land for construction and development.

"We deem these factors as critical because the NEDA also estimates that the population in the country's summer capital will soar up to 530,990 by 2045," he said.

Drastic measures are necessary to tackle air pollution in Baguio City, which in 2014 topped the list of the World Health Organization study on ambient air pollution with the most polluted air in the Philippines with particulate matter 2.5 at 49 micrograms per cubic meter.

"Baguio City's air quality is troubling because there are more than 2,000 deaths related to air pollution from 2015 to 2019," he said. **Rio N. Araja**



## DENR bares 6 areas of concern in Baguio rehab

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has identified at least six areas of concern that need to be addressed in order to restore the summer capital's reputation as "mountain paradise."

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said that the envi-

ronmental problems that they will try to resolve during the rehabilitation of Baguio City include the air quality, water quality of rivers, solid waste management, forest cover, traffic congestion, and proliferation of informal settlers and illegal structures.

"We are looking to improve these areas, which have deteriorated drastically during the past few decades," Cimatu said.

Cimatu also cited a study by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) indicating that the most critical urban carrying capacity indicators that need to be considered in the city are road length and area, solid waste collection, water supply, liquid waste treatment capacity, forest cover, and urban land for construction and development.

"We deem these factors

as critical because the NEDA also estimates that the population in the country's summer capital will soar up to 530,990 by 2045," Cimatu stressed.

Urban carrying capacity is defined as the maximum level of human activities, population growth, land use and physical development that can be sustained by urban environment without causing its serious degradation and irreversible damage.



## DENR identifies factors to restore Baguio as 'mountain paradise'

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources has identified at least six areas of concern to restore Baguio City and bring it back to its reputation as "mountain paradise."

Topping the list of environmental problems are air quality, polluted rivers, garbage woes, dwindling forest cover, traffic congestion and proliferation of informal settlers.

According to Secretary Roy Cimatu, there is really a need to rehabilitate and improve the summer capital of the Philippines, which have deteriorated drastically during the past few decades.

Citing a study by the National Economic and Development Authority, the DENR chief said that the most critical urban carrying capacity indicators that need to be considered in the city are road length and area, solid waste collection, water supply, liquid waste treatment capacity, forest cover, and urban land for construction and development.

**Joel dela Torre**



FEB 08 2020

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

## Air pollution sa Baguio City: 2K na namatay

KAILANGANG kumilos na ang pamahalaan upang matugunan ang problema ng air pollution sa Baguio City dahil sa nakakabahalang pagkamatay ng mahigit 2,000 katao sa lungsod sanhi ng nalalanghap na maruming hangin sa kapaligiran.

"Baguio City's air quality is troubling because there are more than 2,000 deaths related to air pollution from 2015 to 2019," pahayag ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Baray aniya ito sa datos ng pamahalaang lokal ng Baguio City.

Noong 2014, kasama ang lungsod sa listahan ng World Health Organization (WHO) Study on Ambient Air Pollution dahil sa pagkakaroon ng most polluted air sa Pilipinas na 49 microgram per cubic meter ng particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5)

Ayon kay Cimatu, isasailalim nila sa rehabilitasyon ang Baguio City para matugunan ang suliranin sa kapaligiran kabilang na rito ang problema sa basura at nakakalibong kagubatan.  
**(Riz Dominguez)**



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## AFF, DENR favored over semis rivals

Games tomorrow (Paco Arena)  
3:30 p.m. - DENR vs NHA  
5 p.m. - AFP vs Judiciary

Fully-rested Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) eye a strong start versus separate foes in the opener of the eighth UNTV Cup best-of-three semifinals tomorrow at the Paco Arena in Manila.

The top-seeded AFP Cavaliers collide with the Judiciary Magis at 5 p.m. while the second-ranked DENR Warriors take on the National Housing Authority Builders at 3:30 p.m. in the event organized by UNTV president and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon annually for public servants.

AFP and DENR are coming off a long respite after advancing outright to the semis for their 1-2 finish in the two-stage elims. Nonetheless, the Cavaliers and Warriors expressed readiness for what they expect to be a tight series.

Though the Cavaliers have the slight edge in the frontline, the Magis have a solid backcourt crew in former PBA players Warren Ybanez and Chester Tolomia and veteran Frederick Salamat.

Judiciary is coming off an impressive 65-55 win over Philippine International Trading Center in their do-or-die duel for the last semis ticket over the weekend.

Bannered by former Letran star Boyet Bautista, the Cavaliers hope to become the first back-to-back champions of the league although they hold the distinction as the winningest team with three titles.

The chosen charity of the champion team will receive a tax-free P4 million donation while the runner-up's own charity will get P2 million.



Ralph Lansang (with ball) hopes to lead NHA against DENR at the start of their semis series tomorrow at the Paco Arena in Manila.





## Fully-rested AFP, DENR eye UNTV Cup hot starts

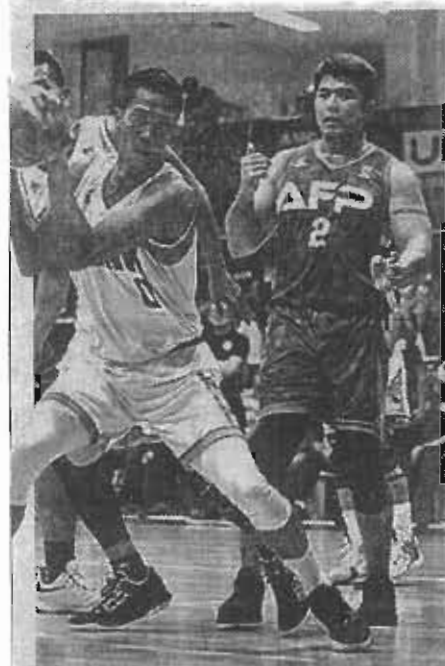
**Games Sunday (Paco Arena)**  
3:30 p.m. — DENR vs NHA  
5 p.m. — AFP vs Judiciary

**FULLY-RESTED** Armed Forces of the Philippines and Department of Environment and Natural Resources are looking for hot starts in Game 1 of the best-of-three semifinals against their respective rivals in the 8th UNTV Cup on Sunday at the Paco Arena in Manila.

The top-seeded AFP Cavaliers collide with the Judiciary Magis at 5 p.m., while the second-ranked DENR Warriors take on the National Housing Authority Builders at 3:30 p.m. in the event organized by UNTV President and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon annually for public servants.

AFP and DENR waited for almost three weeks to find out their semis rivals after advancing outright to the semis for finishing 1-2 in the two-stage elims.

Despite the long break, the Cavaliers and Warriors expressed readiness for what they expect a tight and exciting series, knowing full well their rivals are playing at their best of late.



Ralph Lansang (No. 0) hopes to lead NHA against DENR at the start of their semis series on Sunday at the Paco Arena in Manila.

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FEB 08 2020

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**RALPH Lansang (No. 0) hopes to lead NHA against DENR at the start of their semis series on Sunday at the Paco Arena in Manila.**

# Well-rested Cavaliers, Warriors eye hot UNTV semis starts

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FEB 18 2020

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

PAGE 1/ \_\_\_\_\_

DATE

## AFP, DENR gustong makauna

**LARO BUKAS**  
(Paco Arena)  
**SEMIFINALS, best of-5**  
3:30 p.m. - DENR vs NHA  
(Game 1)  
5 p.m. - AFP vs Judiciary  
(Game 1)

Matapos makapagpahinga ay tangka ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na makauna sa kani-kanilang best-of-three semifinal series kontra sa magkahiwalay na kalaban sa 8th UNTV Cup bukas sa Paco Arena sa Manila.

Haharapin ng top seed na AFP Cavaliers ang Judiciary Magis sa alas-5 ng hapon habang sasagupain ng second-ranked DENR Warriors ang National Housing Authority Build-

ers sa alas-3:30 sa event na inorganisa ni UNTV President at CEO Dr. Daniel Razon para sa mga public servants.

Naghintay ang AFP at DENR ng halos tatlong linggo para malaman kung sino ang kanilang kalaban sa semis matapos makuha ang outright slots bilang No. 1 at No. 2 teams sa two-stage elims.

Bagama't mahaba ang pahinga ng Cavaliers at Warriors, nagpakita ang mga ito ng kahandaan sa inaasahan nilang mahigpit na laban kontra sa mga bigating koponan.

Bagama't angat ang Cavaliers sa frontline, ang Magis ay may solidong backcourt crew na kinabibilangan nina da-ting PBA players Warren Yba-

ñez at Chester Tolomia kasama ang beteranong si Frederick Salamat.

Galing din ang Judiciary sa impresibong 65-55 panalo kontra sa Philippine International Trading Center sa kani-kanilang do-or-die duel para sa huling semis ticket nitong weekend.

Sa pangunguna ng dating Letran star na si Boyet Bautista, hangad ng Cavaliers na magiging unang back-to-back champions bagama't sila lamang ang may tatlong titulo sa liga.

Ang mapipiling charity ng champion team ay tatanggap ng tax-free na P4 million prize.

Ang charity na mapipili ng runner-up ay may P2 milyon.



**RALPH Lansang (center) hopes to lead NHA against DENR at the start of their semis series on Sunday at the Paco Arena in Manila.**

## UNTV Cup semis starts Sunday

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# How volcanic eruption impacts biodiversity

THE recent Taal Volcano eruption displaced thousands of families, caused millions worth of damage and put the area and surrounding provinces in danger of hazardous volcanic fumes.

Many left their homes to stay in evacuation areas for safety — some even leaving behind their pets and farm animals. There have been reports of stranded animals amid the ongoing volcanic unrest circulating online, with netizens asking to rescue domestic animals and livestock.

The animals have since been rescued and taken to a safer area away from the hazard zone.

However, other species have remained in danger even as the alert level was lowered.

## Species in danger

Taal island is home to a variety of animals and plants, notably the Garman sea snake, giant trevally (*maliputo*), and freshwater sardinella, locally known as *tawilis*, an endemic species listed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

There are also large animals on the island like horses and cows, which were reportedly left behind during the human evacuation due to their large size.

Not only did the recent eruption put these animals and plants at risk, but it also killed them. During the aerial inspection of the island, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said they received reports that flora and fauna on the volcanic island died from volcanic fumes.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources said they expect fish kills in the lake due to the high sulfur content after the eruption.

## How volcanic eruptions affect biodiversity

Animal and plant deaths are just some of the devastating effects of volcanic eruptions on wildlife. Not only can volcanic eruption displace species, but it can also reshape the ecosystem surrounding it.

For instance, researchers from the University of Sto. Tomas found that past eruptions of Taal volcano increased human activities and led to the formation of several ecological barriers, hindering dispersal of other plant species on other areas of the island.

Another study in the West Indian island of Montserrat, the site of an ongoing volcanic eruption since 1995, revealed the negative impact of volcanic ash on the island's canopy arthropod or invertebrate populations.

Large ash fall events and eruptions led to a significant drop in Montserrat's insect population, which the researchers said were due to the exposure to "relatively limited quantities of ash."

Species of fish and corals are also at risk of destruction during volcanic unrest. The lava from the eruption of Hawaii's Fissure 8 flooded "a rare tide pool ecosystem, home to 82 species of fish, 10 different species of coral and 17 species of invertebrates," according to *Smithsonian Magazine*.

While the adverse effects of volcanic eruptions on its surrounding biodiversity are inevitable, they aren't the biggest threat to the environment. Nature finds a way to heal itself from natural disasters, but that doesn't mean it will have to do all the work.

Ultimately, we should also do our part in ensuring that biodiversity thrives in the one planet we share together.

HARIBON



REDUCED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

# NEDA SEEKS FINE-TUNING OF PROPOSED NATIONAL LAND USE LAW

State planning agency National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) is fine-tuning the draft executive order (EO) institutionalizing national land use planning while already moving to implement existing laws on utilization of land and other physical resources.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and Neda chief Ernesto Pernia told the Inquirer last Wednesday that the draft EO on National Land Use Act (Nalua) discussed during Tuesday's Cabinet meeting was "well-received, subject to comments from a couple more agencies."

Last December, the Cabinet asked Neda to craft an EO as the proposed Nalua pending in Congress was expected to meet opposition in the Senate.

In an email, Neda Undersecretary Adoracion Navarro said that while President Duterte and the Cabinet deferred their decision on the draft EO, the government could already start moving with the existing land use laws.

"Since we cannot formulate suggested directives for the President, which are not backed by existing laws, we focused on the crafting of Presidential directives telling agencies to fast-track their deliverables related to land use under various laws," Navarro explained.

As recommended by the Cabinet during their December meeting, Navarro said they proposed to streamline the Neda Board-national land use committee to just five agen-

cies—Neda as chair, and the Departments of Agriculture (DA), Agrarian Reform, Environment and Natural Resources, as well as Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) as members. The earlier proposal included 11 agencies.

On top of the streamlined national land use committee, Neda also pushed to reconstitute the land use committees in the regional and local government unit (LGU) levels, Navarro added.

"We also recommended that the DHSUD formulate sanctions for LGUs when they fail to formulate and implement their comprehensive land use plans," Navarro said.

Navarro had noted that the President wanted "explicit and clear sanctions to local govern-

ment executives when they violate Nalua."

Another Neda recommendation was for the DA to "craft and implement a land consolidation and utilization program for agri-industrial development," Navarro said.

Last month, Navarro said that while an EO will already facilitate the presidential directives to implement existing land use laws, a Nalua bill was needed to put in place additional sanctions, restrictions and programs that need funding but were not yet included in present pieces of legislation.

The President had identified Nalua as an urgent bill, mentioning it in his State of the Nation Addresses from 2016 to 2019, Pernia had pointed out. —**BEN O. DE VERA** INQ





# Adaptation action is more urgent than ever

**T**HE Philippines is considered a pioneer in climate change and disaster risk reduction management policies, with the enactment of the Climate Change Act of 2009, People's Survival Fund Law, Renewable Energy Act of 2008, and the Green Jobs Act of 2016, among others.

The Climate Change Commission, the government's sole policy-making body tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the programs and actions plans related to climate change, has led the development of the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change and the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), which outlines the country's climate change adaptation and mitigation agenda from 2011 to 2028.

The NCCAP's ultimate goal is to build the adaptive capacities of women and men in their communities, increase the resilience of the vulnerable sectors and natural ecosystems to climate change, and optimize mitigation opportunities toward gender-responsive and rights-based sustainable development, categorized in seven thematic priority areas:

## Food security

The Philippines, being highly vulnerable to climate change risks and natural hazards, has to seriously address risks to food security. Action toward building a food-secure society amid the changing climate will need to address some underlying drivers such as poverty and sustainable livelihoods, human and institutional capacities, and advance-



## ALL ABOUT CHOICES

**LUDWIG O. FEDERIGAN**

ment in scientific knowledge on climate change risks and adaptation technologies in the food production sector.

## Water sufficiency

Climate change exacerbates water crisis. Climate projections of wetter climate during the wet season and drier climate during the dry season will mostly affect stream flow, dam operations and water allocation, domestic water supply, irrigation, hydro power generation, water quality and fisheries.

Changes in water supply due to the changing climate will also affect the food and human security and the economy if water governance and adaptive measures are not robust enough to cope with the risks and impacts of climate change.

## Ecological and environmental stability

With climate change, we expect adverse impacts on our ecosystems. While ecosystems have the inherent capacity to resist and adapt, climate change coupled with destructive human activities put tremendous pressures on it.

## Human security

Security concerns associated with climate change include the potential for conflict over natural

resources, population displacement and migration as the result of sea-level rise or other large-scale biophysical, ecological or social disruptions and the prospect of increasingly frequent and intense humanitarian disasters as the result of extreme climate events.

## Climate-smart industries and services

The long-term goal is the sustainable transition toward green growth by developing climate-smart industries and services. To be done in partnership with the private sector, creating green jobs, and sustainable livelihoods especially in the rural areas and promoting climate-smart and sustainable cities and municipalities.

## Sustainable energy

The Philippines is facing a formidable challenge of developing sustainable clean energy to support the requirements of economic and social development with minimal adverse effects on the environment due to its dependence on coal over the past decades.

The country should continue to pursue the mainstreaming of the following renewable energy sources: geothermal, hydroelectric, wind, wave, biomass and solar power.

## Knowledge and capacity development

Climate change is a complex issue and in order to effectively address the issue, it is important to have knowledge about it.

Having knowledge and understanding on the science, issues



P- 2

# Adaptation action is more urgent than ever

and risks, as well as appropriate capacity to address the issue of the changing climate are critical components to build resilient communities and ecosystems.

Since the adoption of the post-2015 global development frameworks — the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Paris Agreement on Climate Change — our national and local plans should be aligned with the goals and targets of these global frameworks.

## 10 easy-to-do adaptation solutions

Adapting to climate change should be a complementary action to disaster risk management in order to reduce the risks and impact of additional hazards brought by extreme climate events.

Based on a study of the Asian Development Bank on the economics of climate change, the Philippines stands to lose 6 percent of its gross development product (GDP) annually by 2100; however, investing 0.5 percent of the country's GDP by 2020 in climate change adaptation will avert losses by as much as 4 percent.

The opportunity to avert loss and damage from climate change impacts through increased investments in adaptation must be seized.

Here are 10 easy-to-do, no-regrets adaptation solutions that can be pursued with the NCCAP priority.

First, for water sufficiency, rainwater harvesting could be a sustainable solution given the country's current water supply

problem. It is among the basic solutions we need to provide water for waterless barangays and to reduce our dependence on groundwater extraction.

Second, community food gardens and edible landscapes. From a socio-economic perspective, these gardens and landscapes build trust in the community, facilitate participation, and address food security, which are all vital components of effective adaptation to climate change.

Third, on the priority area of human security, providing roadside ditches makes a good strategy for mitigating floods and preventing flood disasters triggered by highly intense rainfalls.

Fourth, championing energy efficiency and harnessing solar and other renewable energy to electrify homes, schools, barangay halls and public places are steps forward toward our goal of sustainable energy.

Fifth, to achieve ecological and environmental stability, single-use plastics should be avoided. Reducing wastes to zero, recycling and reusing, as well as composting should be promoted at household and community levels to reduce dependence on landfills that generated methane, a potent climate destabilizing greenhouse gas and to promote the use of organic fertilizers and organic farming.

Sixth, in promoting further ecological and environmental stability planting bamboo will not only sequester carbon, but will also protect slopes to prevent landslides and provide a wide range of livelihood applications.

Seventh, mangroves and sea grass will protect coastal ecosys-

tems and communities.

Eighth, the establishment of climate field schools to provide in-depth training and skills development will not only help farmers bolster the resilience of their livelihood, but will also improve food production.

Ninth, the timely communication of early warning on impending natural hazards to communities must also be institutionalized. Local governments are crucial in ensuring that early warning systems will reach the "last mile" and in ensuring early action at the household and community level.

Tenth, strengthening humanitarian preparedness, emergency response, and contingency planning will not only save lives, but will also enable us to build back from the cascading impact of extreme weather events.

All these local climate adaptation solutions, when implemented properly, shall not only accelerate the implementation of the NCCAP, but will readily build the resilience of our communities to climate and disaster risks.

*The author is the executive director of the Young Environmental Forum. He completed his climate change and development course at the University of East Anglia (United Kingdom) and executive program on sustainability leadership at Yale University (USA). On February 8, he will be the resource speaker on the seminar on Ang Kalikasan at Ako: A Talk on Climate Change and Its Impacts on Our Community at the Mary Mother of Divine Grace Proposed Chapel, Santo Padre Pio Parish, Paranaque City. He can be emailed at ludwig.federigan@gmail.com.*





FINDINGS AT CHINA AGRI UNIVERSITY

# PANGOLIN IDENTIFIED AS POTENTIAL LINK FOR CORONAVIRUS SPREAD

The endangered pangolin may be the link that facilitated the spread of the novel coronavirus across China, Chinese scientists said on Friday.

At least 31,000 people have been infected and 630 killed by the virus, which has spread to two dozen countries.

Researchers at the South China Agricultural University have identified the scaly mammal as a "potential intermediate host," the university said in a statement, without providing further details.

The new virus, which emerged at a live animal market in central China's Wuhan city late last year, is believed to have originated in bats, but researchers have suggested there could have been an "intermediate host" in the transmission to humans.

After testing more than 1,000 samples from wild animals, scientists from the university found the genome sequences of viruses found on pangolins to be 99 percent identical to those on coronavirus patients, the official



**BLACK MARKET FAVORITE** The pangolin is considered the most trafficked animal on the planet. —GREGG YAN

Xinhua news agency reported on Friday.

The pangolin is considered the most trafficked animal on the planet and over one million have been snatched from Asian and African forests in the past decade, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

They are destined for markets in China and Vietnam, where their scales are used in traditional medicine despite having no medical benefits and their meat is bought on the black market.

China in January ordered a temporary ban on the trade

in wild animals until the epidemic is under control.

The country has long been accused by conservationists of tolerating a shadowy trade in endangered animals for food or as ingredients in traditional medicines.

The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome virus that killed hundreds of people in China and Hong Kong in 2002-2004 also has been traced to wild animals, with scientists saying it likely originated in bats, later reaching humans via civets.

—AFP



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PAGE 1/

## **Pangolin 'nagkalat' ng nCoV - scientists**

Malaki ang posibilidad na nagmula sa makaliskis na Balintong (Pangolin) ang kinatatakutang 2019 novel coronavirus na pumatay ng 630 katao at nakahawa sa mahigit 31,000 pa sa buong mundo.

Ang Balintong na isang endangered species ay kinalalokohang "exotic food" sa Asya partikular ng mga Tsino na karamihang tinamaan ng nasabing virus.

Ayon sa mga mananaliksik ng South China Agricultural University, bagamat may posibilidad na nagmula sa paniki ang nCoV, lumabas na 99 porsiyento na mas hawig sa mga nakuhang samples ng virus ang natagpuan mula sa Balintong kesa sa 1,000 iba pang uri ng hayop na siniyasat ng mga ito.

Nagmula ang nCoV sa isang palengke ng mga hayop na kinakain bilang mga exotic foods sa siyudad ng Wuhan, Hubei.

Ayon sa International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), umabot na sa halos isang milyong Balintong ang ilegal na inilalabas mula Asya at Africa upang isilbi bilang exotic foods na ang mga kaliskis ay pinaninwalaang lunas sa ilang sakit subalit wala naman itong kumpirmasyon sa mga dalubhasa sa medisina.