

DATE : FEB 09 2020

DAY : Sunday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



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**SEWAGE TREATMENT PLAN SWITCH ON** – The first giant sewage treatment plan built at the Manila Yacht Club began operations following it being switched on in a simple ceremony led by Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu (third from right) and was joined by MYC past commodore Toto Arellano, Philippine Coast Guard Commander Rear Admiral George Ursabia, Jr., Supreme Court Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda, MYC commodore Bobby Joseph, US Ambassador Sung Yong Kim, Sen. Cynthia Villar, Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta, and Metro Manila Development Authority chair Danny Lim. Two more STPs between MYC and the US Embassy are under construction.

*For comments, e-mail at [mareyes@philstarmedia.com](mailto:mareyes@philstarmedia.com)*



## DENR to address six areas of concern in Baguio rehab

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has identified six key areas of concern that need to be addressed during the rehabilitation of Baguio City.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu on Friday said the government's rehabilitation efforts will be focused on Baguio City's air quality, river quality, 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.

He 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," he pointed out.

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.

Cimatu also pointed out the need to implement drastic measures to tackle air pollution in Baguio City. In 2014, the country's summer capital topped the list of the World Health Organization (WHO) Study on Ambient Air Pollution with the most polluted air in the Philippines with particulate matter 2.5 (PM 2.5) at 49 micrograms per cubic meter. Particulate matter is an indicator for air pollution.

"Baguio City's air quality is troubling because there are more than 2,000 deaths related to air pollution from 2015 to 2019," Cimatu said, citing data from the local government.

He added that the DENR is also eyeing the rehabilitation of Balili and Bued rivers, which coliform levels are even worse than that of the Manila Bay.

He said the DENR is looking forward to the conversion of the Irisan dumpsite into an "environmental-friendly eco-park."

The dumpsite was temporarily shut down last year for operating as an open dumpsite. The operation and maintenance of open dumpsites are strictly prohibited under the Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000).

Cimatu earlier ordered his field officials to saturate Baguio with pine trees and restore its reputation as the "City of Pines" after he noticed the "balding" mountain city.

He has also ordered the conduct of an ecosystems research to extend the life of the Benguet pine tree species.



## Barangay execs urged to support DENR trash project

THE genuine concern of each of Manila's 243 barangay chairmen to help in the success of "Mission-Manila Bay" should come from their inner desire to be part of the project and not from the fear of getting sanctioned for not performing their mandate.

This was the message of Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda to barangay leaders in all of the six districts of the prime city in line with the continuing "estero" cleanup and rehabilitation of the historical bay.

Last week, the Pasig River Task Force (PRTF) of the DENR distributed trash bins to all barangays which are located along the esteros that drain to Pasig River.

According to Antiporda, the trash project supports Secretary Roy Cimatu's directive to mobilize the citizenry to participate in the rehabilitation and restoration efforts of the government.

Each set consists of three bins labelled and color-coded for proper waste segregation.

Color red is for metal, while the green one is for paper and yellow for plastic which should serve as constant reminder for the residents along the esteros on the importance of waste segregation.

In his message, DENR Undersecretary and Manila Bay Task Force Ground Commander Juan Miguel T. Cuna called on the barangay chairs to continuously support the DENR's ongoing program for Manila Bay.

The DENR said it is counting on every barangay chairman to be the prime movers who should lead their constituents in the war against garbage while extending all the needed assistance to address the issue.

In return, the Manila administration assured the DENR that it will monitor and supervise the barangays on the use of the trash bins, and will continue to partner with the DENR in its activities for the Battle for Manila Bay. **Joel dela Torre**



*Ang aming pananaw...*



Art: Rod C. Aquino  
Feb. 8, 2020

## ISANG MILYON SA KALINISAN

**HINDI** masama ang pagkaloob ng isang milyong piso sa pinakamalinis na barangay. Narapat lamang na pagkalooban ng gantimpala ang mga nagsisikap.

Kung nasusulat sa Banal na Kasulatan na huwag pakainin ang mga taong tamad, ganoon din naman ay kailangang may gantimpala ang mga nagsusumikap.

Pinapayagan na ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) ang pagkaloob ng isang milyong premyo sa pinakamalinis na barangay na siyang plano ng pamahalaang Lungsod ng Maynila, subalit paglilinaw lamang- gagamitin ang nasabing halaga sa mga proyektong may kaugnayan sa kalikasan katulad ng clean and green at pagsasaayos ng mga solid waste management facility.

Maganda ang layunin nito upang mahimok ang bawat isa na mapanatiling malinis ang kapaligiran.

Kasama sa mga criteria sa timpalak ay: 30% sa segregation ng mga basura, 20% kailangan may material recovery facility, 20% mayroong greening program, 15% may isinagawang barangay consultation at 15% barangay clean-up.

Iba-validate ito ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) at Department of Science and Technology (DOST).



## Onerous provisions' dapat itama--Makabayan bloc PINAS LUGI SA KALIWA DAM LOAN DEAL

**HINAMON** ng Makabayan bloc sa Kamara ang pamahalaan na patunayang hindi lugi ang mga Filipino sa pinasok nitong kontrata sa China para sa pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam at Chico River Pump Irrigation na magmula sa Quezon hanggang sa Tanay sa Rizal.

Nanindigan ang grupo na labag sa Konstitusyon ang loan agreement para sa naturang dam project na nagkakahalaga ng P12.20 bilyon.

Inilista ni Bayan Muna Rep. Isagani Carlos Zarate ang ilang ilegal umanong probisyon sa kontrata gaya ng 1) Article 5.7 na nagsasaad na "Philippines or any of its assets, unless prohibited by the laws and public policies, are not entitled to any right of immunity on the grounds of sovereign or any legal process.; 2) Article 8.1, na nagsasaad na "Philippines irrevocably waives any immunity on grounds of sovereignty.; 3) Article 8.4, "agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of China.; 4) Article 8.5 na nagsasabing ang Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre ang

magsasagawa ng arbitration sakaling magkaroon ng dispute; 5) Article 8.9 na nagsasaad na ang terms, conditions at standard fees ng loan agreement ay confidential.

Sa website ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, lumilitaw na kasalukuyang binibili ang mga lupa na daraanan ng Tunnel Outlet Portal at nakikipag-ugnayan na ito sa mga pamahalaang lokal ng Infanta, Real at General Nakar sa Quezon; Tanay, Morong at Baras, Rizal at sa DENR.

Iginiit ni Zarate na dapat itong itigil ng gobyerno hanggang hindi naitatama ang mga 'onerous provision' sa kontrata na malinaw na nakasasama umano sa mga Filipino.

Kinontra rin ni Zarate ang pahayag ng MWSS na ang pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam ang solusyon para maiwasan ang panibagong krisis sa tubig at tutugon sa malaking pagkukulang sa kapasidad ng Angat Dam na 96 porsyentong pinagkukunan ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Maaari umanong resolbahin ang water crisis nang hindi kinakailangang magtayo ng dam na malapit sa fault line, sisira sa

paninirahan at pamumuhay ng mga indigenous people at ikalunod sa utang na may 2% interes ng Pilipinas sa China.

Paniniwala ni Zarate, bahagi umano ito ng mga lihim na kasunduan sa pautang ng Pilipinas at China na bilyon-bilyong piso ang halaga na may kaaliwaswasan kaya hindi umano dapat na ipagpatuloy ito

Binira rin ni Bayan Muna Chairman Neri Colmenares ang confidentiality clause sa Kaliwa Dam project dahil hindi na basta-basta umano magkakaroon ang taumbayan ng kaalaman o impormasyon sa kasunduan.

Sinabi naman ni Bayan Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat

na malinaw na diskriminasyon sa mga katutubo ang pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam.

"Matagal nang inalagaan ng mga kapatid na Dumagat at Remontado ang Kaliwa River, at nanatiling malinis at malaya itong umaagos patungo sa iba't ibang komunidad na nangangailangan ng tubig. Hindi rason na itayo ang Kaliwa Dam para sa dagdag na pangangailangan ng tubig sa Metro Manila at ilipat ang mga katutubo sa ibang lugar, kahit walang malinaw na kabuhayan nila, matayo lang ang proyektong pinondohan ng inutang sa China, habang libo-libong mamamayang katutubo at mga magsasaka ang maa-

pektuhan," giit ni Cullamat.

Ani Cullamat, maaari namang kumuha ng dagdag na supply sa Wawa Dam at Laguna Lake kung kulang ang supply sa Angat Dam.

Nanindigan naman ang Department of Finance na ang loan agreement ay maituturing na isa lamang normal na kasunduan gaya rin ng mga pinasok ng mga nakaraang administrasyon sa ibang mga bansa tulad ng Japan, Korea at France.

Buwelta ni Colmenares sa DOF, dapat tukuyin nito ang mga loan agreement sa ibang bansa na sinasabi nitong may mga confidentiality clause rin.

"I challenge the DOF to name ten loans with countries other than China but with the same confidentiality clauses as the Kaliwa loan. If the DOF cannot find other loans with the same confidentiality clause as the Kaliwa loan, then the DOF should take back its usual statement that these are standard provisions and admit that such loans as the Kaliwa loan indeed are lopsided in favor of China."



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# 'Onerous provisions' dapat itama - Makabayan bloc

# KALIWA DAM LOAN PABOR SA CHINA!

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# KALIWA DAM LOAN PABOR SA CHINA!

**MINAMON** ng Makabayan bloc sa Kamara ang administrasyong Duterte na patunayang hindi lugi ang mga Filipino sa pinasok nitong kontrata sa China para sa pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam at Chico River Pump Irrigation na magmumula sa Quezon hanggang sa Tanay, Rizal.

Nanindigan ang grupo na labag sa Konstitusyon ang 'loan agreement' para sa naturang dam project na nagkakahalaga ng P12.20 bilyon.

Inilista ni Bayan Muna Rep. Isagani Carlos Zarate ang ilang ilegal na probisyon sa kontrata kabilang dito ang: 1) Article 5.7 na nagsasaad na "Philippines or any of its assets, unless prohibited by the laws and public policies, are not entitled to any right of immunity on the grounds of sovereign or any legal process.; 2) Article 8.1, kungsaan nakasaad na "Philippines irrevocably waives any immunity on grounds of sovereignty.; 3) Article 8.4, "agreement shall be governed by and

constructed in accordance with the laws of China.;

4) Article 8.5 na nagsasaad na ang Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre ang syang magsasagawa ng arbitration sakaling magkaroon ng dispute.; 5) Article 8.9, nagsasaad na ang terms, conditions at standard fees ng loan agreement ay confidential.

Sa website ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) ay sinabi nitong ongoing na ang acquisition sa mga lupa na daranan, ng Tunnel Outlet Portal at nakikipag ugnayan na ito sa mga LGU ng Infanta, Real, General Nakar, Quezon Province, Tanay, Morong, Baras, Rizal Province at sa DENR, subalit gimint ni Zarate na dapat itong itigil ng gobyerno hanggang hundi naitatama ang mga 'onerous provision' sa kontrata na

malinaw na hindi makababuti sa mga Filipino.

Kontra rin ni Zarate ang ibinebenta ng MWSS na ang pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam ang solusyon para maibsan ang panibagong krisis sa tubig at itugon sa malaking pagkakulang sa kapasidad ng Angat Dam na pangunahing pinagkukunan ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay Zarate, maaaring resoluhin ang water crisis nang hindi kinakailangang magtayo ng dam na bukod sa malapit na sa fault line ay magdi-displace pa sa mga indigent na tao at maglulund sa bansa sa pamagang foreign debt labo at 2% ang interest rate sa utangin sa China.

Binira rin ni Bayan Muna Chairman Neri Colmenares ang confidentiality clause sa Kaliwa Dam project. Aniya, dahil sa

confidentiality clause na ito ay hindi basta-basta magkakaroon ng access sa maging loan agreement.

Samantala, sinabi ni Bayan Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat na maliyaw na diskriminasyon sa mga katutubo ang pagtalayo ng Kaliwa Dam.

"Matagal nang inalagaan ng mga kapatid na Dumagat at Remontado ang Kaliwa River, at nanatiling malinis at malaya itong umaagos patungo sa iba't ibang komunidad na nangangailangan ng tubig. Hindi rason na itayo ang Kaliwa Dam para sa dagdag na pangangailangan ng tubig sa Metro Manila at itapat ang mga katutubo sa ibang lugar, kahit walang maliyaw na kabuhayan nila, matayo lang ang proyektong pinondohan ng imulang sa China, habang libalibong manamayang katutubo at mga magsasaka ang

maaapektuhan," giit ni Cullamat.

Ani Cullamat, maaari namang kumuha ng dagdag na supply sa Wawa Dam at Laguna Lake kung kulang ang supply sa Angat Dam.

Nanindigan naman ang Department of Finance (DOF) na ang loan agreement na pinasok nito sa China ay maituturing na isa lamang normal na kasunduan gaya rin ng mga pinasok ng mga nakaraang administrasyon, sa ibang mga bansa tulad ng Japan, Korea at France.

Buwelita naman ni Colmenares sa DOF, tukuyin muna nito ang mga loan agreement sa ibang bansa na sinasabi nitong may mga confidentiality clause din.



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## Loan agreement sa Kaliwa Dam ilegal – Bayan Muna

Kinontra ni Bayan Muna Party-list Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate ang ibinibenta ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) na ang pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam ang solusyon para maiwasan ang panibagong krisis sa tubig at tutugon sa malaking pagkakukulang sa kapasidad ng Angat Dam na pangunahing pinagkukunan ng tubig sa Kalakhang Maynila.

Ayon kay Zarate, maaaring resolbahin ang krisis sa tubig nang hindi kinakailangang magtayo ng dam na bukod sa malapit na sa fault line ay mawawala pa sa lugar ang mga indigenous people at maglulunod sa bansa sa panibagong foreign debt lalo at 2% ang interest rate ng utangin sa China.

Hinamon din ng Makabayan bloc ang administrasyong

Duterte na patunayang hindi lugi ang mga Pilipino sa pinasok nitong kontrata sa China para sa pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam at Chico River Pump Irrigation na magmumula sa Quezon hanggang sa Tanay sa Rizal.

Nanindigan ang grupo na labag sa Konstitusyon ang loan agreement para sa naturang dam project na nagkakahalaga ng P12.20 bilyon.





## Hamon kay P-Du30

### ₱12.2 BILLION KALIWA DAM, TALUPAN

HINAMON ng Makabayan bloc sa Kamara ang administrasyong Duterte na patunayang hindi lugi ang mga Filipino sa pinasok nitong kontrata sa China para sa pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam at Chico River Pump Irrigation na magmumula sa Quezon Province hanggang sa Tanay sa Rizal.

Nanindigan ang grupo na labag sa Konstitusyon ang loan agreement para sa naturang dam project na nagkakahalagang P12.20 bilyon.

Sa website ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), ongoing na ang acquisition sa mga lupa na daraanan ng Tunnel Outlet Portal at nakikipag-ugnayan na sa mga LGU ng Infanta, Real, General Nakar, Quezon Province, Tanay, Morong, Baras, Rizal Province at sa DENR subalit, iginiit ni Bayan Muna Rep. Isagani Carlos Zarate na dapat itong itigil ng gobyerno hangga't

hindi naitatama ang mga 'onerous provision' sa kontrata na malinaw umano na hindi makabubuti sa mga Filipino.

Kinontra rin ni Zarate ang pahayag ng MWSS na ang Kaliwa Dam ang solusyon para maiwasan ang panibagong krisis sa tubig at tutugon sa malaking pagkakukulang sa kapasidad ng Angat Dam na pangunahing pinagkukunan ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay Zarate, maaaring resolbahin ang water crisis nang hindi na kinakailangang magtayo ng dam na bukod sa malapit na sa fault line ay magdi-displace pa sa mga indigenous people at maglulunod sa bansa sa panibagong foreign debt lalo at 2% umano ang interest rate na uutangin sa China.

Binira rin ni Bayan Muna Chairman Neri Colmenares ang confidentiality clause sa Kaliwa Dam project. Aniya, dahil sa con-

fidentiality clause na ito ay hindi basta-basta magkakaroon ng access sa naging loan agreement.

Samantala, sinabi ni Bayan Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat na malinaw na diskriminasyon sa mga katutubo ang pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam. Aniya, maaari namang kumuha ng dagdag na supply sa Wawa Dam at Laguna Lake kung kulang ang supply sa Angat Dam.

Nanindigan naman ang Department of Finance (DOF) na ang loan agreement na pinasok nito sa China ay maituturing na isa lamang normal na kasunduan tulad din ng mga pinasok ng mga nakaraang administrasyon sa ibang mga bansa tulad ng Japan, Korea at France.

Buwelta naman ni Colmenares sa DOF, tukuyin muna nito ang mga loan agreement sa ibang bansa na sinasabi nitong may mga confidentiality clause rin.

(Mylene Alfonso)



# **KALIWA DAM LOAN DEAL BUSISIIN** PAHINA 2

## ***Kaliwa Dam loan deal busisiin***

Hinamon ng Makabayan bloc sa Kamara ang gobyerno na patunayang hindi lugi ang mga Pilipino sa pinasok nitong kontrata sa China para sa pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam at Chico River Pump Irrigation na magmumula sa Quezon hanggang sa Tanay, Rizal.

Nanindigan ang grupo na labag sa Konstitusyon ang loan agreement para sa naturang dam project na nagkakahalaga ng P12.20 bilyon.

Binanggit ni Bayan Muna Rep. Isagani Carlos Zarate na kabilang sa iligal na probisyon sa kasunduan ang Article 5-7 nito na nagsasaad na hindi entitled ang Pilipinas o anumang asset nito sa right of immunity, Article 8.1 na tinatalikuran ng Pilipinas ang anumang right of immunity base sa sovereign o anumang legal process at Article 8.4 na nagsasabing ang kasunduan ay alinsunod sa batas ng China.

Kontra rin ni Zarate ang ibinebenta ng Metropolitan Waterworks Sewerage System na ang ang pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam ang solusyon para maiwasan ang panibagong krisis sa tubig at tutugon sa malaking pagkakukulang sa kapasidad ng Angat Dam na pangunahing pinagkukunan ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay Zarate, maaaring resolbahin ang water crisis nang hindi kinakailangang magtayo ng dam na bukod sa malapit na sa fault line ay magdi-displace pa sa mga indigenous people at maglulunod sa bansa sa panibagong foreign debt lalo at 2% ang interest rate sa utangin sa China.

Binira rin ni Bayan Muna Chairman Neri Colmenares ang confidentiality clause sa Kaliwa Dam project. Ayon kay Colmenares, dahil sa confidentiality clause na ito ay hindi basta-basta magkakaroon ng access sa naging loan agreement.

Samantala, sinabi ni Bayan Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat na malinaw na diskriminasyon sa mga katutubo ang pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam.

Buwelta naman ni Colmenares sa DOF, tukuyin muna nito ang mga loan agreement sa ibang bansa na sinasabi nitong may mga confidentiality clause rin.



#### NEWS BRIEFS

##### **Ton of giant clam shells seized in Palawan**

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Over a ton of giant clam shells were seized by local authorities from illegal wildlife traders at Barangay Carsian in Taytay town in Palawan province on Thursday. A belated report said on Saturday that suspects Carlo Valdez Cutanda, Carlito Paduga, Eduardo Opias and Erwin Durana underwent inquest proceedings on Friday for “collecting, hunting, or possessing wildlife, their by-products, and derivatives” in violation of Republic Act No. 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act. The giant clams were identified as *Tridacna derasa*, *Tridacna maxima*, *Tridacna gigas* and *Tridacna squamosa*, all classified as protected species. The giant clams, also known as *taklobo*, were allegedly being sold for P600 to P1,000. —ROMAR MIRANDA



# Whale-shark tourism review urged



By Rico M. Osmena  
@tribuneph1\_rico

CEBU – Governor Gwendolyn Garcia is seeking a review of an ordinance regulating whale-shark watching in the municipality of Oslob as she feels this favors tour operators rather than the locals who consider it a source of livelihood.

In a meeting, Garcia told officials of Oslob led by Mayor Jose Tumalak Jr. and the Provincial Tourism Office (PTO) that the ordinance review should eventually favor the townfolks instead of the tour operators.

**Whales vs human sharks?** Swimming with whale sharks remains a top tourist draw, but consistency is badly needed in efforts to ensure the protection of these gentle giants.

LARRY PAYAWAL

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**'Fish' be with you** Muslim children, victims of Marawi war, watch a large grouper fish during a tour at Ocean Park in Manila.

AFF

The ordinance review should eventually favor the townfolks instead of the tour operators

From page A1

"We have limited daily the entry of guests in Oslob to 800 and 400 of these goes to the Cebu Association of Tour Operators (CATO) while the rest goes to the local government unit (LGU) and local businesses," she said.

Garcia asked if there is personal interest involved in favoring CATO, when it should favor more the local constituents.

During the time of then Governor and now Vice Governor Hilario Davide III and former Vice Governor Agnes Magpale, the provincial government in coordination with the LGU of Oslob came up with an ordinance to restrict daily guests on the whale-shark watching amid fears that it may affect the

environment and the butanding's behavior especially on restricted feeding.

There was a time when daily guests in whale-shark watching reached more than 2,000, but due to environment concerns, it was eventually limited to 800.

"We have to review the ordinance. There's no place in the world that can replicate Oslob whale-shark watching. This is most unique as an experience you can't experience elsewhere but in Oslob," the governor reiterated.

Garcia then challenged the resorts to level up with the tourist attraction by ordering the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources to conduct inventory among resorts in Oslob and check their environmental preservation programs.



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# 'Eating migratory birds can cause bird flu'

BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

**T**HE Department of Agriculture (DA) has warned the public not to eat migratory birds to avoid contracting the H5N1 avian influenza or bird flu.

DA Secretary William Dar over the weekend said their initial laboratory tests on migratory birds showed negative results.

He, however, advised the public not to eat migratory birds to avoid contracting bird flu.

Migratory birds may carry virus.

The H5N1 is also being monitored in China's Hunan province located facing the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea).

Meanwhile, DA Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) has deployed personnel to all entry and exit points in the Cagayan Valley region to prevent the entry of hogs and pork products afflicted with African swine fever (ASF).

Narciso Edillo, DA Region 2 executive director, said the move aimed to ensure that no products coming from ASF-carrier neighboring regions would enter Region 2.

"We need to make more secure our quarantine measures against threats of African swine fever and at the same time protect the livelihood of our local farmers," Edillo said.

Some 3,000 pigs were placed under "culling" in Don Marcelino, Davao Occidental as part of precautionary measures to stop the spread of the ASF.

Edillo said there were now three checkpoints in Santa Fe in Nueva Vizcaya and that they continue to monitor secondary entrances in Tabuk City in Kalinga province, the towns of Solana, Santa Praxedes and Enrile in Cagayan province, as well as in Quirino province.

"All checkpoints are with personnel from the Bureau of Animal Industry, regulatory personnel of other government agencies and newly veterinary medicine graduates who will undergo training for 24-hour monitoring," he added.

The DA has already coordinated with governors in Region 2 to conduct a tight watch on all checkpoint areas since the region is surrounded by areas already affected by ASF — Regions 1 (Ilocos) and 3 (Central Luzon), and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Edillo said while pork meat with the ASF is safe for humans, this can-

not be a good reason to make such meat available in the market.

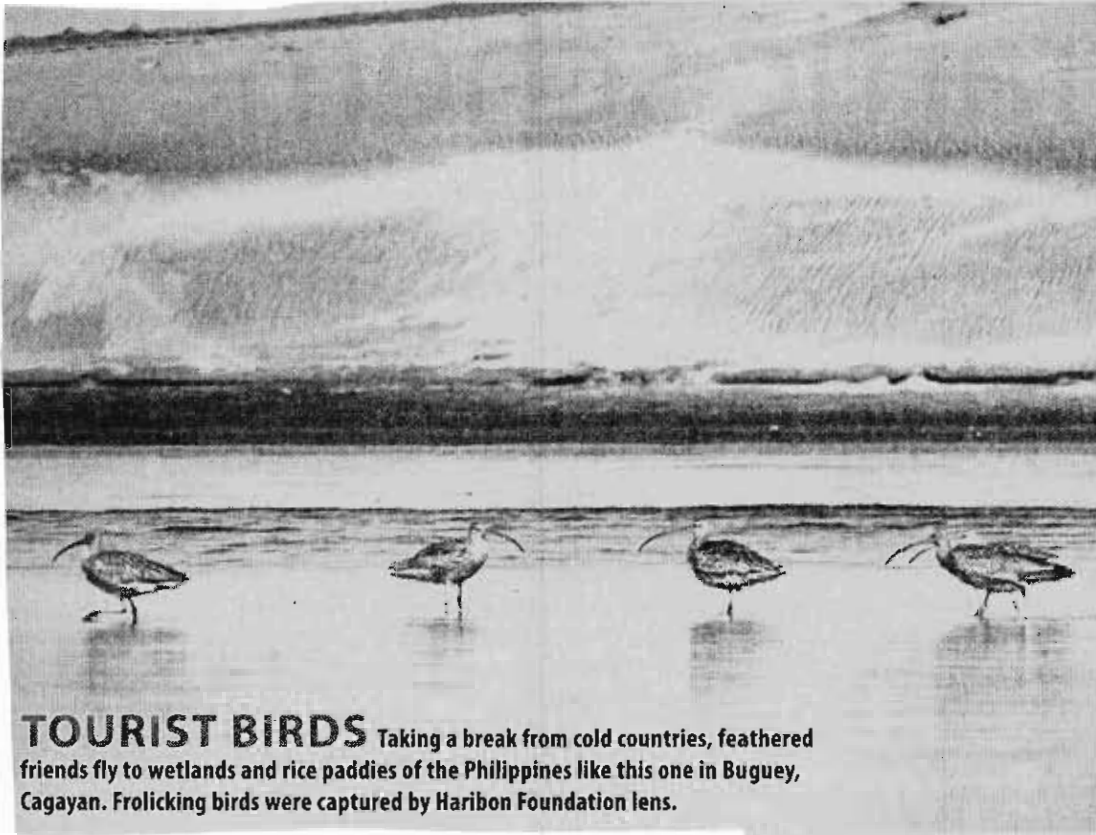
## ASF cases in Benguet

Provincial veterinarian Miriam Tiongan said ASF cases were found in piggery farms in Camp 1, Tuba and Beckel, La Trinidad, prompting her office to adopt needed measures to prevent the virus to spread to the 11 remaining towns.

Benguet province has jurisdiction over national highways leading to Baguio City and capital town La Trinidad, namely Naguillian Road from Bauang town in La Union; San Pascual Road from Tubao town, La Union; Marcos Highway from Pugo, La Union; Kennon Road from Rosario La Union; Benguet-



'Eating migratory birds can cause bird flu'' P-2



**TOURIST BIRDS** Taking a break from cold countries, feathered friends fly to wetlands and rice paddies of the Philippines like this one in Buguey, Cagayan. Frolicking birds were captured by Haribon Foundation lens.

Vizcaya Road via Bokod, Benguet from Kayapa Nueva Vizcaya; the Benguet-Ifugao Road via Buguias Benguet; Halsema Highway that connects to Mountain Province leading to Ifugao and Region 2; the road to Sudipen La Union via Bakun town; and the Benguet- Cervantes Road that connects to Ilocos Sur.

Tiongan said in Camp 1, there

were 177 "depopulated" (culled) pigs, adding that the pigs included Vietnamese variety pigs that resemble native boars and the local breed.

In Beckel, La Trinidad, a police officer bought P200,000 worth of piglets online and picked them up from Pangasinan.

He then transported the 52 heads of swine in concealed ordinary pick-up trucks to avoid being discovered at quarantine checkpoints, allowing him to bring in the animals despite lack of clearances and permits.

"We went to the place on Monday for a de-pop but one of the 11 had died and the others so weak and showing signs of the ASF," Tiongan said.

### Negros ban

Negros Occidental Gov. Eugenio Jose Lacson has stopped the entry of hogs and pork products from Mindanao.

Lacson said the ASF has spread over Mindanao region particularly in Davao Occidental where some 1,000 hogs were culled.

He noted that his province is the gateway of livestock and meat products to Panay and Luzon.

Provincial administrator Rayf-rando Diaz said Negros Occidental has enough supply of pork.

**WITH DEXTER A. SEE AND EUGENE Y. ADIONG**



## CARITAS

Fr. Anton Pascual

**M**AY mga ilang araw na kapanalig, na kapansin pansin ang haze o maruming kalawakan sa Metro Manila. Marami nga ang nag-aakala na ito ay bunsod pa rin ng abo mula sa pagputok ng Taal Volcano. Ngunit lingid sa kaalaman ng marami, maruming hangin ang pumaimbabaw sa ka-Maynilaan nitong nakaraang mga linggo kaya hazy ang kalangitan nitong nakaraang mga araw.

Ayon sa mga eksperto, poor quality o mababang kalidad ang hangin sa Metro Manila nitong nakaraang mga araw,

partikular na nitong mga huling linggo ng Enero. Umabot ng 63 hanggang 65 micrograms per cubic meter ang air pollutants syudad. Mapanganib sa kalusugan ito kapanalig. Ayon nga sa World Health Organization, ang pamantayan o standard ay nasa 25 micrograms lamang per cubic meter.

Hindi natin inaalintana ito masyado, lalo pa't nasanay na tayo sa dumi ng hangin ng syudad. Pero dapat mabahala tayo dito kapanalig, dahil ang maruming hangin, nakakamatay. Sa buong mundo, ang maduming hangin ay isa sa pangunahing dahilan ng mga sakit sa buong mundo. Ilan sa mga ito ay sakit sa puso, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, pati mga respiratory infections in children. Ayon nga datos ng WHO, umaabot ng 4.2

## Polusyon

million ang bilang ng mga kamatayan na kaugnay ang maduming hangin.

Ano nga ba ang magagawa natin sa maruming hangin sa ating paligid?

Kapanalig, kahit na karaniwang Filipino tayo, marami tayong magagawa para makatulong tayo sa paglinis ng hangin sa atin. Unang una, dapat nating maunawaan na ang pag-gamit natin ng enerhiya ay may malaking ambag sa paglala ng kundisyon ng hangin sa ating paligid. Ang enerhiya kasi, gumagamit ng krudo, na kapag sinusunog, nandurumi ng hangin.

Ang paggamit din ng sasakyan, nakakarumi ng hangin. Krudo kasi ang gamit nun, at kung sinusunog, dinudumihan din ang kalawakan. Kaya kung mababawasan ang trapiko sa atin, malaking kaginhawaan

yan para sa ating kalangitan.

Ang ating hangin ay libre, ngunitkung dinudumihan natin ito ng tuwina, magbabayad tayong lahat ng mahal, katumbas ng ating kalusugan, katumbas ng ating buhay.

Kapanalig, ang ating pagtrato sa ating kapaligiran ay sumasalamin kung gaano natin binibigyang halaga ang ating sariling buhay. Kagaya nga ng pahayag sa Caritas in Veritate, "Ang paraan ng pakikitungo ng sangkatauhan sa kapaligiran ay nakakaimpluwensya sa paraan ng pagtrato nito sa sarili, at kabaligtaran." Tunay sana nating maunawaan ang mga katagang ito, at isabuhay natin upang malasap naman natin ang sariwang hangin at malusog na pangangatawan.



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## Int'l group aims to plant one trillion trees

CEBU CITY — On Earth Day this coming April 22, 2020, an international organization is planning to start something big to give back to Mother Earth.

We Don't Deserve This Planet is spearheading their "1 Trillion Tree Plantation Campaign."

Abhi Yeole said that while they will formally launch their campaign

on Earth Day, this will be made to continue around the globe after that.

"On this #EarthDay 2020 looking forward to planting trees Worldwide. This is not a 1-day event will plant 1 Trillion trees in the next 10 years," said Yeole, an Indian national.

With this ambitious move to save nature, Yeole is encouraging Filipinos to be one with them

and to also support their campaign.

"The best time to plant trees was yesterday, the next best time is now. People can message us on our page where they are willing to be a volunteer for this campaign," Yeole said.

Campaign participants will come from 25 countries including India, Australia, Lebanon, Sri

Lanka, Vietnam, Kenya Pakistan, USA, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and some countries in Europe.

Be part of this campaign and plant trees to plant hope around the world.

Visit their Facebook page We Don't Deserve This Planet for more details on this project. — *CDN Digital*





# Global warming and volcanic activity

## COMMENTARY

RODEL D. LASCO

The recent spate of volcanic eruptions around the world has people asking if this is connected to the warming of the Earth's atmosphere. The eruption of Taal Volcano brings this issue closer to home.

There are at least two ways that volcanic eruptions are linked to climate change. First, it is without doubt that volcanic eruptions could alter global temperatures because of the amount of ash and gases they emit to the atmosphere. The classic and world-famous case of this was the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. When that long-dormant volcano erupted in 1991, global temperatures cooled by an average of 0.6 degrees Celsius over the months that followed.

According to the Nasa Earth Observatory, this was because the volcano spewed about 15 million tons of sulfur dioxide into the stratosphere, where it reacted with water to form a layer of aerosol particles. These particles scatter globally due to strong stratospheric winds and absorb incoming solar radiation, which, in Pinatubo's case, led to global cooling for more than a year. In addition, it has been shown that sea level correspondingly becomes lower as a result of cooler temperatures.

Taking inspiration from what happened during Pinatubo's eruption, there are nascent attempts to emulate the global cooling effect of

volcanic eruptions through solar radiation management (SRM). For instance, in Harvard's Solar Geoengineering Research Program, scientists are exploring the possibility of injecting aerosols into the atmosphere as a cost-effective way of reducing the amount of radiation coming from the sun, thereby depressing the Earth's temperature. Clearly, there are many technological and social issues that still need to be resolved before this technology becomes a reality, such as its effects on rainfall patterns and climatic extremes. Given the controversy surrounding SRM, it may not even come to fruition at all.

Second, scientists are beginning to investigate whether a warming climate could trigger more volcanic activity. The evidence so far is sparse to warrant any definitive conclusion. For instance, Swindles and co-workers (2018) showed that volcanic activity in Iceland increased as a result of glacier melting, such as those associated with global warming. However, they also found out that there could be a lag time of hundreds of years before the effect is felt. In another study in Canada, researchers showed

that glacier melting could lead to catastrophic landslides in volcanoes. Unfortunately, there are no research data available on the impacts of climate warming on volcanoes in the tropics.

Still, the relationship of weather and extreme climatic conditions with the impacts of volcanic eruptions is well-established. Heavy rains and typhoons can exacerbate the destruction wrought by volcanoes, as we witnessed during Pinatubo's lahar rampage. The destruction caused by mud and debris flow from Mayon Volcano because of Typhoon "Reming" is another example. In Taal's case, wind intensity and direction determine which cities and municipalities are affected by ashfall.

All of these show the intricate interconnectedness of the world we live in. We can no longer afford to be ignorant or skeptical of what is happening to the world around us. Now more than ever, we need to pay attention to the health of our planet.

Dr. Rodel D. Lasco is a member of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) of the Philippines. He is the executive director of The OML Center, a foundation devoted to discovering climate change adaptation solutions (<http://www.omlpezcenter.org/>).



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## Nationinbriefs

### PROTEST LAUNCHED VS COAL POWER PLANTS IN BATAAN

LIMAY, Bataan: Members of the Coal-Free Bataan Movement (CFBM) and residents, including children, in black shirts and masks on Saturday staged a protest against the operation of two coal power plants in a village here. Carrying placards, the protesters silently lined up along the road fronting the compound of the two plants in Sitio Carbon, Barangay Lamao. Dubbed the "Climate Change Advocacies Black Saturday Protest," Alvin Pura, CFBM spokesman, said the protest was staged to condemn alleged violations of the plants. Kilusan Pambansang Demokratiko-Bataan, meanwhile, said operating were Petron's 140-megawatt coal power plant and the 600-megawatt coal power plant of San Miguel Corp.-Global. Pura explained that when the Taal Volcano erupted last January and spewed ashes, many people panicked, but "here in Bataan, we deal with ashes everyday." Neljie Santos, a resident, said she was confined for asthma and, when she had already spent a week in the hospital, asked to be discharged. She bared that the doctor told her not to go back to her house as the area around it is polluted by the coal plants.

**ERNIE B. ESCONDE**