

DATE : 10-23-19

DAY : Wednesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



DENR: Heavy rains caused fishkill

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

Heavy rains caused the fishkill at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP) in Manila Bay last Oct. 10, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said yesterday.

The initial water quality test results showed that the fishkill resulted from low concentrations of dissolved oxygen (DO) in the water, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

"Fish, like all other complex life forms, need oxygen to survive. They get theirs in the form of oxygen gas dissolved in water," Cimatu said.

According to Domingo Clemente, who heads the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau-National Capital Region, the low DO levels "may have resulted from the recent heavy rains that caused the flushing of decomposed organic matter from the surface run-offs and inland water tributaries, eventually polluting the open seas."

Cimatu said the DO for three of four monitoring stations at the LPPWP on Oct. 10 was too low for Class SB waters, which is six milligrams per liter.

The Class SB water classification means that the water is "suitable for commercial propagation of shellfish and intended as spawning areas for milkfish."

All four stations exceeded the water quality guideline (WQG) for fecal coliform bacteria, which is 100 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 ml). Station 2 recorded the highest concentration of fecal coliform at 350,000 MPN/100 ml, while the levels in the three other stations ranged from 23,000 to 24,000 MPN/100 ml.

Traces of cyanide were found at all four stations, exceeding the WQG of .02 mg/l for Class SB waters.

Cimatu said DO concentrations increased and fecal coliform levels went down to 540 to 1,600 MPN/100 ml during follow-up tests conducted on Oct. 14, four days after the fishkill.

The DENR will continue to monitor water quality in the LPPWP to ensure it would not affect efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

Last Oct. 11, more than 5,000 kilos of dead fish, shrimp and crabs were found floating in the LPPWP's waters.



DENR: Low oxygen killed fishes

By Maria Romero

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday revealed that low concentrations of dissolved oxygen (DO) in the water resulted into the recent fish kill in Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP).

In a statement, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said that initial water quality test showed that low oxygen in the water was the reason behind the fish kill in the area.

"Fish, like all other complex life forms, need oxygen to survive. They get theirs in the form of oxygen gas dissolved in the water," said Cimatu, noting that the results of the laboratory tests conducted by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) on 10 October showed that the DO for three out of four stations in LPPWP did not conform with the water quality guideline (WQG) for Class "SB" waters, which is 6 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

The DENR said that it was lack of oxygen and traces of cyanide were the reason for the fish kill.

Cimatu explained that dissolved oxygen is the volume of oxygen that is contained in the water and is vital in supporting aquatic life, while Class SB water classification means that the water is "suitable for commercial propagation of shellfish and intended as spawning areas for milkfish."

According to EMB-National Capital Region Director Domingo Clemente, the low levels of the DO "may have resulted from the recent heavy rains that caused the flushing of decomposed organic matter from the surface run-offs and inland water tributaries eventually polluting the open seas."

Results also showed that the DO for Station 1 (Long Island, approximately 30 meters from shoreline) was 3.3 mg/L; Station 2 (Long Island, approx. 20 meters from shoreline in front of Pier Area), 3.4 mg/L; Station 3 (boundary of Long Island and Freedom Island, approx. 30 meters from shoreline), 5.9 mg/L; and Station 4 (Freedom Island, approx. 30m from shoreline), 9.8 mg/L.

All four stations also exceeded the WQG for fecal coliform, which is 100 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100ml). Station 2 recorded the highest concentration of fecal coliform at 350,000 MPN/100ml, while the levels in the three other stations ranged from 23,000 to 24,000 MPN/100ml.

Traces of cyanide – a chemical that is lethal to most fish species and invertebrates as it blocks the absorption of oxygen by cells and causes the species to suffocate and die – were also found in all four stations, exceeding the WQG of 0.02 mg/L for Class SB waters.

Cimatu, however, said the water pollution measures showed improvement during the follow-up tests conducted on 14 October – just four days after the fish kill occurred and noted that the DO concentrations increased and the fecal coliform levels went down significantly.





STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

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10/5
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

10-23-19

TITLE

PAGE 1/

DATE

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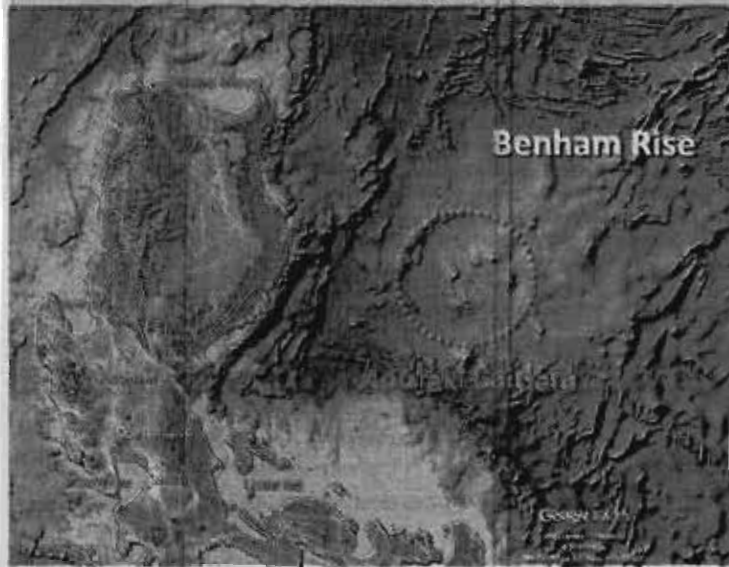
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

DENR says low oxygen level caused fish death in Las Piñas-Parañaque

THE RECENT fish death in the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park was due to low concentrations of dissolved oxygen in the water, which may have been caused by heavy rains, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said. On Oct. 11, more than 5,000 kilos of dead fish were gathered in the area. In a statement, DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said laboratory results from tests undertaken by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) show three of the four stations in the area did not conform to the water quality guideline (WQG) set for commercial fish propagation. Recent heavy rains may have led to low levels of dissolved oxygen "that caused the flushing of decomposed organic matter from the surface run-offs and inland water tributaries eventually polluting the open seas," EMB National Capital Region Director Domingo M. Clemente said. The four stations also exceeded the WQG for fecal coliform, while traces of cyanide were also found in the stations. In a follow-up test on Oct. 14, water pollution measures showed improvements. — **Vincent Mariel P. Galang**



PH SCIENTIST'S DISCOVERY



'WORLD'S LARGEST CALDERA' MAY BE AT PHILIPPINE RISE

By Frances Mangosing
@FMangosingINQ

The world's largest caldera may be found underwater at Philippine Rise, or Benham Rise, according to a Filipino marine geophysicist.

According to the study by New Zealand-based scientist Jenny Anne Barretto, along with Ray Wood and John Milson, Benham Rise was formed by volcanic activity between 48.9 million and 42.5 million years ago.

Her study, "Benham Rise unveiled: Morphology and structure of an Eocene large igneous province in the West Philippine Basin," was published on Sunday by *Marine Geology*, an international journal on marine geology, geochemistry and geophysics. It was also made available online on the same day.

'Apolaki'

Among its key findings are that Benham Rise is a "large igneous province," or a collection of rocks formed from cooled magma, and that the crest of the rise has the form of a caldera with a diameter of about 150 kilometers. It named the volcanic feature Apolaki Caldera, or "giant lord," after the Filipino mythical god of the sun and war.

Philippine Rise is a 13-mil-

lion-hectare undersea plateau off Aurora and Isabela provinces.

The United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf recognized the area in 2012 as part of the Philippines' continental shelf.

In a Facebook post on Monday, the University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute Geological Oceanography Laboratory said Benham Rise's caldera could be the world's largest.

Comparisons

"For comparison, Earth's largest calderas, like the Yellowstone, is only about 60 km. The size is comparable to shield calderas [on] Mars (Olympus Mons; 80 km x 65 km) and Venus (Sacajawea; 150 x 105 km)," it added.

A caldera is a large cauldron-like depression formed after a large volcanic eruption. It is different from a crater, which is a smaller depression.

Taal Lake south of Metro Manila is an example of a caldera. The Taal caldera has 40 craters and is about 25 km wide.

The June 1991 eruption of Mt. Pinatubo, considered by volcanologists the second largest in the 20th century, left a 2-km-wide caldera that later evolved into a lake. —WITH A REPORT FROM INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ



TITLE:

PAGE 1/



Largest caldera found in Benham

A FILIPINO scientist based in New Zealand and two others have published a research on what could possibly be the largest caldera—a large crater caused by violent explosion of a volcano—in the world.

Turn to A3

Largest...

From A1

Jenny Anne Barretto, a New Zealand-based marine geophysicist, with Ray Wood and John Milson, claimed to have found a caldera with a diameter of around 150 kilometers in the undersea feature which is part of the Philippines' continental shelf.

They said their discovery of the Apolaki Caldera—named after the Filipino mythical god of the sun and war—revealed the structure of the undersea feature for the first time within the Benham Rise east of the shoreline of Luzon.

"For comparison, Earth's largest calderas, like the Yellowstone, is only about 60 kilometers. The size is comparable to shield calderas in Mars (Olympus Mons; 80 km x 65 km) and Venus (Sacajawea; 150 X 105 km)," the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute said Monday in a Facebook post.

In their paper titled "Benham Rise unveiled: Morphology and structure of an Eocene large igneous province in the West Philippine Basin," Barretto described Benham Rise as "an oceanic large igneous province at the western margin of the Philippine Sea."



NEWS

Kaliwa dam project gets DENR clearance

By **Jhesset O. Enano**
@JhessetEnanoINQ

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for the P18.7-billion Kaliwa Dam project in Quezon province, amid fierce opposition from environmental groups and indigenous communities that decried its risks and irregularities.

One of the Duterte administration's big-ticket projects to be funded by Chinese loans, the Kaliwa Dam is touted as the solution to the water shortage in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

News about the release of the ECC came as the two private water concessionaires in Metro Manila and adjacent towns and cities in Rizal and Cavite provinces announced service interruptions because of the falling water level at Angat Dam in Bulacan. (See story in Metro, Page A10)

In an Oct. 11 letter addressed to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) administrator, the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) granted the ECC application for the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project.

The grant came after the project had reportedly satisfied the requirements of Presidential Decree No. 1586, or the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System, and on the recommendation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Review Committee.

"With the issuance of this ECC, you are expected to implement the measures presented in the EIS intended to protect and mitigate the project's adverse impacts on community health, welfare and the environment," read the letter signed by EMB Director Metodio Turbellia.

Turbellia added that environmental considerations



GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

NO TO DAM Environmental activists assail the Kaliwa Dam project in a picket in front of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in this photo taken last week.

should be incorporated in all phases and aspects of the project and that the EMB would periodically monitor the project to ensure compliance.

291-hectare reservoir

The ECC is among the requirements needed to proceed with the construction of a gravity dam on Kaliwa River, which will cover a reservoir surface area of 291 hectares, with a gross reservoir volume of 57 million cubic meters at full supply level.

Securing this certificate allows the project to proceed to the next stage, which is to obtain permits from pertinent agencies so construction and implementation can begin.

For groups resisting the project, the promise of easing the water shortage woes in Metro Manila and nearby provinces comes at an unfair exchange of destroyed ecosystems and environmental risks in Teresa and Tanay in Rizal and General Nakar and Infanta in Quezon.

"Everything is being done to get this project approved," said Catholic priest Pete Montallana, head of the Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance.

He said the DENR did not consider the reactions that his group had submitted.

"Neither did it study the EIS

really well and scientifically," said the priest, also spokesperson for Stop Kaliwa Dam Network, an alliance of around 50 organizations opposing the project.

Conditions

In issuing the ECC, the EMB laid down conditions for the MWSS, covering concerns ranging from environmental issues to people's livelihood and indigenous peoples' (IP) rights.

The MWSS, for instance, should conduct an effective information, education and communication program to all its stakeholders, including contractors, workers and local residents, to inform them of mitigating measures in the EIS and the conditions of the project.

Other conditions include the conduct and submission of actual inventory and assessment of threatened species that may be affected during clearing operations, development of an integrated watershed management plan, and adoption of mitigation measures as cited in EIS to protect the Tinipak Spring and Tinipak White Rocks.

Six months after receipt of the ECC, the proponent should also submit a duly signed memorandum of agreement with

concerned local governments for a social development program.

The proponent must submit an Indigenous Peoples Development Plan, which is to be approved by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, to the EMB at least a year before construction starts.

It should also ensure that sacred sites and burial grounds, as well as the culture and livelihood of the IPs, are preserved.

Montallana said the DENR did not take into consideration the "manipulations and lies" perpetrated against indigenous Dumagat tribes, which face displacement from ancestral lands once the dam's construction begins.

Voted against project

Montallana said five out of six indigenous community clusters voted against the project during assemblies under the free and prior informed consent process.

An executive summary prepared by the EMB for the public said the project would "indirectly impact" 56 IP households and would place 284 IP households at risk of flooding and other effects of possible dam failure.

But in an earlier Inquirer interview, Wilma Quierrez, Dumagat Sierra Madre secretary general, said more than 20,000 Dumagat people from at least 18 villages faced displacement.

"Aside from the degradation to our environment, there is the danger that China will gain a foothold in our territory," Montallana said.

Critics earlier assailed the "onerous" deal with Beijing over the dam.

In August, the Commission on Audit called the bidding for the project a "negotiated contract" from the start, after only Beijing-owned conglomerate China Energy Engineering Corp. Ltd. was qualified in the process. INQ



Kaliwa Dam construction nears as project gets ECC

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The controversial P18.7-billion Kaliwa Dam is targeted to begin construction by February next year after the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) secured one of the most pertinent documents needed to jumpstart the project.

MWSS chairman Reynaldo Velasco has confirmed that the agency last week received the environmental compliance certificate (ECC), a requirement for any project in the country that poses potential environmental risk or impact.

With the ECC approval, the MWSS is waiting for just one more permit, from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

"We are positive that we

can get that permit before the end of the year," Velasco told **The STAR**.

"While there are NGOs (non-government organizations) meddling with the project, the NCIP knows that this is a flagship project of the administration," he said.

Civil society and non-government organizations have been supporting the call of the Agta-Dumagat-Remontado tribes in Quezon and Rizal who are opposing the Kaliwa

Dam project.

The project is said to displace the indigenous communities and threaten the already endangered flora and fauna in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

Once the NCIP permit is secured, China Energy Engineering Corp. will submit the engineering design which will be up for approval of the MWSS Board.

"By February, hopefully the design will be approved by the board. We will immediately proceed with the construction right after," Velasco said.

In a document dated Oct. 11, the Environmental Management Bureau has issued an ECC for the Kaliwa Dam project to be located in Teresa and Tanay in Rizal and in

General Nakar and Infanta in Quezon.

The ECC was signed and issued by EMB director Metodio Turbella.

"With the issuance of this ECC, you are expected to implement the measures presented in the environmental impact statements intended to protect and mitigate the project's adverse impacts on community health, welfare and the environment," Turbella said.

The certificate was issued after proponents submitted an environmental impact statement, which is a "comprehensive study of the significant impacts of a project on the environment."

Turn to C3

Kaliwa Dam... From C1

"However, you may proceed with the project implementation only after securing the necessary permits from other pertinent government agencies. Environmental considerations shall be incorporated in all phases and aspects of the project," he said.

The ECC covers the construction and operation of gravity dam along the Kaliwa river with a dam height of 60 meters referred to a riverbed elevation of 100 meters.

It will also cover a reservoir surface area of 291 hectares with a gross reservoir volume of 57 million cubic meters at full supply level.

According to the ECC, proponents must institute and strictly implement an information, education and communication program to inform stakeholders of measures to mitigate the project's effects on the environment, including measures for environmental disaster risk reduction.

MWSS must also submit a memoranda of agreement with affected local government units for social development programs in their areas and implement

programs that will protect the cultural heritage of the Dumagats who have lived there for generations.

It must also develop an Integrated Watershed Management Plan and "ensure the structural soundness/stability of the dam through compliance with internationally accepted structural dam design standards."

The ECC also says MWSS must "ensure that the sacred sites and burial grounds, as well as the culture and livelihood of the IPs are preserved and protected."

MWSS must also implement "mitigating measures" to protect and preserve Tinipak Spring and Tinipak White Rocks, which are sacred to the IP communities that live along the river.

After 34 years, Kaliwa Dam is set to fully take off following the formal signing of the contract between President Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping last November.

Kaliwa Dam aims to complement Angat Dam, Metro Manila's main water source. It is expected to supply an additional 600 million liters of water per day to the capital.



MWSS cleared to proceed with Kaliwa Dam project

By Rio N. Araja

THE Environment department has cleared the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System to proceed with the construction of the P18.7-billion Kaliwa Dam project.

The department gave its order through the Environment Management Bureau.

On Oct. 11, EMB director Metodio Turbella gave the new water source project the clearance to build and operate a gravity dam along Kaliwa River in Quezon and Rizal.

"With the issuance of this ECC [environmental clearance certificate], you are expected to implement the measures presented in the environmental impact statements intended to protect and mitigate the project's adverse impacts on community health, welfare and the environment, a provision in the ECC says.

"However, you may proceed with the project implementation only after securing the necessary permits from other pertinent government agencies. Environmental considerations shall be

incorporated in all phases and aspects of the project."

The project proponents earlier submitted an environmental impact statement.

The ECC is a requisite allowing the project to push through to the next stage of project planning, including securing approval from other concerned government agencies.

But the EMB warned the project proponents—the MWSS and its contractor China Energy Engineering Corp.—to ensure full compliance with the law.

"Non-compliance with any of the provisions of this certificate shall be sufficient cause for its cancellation and/or imposition of a fine in an amount not to exceed P50,000 for every violation thereof," the ECC says.

The ECC said the MWSS must "ensure that the sacred sites and burial

grounds, as well as the culture and livelihood of the indigenous peoples are preserved and protected," and that it must adopt mitigating measures to protect and preserve Tinipak Spring and Tinipak White Rocks.

The two areas are considered sacred to the IP communities.

Apart from these provisions, the ECC said the MWSS and CEEC must strictly implement an information and communication program to educate all stakeholders as to how to mitigate the environmental impact to be brought about by the Kaliwa Dam construction.

Moreover, MWSS must submit memorandums of agreement with concerned local government units for social development programs and the protection of the cultural heritage of the Dumagat tribes, and that an integrated watershed management plan must be developed to "ensure the structural soundness/stability of the dam through the compliance with internationally accepted structural dam design standards."

The government said the Kaliwa Dam project would address the increasing demand for water in Metro Manila and its nearby provinces.

The proposed dam could add 600 million liters per day.



STRATEGIC
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INITIATIVES
SERVICE



10-23-19

TITLE

PAGE 17

DATE

Rotational water interruption to hit MM tomorrow, may last until 2020

By MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR

Water concessionaires Manila Water Company, Inc. and Maynilad Water Services, Inc. will both regularly implement rotational water ser-

vice interruptions starting tomorrow, Thursday, which may last until next year if water level at Metro Manila's major water sources will not improve over the next few months.

Spokespersons of Maynilad and

Manila Water confirmed on Tuesday that all their customers in Metro Manila will experience shortage in water supply almost on a daily basis due to lack of rains, leaving all the dams in the metropolis dry. ▶8

Rotational water interruption... 1◀

The worst case scenario, they both agreed, will be that the water supply interruption will be felt until next year or as long as there wouldn't be enough rains and no new water sources are coming online.

Metro Manila – home to more than 12 million people – gets its water supply from the Angat-Ipo-La Mesa water system.

Angat Dam currently supplies 97 percent of Metro Manila's water needs, releasing about 4 million liters of water per day (mld), while La Mesa Dam is supposed to serve as a reserve for Manila Water.

As of Tuesday, the water level at Angat Dam was at 186.44 meters, which is way lower than its spilling level of 217 meters, while Ipo Dam was at 100.48 meters, also below its spilling level of 101 meters.

The water level at La Mesa, on the other hand, currently stood at 77.53 meters, likewise lower than its spilling level of 80.15 meters.

In a statement, Manila Water said its scheduled water interruption will be felt by all its 6.8 million customers and

will range from 4 to 10 hours.

Affected areas include Rizal, Makati, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Pasig, Parañaque, Pateros, Quezon City, San Juan, Taguig, among others.

It's the same case for Maynilad, which said it was "constrained to re-implement daily rotational water service interruptions in some portions of the West Zone starting the evening of October 24, Thursday".

"There has been scant rainfall at the Angat and Ipo watersheds over the past few days, resulting in the continuous decline of raw water levels in the Angat and Ipo Dams. Since raw water allocation from Angat Dam for Metro Manila and adjacent provinces is still at the reduced level of 40 cubic meters per second (cms) – versus the normal allocation of 48 cms – the volume of raw water entering our treatment facilities is short by around 250 million liters per day (MLD)," Maynilad said.

"The re-implementation of rotational water service interruption is also part of the supply management efforts in preparation for the summer next year in case we are not able to

reach the 212 meters level for Angat Dam," it added.

At present, both water concessionaires are encouraging customers to use water responsibly to help them better manage the limited water supply.

Maynilad said it is now implementing mitigating measures to minimize the impact of the limited supply to its customers. These include construction of water treatment and storage facilities, supply and pressure management, activation of deep wells and installation of mobile treatment plants.

"If enough volume of raw water enters our treatment facilities, we can shorten or even postpone the scheduled service interruption. However, if the volume of raw water is not enough, then the service interruptions will happen as scheduled," the company further said.

The only sure water project to come online in 2021 is the Wawa Dam project of port magnate Enrique Razon.

In September, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) conducted a series of public consultation on the possible tariff impact of the project to the customers of its lone off-taker, Manila Water.



Water rationing to start on Thursday

RESIDENTS of Metro Manila and adjacent provinces will again endure hours of interrupted water service as Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc.

announced that rotating water supply will start on Thursday, October 24, 2019.

The two water concessionaires said they had to implement

rotating service interruptions because the water level of Angat Dam continues to decline. They added that measures have to be taken to

► **RationingA2**

■ RATIONING FROM A1

Water rationing to start on Thursday

ensure that water supply would last until next year.

Maynilad said there had been scant rainfall at the Angat and Ipo watersheds.

On Tuesday, the water level in Angat Dam, the primary source of water in the metropolis and nearby areas, was 186.46 meters, down by 0.31 meters from the 186.77 meters on Monday.

The National Water Resources Board has maintained water releases from Angat Dam for Metro Manila and adjacent provinces at 40 cubic meters per second (m³/s), lower than the allocation of 48 m³/s on normal days.

This means the volume of water entering Maynilad's treatment facilities is short by about 250 million liters per day.

According to Manila Water Corporate Strategic Affairs Group Head Jeric Sevilla Jr., the water provider would evenly distribute water supply to all 6.8 million customers in the East Zone concession area.

Affected areas include the cities of Caloocan, Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Manila, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Navotas,

Parañaque, Pasig, Pasay, Quezon, San Juan, Taguig and Valenzuela, as well as the municipality of Pateros in Metro Manila.

Bacoor, Cavite City, Imus, Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario in the province of Cavite, as well as Bulacan will also be affected.

In a separate advisory, Manila Water said it conducted line de-clogging that affected the supply in Cherryville Subdivision, Summerfield Subdivision and the entire Golden City in Barangay Dolores, Taytay, Rizal.

Maynilad said it had mitigating measures in place to minimize the impact of the limited supply such as the construction of water treatment and storage facilities, supply and pressure management, activation of deep wells, and installation of mobile treatment plants.

It said it might shorten or postpone the scheduled service interruption if "enough volume of raw water enters our treatment facilities."

Both companies appealed to their customers to use water responsibly.

JORDEENE B. LAGARE



10-23-19
DATE

'DESPITE DENR BAN, LAND RECLAMATION GOES ON IN BACCOOR'



PHOTO shows a still "untouched" portion of a fishpond adjacent to a public cemetery in Bacoor in Manila Bay and another area already covered with backfilling materials. PHOTO COURTESY OF PAMALAKAYA

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

THE Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) on Tuesday expressed alarm over land-reclamation activities happening at a fishpond connected to Manila Bay.

The land-reclamation activity is adjacent to a public cemetery in Bacoor City, Pamalakaya said.

According to Pamalakaya, operators using heavy equipment are dumping filling materials in the area. No information is made available whether the ongoing dump-and-fill activity is for public works or a private construction activity, said Pamalakaya national chairman Fernando Hicap.

This came despite a recent policy pronouncement by officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) that no land reclamation will be allowed in Bacoor City.

"This was reported by our members as it appears dubious, there was no project details nor building permit number, and they operate during the night. It is akin to how China reclaimed parts of the West Philippine Sea, in secret and fast-paced," Hicap said in a statement.

According to Hicap, the land reclamation in Bacoor is a cause for alarm given that the proposed 420-hectare Bacoor Reclamation Project was exposed at the Senate and no less than officials of the DENR committed to cancel the project.

"It is also detrimental to the Supreme Court mandamus to rehabilitate Manila Bay and the DENR's program," he insisted.

SEE "BACCOOR," A2

Bacoor. . . CONTINUED FROM A12

"The DENR is already in the hot seat because of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program and the recent fish kill. They are busy with clearing the waterways toward the bay, then we are seeing this, an opposite project, dumping of debris," he said.

According to Hicap, a former Anakpawis Party-list representative, if the ongoing activity is a public works project, it lacked the

required publication of project details as to what it is, when and where should it be finished, how much it is worth and who is the contractor, and prior consultation to directly affected sectors.

He asserted that even if it is a private activity, it should be required to secure an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) as DENR has declared Bacoor Bay as an environmentally critical area.



18 lugar na may banta ng landslide, tinukoy

Tinukoy ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geoscience Bureau (DENR-MGB) ang 18 lugar sa bansa na kinakitaan ng mataas na panganib ng pagguho ng lupa.

Ang 18 lugar sa Pilipinas na may banta ng landslide ay ang Benguet, Mountain Province, Abra, Nueva Vizcaya, Davao Oriental, Ifugao, Aurora, Apayao, Quirino, Kalinga, Camiguin, Southern Leyte, Sarangani, Siquijor, Quezon, Bukidnon, Rombion, at Negros oriental.

Bunga nito, binalaan ng DENR-MGB ang lahat ng mga local executives sa nabanggit na mga lugar na gumawa ng mga kaukulang contingency measures upang mapaghandaan at maiwasang mabiktima ng landslides ang mga nasasakupang lugar sa bansa.

Ang babala ng MGB ay kasunod ng magnitude 6.3 lindol na tumama sa Mindanao kamakailan.

Ayon kay Atty. Wilfredo Moncano, director ng MGB, ang pagkamatay na dulot ng anumang natural disaster ay mababawasan kung hindi man mailwasan sa pamamagitan ng preparasyon at tamang pagpapakalat ng impormasyon para rito.

Ginawang halimbawa ni Moncano ang Japan na isang bansang 'highly-prepared' pagdating ng isang kalamidad pero marami pa rin ang namatay nang hagupitin ng bagyong Hagibis kamakailan.

Ayon sa MGB, handa silang tumulong sa mga LGUs pagdating sa paghahanda para sa mga geohazards na gaya ng landslides at mudslides. (Angie dela Cruz)



10-23-19

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

18 lugar mataas ang banta ng landslide

Labingwalong lugar sa Pilipinas ang tinukoy ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geoscience Bureau (DENR-MGB) na kinakitaan ng mataas na panganib ng pagguho ng lupa.

Ito ay ang Benguet, Mountain Province, Abra, Nueva Vizcaya, Davao Oriental, Ifugao, Aurora, Apayao, Quirino, Kalinga, Camiguin, Southern Leyte, Sarangani, Siquijor, Quezon, Bukidnon, Romblon, at Negros Oriental.

Kaya't binalaan ng DENR MGB ang lahat ng mga local executives sa nabanggit na mga lugar na gumawa ng mga kaukulang contingency measures upang mapaghandaan at maiwasang mabiktima ng landslides ang mga nasasakupang lugar sa bansa.

Ang babala ng MGB ay kasunod ng naganap na malakas na lindol na magnitude 6.3 na tumama sa Mindanao noong Miyerkules.

Ayon kay Atty. Wilfredo Moncano, director ng MBG ang pagkamatay na dulot ng anumang natural disaster ay mababawasan kung hindi man maiiwasan sa pamamagitan ng preparasyon at tamang pagpapakalat ng impormasyon para rito. -Angie dela Cruz-Davao



Pujada Bay kinilalang 'one of most beautiful bays' sa mundo

PASOK ang Pujada Bay sa Mati City, Davao Oriental, sa "Most Beautiful Bays in the World" (MBBW).

Sa isang pahayag nitong Linggo, ibinahagi ng Davao Oriental Provincial Information Office (PIO), na ang pagkilala ay ibinigay ng Club of the Most Beautiful Bays in the World sa idinaos na 15th World Bays Congress sa Toyama Prefecture, Japan, na ginanap noong Oktubre 16-20

Binubuo ang delegasyon ng Davao Oriental, ng provincial governor's office chief-of-staff Ednar Dayanghirang at Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO) Officer Dolores Valdesco, na kumatawan kina Gov. Nelson Dayanghirang at City Environment Officer Eddie Cobacha bilang kinatawan ni Mati City Mayor Michelle Rabat.

Iprinisinta ng grupo ang Pujada Bay application para makalahok sa club sa naging kongreso.

Matapos ang iniyal na pag-apruba sa aplikasyon, sinabi ng PIO, na nakatakda nang bumista ang mga eksperto mula MBBW sa probinsiya upang magsagawa ng ground assessment at balidasyon sa Pujada Bay.

"The ground validation is the first official act of MBBW to visit new approved members to see what we told them, prior to induction next year for the 16th World Congress in Morocco," ani Dayanghirang.

Ikingalak naman ni Gov. Dayanghirang ang naging pagbabago, na aniya'y, higit pang magsusulong sa estado ng Mati City at Davao Oriental sa world-class tourist destinations.

Umaasa rin si Dayanghirang na magresulta ang pagpasok ng Pujada Bay sa MBBW para sa mas marami pang inisyatibo na layong magprotekta sa mga anyong tubig.

Samantala, sinabi naman ni Mati City Mayor Michelle Rabat na ang ground validation ay isang malaking pagsubok para sa mga lokal na opisyal, lalo't kapag nakumpirma ito, inaasahang magdudulot ito ng pagtaas ng bilang ng mga turista.

Taong 1996 nang magsimula ang club na may konseptong pagsama-samahin ang mga pinakamagandang look sa mundo.

Kabilang naman ang Pilipinas sa 26 na miyembrong bansa ng club, kasama ang Puerto Galera Bay bilang nag-iisang look sa bansa na kasama sa official MBBW list.

PNA



Loudest bird

IN THE mountainous north-
ern Amazon, a tiny white-
plumed suitor turns to face
his would-be paramour and
belts out a deafening, klaxon-
like call, reaching decibel lev-
els equal to a pile driver.

Turn to A3

Loudest...

From A1

Meet the white bellbird, which has just beaten out its rainforest neighbor, the screaming piha, for the title of the world's loudest bird.

Biologist Jeff Podos at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Mario Cohn-Haft of Brazil's Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia described the record-breaking finding in a paper published in the journal *Current Biology* on Monday.

The researchers wrote that its calls are so loud, they wondered how white bellbird females listen at close range without damaging their hearing.

The feat is all the more impressive given the species' diminutive size: they're about as big as doves, weighing around half a pound (a quarter of a kilogram).

The males are distinguished by a fleshy black wattle adorned with white specks that falls from the beak, while the females

are green with dark streaks and wattle-less.

Podos told AFP he was lucky enough to witness females join males on their perches as they sang.

"He sings the first note facing away, and then he does this dramatic, almost theatrical swivel, where he swings around with his feet wide open and his wattle is kind of flailing around," he said.

"And he blasts that second note right where the female would have been, except the female knows what's coming and she's not going to sit there and accept that so she flies backwards" by around four meters (13 feet).

It's not clear why the females voluntarily expose themselves to the noise at such proximity, which reaches peak levels of 113 decibels—above the human pain threshold and equivalent to a loud rock concert or a turbo-prop plane 200 feet (60 meters) away achieving liftoff power.

"Maybe they are trying to assess males up close, though at the risk of some damage to their hearing systems," Podos added. **AFP**



EXTREME WEATHER

CLIMATE CHANGE MAKING STRONGER EL NIÑOS—STUDY

WASHINGTON—Climate change is making stronger El Niños, which change weather worldwide and heat up an already warming planet, a new study finds.

Scientists examined 33 El Niños in the equatorial Pacific that trigger weather extremes across the globe since 1901. They found that since the 1970s, El Niños have been forming farther to the west in warmer waters, leading to stronger El Niños in some cases.

A powerful El Niño can trigger drought in some places, like Australia and India. And it can

cause flooding in other areas like California. The Pacific gets more hurricanes during an El Niño and the Atlantic gets fewer.

El Niño makes winters milder and wetter in the United States, which generally benefits from strong El Niños. They're devastating elsewhere.

The 1997-98 event caused thousands of deaths from severe storms, heat waves, floods and drought, costing between \$32 billion and \$96 billion, according to a UN study.

The shift for the origin of El Niño by hundreds of miles from the east of the International

Dateline to the west of that point is important because the water to the west is naturally warmer, said study lead author Bin Wang, an atmospheric scientist.

Before 1978, 12 of the 14 El Niños formed in the east. After 1978, all 11 were more central or western, according a study in Monday's Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Wang said there have been three "super" El Niños, starting in 1982, 1997 and 2015 and all started in the west. During each of those El Niños, the world broke new average temperature records. —AP



PHOTO

PAGE 17

DATE

Swine fever reaches Pangasinan

7 villages in Bayambang town under state of calamity as virus found in local hogs

By Yolanda Sotelo
@yzsoteloINQ

BAYAMBANG, PANGASINAN—The African swine fever virus has been detected in 30 blood samples taken from a backyard piggery here, prompting the town government to place at least seven villages under a state of calamity on Monday.

More than 400 pigs had been culled and buried since Oct. 18 in Barangay Apalen, where the swine

fever infestation was first reported, said Mayor Cezar Quiambao.

The municipal ad hoc committee on African swine fever has implemented a "1-7-10" quarantine protocol to contain the spread of the virus.

Under this measure, pigs within a 1-kilometer radius of the infected area are culled even if they are unaffected by the disease. Those within the 7-km radius are placed under surveillance while those within the 10-

km radius will undergo mandatory monitoring.

Rice for pig

The 1-km radius from Barangay Apalen covers the adjoining villages of Apalen, Tatarac, Carungay and Inirangan.

The committee will also conduct blood test sampling of the hogs within the 7-km radius. They will also be culled if random blood samples will test positive for swine fever virus.

Quiambao said the town government would give hog raisers a sack of rice for every pig culled. This is in addition to the P5,000 per culled pig that the Department of Agriculture (DA) will give hog raisers.

Last month, Gov. Amado Espino III said 15 pigs that were delivered to Mapandan town from Bustos town in Bulacan province were tested positive for swine fever.

Espino said the traders who

brought the hogs to Barangay Baloling in Mapandan avoided animal quarantine checkpoints.

He called on town and village officials to be more vigilant in guarding possible entry points to Pangasinan and in monitoring the swine industry within their areas.

Negative

On Oct. 19, Quiambao issued an executive order declaring a temporary ban on live pigs, fresh and frozen pork in the town.

In Nueva Ecija province, local officials downplayed as "isolated" the reported swine fever cases in backyard farms in a village in Palayan City.

Palayan City Mayor Adrienne Mae Cuevas said that recent random blood sampling of commercial hogs tested negative for the virus.

In Santa Rosa town, the association of market vendors hosted a "boodle

A9

FROM A8

fight" at the municipal gymnasium and the public market where "lechon" (roast pigs) were served to the public to quell fears of swine fever infestation.

According to Lina Silva, association president, pork sold in the public market come from local hog raisers and are checked by authorities.

Pork ban

In Mindanao, officials of Camiguin said measures were in place to protect the island province's hog industry from swine fever.

Gov. Jurdin Jesus Romualdo said Camiguin, even before cases of swine fever were confirmed in Luzon, had been regulating the entry of pigs, pork and its byproducts, allowing only those with permits from the DA's Bureau of Animal Industry.

"We have been doing it for a long time since we are an island, we had much control of the products coming in," Romualdo told reporters during the opening of the Ugmad agro-fair, one of the attractions of the island's 40th Lanzones Festival.

"As soon as you step on our port, you pass through a foot bath and we had our provincial veterinary office inspecting meat and poultry coming in," he said.

According to Romualdo, the provincial government has to ensure that Camiguin's food supply, especially those items coming from mainland Mindanao and other parts of the country, is safe for consumption because the province is a prime tourist destination.

Even plants brought into the island are required to have permits from the DA, he said.

Camiguin is among the provinces in Northern Mindanao implementing a ban on pork from Luzon provinces.

—WITH REPORTS FROM ARMAND GALANG AND JIGGER JERUSALEM INQ



Wednesday, October 23, 2019

PH banks hurry to fill social, environment, governance gaps

BY LEE C. CHIPONGIAN

Local banks are making up for lost time implementing environmental, social and governance (ESG) as well as sustainability principles into their corporate strategy, risk management and operations, according to the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP).

BAP President Cezar P. Consing said Philippine banks are "hell-bent on catching up, despite being behind their ASEAN peers in integrating ESG and sustainability."

Consing, also president and CEO of Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), noted that in the last few months, ESG and sustainability discussions and its framework has been taken up by lead government agencies such as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

These agencies introduced guidelines, frameworks, regulations and tools to encourage sustainable lending, business practices and disclosures, according to Consing. The same issues and topics were also taken up during the second Sustainable Finance Forum where Consing said that institutional investors have been calling for listed firms to implement ESG.

"Our country lies at the epicenter of climate change. As banks, we must find a win-win situation where we can continue to remain profitable, despite the risks involved in sustainable financing. We all should be part of this transformation journey of creating a resilient economy,"

said Consing. "We should make what we do profitable so it can be sustainable."

The BAP is currently working with the World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature, with support from the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Association of Development Banks for the Asia and Pacific and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, for ESG and sustainability principles.

"As economically minded people, we all react to sensible measures. What gets measured gets managed," said Consing.

The BAP since 2017 has been promoting ESG through dialogue with advocacy groups and the forum is part of this. With WWF for example, the BAP offers guidance to individual banks to integrate ESG in their business models.

The BSP, for its part, is presently preparing the policy framework for sustainable finance that would cover the integration, stress testing and risks for banks' ESG.

BSP Governor Benjamin E. Diokno said last week that they have completed a proposed policy framework for sustainable finance. This proposal is now disseminated for feedback from banks and industry players.

Diokno said the highlights of the proposed regulatory framework are: banks are expected to integrate ESG and sustainability principles in their strategic direction, as well as in their corporate governance and risk management frameworks; and banks will conduct scenario analysis and stress testing of its business exposures to assess their vulnerabilities over several ESG scenarios.



TITLE

MAGANDANG pag-aralan ang ilang lindol na halos magkakapareho ang lakas bilang bahagi ng ating pag-aaral.

Sampungian natin ang naganap na lindol sa Mindanao kamakailan lang.

Isama natin ang naganap din sa Batanes noong Hulyo at ang isa sa Central Luzon noong Abril.

MAHIHINA

PERO DEADLY

Mahihina lang kung tuususin ang mga nasabing lindol.

Pero pumatay sila at lumikha ng malalaking pinsala.

Itong lindol sa Mindanao ay magnitude 6.3 lang ngunit may intensity 7.

Magnitude ang tawag sa enerhiya o pwersa ng lindol sa lugar na pinanggalingan nito.

Intensity naman ang mga pagyanig o paggalaw ng lupa na epekto ng lindol.

'Yung lindol sa Batanes, magnitude 5.9 lang ngunit may intensity 7 din.

Sa Pampanga, magnitude 6.1 pero may intensity 6.

MGA KASIRAAN

'Yung lindol sa Batanes, pumatay ng nasa 9 katao, sumugat ng 60 at sumira ng halagang halos P300 milyon.

Sinira nito ang maraming tahanan, mga ospital, eskwela at maging ang airport roon.

Ang lindol naman sa Pampanga ay nagmula sa Zambales pero ang Pampanga ang tinamaan nang husto.

May 18 patay, lalo na sa bumagsak na Chuzon supermarket at 256 ang nasugatan at may kasiraan na P539 milyon.

Kung nasira ang mga bahay sa Batanes dahil karamihan ay ginamitan lang ng apog ang paggawa ng mga adobe at putik na bahay, naging matindi ang pinsala sa Pampanga dahil umano sa pagtayo ng mga bahay sa buhangin na galing noon sa pumutok na Bulkang Pinatubo.

Paraho rin ang dalawang lugar na may nasirang mga simbahan, ospital at airport.

SA MINDANAO

Hanggang ngayon, fumi lindol pa rin sa Mindanao na ang sentro ay bahagi ng



ULTIMATUM

NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

MAGHANDA LAGI VS LINDOL

North Cotabato.

May 6 patay at 93 sugatan sa lindol habang tinataya pa ang kabuuang halaga ng mga nasirang ari-arian.

Pero kung bumagsak ang supermarket sa Pampanga, bumagsak din ang Gaisano mall saka nasunog pa.

May mga ospital ding nasira, mga eskwela, mga simbahan, mga gusali ng pamahalaan at maraming tahanan.

Natamaan din ang Davao International Airport bagama't hindi gaanong napinsala.

May komon ding naranasan ng mga lugar na ito, ang pagkasira ng suplay ng kuryente.

MGA ORAS NG LINDOL

Para sa atin, isang mahalagang usapin oras ng lindol.

Tingnan ninyo, mga Bro, madaling araw nang may lindol sa Batanes ngunit sumunod dito ang mas malakas na lindol nang lumabas na ang haring araw.

Kahit papaano, maghapon na nakagawa ng mga paraan ang mga residente para sa kanilang kaligtasan.

Pero dito sa Pampanga at Mindanao quaka, anak ng tokiwa, delikado.

Alas-5 ng hapon nang niyanig ang Central Luzon at labis ngang tinamaan ang Porac, Pampanga.

Siyempre pa, mabilis na dumilim at binulot na ng gabi ang mga search and rescue.

Walang kuryente at napakadilim at tanging ang mga bituin lang ang nagbibigay-liwanag sa lugar.

Siyempre pa, may sariling generator ang ilalipasa magkailaw habang gamit naman ng ilaw ang mga ilaw sa kanilang mga sasakyan o baterya ng mga ito.

Sa Mindanao, lagpas sa 7:30 ng gabi nang lumindol at makaraan nito, may lindol pa sa ibang lugar.

Imadyinin na lang natin kung gaano kahirap ang nawalan ng kuryente habang naghihiyawan ang mga tao sa takot na mamatay sila.

Ang maliwanag lang, ay ang nasusunog na mall at

isang bahay ng evacuee.

MGA BAKWIT

Isa pang hindi pupwedeng kalimutan ang pagbakwit ng mga residente.

Mahirap ang evacuation center sa panahon ng lindol.

Hindi pupwede sa mga gusali dahil delikado ang mga ito.

Isipin na lang, may mga aftershock na kung ilang daan.

Ang bahay o gusaling hindi nasira sa araw ng lindol ay maaaring masira sa kalaunan dahil sa mga aftershock na kung minsan ay mas malakas pa ang pagyanig kaysa sa orig.

Dito sa Pampanga at Mindanao, maswerte ang mga evacuee dahil hindi tag-ulan.

Pero sa Batanes noon, tag-ulan at tinamaan pa sila ng dumating na bagyo.

Kaya naman, nabuhay sila sa tent at putik.

Sa Mindanao at Pampanga, sinuwerte sila ng kaunti dahil walang putik at walang bagyo.

MAGANDANG MAGHANDA

Maaaring matamaan tayo ng lindol anomang oras.

Hindi pupwedeng birubin ang lindol.

Nakapusta ang ating buhay at ari-arian.

Kaya naman, dapat tayong laging handa sa lindol.

Ang isang mahalagang tanong: mayroon ba tayong mga ehersisyo ukol sa lindol?

O wala tayong pakialam kung may panawagan sa ehersisyo.

Paano rin ang kahanapan natin sa pagtutulungan dahil laging may pinsala nating natatamo?

Sana handa lagi tayo lahat laban sa lindol.

oOo

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, iparating sa 092284-03333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.