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IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



MGB deploys rapid assessment teams as earthquake death count climbs to 16

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

THE Mines and Geosciences Board (MGB) has dispatched 10 rapid damage assessment teams in Regions 11 and 12, as the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported 14 earthquake-related casualties in the last three days. Close to 400, meanwhile, were reported injured.

A Philippines News Agency dispatch, however, placed the death toll at 16. The latest victims were identified as Tessie Alcayde, 70, of Sitio Kapatagan, Barangay Luayon, Makilala, Cotabato; and Lito Peles

Mino, 59, resident of Sitio Musak, Barangay Sinapulan, Columbio, Sultan Kudarat.

The NDRRMC said Alcayde "died due to the 6.5-magnitude earthquake" while Mino succumbed to a rockslide

caused by the tremor.

Moderate to strong earthquakes are still being felt in Mindanao, according to the earthquake information posted at the web site of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Find landslide-prone areas

MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano said five teams are now conducting a rapid assessment in Region 11 while the rest are conducting the same exercise in Region 12.

The conduct of rapid damage assessments aims to identify landslide areas and new landslide-prone areas that may have been formed as a result of earthquakes and typhoons.

Aside from MGB personnel, also part of the rapid damage assessment teams are engineers from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and members of the concerned local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, for this part, renewed his call to local government units (LGUs) to revisit the geological hazard maps distributed by the national government and use them as a guide in reducing the risk of, and managing disaster.

Rising count

THE NDRRMC previously reported that eight people were killed as a result of the 6.6-magnitude earthquake, also in Cotabato, on October 29. Both earthquakes were connected to the tremor that occurred on October 16, 2019.

The three consecutive earthquakes have already caused severe damage and destruction to several residential and commercial buildings in Cotabato and nearby provinces. The earthquake, according to the NDRRMC, affected four Mindanao regions—Regions 10, 11, 12 and the Bangsamoro region.

According to NDRRMC spokesman Mark Timbal, the agency is still conducting an assessment of the cost

of the damage to public and private properties.

"While we were still conducting an assessment of the damage to property caused by the October 16 earthquake, another earthquake happened on October 29.

"Yesterday [October 31], there was another strong earthquake. So...the first two earthquakes have caused severe damage to infrastructure," he said.

Since the first earthquake, a 6.3-magnitude tremor that struck on October 16, residents of affected areas have started to evacuate. The evacuation continued as a stronger 6.6-magnitude earthquake was felt anew.

So far, a total of 4,604 individuals are currently staying in three emergency evacuation centers, said Timbal. These evacuation centers—one in Magsaysay, Davao del Sur, and two in Makilala and Kidapawan City in North Cotabato—are now providing temporary shelter to 2,035 individuals. *With PNA report*



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7.2 quake in Mindanao feared



MAKILALA LANDSLIDE - The magnitude 6.5-quake Thursday triggered a landslide in Barangay Malabuan, Makilala, North Cotabato. (Photo courtesy of PFC Jacil Joe Tupa, 10th ID-ERC)

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7.2 Quake in Mindanao Forecast

Makilala-Malungon Fault closely monitored as 4th strong tremor in two weeks strikes

By ALEXANDRIA DENNISE SAN JUAN

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seimology (Phivolcs) on Friday said that there is a possibility that a 7.2-magnitude earthquake may hit Mindanao should the Makilala-Malungon Fault move.

"Ine-entertain namin lahat ng possibilities sa lahat ng aktibong fault doon. Pero ang pinakamalala nga na scenario is having the Makilala-Malungon ▶7

Fault that would move [We are entertaining all possibilities on all active faults there (Mindanao). The worst scenario is the movement of the Makilala-Malungon fault]," said Ishmael Narag, officer-in-charge of the Seismological Observation and Earthquake Prediction Division of Phivolcs, following the 5.5-magnitude quake that hit Davao Occidental Friday morning.

"Based on the length of that fault (Makilala-Malungon) puwede itong mag-generate ng magnitude-7.2 earthquake, that's assuming na magra-rupture itong napakahabang fault na ito [this can generate a magnitude 7.2 earthquake, that's assuming the very long fault ruptures]," he said.

"Kung ikukumpara natin ito dun sa [magnitude] 6.6, mas matindi si-yempre 'yung pwedeng mangyari [If we compare this the magnitude 6.6, the effect is more powerful]. We are talking about a fault beneath another set of municipalities," he said.

With the possibility of the "Big One" to strike in Mindanao, Phivolcs is monitoring round-the-clock all the active fault lines in the region to determine what triggers the series of destructive earthquakes that struck North Cotabato in a span of two weeks.

Tremors expected until Christmas

Citing historical data of earthquakes in the country, Narag disclosed that residents in the region may continue to feel tremors until December.

"Kung babasehan natin 'yung mga nakaraang lindol na naganap dito sa Pilipinas, may tendency na umabot at makaramdam pa ang

mga tao, especially doon sa area ng epicenter, ng mga pagyanig until December [If we based it on previous earthquakes, there's a tendency for the people to experience tremors, especially in the areas near the epicenter, until December]."

5.5-magnitude quake

The latest strong quake to hit Mindanao was the magnitude-5.5 earthquake that struck Davao Occidental at 10:33 a.m. Friday. It followed the 6.3-magnitude quake last Oct. 16, the 6.6 quake last October 29, and the 6.5 quake last October 31, all in Tulunan, North Cotabato.

Phivolcs said the earthquake was plotted 334 kilometers southeast of Sarangani, Davao Occidental. It was tectonic in origin with a depth of 33 kilometers.

Several aftershock, as strong as magnitude 4.5, also struck Mindanao Friday.

Three scenarios

In an interview, Narag said it is still undetermined what exactly caused the three tremors that hit Tulunan in October 16, 29, and 31.

But he enumerated three scenarios that could happened during the events such as the existence of a single fault that caused all the tremors; a fault system; or a series of parallel fault moving together.

Narag said Phivolcs is also looking into previous major earthquakes, including a magnitude-5.6 tremblor in Makilala, North Cotabato, last July that might have been caused by the possible fault system.

"It could be just one fault na gumagalaw (that moved). Certain segments of that fault are moving, so it started, probably yung (magnitude)

5.6, and then it triggered the (magnitude) 6.3 (in October 16), then 'yung (magnitude) 6.6 (in October 29), and the (magnitude) 6.5 (in October 31)," Narag explained.

"Or it could be a fault system. 'Yung fault system could be a series of fault doon sa lugar (in the area) of the same direction. They are all independent at nag-ge-generate sila ng kani-kaniyang [and they generate their own] magnitude ng [of] events and probably, one event is loading the other fault, or it could be a series of parallel fault which are magkakatabi na [adjacent] faults na gumagalaw [that moved]," he continued.

Among these possibilities, Narag bared that they are looking into the series of north northwest trending faults that have triggered the tremors.

"Stronger kasi 'yung belief na there is a series of fault na gumagalaw [There's a stronger belief that there is a series of faults moving] but they are only interrelated dun sa area ng Cotabato [in the Cotabato area]. So that's why we are calling it the Cotabato Fault System," he added.

Phivolcs had earlier stressed that Central Mindanao, which includes Cotabato, is among the seismically active regions in the country because of the presence of several active faults in the area.

These faults include the M'lang Fault, Makilala-Malungon Fault, North Columbio Fault, South Columbio Fault, and the western extension of the Mindanao Fault or the Cotabato-Sindangan Fault.

Cotabato Trench is also a major source of earthquakes which can affect the region, Phivolcs said. (With reports from Zea Capistrano and Martin A. Sadongdong)



Death toll from two quakes rises to 16

By JAIME LAUDE

The two successive powerful quakes that jolted wide areas in Mindanao in the last days of October have left 16 persons dead, two missing and 403 injured, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported yesterday.

The death toll left by the magnitude 6.6 quake on Oct. 29 and last Thursday's magnitude 6.5 temblor could still go higher as there were other quake-related fatalities that remained unreported to the NDRRMC, particularly in Digos City and Magsaysay town, both in Davao del Sur.

Three of the fatalities were from Davao region while 13 others were from Central Mindanao.

Of the 403 persons injured, 14 were from Northern Mindanao, 16 from Davao region, 372 from Central Mindanao and one from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARRM).

As of yesterday, the NDRRMC said 6,009 families or 30,045 individuals from the 72 quake-hit areas in Central Mindanao and Davao region were directly affected by the two quakes, with more than 1,000 families losing their homes to the two strong temblors.

Of these affected families, 2,552 or

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12,760 individuals have taken temporary shelter in 19 evacuation centers or tent cities in several towns in North Cotabato, particularly in Matalam and Tulunan towns and in the city of Kidapawan and in Magsaysay town in Davao de Sur.

Some 1,370 families or 6,850 persons opted to stay in the open, afraid of going back to their houses. They are now dependent on local and national government agencies for their basic needs.

A total of 1,366 out of 3,220 damaged infrastructure were totally destroyed in the two quakes in Western, Northern, Central Mindanao, Davao region and BARRM.

Officials said the integrity of several buildings and homes in Mindanao had already been weakened by the Oct. 16 and Oct. 29 earthquakes.

These include the Eva's Hotel in Kidapawan City and several commercial establishments in Digos City, in Koronadal City, South Cotabato as well as a posh condominium in Davao City.

Meanwhile, 1,359 residential houses, mostly in the quake-ravaged Tulunan and Matalam towns and Kidapawan City and nearby areas in North Cotabato and Magsaysay town were totally destroyed.

Some 12,000 people were already in shelters across Mindanao before Thursday's quake hit, either because their homes have been destroyed or they were too afraid to return to their residences.

For the meantime, the NDRRMC said a convoy of cargo trucks with relief goods is heading for Mindanao and is expected to reach the quake-affected areas anytime tomorrow.

The provincial and local governments in North Cotabato and local government in Magsaysay, Davao del Sur, with already dried up calamity funds, are appealing for assistance from the national government amid the prevailing precarious situation of thousands of displaced families.

"Additional help is coming," NDRRMC spokesman Mark Timbal said.

The NDRRMC has mobilized all attached agencies to respond to appeal for help of the quake-affected residents.

Asked if there were offers from other countries to help, Timbal said there were some but these were not accepted for the time being as the national government decides



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Death toll from two quakes rises to 16

based on the situation on the ground.

2,000 aftershocks

Timbal said most of the affected families came from villages located in areas considered as danger zones.

He added these families are still being prevented from returning to their homes due to the recurring aftershocks.

"Due to the magnitude of these events, small to moderate-sized earthquakes are expected to occur in the epicenter area and may continue for several days to weeks, some of which may be felt," Timbal said.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said over 2,000 aftershocks were recorded from the quakes that struck North Cotabato in a span of three days.

A total of 417 aftershocks were recorded as of yesterday noon for the magnitude 6.5 tremor. The magnitude 6.6 quake, meanwhile, registered 748 aftershocks.

The magnitude 6.3 tremor on Oct. 16 generated a total of 910 aftershocks, Phivolcs said.

Earthquakes continued to rock parts of Mindanao on All Saints' Day.

A magnitude 5.0 tremor struck 18 kilometers southeast of Makilala, Cotabato at 2:07

p.m.

It was felt at Intensity 5 - classified as strong - in Magsaysay, Davao del Sur and Intensity 4 in Pikit, Cotabato and Bansalan, Davao del Sur.

A magnitude 5.5 quake also shook Sarangani province yesterday morning.

The temblor happened at 10:33 a.m., with its epicenter located 334 km southeast of Sarangani, Davao Occidental.

Phivolcs director Renato Solidum Jr. said the aftershocks could persist for days or even weeks.

Phivolcs said Central Mindanao is one of the "seismically active" regions in the country because of active faults in the area, like the M'lang Fault, Makilala-Malungon Fault, North Columbio Fault, South Columbio Fault and the western extension of the Mindanao Fault (Cotabato-Sindangan Fault).

"Cotabato Trench is also a major source of earthquakes, which can affect the region. In addition, there are other nearby local faults, some of which may be covered by recent deposits and could be sources of small to strong magnitude earthquakes," Phivolcs said.

- With Helen Flores, John Unson, Rainier Allan Ronda, Romina Cabrera, Roel Pareño



Walking the talk

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platforms of opposing dams and mining operations. This has become one of the pitfalls of environmental activism, in that it has been hijacked by people with other agenda and where saving the planet has merely been appropriated as a prop. While it is true that there are corporate structures that need to be engaged, embodied in mining and energy companies bleeding our earth dry even as they cause irreversible harm to biodiversity and indigenous peoples, we also have to look into the cultural substrate of an economy that subsists on metals and fuel for its survival. It is easy to march against a mining company or a big dam project and mouth leftist slogans, but this has to be matched by an equally vigorous movement offering alternatives. It is easy to campaign to stop anything, but this should be matched by a campaign offering what should be done instead.

This is not to say that global environmental movements are not offering alternatives. But Western movements have been criticized for espousing alternatives that do not take into account the realities within which people from less developed and less industrialized economies have to contend with. It is easier to talk about biodiversity protection in countries where forests and the wilderness are not called home by millions of peoples. In the Philippines,

our forest and wilderness zones are home to millions, that range from indigenous peoples claiming ancestral domain rights over them to migrant communities, which have already turned them into settlements that are even recognized by the state as legitimate *barangay*. Baguio City is located in land, which would have been categorized as forestland if we follow its slope characteristics.

The Western preservationist model tends to push for beauty without justice. Its main focus is to preserve nature without taking into account the dire consequences a preservationist agenda will have on people's lives. It is also being criticized for its belief that all people are equally at fault for the destruction of the environment, despite the fact that corporate actors, in cahoots with corrupt bureaucrats, are the ones that should bear the most blame.

There is a tendency to romanticize nature, and therefore see it outside the context of its material function to the lives of millions of people who dwell in them and depend on them for their sustenance. In India, preservationists are accused of being more concerned with preserving tigers and less interested in addressing the livelihood needs of local communities.

There is also a tendency to romanticize indigenous peoples, and see them as static exhibits in a virtual cultural museum, incapable of change. People talk as if indigenous peoples are frozen in time, instead of talking about the dynamic challenges they face, and of how they can adapt to a chang-

ing world on their own terms. It is so fashionable for activists to fight anything that threatens their culture and land rights, without even bothering to know how they may deal with the challenges of modernity. Indeed, it is not debatable that projects like the Kaliwa Dam will hurt the culture and habitat of the Dumagat. But beyond demonizing the Duterte government and its Chinese partners, the challenge is to enable the Dumagat an alternative other than being used as excuses to oppose development.

It is problematic when so-called keyboard activists are stuck in the nay-saying mode, demanding to leave the Dumagat alone, but are not concerned about their survival in the modern world. Indigenous peoples may become victims of the Kaliwa Dam project. But the key is not to use them as mere props to advance certain political agenda. In the end, the greater challenge in the Kaliwa Dam is to help the indigenous peoples deal with it, to assert their legal rights, and transform themselves into progressive forces of their own development.

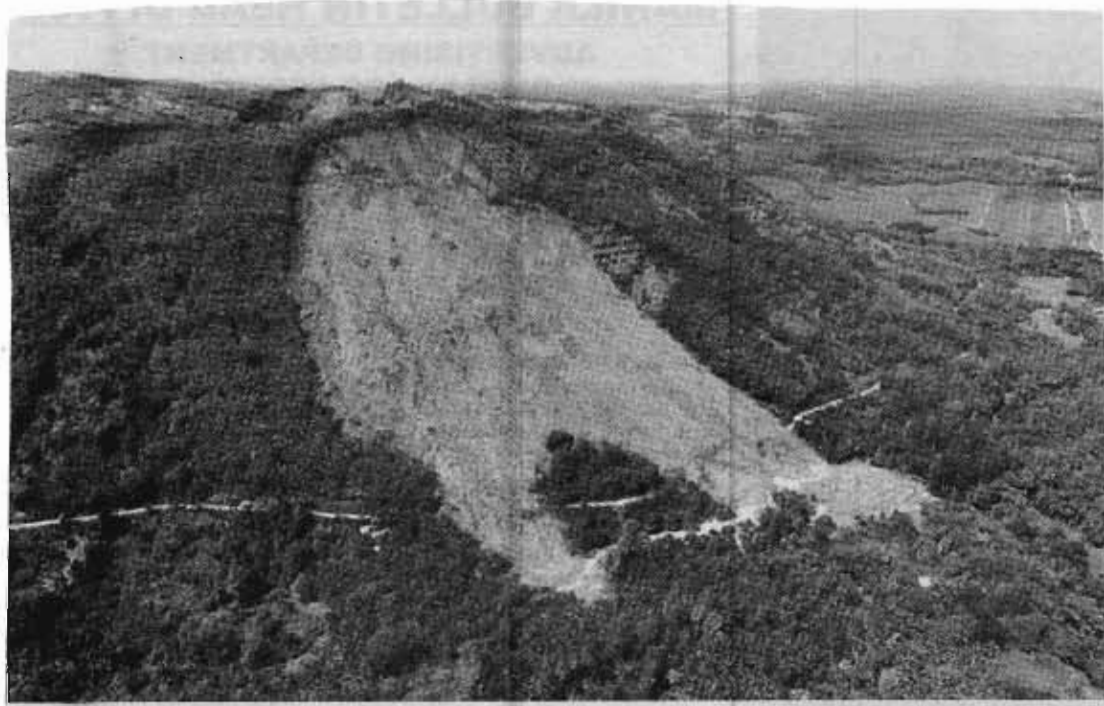
For our part, there is a need to address the bigger picture of the water crisis that causes all of these. This goes beyond saying no, but requires a movement towards alternative futures. We should walk the talk. It certainly is patently hypocritical for people to oppose the Kaliwa Dam project on behalf of the Dumagat, but would be totally devoid of any social agenda, preferably articulated as a social movement, to modify our own "lifescapes" and landscapes that would conserve our water resources.

MANY people idolize Greta Thunberg for her audacious advocacy to save the planet from the ill effects of climate change. Yet you don't see them making any attempt to reduce their own carbon footprints. They drive their cars instead of walk or ride a bike. They continue to occupy spaces made of materials that have high carbon impacts and whose main energy source is fossil fuel.

It is given that some of the sacrifices one has to make to save the planet may no longer be tenable or even practical, unless we turn back the hands of time and decide to live in a cave. Others may be possible but at an enormous cost, like deciding to be vegetarian and be confronted with the paucity of affordable and accessible places where one can find this kind of food. Ms. Thunberg sailed across the Atlantic instead of taking a commercial jet liner, but aside from being impractical, it begs the question of how many can afford a sailboat well-equipped for a trans-Atlantic or trans-Pacific journey.

But there are small things that people can do to help save the planet. Except that these little things, if not done by a critical mass of people, would not amount to anything that would have substantial impact. If only a few people decide to minimize their carbon footprints, it may be good for some media mileage, or some feeling of personal satisfaction, but the world will remain at risk from changing climate and depleted biodiversity resources.

What is required is a social movement beyond the angry ideological



NAUKA Makikita sa isang aerial photo ang malawakang pagguho ng lupa sa Sitio Basac, Barangay Malabuan, Makilala, North Cotabato, kasunod ng magnitude 6.5 na lindol, nitong Huwebes na ikinasawi ng limang katao.



Consunji-owned Dacon ups stake in DMCI Holdings

By IRIS GONZALES

Dacon Corp., the privately held company of the Consunji family, has acquired more shares in listed engineering and tollways conglomerate DMCI Holdings Inc.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), DMCI Holdings said Dacon - which is a significant shareholder of the company - bought a total of three million shares in DMCI Holdings in two separate transactions.

On Oct. 28, Dacon acquired 1.3 million shares at an average price of P8.12 per share for a total amount of P10.4 million. The following day, DMCI Holdings acquired 1.8 million shares at P8.16 per share for a total amount of P14.3 million.

On Oct. 30, Dacon acquired another one million shares at an average price of P8.21 per share for a total consideration of P8.2 million.

In all, Dacon acquired P30.6 million worth of shares of DMCI Holdings.

Sought for a comment, a source said: "Instead of DMCI buying back into treasury, the family decided to buy the shares themselves since the shares are at a five-year low and the prospects of the company are good."

DMCI shares have been trading at an average price of P8.32 per share compared to a 52-week high of P13.86 per share and 52-week low of P8.01 per share.

In the first half of the year, DMCI Holdings reported a 22 percent drop in net income to P6.7 billion.

The earnings slowdown was due to the weak contributions of Semirara Mining and Power Corp. (SMPC), DM Consunji Inc. (DMCI) and DMCI Mining.

For the second quarter

alone, DMCI Holdings saw its earnings decline by 20 percent to P3.8 billion.

DMCI Holdings, however, is hopeful it can bounce back with several construction and housing projects lined up.

Property unit DMCI Homes has started construction of a new residential condominium project near Bonifacio Global City (BGC) to take advantage of the upcoming government infrastructure projects in the area.

The Allegra Garden Place is a two-tower development soon to rise along Pasig Boulevard in Pasig.

"We have high hopes on this project not just because of Prisma Residences' success but also because of the potential opportunities presented by ongoing infrastructure projects in the area like the BGC-Ortigas Center Link Road Project," DMCI Homes assistant vice president for project development Dennis Yap said.

The bridge, which is targeted for completion by June 2020, will connect with the Lawton Avenue-Global City Viaduct to improve inter-city travel in Pasig, Mandaluyong, Taguig and Makati.

The group's mining arm Zambales Diversified Metals Corp. also received the go signal from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to resume mine operations.

ZDMC was among the nine companies whose operations were suspended following a mining audit conducted by DENR.

Aside from DMCI, several listed companies such as Razon-led Bloomberry and Megaworld have been buying back shares in the past months, propping up the value of their shares amid the prevailing market volatility.



A DAMN TOUGH BALANCING ACT

Regulators are facing the classic large dam dilemma with the proposed Kaliwa dam project, seen vital to easing chronic water shortages for millions in Metro Manila, but opposed by indigenous peoples and some environmentalists for disruptions to communities and to nature. Is it worth the risks?

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

DAMNED if you do, damned if you don't. This is the dilemma faced by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Project (MWSS) in dealing with the chronic water supply shortage affecting the National Capital Region (NCR).

that is holding back the proponents from implementing the Kaliwa Dam Project.

The issuance of the ECC came ahead of completing the process for the conduct of public consultations with would-be affected communities, and the approval by the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) or the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as required by law, something which environmental and cause-oriented groups strongly condemned.

MWSS Administrator Emmanuel Salamat said with the issuance of ECC by the DENR, the next step is to wait for the signing of the loan effectivity of the project.

"We will wait for the loan effectivity to be signed before we proceed with the project. There are conditions outlined in the ECC so hand in hand, we have to comply with the conditions set for by the DENR," he said.

Before the MWSS can award the project for the contractor to proceed with the design, the loan effectivity would have to be signed first, he said.

He said the process will take around six more months to complete, after which, construction is expected to begin.

"We still have to agree with the design before construction. There will be several processes. While waiting for the loan effectivity to be signed, we will go with the process of securing the FPIC [Free, Prior and Informed Consent]," he said.

Despite the strong opposition, the Duterte administration is bent on implementing what it deems a decisive solution: the P12.2-billion New Centennial Water Source—Kaliwa Dam Project in Rizal and Quezon. It will, for one, end the reliance on just one fragile water source for millions in the NCR, the Angat dam.

The ECC for the Kaliwa project was recently granted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), with Secretary Roy A. Cimatu promis-

ing to place the project under strict monitoring to ensure compliance of environmental safeguards.

Environmentally critical

A WATER reservoir is an environmentally critical project and the project site, which is in the heart of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range—an environmentally critical area—requires environmental permits, including an environmental compliance certificate, or ECC.

The issuance of the ECC came days after private water conces-

Developing water sources like the Kaliwa Dam, he said, is an urgent requirement, to ensure water security for Metro Manila. Otherwise, he said Metro Manila will face even worse water shortages in the future.

Limited supply, increasing demand

NATIONAL Water Resources Board (NWRB) Executive Director Sevilla David agrees with Salamat that the construction of a new water source like the Kaliwa Dam is vital to prevent future water supply problems in Metro Manila.

Because of the limited capacity of its installed conveyor tunnel, Angat dam can only provide a maximum of 4,000 MLD. Maynilad Water Services Inc., the concessionaire for West Zone, receives 2,400 MLD, while Manila Water Co. Inc., the concessionaire for the East Zone, receives 1,600 MLD.

"With the increasing population, the demand increases. As part of water security, there is a need for a new water



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source for Metro Manila other than Angat Dam," he said.

Also, he said there's a need to develop an alternative water source to prevent disaster in case Angat is destroyed by a strong earthquake.

Currently, the NWRB's approved total water allocation for Metro Manila is 40 cubic meters of water per second (CMS).

"Water at Angat is currently a little over 185 meters above sea level. But we decided to manage the supply so that our supply will last throughout the summer season next year," he said.

The 40 CMS water allocation for Metro Manila's domestic users is below the normal allocation of 46 CMS. During extremely hot weather as in the event of El Niño or a long season of drought, water allocation for Metro Manila is sometimes increased by the NWRB to 48 CMS to address the expected increase in demand for water, he said.

Chinese ODA

TO be financed by China through its Official Development Assistance (ODA), the 600-MLD Kaliwa Dam Project is a medium-term water security program of the MWSS and the Duterte administration's flagship water security project under its Build, Build, Build program.

According to David, construction of large dams ensures adequate water storage capacity during the rainy season so that there will be enough water during the dry season.

On the demand side of the equation, the MWSS is encouraging the public to harvest rain and conserve clean water by recycling and reusing water for non-essential uses.

"Supply is not unlimited. Demand is increasing. Our supply of water is exhausted and we expect the demand for water to increase. We need to manage the demand, like responsible use of water," he said.

"Supply is not unlimited. Demand is increasing. Our supply of water is exhausted and we expect the demand for water to increase. We need to manage the demand, like responsible use of water," he said.

Construction details

THE Kaliwa Dam will be implemented by the China Energy Engineering Corporation Limited (CEEC) with the help of local consultants.

The dam and all the structures will be constructed in Barangay Pagsangahan, General Nakar, Quezon, and Barangay Magsaysay, Infanta, Quezon.

It will be a 60-meter-high dam wall with an initial supply of 600 million liters per day.

The dam capacity is 57 cubic meters, with spillway, diversion tunnels and low-level outlet and reservoir.

A conveyance tunnel—with 4 m diameter x 27.7 km with a depth from the lowest peak of 70 m and depth from the highest peak of 500 m—will be constructed using boring machines and will pass through Tanay, Rizal.

Water treatment plants will be constructed in Antipolo City, Rizal, for Manila Water and in Teresa, Rizal, for Maynilad.

Strong opposition

ENVIRONMENTALISTS are strongly opposing the construction of large dams because of their potential adverse impact on people and the environment.

In the case of the Kaliwa Dam, the MWSS has identified some of the direct impact areas in Tanay, Rizal, such as Barangay Daraitan, as fringes of the reservoir area will occupy a portion of Tinipak River; and Barangays Cuyambay, San Andres and Sampaloc, because the water conveyance facility will pass through them.

In Teresa, direct-impact areas include Sitio Pantay-Buhangin Dalig, which will also be affected by the construction of the conveyance tunnel.

In General Nakar, Quezon, Barangay Pagsangahan is a direct-impact area because of the construction of the dam and reservoir area, as well as diversion tunnel. In Infanta, to be affected is Barangay Magsaysay, where the dam and reservoir area, as well as a spillway and intake area, will be constructed.

Promised benefits

ACCORDING to the MWSS, those affected by the project will receive proper compensation, such as payment to landowners and new houses for those whose houses will be hit by the construction.

It also promises that facilities will be built to the relocation area like roads, water supply, schools and health centers, while affected families will benefit from alternative livelihood programs.

Moreover, those who will be moved out of the project sites will receive allowances for transportation and food.

While the dam is under and after construction, MWSS also promised work both for residents and non-residents, plus the benefit of robust economic growth of the municipality due to additional income from trading and other business opportunities.

On top of these, MWSS also promised that water rates currently being charged by the different water districts in the affected areas will significantly go down.

On top of these, MWSS also promised that water rates currently being charged by the different water districts in the affected areas will significantly go down.

Misleading information?

OPPOSITION to the project, however, remains strong, with the Network Opposed to Kaliwa, Kanan and Laiban Dams (NOKKLD) questioning the issuance of the ECC by the DENR while the conduct of an FPIC is still ongoing.

The group is particularly concerned that the MWSS is misleading the communities, claiming the Laiban Dam will no longer be constructed although the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) explicitly stated that the Laiban Dam must be constructed to prevent the accumulation of sediments at the Kaliwa Dam's reservoir. This, despite assurances by the MWSS during public hearings that the Laiban Dam will no longer be pursued as the project was already rejected by no less than the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

"The construction design of the NCWS-Kaliwa Dam also includes a 27.70-kilometer conveyance tunnel with a capacity of 2,400 million liters of water per day (MLD). This means that the 1,800 MLD Laiban Dam will follow after the completion of the 600-MLD Kaliwa Dam," said Wilma Quirrez,

secretary-general of Dumagat Sierra Madre and NOtoNCWS spokesperson.

For its part, the Center for Environmental Concerns (CEC) raised concern that the project will be constructed within a protected area, the Kaliwa Watershed Area.

"According to the Nipas Law, an area is declared protected due to its biologically unique features to sustain human life and development," said April Porteria, CEC executive director and convener of NOtoNCWS (No to New Centennial Water Sources).

"Hence, submerging a considerable portion of the Kaliwa Watershed—113 hectares of forested lands—will have considerable environmental damage with adverse impact not only to communities in the identified direct impact areas of the project," Porteria added.

According to the EIS, the area to be submerged has a huge amount of stored carbon and biomass.

Clearing and inundation of the Kaliwa watershed will release stored carbon and add to the global warming problem.



A Damn Tough Balancing Act

Other water sources

THE groups believe there are other potential sources of water such as the 2,500-MLD Laguna Lake Project, which the MWSS in the NCWS-Kaliwa Dam Project EIS cited.

There is also the option to rehabilitate the Wawa Dam, which, according to its proponent, Violago, can yield a potential 1,500 MLD of water, according to Vito Hernandez of NotoNCWS, convener of the group Agham Scientists for the People.

Another 4,163 MLD of potential alternative sources of water were also listed by the network.

There is also the still largely unimplemented Republic Act 6716 enacted in 1989, which mandates the construction of rainwater harvesting or rainwater collection facilities. The government also enacted the Green Building Code in 2015, which required new establishments, whether residential, commercial or industrial, to have rainwater harvesting facilities.

"Annually, the country receives about 720 billion liters of rain. This is equivalent to 720,000 MLD, which is more than enough to sustain our water needs, but much is lost to devastating floods," said Filipino scientist and inventor of innovative rainwater harvesting system, Dr. Antonio Mateo. "If we could use rainwater even at 10-percent public water supply, we could secure our surface and groundwater sources," added Mateo.

"We lose billions from losses in livelihood from the impact of floods aggravated by releases of excess water from large dams. Lives are also lost in these destructive floods. The costs to lives, properties and the environment beg the option for building additional large dams in our dwindling watershed areas. We challenge the government to consider the interests of the people first before corporate profits, which are behind the push for these large infrastructure projects," said Quirrez of the Dumagat Tierra Madre.

Haribon, Dumagat-Remontado to conserve Sierra Madre forests

HARIBON Foundation, the indigenous peoples community of the Dumagat Remontado de Antipolo, along with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are currently working toward a partnership that would help conserve the forests of the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) located in South Sierra Madre through the Forest of Hope (FOH) program.

FOH, a long-term forest conservation and sustainable management program of Haribon and BirdLife International, aims to conserve biodiversity, improve local and national policy on forest governance, and enhance the carbon sequestration role of forests.

The program also seeks to help properly manage the Sierra Madre mountain ranges through the co-management of local government units (LGUs), DENR and other local stakeholders.

Through Haribon's Forest for Life (FFL) Movement, FOH envisions the restoration of Philippine rainforests using native trees. Aside from working with communities, LGUs, indigenous peoples, the academe, and like-minded groups, Haribon also engages

various corporate partners to support forest restoration projects while empowering local communities.

Through its Adopt-A-Seedling Program, FFL has already engaged numerous parties including over 135 corporate sponsors, 17,053 individual donations, 30 municipalities, 15 community partners, and 14,393 volunteers. The program has planted 999,191 native seedlings in 631.51 hectares of land. It has recorded 22,862 hectares of restored forests from different groups and individuals.

The FOH is now reaching more areas within the south Sierra Madre areas through the FFL, particularly the UMRBPL that covers the ancestral domains of the Dumagat Remontado de Antipolo in Sitio San Ysiro, Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City.

Haribon is continuously coordinating with the Dumagat Remontado de Antipolo, as well as with the Pinagsama-samang Grupong Magbubukid ng Casunugan Inc., the DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, and the Antipolo City government — initially through the City Environment Management Office.

THADDEUS MARTINEZ





Protected areas in Region 2 recognized

BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

TUGUEGARAO CITY: Two of Cagayan Valley's (Region 2) marine protected areas (MPAs) were honored as outstanding National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Marine Protected Areas at the 2019 Para El MAR.

Para El MAR means "for the sea." It is a bi-annual activity that recognizes the best practices in MPA management.

Lawyer Antonio Abawag, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) executive

director, said the Palau Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (PIPLS) in Cagayan and the Batanes Protected Landscapes and Seascapes (BPLS) were adjudged first runner up and second runner up, respectively.

PIPLS received a cash prize

of P1.5 million while BPLS received P1 million in the form of project for MPAs during the awards night held on October 23 at Bahay ng Alumni, University of the Philippines-Diliman in Quezon City.

The award categories were Outstanding NIPAS-MPA, Outstanding Network, Outstanding Locally-Managed MPA, and Best Mangrove Award.

The award was received by Felix Taguba, DENR-Region 2 assistant director for technical services; Lawyer Ismael Manaligod, Cagayan provincial environment and natural re-

sources (PENR) officer; Marcelo Bumidang, Batanes PENR officer; and Dionicio Deundo, Batanes technical services chief.

Abawag said the event also aims to showcase the country's best performing MPAs and provide a venue for Philippine MPA champions to share experiences and learn from each other.

The event was spearheaded by the Marine Protected Areas Support Network through the UP Marine Science Institute in cooperation with the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau.

Manaligod and Deundo presented their respective protected

area management objectives and strengths, milestones in achieving management objectives, partnerships and stakeholders participation, and sustainability mechanisms as part of the final assessment.

Their presentation included threats, action to reduce threats and results; ecological improvements; documented socio-economic and cultural benefits; innovations; and key learnings.

"The recognition is a mechanism to strengthen proper and effective management of coastal and marine biodiversity and their habitats," Abawag said,

hoping for a sustained partnership with stakeholders in the management of protected areas in the Cagayan Valley.

In 2017, PIPLS was the 3rd Outstanding NIPAS MPA while BPLS was one of the eight finalists.

Isabela PENR officer Marlon Agnar, Aparri CENR officer Aida Adap, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program focal person engineer Salome Bonnit were also present during the awarding ceremonies along with the park operations superintendents, protected area superintendents and other technical staff.



DENR closes Mt. Apo to climbers amid tremors

TAGUM CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the Davao Region has announced that Mt. Apo, the country's highest peak, is temporarily closed to climbers.

In a social media post, DENR Davao said the temporary closure was initiated by the local governments of Santa Cruz, Digos and Bansalan in Davao del Sur.

The decision, the agency further said, was a result of the series of tremors that rocked central Mindanao in the last two weeks.

The DENR noted that the Mt. Apo Protected

Area Management Board (PAMB), which has jurisdiction over the issue, has not declared any closure.

But because of the local governments' decision, the DENR said it is letting the public know as "the safety of the climbers is of utmost priority."

Santa Cruz, Bansalan and Digos are gateways to Mt. Apo, aside from Kidapawan City in Cotabato province.

The DENR said the concerned Davao del Sur local governments have already released an advisory regarding the postponement and rescheduling of all Mt. Apo climbs.
—*Inquirer*



Forest ranger slay suspects held, killed

NORZAGARAY, Bulacan – A suspect in the killing of a forest ranger in Nueva Ecija was shot dead when he allegedly grabbed the gun of a police officer at a police station in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija yesterday.

Lt. Col. Heryl Bruno, city police chief, said Ariel Andrade was being led for a medical examination at around 12:25 a.m. when the incident occurred.

Cpl. Harold Culala of the 2nd Provincial Mobile Force Company in San Juan town and Eugene Cayabyab were arrested in an earlier police operation.

The suspects were tagged in the killing of Ronaldo Corpuz, who was shot by an unidentified assailant on Oct. 25. Corpuz died while being treated in a hospital two days after the incident.

Don Guevarra, information officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Central Luzon office, said the victim was with a DENR team who conducted anti-illegal logging operations in Rizal town three days before he was killed.

– Ramon Efrén Lazaro, Raymundo Catindig



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'Killer' ng DENR officer nang-agaw ng baril, todas

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan - Bumulagta ang isang suspek sa pagpatay sa isang forest ranger ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) matapos umanong mang-agaw ng baril ng pulis na umaresto sa kanya sa mismong himpilan ng San Jose City Police sa Nueva

Ecija kaniapon. Sinabi ni City Chief of Police Lt. Colonel Heryl Bruno na patungo sana sa medical examination si Ariel Andrade, 30, ng Pantabangan nang mangyari ang pang-aagaw umano nito ng baril dakong alas-12:35 ng madaling-araw. Si Andrade ang isa sa tatlong itinuturong berdugo ni Ronaldo Corpuz ng

Munoz City DENR Office na itinumba sa Brgy. Villa Joson, San Jose City noong Oktubre 25. Nang dinakma ng mga awtoridad sina Eugene Cayabyab, 46, at Police Corporal Harold Culala, 41, ng 2nd Provincial Mobile Force Company sa bayan ng San Juan sa magkahiwalay na operasyon ng pulisya. *(Raymund Catindig)*



Murder suspect, tepok sa pagpalag

PANTABANGAN, Nueva Ecija- Patay ang isang umano'y murder suspect nang lumaban umano sa pulisya habang inaaresto sa Sitio Masiway, Barangay Sampaloc, ng naturang bayan, kahapon ng madaling araw.

Nakilala ng pulisya ang suspek na si Ariel Andrade, alyas 'Amber', 30, magsasaka, at taga-nasabing lugar.

Kaagad itong nasawi dahil sa tama ng bala sa iba't ibang bahagi ng katawan.

Sa imbestigasyon, aarestuhin na sana ng grupo ni Corporal Jonard Anastascio, ang suspek nang bigla umano nitong agawin ang service firearm nito, dakong 12:30 ng madaling araw.

Samantala, napaslang din ng

mga awtoridad ang isa sa suspek sa pamamaslang sa isang forest ranger ng Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) na si Ronald Corpuz, nitong Oktubre 25.

Dead on arrival sa San Jose City General Hospital si Eugene Cayabyab dahil sa mga tama ng bala ng baril.

Light A. Nolasco



PUMATAY SA FOREST RANGER, NASAKOTE

NUEVA ECIJA—Isang lalaki na pumatay sa forest ranger ang nadakip ng pulisya kamakalawa sa Bgy. Calocan, Rizal.

Ang suspek ay kinilalang si Eugene Cayabyab, residente ng naturang barangay.

Ayon sa pulisya, si Cayabyab umano ang itinuturo ng mga saksi na bumaril at pumatay sa biktimang si Ronaldo Corpuz noong October 25, 2019 sa San Jose City sa nasabing lalawigan.

Hindi naman nanlaban si Cayabyab nang dakpin ito ng pulisya.

Nakapiit na ang suspek na nahaharap sa kasong murder.



PULIS NA NAGPAPATAY SA FOREST RANGER TIKLO

NUEVA ECIJA - MATAPOS ang malalimang imbestigasyon at follow-up operation, nakilala at nadakip na ng mga operatiba ng San Jose City Police ang utak sa pagpatay sa forest ranger.

Sa report ni Lt. Col. Heryl Bruno, kinilala ang nadakip na si alyas Corporal, miyembro ng 2nd Provincial Mobile Force na nakabase sa Brgy. San Juan, San Jose City.

Base sa inisyal na imbestigasyon ng mga pulis, nadakip si Corporal makaraang umamin sa partisipasyon ang nadakip na si Eugene Cayabyab, 46-anyos, illegal logger.

Habang napatay naman ang triggerman na si Ariel Andrade, alyas Am-

ber, ng Sitio Masiway Brgy, Sampaloc Pantabangan.

Ayon kay Cayabyab, inutusan sila ng mastermind na iligpit o patayin si Ronaldo Corpuz 43, forest ranger ng DENR

ng Zone 6, Brgy. Villa Joson.

Aniya, bago ang pagpaslang, nag-inuman muna sila noong Oktubre 26 ng hapon, at ganap na alas-7:30 ng gabi nang itumba nila si Corpuz.

Matapos ang pamamaryl, agad din nilang ibinalik ang ginamit na baril kay Corporal na ibinaon sa compound ng mastermind na narekoher ng awtoridad.

THONY ARCENAL



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COP25 canceled; scientific consensus on climate change bogus

First word

THE United Nations' ambitious climate action agenda may be unraveling. After being set back by a Climate Action Summit in New York in September, which was judged a failure even by climate activists, the UN must now face the abrupt cancellation of its scheduled COP25 conference in Santiago, Chile in December.

In August, the G-7 summit in France had declined to include climate issues in its agenda. COP24 in Poland was adjudged a non-starter.

Chile climate summit canceled

Now, the crushing word is that Chile has withdrawn as host of the COP25 climate summit in December after several weeks of violent unrest in the country. Chile's President Sebastián Piñera announced the decision on Wednesday. In addition, Chile also canceled the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit of 20 world leaders that was slated in November.



OBSERVER

YEN
MAKABENTA

The COP25 — Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change or UNFCCC — was slated to run between December 2 and 13.

"This has been a very difficult decision, a decision that causes us a lot of pain, because we fully understand the importance of APEC and COP25 for Chile and for the world," Piñera said in a brief statement from La Moneda Palace in Santiago.

Riots, arson and protests over inequality this month have left at least 18 dead, 7,000 arrested and Chilean businesses hit with losses of around \$1.4 billion. The capital city's metro public transport suffered nearly \$400 million in damages.

I want also to bring also to the reader's attention two recent major articles that I project will carry much weight in the climate debate. These articles are:

1. An article on the much-publicized scientific consensus on climate change, which I now slammed as bogus.

2. An interview and profile of noted climatologist Judith Curry, which recounts at length her belief that now is the time for global warming to be scientific.

Bogus consensus on global warming

Robert P. Murphy, senior fellow of the Mises Institute and author, traced the claim of a scientific consensus about global warming to its origins, and found it bogus. He titled his article "The bogus 'consensus' argument on climate change."

Murphy wrote:

"One of the popular rhetorical moves in the climate change debate is for advocates of aggressive government intervention to claim that '97 percent of scientists' agree with their position, and so therefore any critics must be unscientific 'deniers.'"

"Now these claims have been dubious from the start; people like David Friedman have demonstrat-

ed that the '97 percent consensus' assertion became a talking point only through a biased procedure that mischaracterized how journal articles were rated, and thereby inflating the estimate....

Dubious '97% consensus'

"Back in 2014, David Friedman worked through the original paper that kicked off the '97 percent consensus' talking point. What the original authors, Cook et al., actually found in their 2013 paper was that 97.1 percent of the relevant articles agreed that humans contribute to global warming. But notice that that is not at all the same thing as saying that humans are the main contributors to observed global warming (since the Industrial Revolution).

"This is a huge distinction. Incidentally, when it comes down to what Cook et al. actually found, economist David R. Henderson noticed that it was even less impressive than what Friedman had reported. Here's Henderson:

► MakabentaA5



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
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1985-1988

The Manila Times



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COP 25 cancelled

"[Cook et al.] got their 97 percent by considering only those abstracts that expressed a position on anthropogenic global warming (AGW). I find it interesting that 2/3 of the abstracts did not take a position."

"So, to sum up: The casual statements in the corporate media and in online arguments would lead the average person to believe that 97 percent of scientists who have published on climate change think that humans are the main drivers of global warming...."

"From the beginning, the '97 percent consensus' claim about climate change has been dubious, with supporters claiming that it represented much more than it really did."

Judith Curry, myth-buster

Author Guy Sorman wrote on an interview he conducted with climatologist Judith Curry in the winter issue of *City Journal*. I quote below some key parts of account of Sorman's long conversation with Curry.

"We've all come across the images of polar bears drifting on ice floes: emblematic victims of the global warming that's melting the polar ice caps, symbols of the threat to the earth posed by our ceaseless energy production — above all, the carbon dioxide that factories and automobiles emit. We hear louder and louder demands to impose limits, to change our wasteful ways, so as

to save not only the bears but also the planet and ourselves.

"In political discourse and in the media, major storms and floods typically get presented as signs of impending doom, accompanied by invocations to the environment and calls to respect Mother Nature. Only catastrophes seem to grab our attention, though, and it's rarely mentioned that warming would also bring some benefits, such as expanded production of grains in previously frozen regions of Canada and Russia. Nor do we hear that people die more often of cold weather than of hot weather. Isolated voices criticize the alarm over global warming, considering it a pseudo-scientific thesis, the true aim of which is to thwart economic modernization and free-market growth and to extend the power of states over individual choices.

"Not being a climatologist myself, I've always had trouble deciding between these arguments. And then I met Judith Curry at her home in Reno, Nevada. Curry is a true climatologist. She once headed the department of earth and atmospheric sciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology, until she gave up on the academy so that she could express herself independently.

"Curry is a scholar, not a pundit. Unlike many political and journalistic oracles, she never opines without proof. And she has data at her command. She tells me, for

example, that between 1910 and 1940, the planet warmed during a climatic episode that resembles our own, down to the degree. The warming can't be blamed on industry, she argues, because back then, most of the carbon-dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels were small. In fact, Curry says, 'almost half of the warming observed in the 20th century came about in the first half of the century, before carbon-dioxide emissions became large.' Natural factors thus had to be the cause. None of the climate models used by scientists now working for the United Nations can explain this older trend. Nor can these models explain why the climate suddenly cooled between 1950 and 1970, giving rise to widespread warnings about the onset of a new ice age.

"But aren't oceans rising today, I counter, eroding shorelines and threatening to flood lower-lying population centers and entire inhabited islands? 'Yes,' Curry replies. 'Sea level is rising, but this has been gradually happening since the 1860s; we don't yet observe any significant acceleration of this process in our time.' Here again, one must consider the possibility that the causes for rising sea levels are partly or mostly natural, which isn't surprising, says Curry, for 'climate change is a complex and poorly understood phenomenon, with so many processes involved.' To blame human-emitted carbon

dioxide entirely may not be scientific, she continues, but 'some find it reassuring to believe that we have mastered the subject.' She says that 'nothing upsets many scientists like uncertainty.'

"This brings us to why Curry left the world of the academy and government-funded research. 'Climatology has become a political party with totalitarian tendencies,' she charges. 'If you don't support the UN consensus on human-caused global warming, if you express the slightest skepticism, you are a 'climate-change denier,' a stooge of Donald Trump, a quasi-fascist who must be banned from the scientific community.' These days, the climatology mainstream accepts only data that reinforce its hypothesis that humanity is behind global warming.

"Scientific research should be based on skepticism, on the constant reconsideration of accepted ideas: at least, this is what I learned from my mentor, the ultimate scientific philosopher of our time, Karl Popper. What could lead climate scientists to betray the very essence of their calling? The answer, Curry contends: 'politics, money and fame'...."

"'Climatology,' Curry observed, 'is becoming an increasingly dubious science, serving a political project.' In other words, 'the policy cart is leading the scientific horse.'"

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