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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



DENR SA PUBLIKO: MAKIISA SA LABAN SA ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

DENR sa publiko: Makiisa sa laban sa illegal wildlife trade

NANAWAGAN ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa publiko na i-report ang kahina-hinalang aktibidad ng pamaminsala sa kalkasan matapos makumpiska ng mga awtoridad ang exotic animals na nagkakahalaga ng P300,000 at madakip ang tatlóng pinaghihinalang wild traders sa Oriental Mindoro noong Martes.

Ayon sa DENR, aabot sa 56 ulo ng wildlife species, kabilang ang endangered green iguana at red-footed tortoise ang narekober ng mga awtoridad mula sa raid na isinagawa ng mga operatiba ng Philippine Operations Group sa Ivory at Illegal Wildlife Trade or Task Force POGI sa bahay ng isa sa mga suspek sa

Barangay Banus Gloria town.

Sinabi ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na ang pag-salakay ay isang positibong halimbawa kung paano ang publiko ay nagbibigay ng impormasyon sa mga awtoridad para labanan ang iba't ibang uri ng illegal wildlife trade.

Bago ang raid ng Task Force POGI, nakatanggap ito ng impormasyon na ang uma-no'y illegal wildlife trader na naninirahan sa Oriental Mindoro ay nagtatago ng iba't ibang wildlife species mula sa Palawan bago ibiyahe sa iba't ibang buyers sa bansa.

Matapos ang surveillance na isinagawa ay kinumpirma ng task force na ang mga endangered wildlife ay itinatago sa bahay ng isang Fernando Zamoranos, Jr.

Si Zamoranos kasama ang isang Zam Angelo Zamoranos at Jessie Dacutanan ay kabilang sa nadakip at sinampahan ng kasong paglabag sa Republic Act 9147 o the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 na nagbibigay ng parusa sa illegal possession and trading of wildlife species.

Sa ilalim ng batas, ang violators ay maaaring maharap sa pagkabilanggo ng hanggang 12 taon at pagbabayad ng multang mahigit P1M.

Ang Task Force POGI ay binubuo ng composite team mula sa iba't ibang agencies kabilang ang DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau and the National Bureau of Investigation-Environment Crime Division. **S.CELARIO**



TULUNGAN SA BANAUE RICE TERRACES REHAB, HILING NI IMEE

"HINDI sapat ang aksiyon ng mga sangay ng pamahalaan na dapat tumutok sa problema ng Banaue Rice Terraces sa Ifugao".

Ito ang sinabi ni Senadora Imee Marcos matapos lumabas ang ulat ng United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization o FAO na umabot sa "very critical stage of deterioration" — ang Banaue Rice Terraces na dating isa sa mga ipinagmamalaking yaman ng Filipinas.

"Nananawagan ako sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Ifugao, sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources, sa Department of Tourism at maging sa Department of Agriculture, magtulongan tayo rito. Pangalan ng bansa ang nakataya rito," giit ni Marcos.

Nangangamba rin si Marcos, chair ng Senate Comit-

tee on Cultural Communities na baka tuluyang mabura sa mapa ng Filipinas ang Banaue Rice Terraces na isa sa napapabilang sa UNESCO World Heritage Site.

"Aksyunan ninyo agad! Kailan pa tayo kikilos, kung tuluyan na itong nawasak? May panahon pa tayo, gawan natin ng paraan! Ipaalam natin sa publiko kung ano-ano ang gagawin nating habang," diin ng senadora.

Lumabas sa ulat ng FAO na ilan sa mga dahilang nakita kung bakit nasisira ang Banaue Rice Terraces ay ang environmental degradation o pagkasira ng kalikasan, unregulated development at neglect o napapabayaang dahil sa urbanisasyon.

Batay pa sa datos, mula sa 1,670 ektarya nito na mga lupang pang-agrikultura, 600 ektarya rito ay abandonado at

ngayon ay nangangailangan ng rehabilitasyon.

Iminungkahi rin nito, ang paglalagat ng isang komprehensibong plano at paghingi ng tulong sa mga eksperto para matalakay at masolusyunan ang problema rito.

"May paraan kung talagang aaksiyunan. Magsabi kayo kung kailangan niyo ng tulong, may pondo ang gobyerno. 'Wag band-aid solution! 'Yung pang-matagalang solusyon dapat," dagdag pa ng senadora.

"Kultura at kasaysayan natin ang posibleng mawala pag tuluyang pinabayaan at masira ang Banaue Rice Terraces. Pinagmamalaki nga natin 'yan! Tinuturo pa sa mga aklat ng mga estudyante. Eto nga, 'wag naman sana umabot na sa huli tayo magsisi," hirit pa ni Marcos.

VICKY CERVALES



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Banaue Rice Terraces baka mabura sa mapa

Nangangamba si Senador Imee Marcos na baka tuluyang mabura sa mapa ng Pilipinas ang Banaue Rice Terraces matapos lumabas ang ulat ng Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) ng United Nations na umabot na ito sa "very critical state of deterioration".

Dahil dito, nanawagan ang mambabatas sa pamahalaang lokal ng Ifugao, sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources, sa Department of Tourism at maging sa Department of Agricul-

ture para magtulungan upang isalba ang Banaue Rice Terraces.

Sa ulat ng FAO, ilan sa mga dahilang nakita kung bakit nasisira ang Banaue Rice Terraces ay ang pagkasira ng kalikasan, unregulated development at napapabayaang dahil sa urbanisasyon.

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Sangay ng pamahalaan inalarma **IMEE: BANAUE RICE TERRACES SIRA NA**

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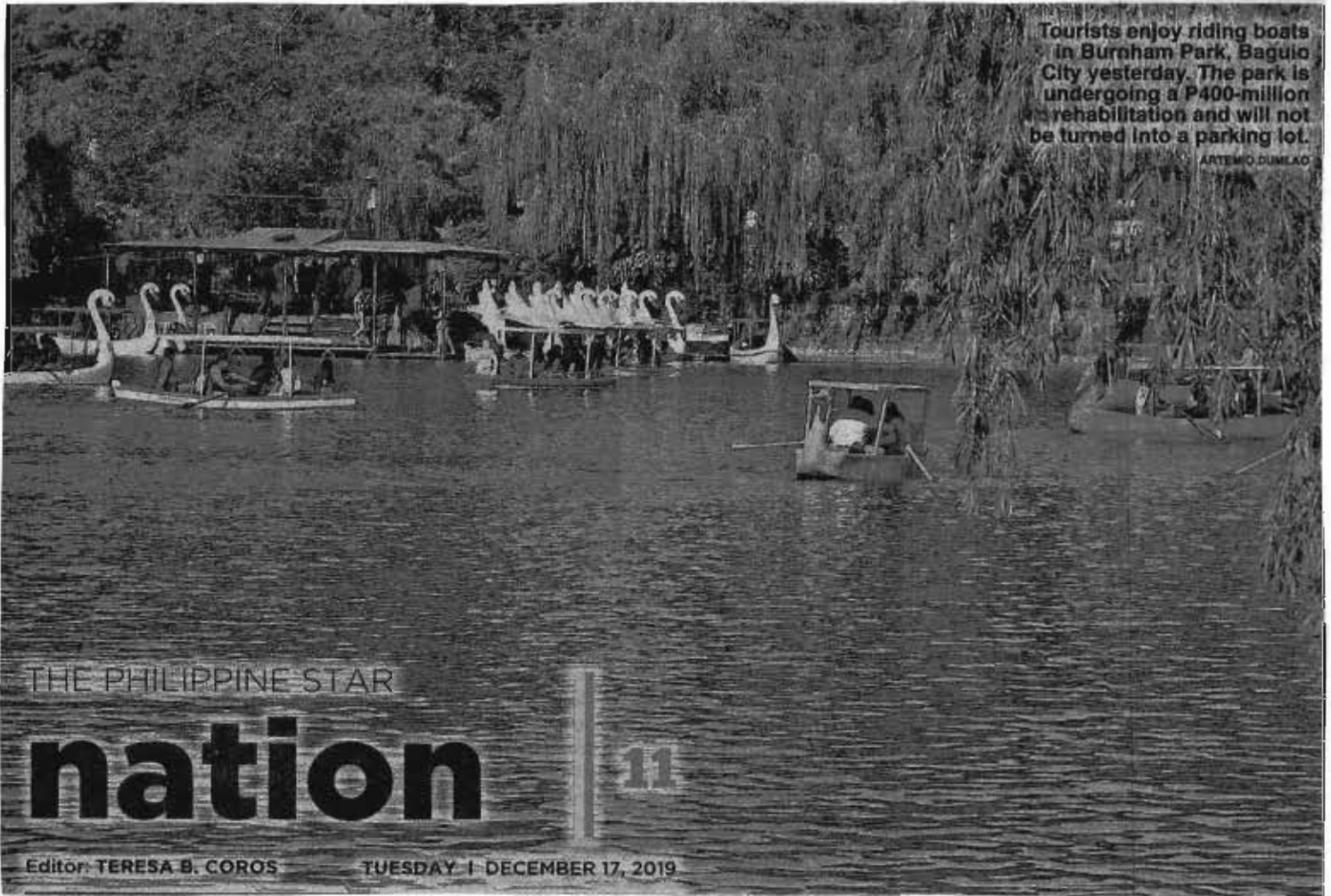


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Tourists enjoy riding boats in Burnham Park, Baguio City yesterday. The park is undergoing a P400-million rehabilitation and will not be turned into a parking lot.

ARTEMIO DUMLAO

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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Editor: TERESA B. COROS

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AGENCIES LAUNCH I-ACT IN CORDILLERA

BAGUIO CITY: Concerned government agencies and local governments formally launched the Inter-Agency Council on Traffic (I-ACT) in the Cordillera to beef up the government's aggressive campaign for a secure, convenient and safe travel among motorists in the region. The I-ACT Cordillera is composed of authorized representatives from the Department of Transportation, Land Transportation Office, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Public Works and Highways, Highway Patrol Group, Baguio City Police Office, Police Regional Office-Cordillera, Philippine Coast Guard, various local governments and other law enforcement agencies involved in the apprehension of violators of road safety rules and regulations. Transportation Assistant Secretary Manuel Gonzales led the launching of the I-ACT in the Cordillera.

DEXTER A. SEE



PRACTICE 5 RS TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

"BASURA Mo, Itapon Mo!" This has been the slogan for responsible garbage waste disposal ever since I can remember. Color-coded trash bins are seen everywhere as well. But in reality, most Filipinos are not mindful at all about which bin color they should throw their trash in. And the manner by which the trash bins are collected—all the recyclables, nonrecyclables and perishables dumped collectively in one smelly and dirty garbage truck—is discouraging, and makes us wonder why we even bother to segregate the waste in the first place. The collected garbage is then dumped all together in a landfill. Left to disintegrate, if they can disintegrate at all, they contribute to micro-pollution, especially from plastics.

There have been laudable programs by some LGUs regarding waste segregation, but as I see it, the challenge is sustainability. "Out of sight, out of mind" seems to be the norm at this point. If more people would just pocket that candy wrapper until a trash bin is in sight, or not just flick their cigarette butts onto any open space, or motorists to stop making the roads their garbage can, then we're on our way to better garbage disposal. Reducing the use of single-use plastics is also a major factor in solving the ballooning garbage problem. More recycling centers should be put up as well. And bringing your own cutlery, metal or bamboo straws, mugs, etc. are all helpful steps to reducing garbage.

There is a growing movement for zero-waste living among civic-minded, Earth-minded individuals. Facebook has many group pages devoted to zero waste lifestyles and sustainability practices. Reduce, reuse, recycle (the 3Rs) has been the motto for many years now. But to keep up with the times, the motto has changed to the 5Rs: REFUSE single-use plastics, REDUCE waste especially plastic waste, REUSE what can be reused, RECYCLE, and lastly, let ROT the perishables, which can be composted for gardens.

I hope and pray that more people would practice the 5Rs, for a greener planet that the next generation could enjoy.

PAMELA I. CLAVERIA, MD,
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Gov't fast-tracks environment permits for infrastructure

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has streamlined the process for acquiring environmental compliance certificates (ECCs) for projects under the "Build, Build, Build" program.

"*Maraming na-delay na* projects (Many projects have been delayed) because of clearances. *Nagkakaroon ng* (There is) red tape. *Iyon 'yung gustong iwasan ngayon ni* (That is what) Secretary (Roy A.) Cimatu (wants to avoid)... *para ma-push itong* (to push) 'Build, Build, Build' program," DENR Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda said in a telephone interview.

Under DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-16, dated Nov. 6, the whole process for securing an ECC for flagship infrastructure projects should be completed in 20 days, from 40 days previously.

"The EMB (Environmental Management Bureau) Central Office shall process the ECC applications of Environmentally Critical Projects filed by the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Transportation and Bases Conversion and Development Authority within 20 working days," the order read, adding that "[t]he official acceptance of the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement)/EPRMP (Environmental Performance Report and Management Plan) marks the start of the ECC processing time frame."

Moreover, instead of having two public hearings, only one will be conducted, which should be done by the 11th working day from acceptance of application documents.

A team will also be formed which will prioritize review and evaluation of ECC applications of projects under the "Build, Build, Build" program.

The government has been looking for ways to speed up permit and other processes for flagship projects. On Dec. 2, for example, the Bureau of Internal Revenue issued Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) No. 57-2019, which revoked RMO 12-2015, removing some requirements for contractors to get their final payments for infrastructure projects.

The government announced early in November that it had increased its flagship infrastructure projects to 100 from 75, and the number of public-private partnership (PPP) projects on that list to 26 from nine, thus raising the proportion of PPP projects to a total to 26% from 12%. It expects 56 of these projects to be completed by 2022, when President Rodrigo R. Duterte ends his six-year term. — **Vincent Mariel P. Galang**



Small-scale mines face stricter conditions on residual stockpiles disposal

Small-scale mines operating under a Minahang Bayan contract with the government will soon face stricter conditions on the disposal of their residual stockpiles.

A statement showed that in a bid to improve regulation of small-scale mining operations in the country, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has released an order requiring the monitoring of undisposed residual stockpiles outside mining sites.

The newest directive from MGB was implemented through Department Administrative Order 2019-19 (DAO 2019-19), which is meant to speed up the environmental restoration both during and after mining operations by the Minahang Bayan.

A Minahang Bayan is a government-regulated cooperative of small-scale miners organized in a certain area or region.

Under the new DAO, small-scale mining operations will

now have to meet stricter conditions in the disposal of residual stockpiles or ores previously extracted but not yet disposed during the mining contract.

The disposal will also be implemented under a required Environmental Management Plan (EMP) which miners must submit to report their environmental management objectives and their commitment to protect and rehabilitate the disturbed environment during disposition of residual stockpiles.

The latest move of MGB follows a multi-step campaign to increase the regulation of small-scale mining in addition to stricter policing of the entire industry.

"We understand the negative view of mining, but we want the public to know that mining is not the same as it was before the Mining Act of 1995," MGB Director Wilfredo G. Moncano said. (Madelaine B. Miraflor)



Phoenix promotes gas use

By DANESSA RIVERA

Listed independent oil firm Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. has teamed up with Wyoming-based Mesa Natural Gas Solutions Llc to promote the use of gas and support diverse energy mix.

Mesa Natural is a manufacturer, distributor, and operator of generator sets that can run on raw wellhead gas, liquefied natural gas (LNG), compressed natural gas (CNG) and propane rich liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

Phoenix said the agreement would make the genset units available in the Philippines with the corresponding commissioning, training, and technical support from the US.

With the deal, both companies expect to broaden the Philippines' energy mix.

"With this partnership, Mesa and Phoenix are providing three important benefits; high reliability, improved cost-efficiency, and strong environmental standards, all of which are needed in the Philippine power sector today. We see future growth for Mesa not just in the Philippines, but in other emerging markets globally," said Keenan Ugarte, director of Primeiro Partners, the

Turn to B5

Phoenix... From B1

strategic advisor to Mesa Natural Gas Solutions.

The project aims to contribute to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' initiatives on clean development mechanism, allowing its clients to earn carbon credits, Phoenix said.

"Through this valuable project, we will be able to further support the Philippine government's thrust to broaden our energy mix and move closer towards cleaner energy. Gas, being available in many parts of the world, will allow us to diversify and stabilize our energy sources as we help the country better secure its energy requirements," Phoenix Petroleum chief operating officer Henry Albert Fadullon said.

Considering the innovative properties of this technology, remote areas of the country that suffer from unreliable power supply and quality can greatly benefit from it, including businesses in the hospitality and manufacturing industries," he said.

Fadullon said the genset technology would allow the use of propane rich LPG - to

be supplied by Phoenix LPG Philippines Inc. to the Mesa gensets - as a transition fuel while the availability of LNG is still being developed.

Often used in upstream operations providing power for remote locations even without access to the main grid, Mesa genset units are compact, mobile, and can be custom-engineered to fit the requirements of the clients.

The performance of the gensets can be monitored remotely on real-time basis and immediate action can be taken on-site, if needed.

Local industrial and commercial businesses, whose operations are reliant on efficient and stable supply of power, are expected to maximize Mesa's technology, which aims to provide operational flexibility, increased uptime, and significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

With an uptime of more than 99 percent, Mesa has an estimated power generation fleet of 450 megawatts (MW). Last year, it installed not less than 25 MW of power for micro-grid clients.



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Charges readied vs foreign vessel over 'damage' to corals

By EVA VISPERAS

BOLINAO, Pangasinan – The municipal government of Bolinao is ready to file charges against the owner of a foreign vessel that ran aground off the coastal waters of Barangay Patar last week.

The local government is worried that the accident damaged the coral reef in the area.

The municipal council has passed a resolution authorizing Mayor Alfonso Celeste to initiate a probe for possible charges that may be filed against the owner of *M/V Chematic*.

The vessel, with 23 Chinese and three Myanmar nationals on board, was headed to China from Brunei when it developed engine trouble on Dec. 8.

"Our primary concern is the town's corals that might have been destroyed by the vessel," Celeste said yesterday.

He said the council's resolution would guarantee the removal of the vessel and payment of damages to the local government.

Apart from issuing the resolution, Celeste said the council is coordinating with the vessel's insurance agency for possible payment of damages.

A tugboat has arrived in the area to tow the *Chematic*.

The University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute, which operates a laboratory in the area, will assess the damage on the coral reef once the vessel is towed away.

Celeste said the ship's captain presented insufficient documents to Customs, Immigration and Quarantine officials who inspected the vessel on Friday.

He said they have yet to inspect the cargo of the vessel, which according to reports they received, was loaded with chemicals used in manufacturing plastic.



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Consumers told to stop buying unsafe toys

By Joel E. Zurbano

ENVIRONMENTALIST group Ecowaste Coalition on Monday urged consumers to refrain from purchasing improperly labeled and unsafe toys this holiday season.

The group's latest toy safety reminder came on the heels of a recent advisory by the Food and Drug Administration saying that toys and child care articles lacking the required labeling information are deemed misbranded or banned hazardous substances and shall not be allowed to be distributed or sold in the market.

"To protect vulnerable children against hazardous toys, and to encourage industry-wide compliance to toy safety standards and labeling regulations, we advise consumers to pick toys that are compliant to what the law requires. Stronger consumer demand for adequately labeled safe toys will compel toy manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers to abide by the law, or lose customers and profits," said Ecowaste chemical safety campaigner Thony Dizon.

Based on FDA Advisory No. 2019-486, TCCAs are considered "misbranded" or "banned hazardous substances" if the following information are not duly indicated on the label: 1) License to Operate number issued by FDA; 2) age grading; 3) cautionary statement/warnings; 4) instructional literature; 5) manufacturer's markings (name and address of the local company); and 5) item model /stock keeping unit (SKU) number.

The advisory is in line with Republic Act 10620, or the Toy and Game Safety Labeling Act of 2013, which seeks to protect children against potential hazards to their health and safety by requiring special labeling of toys and games.

"As children are prone to various environmental and health risks, we urge toy givers to watch out for toys in the market that may expose a child to harmful chemicals or cause choking, skin cuts and abrasions, strangulation and injuries to the eyes and ears," Dizon said.



Why Greta's anger is justified

It was indeed a fitting tribute bestowed on 16-year-old Greta Thunberg, the world's most popular climate activist who has become the face of the youth movement sweeping around the globe and challenging world leaders to do more to stop environmental degradation.

"For sounding the alarm about humanity's predatory relationship with the only home we have, for bringing to a fragmented world a voice that transcends backgrounds and borders, for showing us all what it might look like when a new generation leads, Greta Thunberg is TIME's 2019 Person of the Year," Time magazine said on its website last week.

But as congratulatory messages poured in for the Swedish activist who has inspired young people to rise against global warming, US President Donald Trump tweeted: "So ridiculous. Greta must work on her Anger Management problem, then go to a good old-fashioned movie with a friend! Chill Greta, Chill!"

It's no secret that Thunberg can express anger and be so passionate about her advocacy. Her passion was most evident when she addressed world leaders at the United Nations' Climate Action Summit in New York last September.

With ferocity in her eyes, she thundered: "You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words.... People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!"

"For more than 30 years, the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away and come here saying that you're doing enough, when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight," Thunberg exclaimed.

At the recent UN Climate Change Conference known as COP 25, Thunberg reiterated the need to stop greenhouse gas emissions to avoid a

global temperature rise of more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. "And why is it so important to stay below 1.5 degrees? Because even at 1 degree, people are dying from the climate crisis. Because that is what the united science calls for to avoid destabilizing the climate, so that we have the best possible chance to avoid setting off irreversible chain reactions, such as melting glaciers, polar ice, and thawing Arctic permafrost. Every fraction of a degree matters," she said.

She said that since the 2015 Paris climate accord, global banks have invested \$1.9 trillion in fossil fuels and a hundred companies were responsible for 71% of global carbon emissions. "The G20 countries account for almost 80% of total emissions. The richest 10% of the world's population produce half of our CO2 emissions, while the poorest 50% account for just one-tenth," Thunberg said.

"Our leaders are not behaving as if we were in an emergency. In an emergency, you change your behavior. If there is a child standing in the middle of the road and cars are coming at full speed, you don't look away because it's too uncomfortable. You immediately run out and rescue that child. And without that sense of urgency, how can we, the people, understand that we are facing a real crisis? And if the people are not fully aware of what is going on, then they will not put pressure on the people in power to act. And without pressure from the people, our leaders can get away with basically not doing anything — which is where we are now. And around and around it goes," she lamented.

Many see Thunberg's anger as righteous indignation. And looking at the disastrous effects of climate change, especially to the Philippines, her anger is justified.

The latest Global Climate Risk Index release early this month showed the Philippines was the second most affected country in 2018 in the study that analyzed impacts of extreme weather events. "Typhoon Mangkhut [Ompong] ploughed through the

northern part of the Philippines in September, 2018, as a Category 5 typhoon — the most powerful typhoon recorded worldwide in 2018... About 59 people were killed, most by landslides set off by the heavy rainfalls," the study said. Japan was most affected with exceptionally strong rainfalls that "resulted in flash floods and mudslides, killing more than 200 people and leading to over 5,000 houses being damaged and the evacuation of 2.3 million people."

And in its most alarming report so far, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned last October that if global warming is not kept to 1.5 degrees Celsius within the next 12 years, disastrous effects would "include boiling-hot climates, rising sea levels, and extreme weather disturbances that could leave millions of people homeless and even stateless, wiping out ecosystems, affecting agricultural production, spurring food shortages, and inundating low-lying countries."

The warning on inundation is bolstered by new scientific research by science organization Climate Central, published in the open-access journal Nature Communications, which revealed many areas in the Philippines would be below sea level within 30 years — just like Venice in Italy that recently had its worst flooding in 50 years. A map simulation in the Climate Central website showed that the areas going underwater include parts of Manila, Pasay, Malabon, Valenzuela, Bulacan, Roxas and Iloilo in Visayas; and Cotabato, Surigao, and Butuan in Mindanao.

With all the grim scenarios, there's justification indeed in the anger of today's youth represented by Thunberg.



FINDING ANSWERS

ATTY. JOEY LINA
FORMER SENATOR

Email: finding.lina@yahoo.com



Researchers question validity of 'global temperature'

First word

POOOR Greta Thunberg. She will get a headache contemplating this thought.

And poor United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. As if the failure of COP25 in Madrid were not disappointment enough, he must now face the possibility that his scare line about global temperature running over and threatening climate catastrophe may have had the rug pulled from under it.

Climate alarmists like Secretary General Guterres and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) always preface their warnings and doomsday forecasts with talk about a "global temperature."

Thermodynamically and mathematically impossible

But the concept of a global temperature is "thermodynamically as well as mathematically an impossibility," says Bjarne Andresen, a professor at The Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen. He has analyzed this topic in collaboration with professors Christopher Essex of the University of Western Ontario and Ross McKittrick of the University of Guelph, Canada.

The three professors have published a paper questioning the "validity of a 'global temperature.'" (Does a global temperature exist?



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C. Essex, R. McKittrick, B. Andresen. J. Non-Equil. Thermod. vol. 32, pp. 1-27; 2007).

In an article on their research, *Science Daily* reported:

"It is generally assumed that the atmosphere and the oceans have grown warmer during the recent 50 years. The reason for this point of view is an upward trend in the curve of measurements of the so-called 'global temperature.' This is the temperature obtained by collecting measurements of air temperatures at a large number of measuring stations around the globe, weighing them according to the area they represent, and then calculating the yearly average according to the usual method of adding all values and dividing by the number of points."

Professor Bjarne Andresen, an expert in thermodynamics, says: 'It is impossible to talk about a single temperature for something as complicated as the climate of Earth. A temperature can be defined only for a homogeneous system. Furthermore, the climate is not governed by a single temperature. Rather, differences of temperatures drive the processes and create the storms, sea currents, thunder, etc.

which make up the climate.'

"He explains that while it is possible to treat temperature statistically locally, it is meaningless to talk about a global temperature for Earth. The globe consists of a huge number of components which one cannot just add up and average. That would correspond to calculating the average phone number in the phone book. That is meaningless. Or talking about economics, it does make sense to compare the currency exchange rate of two countries, whereas there is no point in talking about an average 'global exchange rate.'

"If temperature decreases at one point and it increases at another, the average will remain the same as before, but it will give rise to an entirely different thermodynamics and thus a different climate. If, for example, it is 10 degrees at one point and 40 degrees at another, the average is 25 degrees. But if instead there is 25 degrees both places, the average is still 25 degrees. These two cases would give rise to two entirely different types of climate, because in the former case one would have pressure differences and strong winds, while in the latter there would be no wind.

Many averages

"A further problem with the extensive use of 'the global temperature' is that there are many ways of

calculating average temperatures.

"Example 1: Take two equally large glasses of water. The water in one glass is 0 degrees, in the other it is 100 degrees. Adding these two numbers and dividing by two yields an average temperature of 50 degrees. That is called the arithmetic average.

"Example 2: Take the same two glasses of water at 0 degrees and 100 degrees, respectively. Now multiply those two numbers and take the square root, and you will arrive at an average temperature of 46 degrees. This is called the geometric average. (The calculation is done in degrees Kelvin, which are then converted back to degrees Celsius or C.)

The difference of 4 degrees is the energy which drives all the thermodynamic processes which create storms, thunder, sea currents, etc."

Claims of disaster?

"These are but two examples of ways to calculate averages. They are all equally correct, but one needs a solid physical reason to choose one above another. Depending on the averaging method used, the same set of measured data can simultaneously show an upward trend and a downward trend in average temperature. Thus, claims of disaster may be a consequence of which averaging method has been used, the researchers point out.

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title: Researchers question validity of 'global temperature', 2/2

■ MAKABENTA FROM A4

Researchers

"What Bjarne Andresen and his coworkers emphasize is that physical arguments are needed to decide whether one averaging method or another is needed to calculate an average which is relevant to describe the state of Earth."

Climate science research report

The report of the three authors has been followed and backed by a new research report on the validity of global average surface temperatures (GAST) data and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Endangerment Finding in July 2017, that current and projected levels of six greenhouse gases (GHGs) threaten the health and human welfare of current and future generations.

The new report finds that the three GAST data sets used by climate alarmists are not a valid representation of reality, including their repeated claims of highest recorded average temperatures. Authored by Drs. James P. Wallace 3rd, Joseph S. d'Aleo and Craig D. Idso, the new extensively peer-reviewed research report examines whether the GAST used by the UN IPCC and the US Environmental Protection Agency (Epa) are sufficiently credible to be used for policy purposes.

The formal press release prepared by the authors read:

"A peer-reviewed climate science research report has proven that it is all but certain that EPA's basic claim that CO2 is a pollutant is totally false. All research was done pro bono.

"The objective of this research was to test the hypothesis that global average surface temperature data are sufficiently credible estimates of global average temperatures such that they can be relied upon for climate modeling and policy analysis purposes. The relevance of this research is that the validity of EPA's CO2 endangerment finding requires GAST data to be a valid representation of reality.

"In this research report, past changes in the previously reported historical data are quantified. It was found that each new version of GAST has nearly always exhibited a steeper warming linear trend over its entire history. And, it was nearly always accomplished by each entity systematically removing the previously existing cyclical temperature pattern. This was true for all three entities providing GAST data measurement, NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and Hadley CRU (Climate Research Unit).

"As a result, this research sought to validate the current estimates of GAST using the best available relevant data. The conclusive findings were that the three GAST data sets are not a valid representation of reality. In fact, the magnitude of their historical data adjustments which removed their cyclical temperature patterns are totally inconsistent with published and credible US and other temperature data.

"Thus, despite current claims of record setting warming, it is impossible to conclude from the NOAA, NASA and Hadley CRU GAST data sets that recent years have been the warmest ever.

"Finally, since GAST data set validity is a necessary condition for EPA's CO2 Endangerment Finding, it too is invalidated by these research findings. This means that EPA's 2009 claim that CO2 is a pollutant has been decisively invalidated by this research."

Goodbye climate apocalypse

This a bombshell for the UN climate action agenda.

Without the global temperature narrative, there is no point anymore to talk about bringing global temperature down to 1.5 C.

There is no reason anymore for IPCC.

The entire climate debate has changed.

Today is like the day after the population bomb and population control was exposed. It's a new day. Goodbye, climate apocalypse.

yenobserver@gmail.com



Aftershocks hamper earthquake rescue

By HELEN FLORES

Aftershocks have hampered rescue operations in Davao del Sur as authorities fear that several people remain trapped under the ruins of a three-story shopping building that collapsed following the magnitude 6.9 earthquake that jolted Mindanao last Sunday.

The death toll remained at four as of 9 a.m. yesterday from the quake that severely affected the province of Davao del Sur.

The casualties retrieved from the ruins were identified as Elsa Ababon, 52, and Evangeline Artiaga, 67, wife of a former village chief of Tanwalang Sulop. Another fatality was still trapped

under the debris of the collapsed three-story Southern Trade building in the municipality of Padada.

The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) said the first body was retrieved at about 2 a.m. and the other was recovered around 8 a.m.

Search and rescue operations continue as the Philip-

pine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) warned of more aftershocks.

A life detector machine was brought to the towns of Padada and Hagonoy to look for anyone still under the rubble.

However, the possibility of a stronger temblor – a magnitude 7.2 – is low, said

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Aftershocks From Page 1

Science Undersecretary and Phivolcs officer-in-charge Renato Solidum Jr.

Over 179 aftershocks have been recorded as of yesterday afternoon.

Solidum said considering the amount of energy released by the magnitude 6.9 quake, the chances of a larger tremor are "low."

"But we don't discount that scenario, although the chances of it happening are low," Solidum said.

The quake was triggered by a movement of the Tangbunan Fault, different from the Cotabato Fault system that caused the series of earthquakes in Mindanao last October.

Cherbelchen Imgador, 6, of Asinan village in Matanao, died after being hit by a wall that fell in her home Sunday afternoon during the quake.

As of yesterday evening, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region 11 (MGB-11) reported one unidentified person dead from Hagonoy town.

Latest reports said at least 84 persons were reported injured in the Davao region due to various incidents attributed to the earthquake.

Thirteen public structures were damaged in the Davao and Soccsksargen regions in Central Mindanao, of which two were totally damaged and 11 partially damaged.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that three schools were partially damaged in Davao del Sur due to the earthquake, along with six other structures in the same areas.

Damaged structures include provincial and municipal halls, barangay halls, the Viacrusis and Davao Doctor's Hospital, a gymnasium and two police stations.

Southern Mindanao Police commander Brig. Gen. Filmore Escobal said a multi-agency coordinating center in the town of Magsaysay has been expanded while another center was also established in Padada.

Thousands have been displaced due to damaged houses, prompting residents to stay in cramped evacuation sites.

Sunday's tremor was the strongest in

Mindanao since the series of earthquakes in the region last October, which left over 20 people dead and displaced 100,000. The quakes have destroyed close to 39,000 houses and triggered over 2,000 aftershocks for several weeks, most of which were unfelt.

When the latest quake hit, thousands of villagers in Kidapawan City and nearby Makilala town in North Cotabato were still staying in makeshift relief sites due to the October quakes.

The epicenter was traced northwest of Matanao, Davao del Sur. It was felt in several areas in Mindanao, with the highest intensity recorded at 7, classified by Phivolcs as "destructive."

Meanwhile, a magnitude 3.3 quake hit nine kilometers northeast of Lutayan, Sultan Kudarat at 11:54 a.m. It was felt at Intensity 3 in Davao City.

'Bleak Christmas'

With dozens injured and four confirmed dead after the tremor, thousands of affected residents would be facing a rather bleak Christmas with toppled homes, cracked schools after more than just a month of recovery from October's temblors.

Power transmission services, meanwhile, of the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines remained normal and no damage was sustained by power transmission facilities in the province where the tremor was felt.

Local chief executives have ordered government employees not to report to work in the meantime, except emergency teams that have been directed to be on full alert in anticipation of more aftershocks.

Many areas in Central Mindanao have suspended classes in all school levels. The NDRRMC said a total of nine cities and municipalities in Regions XI and XII declared suspension of classes while Kidapawan City, North Cotabato and Digos City, Davao del Sur declared suspension of work.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra has recommended the temporary suspension of work in prosecutors' offices in the Davao provinces.

Guevarra said they would give way to the inspection of the prosecutors' offices to ensure the safety of their prosecutors and other personnel in the area.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) also ordered policemen in Mindanao to inspect police stations and other infrastructure for possible damage.

PNP deputy chief for operations Lt. Gen. Camilo Cascolan directed logistics officers in the Davao region to inspect not only police stations but all buildings in their respective areas.

Cascolan also ordered police commanders in Davao and Soccsksargen to activate their crisis incident management committees to help in disaster response operations.

The Department of Labor and Employ-

ment, meanwhile, assured affected residents of employment assistance through the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program.

"This is in the form of emergency employment. For a period of time, we will give them salary for work they have done in the community," Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said.

International child welfare organization Save the Children expressed deep concern for the safety and welfare of more than a million children in Davao del Sur.

Alberto Muyot, chief executive officer of Save the Children Philippines, said a team has been deployed in Davao del Sur to assess the situation of children and

their families and determine the extent of damage.

"We are coordinating with the local government on the ground to assess the situation of children and their families so we can respond to their urgent needs," said Muyot.

An estimated 4.4 million people or 830,000 households live in towns that sustained strong temblors on Sunday, according to the Pacific Disaster Center, of whom 1.37 million are children aged 14 years and below.



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"We are concerned that the recent earthquake will prolong the displacement of families," said Jerome Balinton, humanitarian manager of Save the Children Philippines.

**Simbang Gabi
'unimpeded'**

Despite the damage from the strong quake, residents still cel-

ebrated the first day of the nine-day Simbang Gabi or dawn mass tradition in the run-up to Christmas.

Several bishops based in Mindanao reported that the masses pushed through, according to Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle.

Tagle led the concelebrated mass of the first of the nine dawn masses at the Manila Cathedral, where he remembered those affected by the tremors in Davao del Sur, Davao and General Santos City.

At the start of his homily, Tagle said, "Let us remember our brothers and sisters, especially those in Mindanao who experienced a strong earthquake, which was stronger than the previous quakes. I sent a message to the bishops in the area, particularly those in Cotabato, Davao, Davao del Sur. The most affected was the Diocese

of Digos."

A priest was even injured when he went to a distant area, he said.

"The Simbang Gabi begins tomorrow and we will show the people that even if there has been an earthquake, we still have our faith and faith is the meaning of our Simbang Gabi," Tagle said, quoting a Mindanao bishop.

Tagle also said he is not discounting the possibility that "these people affected by the tremors would not be celebrating mass inside beautiful churches similar to the Manila Cathedral, but they would still express their faith."

Police said the residents of Pada-da celebrated the first Simbang Gabi yesterday at the municipal gym.

- **Wih Edith Regalado, Michael Punongbayan, John Unson, Evelyn Macairan, Emmanuel Tupas, Rainier Allan Ronda**



Last cyclone of 2019 could happen during holidays – PAGASA

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

Less than half a month is left before the end of 2019, but the possibility of having a last cyclone that may cross the country could still happen during the holidays.

According to Ana Liza Solis, chief of the Climate Monitoring and Prediction Section of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), they are closely monitoring the possible formation of a tropical cyclone that may affect the country in the coming days.

The possibility of a cyclone making landfall over Visayas or Mindanao is not being ruled out, Solis said on Monday, although there is still a "high" uncertainty as of the moment.

Considering the historical track of cyclones in December, she pointed out that the potential cyclone may traverse Visayas or Mindanao on its way to the West Philippine Sea.

The next cyclone will be named "Ursula."

PAGASA earlier said that the country, based on the weather bureau's historical record, may still expect one or two tropical cyclones

that may enter or form inside the country's area of responsibility this December.

Meanwhile, Solis pointed out that Luzon may no longer be affected by a tropical cyclone until year-end.

While there is no more cyclone that could help replenish Angat Dam, the water reservoir may still receive rains from the northeast monsoon or "amihan" and the frontal system, she said.

Angat Dam's water level has slightly climbed to 196.67 meters on Monday from 196.23 meters last Sunday, but remains below its end of the year target of 212 meters.

PAGASA weather specialist Meno Mendoza said they do not see yet the formation of a low pressure area or tropical cyclone inside the Philippine area of responsibility within the next two to three days.



Sustaining the growth of Phl tourism

Improved air connectivity, intensified marketing promotions, budding relations with other countries, as well as the growing recognition of the country's sustainable tourism advocacy are some of the reasons that the Department of Tourism (DOT) attribute double digit growths in tourist arrivals and tourist spending for the first 10 months of the year.

It seems like the country's tourism targets – 8.2 million arrivals and P564 billion under the National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) – will be met by the end of the year, even with the snafus experienced during the opening days of the Southeast Asian Games 2019 early in November.

BIZLINKS



REY GAMBOA

Compared to previous years' performances, this year's expected numbers deserves a pat in the back of our tourism officials and staff. Should there be no major setbacks at both the local and global fronts, the Philippines may well achieve its goal of 10 million tourist arrivals, perhaps even significantly more, by 2022.

Of course, on a truly competitive ranking, we are still far behind most ASEAN countries including upstart Vietnam, and may find serious challenges from Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, which have also been ramping up their tourist promotion efforts in recent years. But that's another story.

Growing recognition

For now, we deserve to bask in the growing number of awards that recognize the country's tourism efforts. Boracay Island continues to reap accolades, not just from the influential Conde Nast Traveler, but also from Travel + Leisure and the Japan Tourism Awards.

Palawan has also been given recognition by Travel + Leisure and CNN's Travel for being one of the world's best islands. CNN also voted Vigan in Ilocos Norte as one of Asia's most picturesque town destinations.

More recently, the World Travel Awards recognized the Philippines as the world's best diving destination, surpassing globally famous dive destinations like the Azores Islands, Bora Bora in French Polynesia, Cayman Islands, Fiji, Galapagos Islands, Great Barrier Reef in Australia, Maldives, and Mexico. This speaks a lot for our underwater attractions.

Amanpulo Resort, which belongs to the prestigious Aman group of luxury destinations, was also recognized by the WTA as the world's leading dive resort. Aman was ranked first in Luxury Travel Intelligence's top luxury hotel brands in 2018.

Sustainable efforts

Most of the awards mentioned bank on the natural beauty of our islands and its surrounding waters. Long stretches and wide expanses of powdery white sand with gin-clear waters and warm sun give beachgoers a pleasurable and unforgettable experience.

The six-month closure of Boracay last year has helped restore this popular international tourist destination into a paradise that is worth visiting and revisiting. While more needs to be accomplished despite the recent clean-up efforts, this should be seen as a guide for other similar destinations.

Panglao Island, for example, needs to learn from nearby Boracay. With more tourists exploring alternative island destinations in the country and with the opening of the Panglao International Airport, the island has seen more visitors in recent months.

Local governments' role

Unfortunately, the local government lacks preparedness in meeting the sanitation demands that come with many new resorts mushrooming along the island's coastlines. There is no centralized sewerage system, and worse, garbage collection and disposal continue to be environmentally unacceptable.

The small island of Balicasag, which has increasingly become a favorite destination of novice divers and snorkelers, is dotted with small excavations that the many eateries fill with plastic water bottles and other debris that are not biodegradable.

Plastic waste is an increasingly sore sight in many islands that mar the excellent beaches, water sports, diving, and snorkeling attractions. Plastic not only washes up on the shoreline, but can also be seen floating in formerly pristine waters.

Not only are the islands imperiled. In Mountain Province's Sagada, the local government has likewise been grappling with the growing number of tourists who flock to explore its awesome underground caves.

The DOT should quickly come up with standards that local governments can adopt and enforce in tourist sites to preserve and ensure the sustainability of the environment.

New gateways

The Duterte government's Build Build Build (BBB) program has undeniably opened doors for the country's tourism industry. New international gateways for tourists offer more convenient and faster travel to desired destinations.

Last year, the much-improved international airports of Mactan, Clark, and Davao provided tourists with acceptable entry alternatives to the congested Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminals in Manila. The new international airports of Iloilo, Kalibo, and Panglao were also welcome additions.

As a result, with more airlines and flights being opened, more tourists are encouraged to fly in. Being an archipelago on the fringes of the ASEAN region, having plenty of international airports strategically located all over the country is the best way to boost our tourism effort.

Additionally, our seaports and road networks especially in designated tourist destinations must be upgraded to provide that seamless travel experience for visitors. Again, BBB will be crucial in solidifying the gains achieved by our much-improved air travel facilities.

The potential for tourism as a source of revenues for the country is well-supported by many studies, but for a developing economy like the Philippines, tourism's role in bringing inclusive growth to the fringes of urban centers holds more value.

The DOT's role here will be to provide the template for other tourism stakeholders — from the simplest bed-and-breakfasts to the five-star hotels — to be able to provide the kind of service that will put the finishing touches in our promise to make the Philippines a genuinely fun destination.

Facebook and Twitter

We are actively using two social networking websites to reach out more often and even interact with and engage our readers, friends and colleagues in the various areas of interest that I tackle in my column. Please like us on www.facebook.com/ReyGamboa and follow us on www.twitter.com/ReyGamboa.

Should you wish to share any insights, write me at Link Edge, 25th Floor, 139 Corporate Center, Valero Street, Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City. Or e-mail me at reydgamboa@yahoo.com. For a compilation of previous articles, visit www.BizlinksPhilippines.net.



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ULTIMATUM NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

HINDI biro-biro ang naganap na lindol sa Davao del Sur kamakalawa.

Malakas ito, mas malakas kaysa sa tatlong lindol na tumama sa Cotabato nitong nakaraang Oktubre.

Wala mang dapat na ipagpasalamat sa pangyayaring ito, salamat pa rin na malalim ang pinagmulan ng lindol na bitak ng lupa, nasa 30 kilometro.

Kung kasimbabaw ang bitak ng lupa sa Davao del Sur ang mga lindol sa Cotabato, tiyak na mas maraming pinsala sa buhay at ari-arian.

Nasa 12.8 kilometro lang sa ilalim ng lupa ang lindol na magnitude 6.4 sa Tulunan, Cotabato noong Oktubre 16; 14 kilometro ang sumunod na lindol na magnitude 6.6 noong Oktubre 29; at 10 kilometro naman ang magnitude 6.5 para sa Oktubre 31.

Kung kasimbabaw lang ng magnitude 6.9 ang mga naunang lindol, naging mas malakas sana ang pagyanig ng lupa sa ibabaw at ito ang dahilan kung bakit tayo magpasalamat pa rin, masakit mang gawin.

MGA PATAY

Dahil sa lakas ng lindol, inasahan na natin ang pagkakaroon ng mga patay nating kapatid sa lugar.

Habang tinitipa natin ito, mga Bro, may nang patay at marami rin ang iniulat na nasugatan.

Sana naman, hindi na madagdagan pa ang bilang ng mga ito at hindi maisasama sa listahan ng mga patay ang mga nawawala o missing pa hanggang ngayon.

Ang mahalaga ngayon, pagtulong-tulungan nating ayudahan ang mga namatayan, ang mga nasugatan at ang paghahangap sa mga missing. Alalahaning pinaka-

LINDOL PAGHANDAAN, MGA BIKTIMA TULUNGAN

mahalaga ang buhay at gawaing pagkalisitan.

Ang mga ari-arian, mahirap ding pundarin pero susunod ang halaga ng mga ito sa buhay at kalusugan ng tao.

MALALAKI ANG NATAMAAN

Lumalabas na tinamaan ang mga malalaking gusali gaya ng mga mall o shopping center at municipal hall.

Buo o bahagi ng mga gusaling tinamaan gaya ng municipal hall ng Mag-saysay, Southern Trade Shopping Center sa bayan ng Padada na sentro ng lindol; police station Maria Clea National High School sa Padada pa rin; barangay hall ng Poblacion in Matanao; police station at Nadila Elementary School sa Kiblawan; the municipal hall, Sangguniang Bayan building at Hagonoy National High School sa Hagonoy.

Marami pang ibang gusali, malalaki at maliit ang buo o nasiraan ng mga bahagi.

Pati ang Gaisano Mall sa General Santos City na nasiraan at nasunugan nang lumindol noong Ok-

tubre ay inaalam pa kung may mga bagong sira ito.

MATAGALANG PAGHIHIRAP

Marami ang pagkakaliba ng mga nabagyo at nalindol.

Sa mga nababagyo, siyempre, may nagigibaan din ng mga bahay, natatanggalan ng mga bubong nasisiraan sa bahay-bahay at landslide.

Matagalang tulong ang dapat na ibigay sa mga ito.

Sa lindol, nawawasak ang mga bahay nang buo o ilang bahagi ng mga ito.

Sa mga lindol pa rin, halos lahat ng mga magkakapitbahay ay nasisiraan kaya naman parang katulad ng mga nayon. Yolanda ang mga ito na walang matirhan.

Matagalan din ang paghihirap ng mga biktima.

Sa mga sitwasyong ito dapat umunawa.

May Pasko man o wala, ang mabuting kaloo-ban ay dapat nating hanapin sa ating mga sarili at sa iba upang mabigyan natin ng tamang ayuda ang mga biktima ng mga sakunang mula sa mga bagyo at lindol.

MGA NANAKAWIN

Sa taong 2020, magkakaroon tayo ng pambansang badyet.

May nadidiskubreng palusot o last 5 minutes (kumbaga sa basketball) palusot ng mga kongresman na pondo para pag-nakawan nila.

Ayon sa mga senador na nakadiskubre sa mga palusot, nagkakahalaga ng P16 bilyon hanggang P85B ang mga ito.

Sabi ng mga senador, mga Bro, iharap nila kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte nang isa-isa ang mga gustong palusutin at pagkakaperahan ng mga kongresman at umaasa sila na magtutugma ang kanilang mga paniniwala sa magiging finding o makikita ng Pangulo na posibleng pandarambong at katiwalian.

Nagaganap ang pandarambong sa pag-nakaw sa kaban ng bayan ng halagang P50 milyon pataas habang korapsyon naman ang kaso para sa pagnanakaw na kulang sa P50 milyon.

Maaaring i-veto nang buo ni Pangulong Digong ang buong panukalang badyet o kaya ang mga mapatutunayang dadambungin o kokorapin lang ng mga mambabatas.

Nitong badyet sa 2019, nasa P95B halaga ng mga kadudadudang proyekto at wala sa prayoridad ng Pangulo ang vineto ni Pang. Digong.

PWEDENG PANGKALAMIDAD

Kung magkakaroon ng pondo para sa mga nasabing kadudadudang proyekto, maaaring ipunin ang mga ito at mungkahi nating isama na lang sa mga pondong pangkalamidad.

Pero, walang dapat na humawak sa mga ito kundi ang mismong Pangulo ng bansa upang makarating sa mga dapat tulungan at biktima.

Para sa nawalan ng hanapbuhay, housing, imprastraktura ng pamahalaan, tulay, panibagong capital ng mga gustong magnegosyo at iba pa.

Tanggalan ng bulsa ang mga kongresman na nagtatangkang gumawa ng pagnanakaw sa kaban ng bayan, mula sa buwis ng mga mamamayan.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com