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Sunday

DENR

IN THE NEWS



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Life-size elephant statue unveiled at DENR

A LIFE-SIZE statute of an elephant has been unveiled at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City as part of the celebration of the World Wildlife Day, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said yesterday.

DENR Secretary Ramon Paje said the statue was made partly from the ashes of seized tusks that the agency destroyed in a landmark action against ivory more than two years ago.

During the occasion, the DENR also gave recognition to 97 individuals with Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards, for having supported the DENR's campaign against illegal wildlife trade that resulted in the rescue or confiscation of about 2,270 heads of different species, other biodiversity byproducts, and the filing of charges against wildlife law violators.

"The actual value of this sculpture is priceless, because we cannot put a value to the thousands of elephants that were killed for their tusks," Paje said.

Paje added that the sculpture will "remind everyone of the country's strong support to the global efforts against elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade".

The sculpture contains figures of a mother elephant and her calf, clinging to tusks that are crucial to their survival.

In June 2013, the DENR destroyed at least five tons of smuggled elephant tusks using a road roller, making the Philippines the first country in Asia to conduct physical destruction of massive ivory stockpile in support of global efforts to stamp out illegal wildlife trade.

The pulverized tusks were later on cremated at a government animal incinerator to ensure complete destruction. The tusks were reduced to more than two tons of ashes after burning.

A few days after that historic event, Paje vowed to build a life-size sculpture of an elephant made from the ashes dedicated to the thousands of elephants killed for their tusks.

He also said the statue aims to enhance public awareness and support for worldwide efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade, as part of the country's commitment to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

The Geneva-based CITES is an international treaty developed in 1973 to regulate commercial trade in certain wildlife species, including the critically endangered elephants.

In 1997, the Conference of Parties of CITES has included the Philippines as one of eight countries of priority of concerns as regards illegal ivory trade, particularly its role as a trade route and transit country for elephant tusks.

The other seven are Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa, which are considered as major sources of ivory in illicit trade; China (including Hong Kong) and Thailand as destinations of illegal ivory; and Malaysia and Vietnam as trade routes and transit countries.

The country's decision to destroy its ivory stockpile earned commendations from former U.S. Secretary of State and now presidential aspirant Hillary Clinton, and the United Nations Environment Programme.

The elephant monument at the NAPWC depicts figures of a mother elephant and her calf, clinging to tusks which are crucial to an elephant's survival. It was conceptualized by University of the Philippines Fine Arts graduate Janus Nuñez.

The unveiling of the statue of the elephant supports this year's WWD celebration theme, "The future of wildlife is in our hands," with global campaigns focusing mainly on the protection of African and Asian elephants.

Cory Martinez

THE EXPONENTIAL OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICES

• 2016 Youth Forum

BUTUAN CITY – In an effort to make the youth more aware of environment preservation, protection and conservation and climate change mitigation, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-13) is set to hold the “2016 Youth Forum” on March 15 here.

“DENR Caraga has intensified its campaign on social mobilization highlighting the importance and value of information and education about the environment and we are looking forward to seeing the participants and environmental advocates,” said DENR-13 Regional Executive Director Nonito M. Tamayo. Part of the event will be an awarding ceremony for the champions of anti-climate change advocacy.

“This is to emphasize to the youth that working together for the attainment of environmental sustainability is possible,” stressed the region’s DENR chief. (Mike U. Crismundo)

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICES

Operations at mine site collapse to be stopped

DAVAO CITY (PNA) – The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) 11 is set to recommend the stoppage of mining operations in the Area S1, Destino 568 level of Australia tunnel to reassess the underground situation after the collapse of an old working area due to flashflood over the weekend.

Fedelis Echavez of MGB 11 said they have initially assessed the affected area but a reassessment would be needed and could only be done after all the water and debris are cleared from the area.

He, however, clarified that only the mining operation of the affected tunnel, will be recommended and not the whole operation Australia tunnel or the Diwalwal mining operation in Mt. Diwata, Monkayo, Compostela Valley province.

Based on an MGB investigation, MGB 11 engineer Joel Catulong said they found out that the screen gate

railings of the old working area at 568 level was blocked by debris preventing water to flow freely to the exit points. After continuous rains from February 15 until February 29, there was immense water build up that finally gave way last Sunday.

Catulong said the screened gate railings or steel gate served as the dividing line between Australia Tunnel and Las Vegas.

When the water flowed to the Australia tunnel, miners were trapped last Sunday. During the search and retrieval operation on Monday, three bodies were recovered.

Hours after the incident, the body of miner Ernest "Erning" Loquiña was found inside the Las Vegas tunnel situated below Australia tunnel.

Of the 14 persons trapped inside the tunnels, four were confirmed dead, six were rescued and three are still missing. The missing miners are Bryan Monsoon, Roel Dacaldacal and Richard Monsoon.

Bruce Santillan of the MGB 11 said the steel gates, which served to separate tunnels of each mining cooperative operating in Diwalwal, has now become a safety issue following the underground flashflood incident.

As for now, Santillan said operation for the search of the three missing miners continues and the dewatering operation.

The engineers however said the incident was isolated, thus the recommendation to stop operation focuses only on Area S1, Destino 568 level.

The small scale mining operation of Mt. Dwata is managed by the Natural Reservation Development Corporation (NRDC) which is in charge of collecting and allocating of mining share and the issuance of service contracts within the 729 hectare area.

Australia Tunnel, Las Vegas, Blucor and other groups are two of the tunnels located in the Balite area while the Tinago area is contracted to JB, among others.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICES

US grant to help reduce child labor at mines in PH, Ghana

By ELLALYN B. DE VERA

The United States (US) government has awarded a US\$5-million grant to help reduce child labor in small-scale mining activities in the Philippines and Ghana.

Through the US Department of Labor's

Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), the grant was awarded to the International Labor Organization (ILO) for the implementation of a 40-month project that will reduce child labor and address hazardous working conditions in artisanal and small-scale mining.

The project will work with the governments of Ghana and the Philippines and partner with Philippines-based non-government organization BAN Toxics to work with stakeholders, including governments, business and civil society organizations, and directly with miners and their families.

The project will bring stakeholders together to implement laws, policies, and action plans to address child labor and working conditions in small-scale gold mining; increase access of artisanal mining communities to livelihood and social protection programs; and develop tools to increase transparency and monitoring of child labor and working conditions in gold mining supply chains.

Filipino children like Jonathon Ramorez use toxic mercury to amalgamate the gold. In a small plastic bag, he carries the mercury he needs, which he will pour over the gold and which will then evaporate.

This purifies the gold but poisons the air he breathes, as well as leeches into the soil and contaminates the water that sustains whole communities.

Ban Toxics said artisanal small-scale gold mining (ASGM) operations like this one produce an estimated 15 to 20 percent of the world's gold.

Between 10 and 15 million people, including four to five million women and children, do this work amid hazardous conditions.

Many have direct exposure to the mercury used to amalgamate gold; the process accounts for 37 percent of total global mercury emissions.

In the Philippines, an estimated 300,000 people work in ASGM, including several thousand children.

ASGM contributes as much as 80 percent of the country's annual gold production, but the production comes at a high price. Almost all small scale gold mining in the country use mercury, a potent neurotoxin.

"Children are the biggest victims in small-scale mining," Richard Gutierrez, chief executive officer of BAN Toxics, a Philippine-based organization that advances an environmentally just and toxics-free world, said.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Why reclamation is 'a very bad idea'

BEFORE DISCUSSING a few more issues surrounding the proposed reclamation projects on the coastal areas of Manila Bay and Laguna Lake, as presented by geologist Kelvin Rodolfo, let me clarify something I wrote in Friday's column.

Yes, Rodolfo is best known among Filipinos for his work on lahar, the mixture of ashfall, pyroclastic material, soil, rain water and other matter (rocks, fallen logs, concrete fragments from destroyed structures) that follows a volcanic eruption. But he first gained public attention for this during the period immediately following the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991, not the Northern Luzon earthquake of 1990 as I erroneously wrote.

The lahar flows would continue to hound the residents of Central Luzon for a few years after the eruption, causing floods and destruction along the path of rivers and streams. Thousands of residents in the affected areas lost their homes and livelihoods, especially those engaged in farming, in the wake of the lahar. But as I remember Rodolfo saying during those years, we really shouldn't be putting the blame on lahar for the suffering of the population. "All the lahar wants to do is to flow out to the sea," he said. It was up to the people themselves, along with government officials, to take the necessary steps to prevent or alleviate the suffering of the people affected by lahar. The wisest move would have been to simply get people out of the lahar's way, but authorities, unwilling to be seen as remaining passive in the wake of the lahar threat, embarked on massive dike construction, even if scientists like Rodolfo said it would be worse than useless since destroyed dikes could add even more material to the destructive power of lahar.

Unfortunately, says Rodolfo, in the Philippines we have a "history of ignoring science while building projects fail."

AS early as the 1980s, he notes, local and national authorities insisted on building "flimsy lahar dikes" in the waterways downstream from Mayon Volcano despite the objections of scientists, himself included. Dike building continued but finally was halted when Super-typhoon "Reming" breached all the dikes in

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



2006, killing 1,266 people who had sought safety by living behind the structures.

The same mistake and tragedy would be repeated in the 1990s, but on a much larger scale, says Rodolfo, with the building of the dikes post-Pinatubo. In October 1995, rains brought by Tropical Storm "Mameng" caused lahar to breach the Gugu Dike, "totally destroying barangay Cabalantian in Bacolor, Pampanga," with hundreds killed.

Still, it seems that officials have not learned their lessons. Starting in the 2000s till the present, says Rodolfo, the Department of Public Works and Highways "builds numerous costly, ineffective flood-control structures in Central Luzon and Camanava" even as he and his colleagues have made their objections felt. "Year after year, they fail, and more money is spent on cosmetic repairs," Rodolfo laments.

AND now come the decidedly ambitious and dangerous plans to reclaim land from Manila Bay and Laguna Lake premised on the need to prevent flooding and ease traffic in Metro Manila. Of course the profit motive is present as well, since the reclaimed land will also be used for property development, for both residential and commercial purposes.

Rodolfo cites four reasons why reclamation of areas in Manila Bay and Laguna Lake "is a very bad idea."

First, the rapid subsidence (sinking) of coastal lands, specially in the Metro Manila area, is "enhancing the risk of flooding and high tides." Among the reasons for this rapid subsidence, says Rodolfo, is rapid loss of groundwater due to

decades of uncontrolled pumping. Loss of groundwater has also caused the ground level to fall, leaving these areas vulnerable to flooding.

Second, storm surges—very high tides during typhoons or weather disturbances—are, say Rodolfo, "an ever-worsening threat, due in part to subsidence, but also because climate change is increasing the frequency of the strongest typhoons."

Third, coastal areas, such as those marked for reclamation, "are very susceptible to liquefaction and enhanced ground-shaking during earthquakes," says Rodolfo. For those not familiar with the effects of liquefaction, where the ground seemingly turns to mud and watery mush due to shaking during an earthquake, simply google for photos of Dagupan after the 1990 earthquake.

THE fourth reason, says Rodolfo, can be laid directly at the doorstep, not of Mother Nature but of the government, private-sector proponents and their enablers from multilateral donor institutions. The risks, he says, "are enhanced by the DPWH's and JICA's (the Japanese international agency for development) ignoring or minimizing the phenomena in their projects." Rodolfo also cites the JBIC, Japan's overseas development bank, which he says is the real culprit behind the packaging of such seeming developmental initiatives with commercially attractive prospects.

Rodolfo has a specially compelling video to show the effects of an earthquake on coastal areas. During the Bohol earthquake in 2013, security cameras in a resort in Talisay, Cebu, far from the earthquake's epicenter, caught the effect on the water in the resort's pool, which undulated periodically and grew in intensity as wave movements crested.

This was just a swimming pool, but it is easy enough to imagine the bigger and deadlier effects on a much larger body of water like a lake or a bay. Maybe what the proponents need is not so much scientific savvy as imagination or compassion for the people who will suffer the consequences of corporate greed and official negligence.

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Minahan sa Mt. Diwalwal, pinatitigil

Pinatitigil matapos batikusin ni Cagayan de Oro Archbishop Antonio Ledesma ang isinasagawang pagmimina na nagdulot ng pagkasawi ng buhay ng tatlo sa mga minero sa Mt. Diwalwal (Mt. Diwata), Monkayo, Compostela Valley.

Ayon sa Arsobispo, kinakailangang itigil na ng mga dayuhang kumpanya ang mapansariling interes na pagsamsam sa mga yamang mineral ng Pilipinas.

"I think the first priority is they should take care 'yung mga biktima and their families, and to make

sure that there is proper safe guard to avoid that in the future," pahayag ng Arsobispo sa Radyo Veritas.

Gayundin sinabi ng Arsobispo, tungkulin ng pamahalaan na tiyaking responsable at hindi makasasama sa taumbayan ang pagpapatupad ng mga batas tulad ng Mining Act of 1995.

Pagbibigay diin ng Arsobispo, kung hindi ito masusunod ay hindi na dapat magkaroon ng mga pagmimina at kinakailangang rebisahin ang batas. (Juliet de Loza-Cudia)

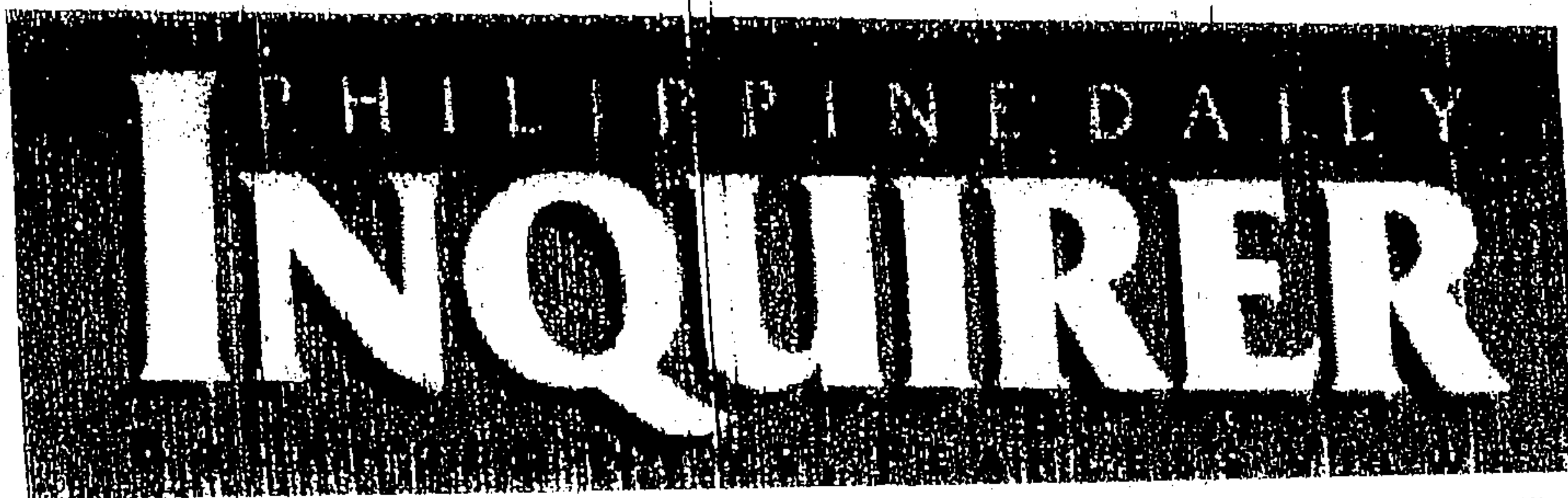
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Al Gore to focus on PH experience in climate change

By Tarra Quismundo and Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE experience in coping with the effects of climate change is expected to take center stage when former United States Vice President and climate action advocate Al Gore arrives this month for a three-day training.

Gore, among the first global leaders to raise the alarm on climate change, will be in the Philippines from March 14 to 16 for the Manila leg of the Climate Reality Leadership Corps training, which gives selected youth participants intensive education on climate action.

"Al Gore will give the presentation that has introduced millions of people to the reality of the climate crisis and sparked a global movement," his organization, Climate Reality Project, said in a media advisory.

The organization added that "(t)his year, Gore's presentation will highlight the Philippines, a country that is already acutely impacted by the dangerous affects of climate change."

Tacloban City Mayor Alfred Romualdez will speak during the training on how his city continues to bounce back from the effects of Supertyphoon "Yolanda" (international name: Haiyan), which destroyed 50,000 homes and claimed at least 6,000 lives in November 2013.

The event will also feature "The Road to Decarbonization," a presentation by Sen. Loren Legarda, chair of the Senate Commit-

tees on climate change, environment and natural resources.

Legarda helped Gore and his group organize the Manila leg of the climate training, which was firmed up in December through a phone call between Manila and Paris, where the latter was taking part in the global climate summit.

Legarda on Saturday called on local government units (LGUs) to begin crafting their strategies to address environmental changes, as required by the Climate Change Act.

According to the Climate Change Commission, as of July 2015, only 584 out of 1,634 cities and municipalities, or 36 percent, had submitted their local climate change action plans.

"All LGUs should follow the law and have their own local climate action plans," Legarda said in a statement. "We can no longer delay climate action. For a vulnerable nation like the Philippines, delayed action means loss of lives, livelihood, ecosystems and biodiversity."

Legarda, the principal author of the Climate Change Act, said it was important that local officials take action because each community has its own vulnerabilities, risks and hazards.



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Troubled farmers

AS an agricultural country, the Philippines needs to help its poor farmers and fishermen, who comprise the bulk of the population.

And the prolonged dry spell continues to affect the agriculture sector, terrorizing thousands of farmers and fishers across the country.

During the last 12 months ending February this year, damage to agricultural crops reached a staggering P4.7 billion, according to Department of Agriculture (DA) statistics.

Senatorial candidate and Leyte 1st District Rep. Martin G. Romualdez, a first cousin of vice presidential bet Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr., said Mindanao took the brunt of the drought.

Dubbed the "Land of Promise," troubled Mindanao is acknowledged as the "Food Basket" of this impoverished Southeast Asian nation of more than 100 million people.

Romualdez urged the government, through concerned offices and agencies, to conduct cloud-seeding operations in places hard-hit by the dry spell and extend loans to affected farmers and fishermen.

A lawyer and president of the influential Philippine Constitution Association (Philconsa), Romualdez said national and local government officials should work in unison to mitigate the impact of El Niño.

"We have to prevent further damage to the agriculture sector now," said the Visayan lawmaker, a known "darling" of the poor and other unfortunate members of Philippine society.

He said the authorities ought to assist farmers not only with food supplies but also with loans.

Farmers and fishermen, particularly those in far-flung communities throughout the country, must be helped while the El Niño weather phenomenon has yet to abate.

It's time the outgoing Aquino administration showed genuine concern or "malasakit" (compassion) for our troubled fishermen and farmers.

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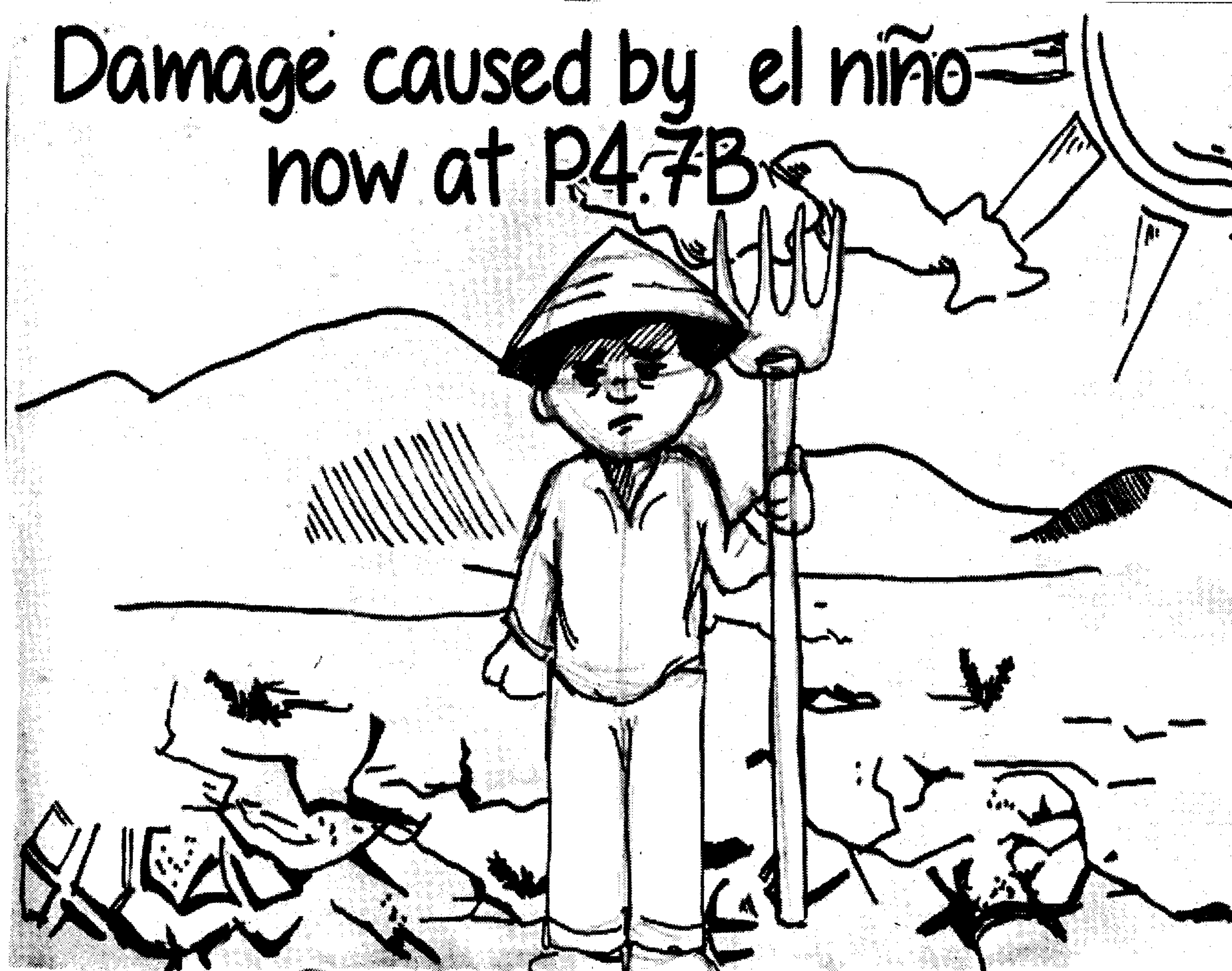
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Troubled Farmers



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Air pollution, climate change kill millions of people every year

EACH year more than seven million deaths worldwide could be attributed to air pollution, and climate change caused tens of thousands of deaths annually from other causes, Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), warned Thursday.

Speaking during the UN Human Rights Council's panel discussion on the relationship between climate change and death, Chan said that by 2050, experts predicted that climate change would cause an additional 250,000 deaths each year, just from malaria, diarrhea, heat stress, and under-nutrition.

"Droughts, floods, wildfires and heat waves claimed human lives. The world could not afford not to take open action. Holding countries accountable for their climate policies was also a matter of fairness," she noted, adding that for public health, climate change had become the defining issue for the 21st century.

Since the impact of climate change was universal, unpredictable, and sometimes contested, she said, human beings were unquestionably the most important species threatened by climate change.

The World Meteorological Organization figure has showed that the year 2015 was the hottest year since records began in 1880, and this year was predicted to be even hotter.

"Droughts threatened already perilous food supplies, especially in poor countries where subsistence farming was rain-fed," Chan stressed.

According to the UN official, the scale of this threat was immense. In some countries more than 70 percent of the population depended on subsistence farming for livelihood. Outbreaks of cholera thrived under too much or too little water. Insects and other carriers of disease were very sensitive to heat, humidity and rainfall. Climate change had given dengue a vastly expanded geographical range and could do the same for malaria.

"More than half of the world population lived in an area where *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, the principal vector for Zika, dengue, and chikungunya, were present. The warming temperatures threatened to expand this geographical range even further," Chan warned.

All these consequences for health made the first global climate change agreement reached

in Paris last year not just an environment but a health treaty as well, and human rights obligations, standards and principles had the power to shape policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation, she said.

According to her, one of the biggest barriers that stood in the way of realizing the right to health was poverty.

"The poorest households in the world were forced to rely on the most polluting energy sources just for everyday cooking. Use of these energy sources, which caused heavy indoor air pollution, was associated with more than 3.5 million deaths each year," she said.

She added that half of all health facilities in some African countries did not have reliable access to electricity and clean running water, and this was a hazard that came under the spotlight during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

"The Paris agreement, with its central reference to human rights, was a welcome step forward. However, the agreement was largely voluntary and subject to interpretation. What was needed now was an agenda for action that doubled as a results-based framework for accountability," she concluded.

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UN Deputy SecGen to visit Albay, review DRR-CCA, sustainable dev't strategy

LEGAZPI CITY — United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson will visit the Philippines shortly and will take a brief Albay sortie on May 8, to personally review the province's multi-awarded Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) programs.

Albay's innovative disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategy towards sustainable development continuously gains world recognition and acclaim. Eliasson's visit forms part of the preparations for the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul next May where the Philippines will be presented as sole global model for DRR-CCA, featuring Albay's pioneering strategy.

Albay Governor Joey Salceda will brief Eliasson and other UN officials and guests during their visit on Albay's innovative approach in link-

ing up DRR and CCA with sustainable development. Expected to be with Eliasson are Haoliang Xu, assistant secretary-general, United Nations Development Program, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau of Asia-Pacific; Ola Almgren, UN Philippines resident coordinator; Titon Mitra, UNDP Country Director, Philippines; Mark Bidder, OCHA Head of Office, Philippines; Subinay Nandy, Asia-Pacific Division chief; Rebecca Page, Special Assistant to the DSG; and Sophie Nuon, OCHA Humanitarian Affairs Officer.

Dr. Cedric Daep, Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office (Apsemo) head, said Salceda's briefing will also touch on Albay's successful rehabilitation strategies after Typhoon Reming (Duri-an) hit Albay hard in 2006, which enabled the province to rise and get

back on its feet in a few years.

The UN executive will also visit the Albay Climate Change Academy (ACCA), the first of its kind in Asia, serving as a training center on DRR and CCA, for local government officials and many coming from other countries, said Daep.

The UN Humanitarian Summit on May 23-24 is a "global call to action by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon," the first of its kind, according to the WHS website. It is scheduled at the Istanbul Congress Center and the Lutfi Kirdar Convention and Exhibition Center in Istanbul, Turkey. The Philippine delegation to the summit will attend an exhibition and fair that will showcase the Albay DRR model that highlights its best practices in humanitarian aspect, particularly its dimensions on disaster resiliency and sustainable development.

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Dagdag Balita

**PH, UNDP, sanib-pwersa
vs climate change**

Magkatuwang ang Pilipinas at ang United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) sa pagtatag ng mga kongkratang hakbang laban sa climate change sa pamamagitan ng bagong programa na magtutayak na maisasama ang climate change issues, disaster risk reduction, at sustainable development sa mga development plan at programa ng pambansa at lokal na pamahalaan.

Nitong Marso 4, 2016, nilagdaan ng Climate Change Commission (CCC) at ng UNDP ang partnership agreement para sa "National Convergence Programme on Reducing Climate & Disaster Risks for a more Resilient and Sustainable Philippines".

Ang programa, ipatutupad ng CCC sa tulong ng UNDP, ay naglalayong palakasin ang pambansang kakayahan upang matiyak na matalamo ng Pilipinas ang national climate change, disaster risk reduction, at sustainable development targets, na itinakda sa mga pandaigdigang kasunduan na kapartido ang Pilipinas nitong 2015 kabilang na ang UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, at Agenda 2030 upang matamo ang Sustainable Development Goals.



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PAGBIBISIKLETA, IBA PANG SIMPLENG KONTRIBUSYON, MAKATUTULONG UPANG MAIBSAN ANG EPEKTO NG CLIMATE CHANGE

ANG pagkilos para sa global warming ay dapat na simulan sa malalaki at maliliit na hakbangin na kinabibilangan ng pagbabawas sa mga subsidiya hanggang sa pagbibisikleta, ayon kay International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde.

"Removing fossil fuel subsidies would go a long way to cutting consumption," sagot ni Lagarde nang tanungin sa forum sa Massachusetts Institute of Technology kung paanong matutugunan ang climate change.

Nagtalumpati siya kung paanong maisusulong ang kaunlaran sa harap ng tumatandang populasyon at sinabing malaki ang maitutulong ng "game changers", kabilang ang kompetisyon sa pagitan ng mga nagkakaloob ng seguro at pagtataas sa edad ng pagreretiro, para solusyunan ang problema.

Nagsalita ilang buwan matapos magwakas ang pinakamainit na taon sa kasaysayan, sinabi ni Lagarde, "If subsidies were removed and carbon prices set properly now and taxed that would go a long way in addressing the climate change issues the world is facing."

Hinimok din niya ang mga indibiduwal na magkaroon ng sariling kontribusyon sa pamamagitan ng mga simpleng bagay o aktibidad, gaya ng pagbibisikleta sa halip na magmaneho ng sasakyan, na umani ng palakpakan ng mga estudyante, mga guro, at mga lokal na residente.

Noong Disyembre, sumang-ayon ang may 200 bansa sa isang makasaysayang pandaigdigang kasunduan na sa mga susunod na dekada ay magpapabago sa mga ekonomiya sa mundo na pinagagana ng fossil fuel.

Sinabi ni Lagarde na ang IMF, na hindi sapul na nakatuon sa usapin ng climate change, ay nakatutok na ngayon sa paglikha ng mas maraming dokumento sa pananaliksik tungkol sa wastong halaga ng kuryente at kung paano aalisin ang mga subsidiya.

Tinawag ito ni Lagarde na mga mumunting hakbangin bilang "beginnings of our contributions".

Reuters



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Cloud seeding sa apektado ng El Niño

UMAPELA ang senatorial candidate na si Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez sa gobyerno na magsagawa ng cloud seeding operation sa mga lugar na apektado ng El Niño phenomenon.

Ayon kay Romualdez, dapat ay gumagawa na ng paraan ang Department of Agriculture upang mabawasan ang epekto ng El Niño sa mga taniman at pautangin ang mga magsasaka na nangangailangan ng tulong.

"We have to prevent

further damages to the agriculture sector now," ani Romualdez. "The national government and LGUs (local government units) should assist farmers not only with food supplies but also with loans to tide them over while the drought has yet to abate, apart from possible cloud seeding operations in affected areas."

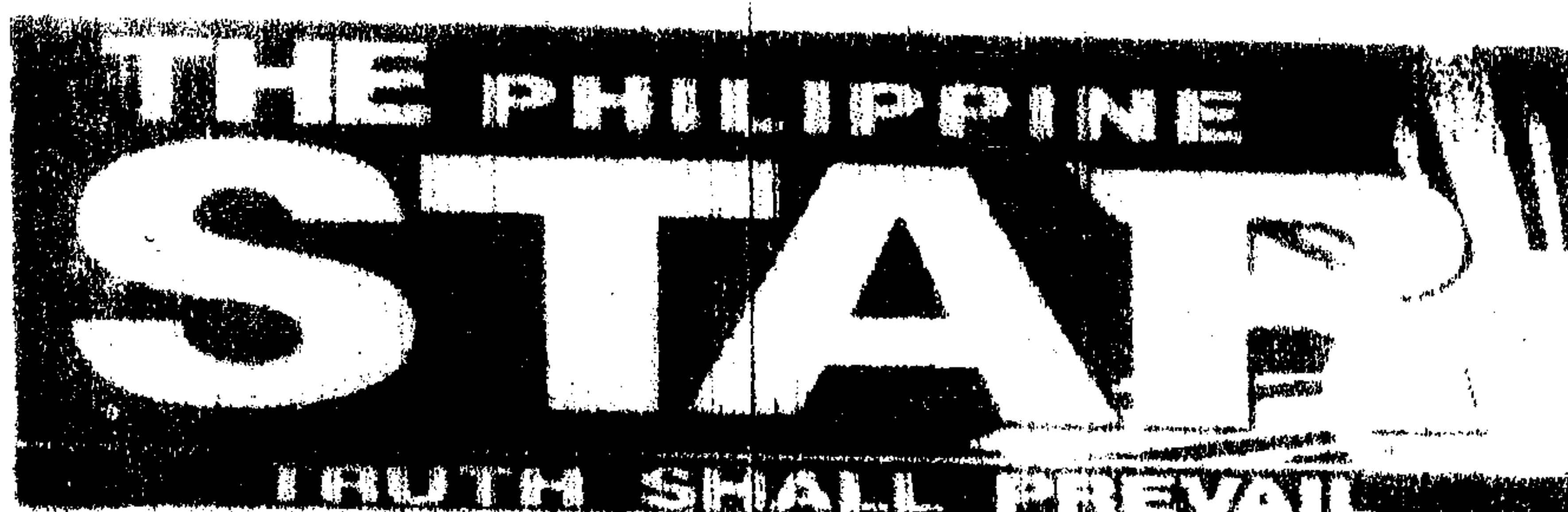
Umaabot na sa P4.7 bilyong halaga ng pananim ang nasira dahil sa El Niño mula noong Pebrero ng nakaraang taon.

"The administration should show genuine malasakit for farmers who face hunger and the dire prospect of sinking deeper into poverty because of El Niño," dagdag pa ni Romualdez.

Ayon sa datos ng DA, aabot sa 222,781 ektarya ng taniman ang naapektuhan na ng dry spell.

Ngayong taon ay umaabot na sa P1.343 bilyon ang halaga ng pinsala nito sa 76,593 hektarya ng lupain sa walong rehiyon. — *Leifbilly Begas*

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The only paper you read from cover to cover!

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DILG to LGUs: Go beyond Earth Hour

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

Governors and mayors should initiate energy-conservation programs after the celebration of Earth Hour, Interior Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento said yesterday.

"Go beyond the Hour," Sarmiento said. "Local officials should encourage their constituents...as our way of saying

that we care for Mother Earth."

Earth Hour, which is held every third Saturday of March, is an annual global event during which people switch off their lights for one hour – from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. – to show their commitment to save the planet.

Sarmiento said local gov-

ernments should switch off or dim non-essential lights, including streetlights, signages and key monuments, during Earth Hour.

"Mobilize the private sector within your jurisdiction to support Earth Hour by switching off some of the lights in their

facilities as their operation or businesses will allow," added.

Sarmiento said local government units should "shine a light on climate action" promoting energy-conservation practices and programs including environmental projects.

Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

// Earth Hour celebrates tenth year, calls for lights to be switched off on March 19

As the world enters a new era of climate action, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) again urges its supporters to switch-off and shine a light on climate action. From 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on March 19, Earth's most iconic landmarks will once more switch-off their lights for Earth Hour 2016. Earth Hour, which began as a single-city event in 2007, celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2016. Earth Hour Philippines' main switch-off event shall be held at the Quezón City Memorial Circle, from 7 to 10 p.m., on March 19, Saturday night. "It shall be a showcase of climate solutions," explains Earth Hour Philippines director Gia Ibay. "Stationary bikes will partially power this year's event to show that united, Pinoys can light up this country with their collective energy. Together, anything is possible." Social media users can promote their commitment to the planet by donating their Facebook feeds to spread climate awareness and action in a few clicks on earthhour.org/climateaction. Users can also use the hashtags [#EarthHourPhilippines](https://twitter.com/EarthHourPhilippines), [#ChangeClimateChange](https://twitter.com/ChangeClimateChange) and [#RenewableIsDoable](https://twitter.com/RenewableIsDoable) to promote climate solutions.

Log on to www.earthhour.org and wwf.org.ph for more stories on Earth Hour and climate solutions.

The Manila Times

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

UNESCO to preserve Ifugao heritage

BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO AND THOM F. PICAÑA
CORRESPONDENTS

IN a move to pursue sustainable conservation and promote tourism of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, the provincial government of Ifugao has renewed its commitment in raising the capacities of key stakeholders in this World Heritage Site.

Focusing on the development of its cultural products and harnessing of local knowledge and services to cater to tourists, Ifugao is collaborating with UNESCO World Heritage Center (WHC), Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF) and the Philippine National Commission (PNC).

Kaye Sapungen, PNC Planning and Information Officer for UNESCO, said the Rice Terraces has been drawing thousands of tourists since its declaration as a UNESCO World

Heritage Site in 1995.

"Since then, the site, as a living cultural landscape, has been adapting to the changing climatic, social, political, and economic conditions in the province," Sapungen said.

In 2001, the site was placed in the List of World Heritage Sites in Danger due to serious threats to its integrity.

"But with remarkable efforts and assistance from local and international stakeholders - Peter Debrine of WHC and Cecilie

Smith-Christensen of NWHF - the World Heritage Committee removed the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras from

the Danger List in 2012," Sapungen said.

Meanwhile, some 30 pupils of the Alfonso Lista Central School

were recently trained to help in the preservation and protection of the rich culture and traditions of the province.

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The Manila Times

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Unesco to preserve Ifugao heritage



■ The Ifugao Rice Terraces, known as the Eighth Wonder of the World, has been preserved for hundreds of years, and is considered a World Heritage Site. PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.BANAUETERRACES.COM

They underwent training for five days under Fugato Cultural Heritage Office (FCHO) of the provincial government under School of Living Tradition (SLT) with culture bearers Antonio Pahigon and Carmen Dogwaon as subject experts.

Participants were taught to perform the three main Ifugao native dances with the corresponding gong beats - Dinuyya/Dinuy-a, Bitangnguk and Hinggatut.

The SLT is a program designed to preserve and conserve the Ifugao culture and tradition through skills trainings and cultural performances.

FCHO Project Development Coordinator Manifold Capuano said SLT will also establish centers in each municipality to conduct trainings on cultural performing arts, crafts and indigenous skills.

Ifugao's rich culture and tradition has been preserved through the holding of "Imbaya Festival," a showcase of dances, gongs and rituals.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Near extinct orioles draw help from mascot

ILAGAN CITY—Conservationists were taught how to make giant mascot suits of the Isabela orioles to help educate the public about these near-extinct birds found in the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park and other forests.

There are 250 surviving orioles in the forests, so the mascot makers-in-training designed and stitched together the costumes on March 1 at the Ilagan sanctuary here as a “behavioral change communication approach” to protecting the birds, said Racquel Caldez, information officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Isabela.

The participants suggested “Isabelita,” “Oriong,” “Abel,” and “Isalvon” as names for their new mascot when it was unveiled at a ceremony declaring the oriole as the flagship species of the 359,486-hectare protected park, Caldez said.

The Isabela oriole (*Oriolus isabellae*) was named after

Isabela where it was discovered in 1894. The bird is locally known as “kiyaw” because of the sound it creates that is reminiscent of that of a flute. Kiyaw is also an Ilocano word for yellow.

It was presumed to be extinct for many years until it was rediscovered in 1993 in Diffun town, Quirino province, and in 1994 in Baggao town, Cagayan province.

Additional sightings were reported in the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park in 2004 in San Mariano town in Isabela.

To promote the bird’s relevance to Isabela, the provincial government needed “to

create an emotional link between the Isabelinos and the Isabela oriole

to [inspire and motivate them to] protect the species and their habitat,” Caldez said.

The mascots would help increase the “exposure of the flagship species and help raise awareness about the threats,” she said. **Villamor Visaya Jr.,
Inquirer Northern Luzon**



A MASCOT representing the endangered Isabela oriole

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO