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In God We Trust
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Volcanic smog continues over Taal

By Ma. Cristina Arayata

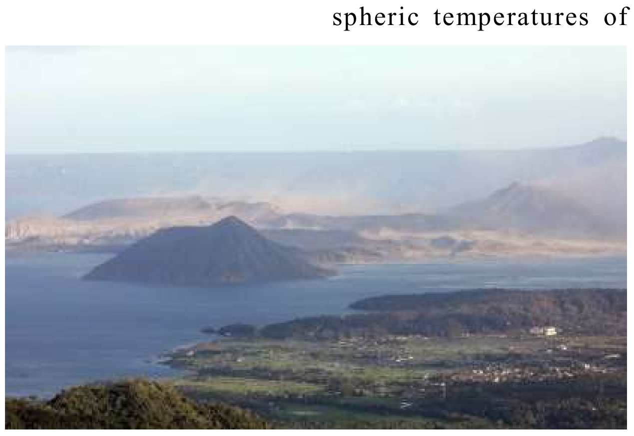
MANILA – The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) on Tuesday afternoon said a continued volcanic smog (vog) has been observed over the Taal Volcano's caldera, as it also received reports of ill effects from residents around the area.

If volcanic smog continues, the local government unit can temporarily evacuate severely exposed residents to safer areas, Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum, Jr. told the Philippine News Agency.

In an advisory, Phivolcs said reports of "adverse effects" came from residents of Lakeshore Tanauan City and Talisay Municipality facing Taal Volcano Island, and from some workers of aquaculture in Taal Lake.

Solidum said that most of those reports included throat irritation and difficulty in breathing.

"Those (working in) fingerling hatcheries described the air as stinging," he said.



High levels of volcanic sulfur dioxide (SO2) gas emissions and tall, steam-rich plumes have been observed from the Taal Main Crater since this past weekend, according to the advisory.

SO2 emission on Monday (June 28) averaged 14,326 tonnes/day -- the highest ever recorded in Taal.

On Tuesday, atmospheric temperatures of 34ºC, relative humidity of 53 percent and wind velocities of 1 to 4 meters/second within three kilometers of the atmosphere prevail over Taal Volcano.

With the continuous and unprecedented high SO2 degassing from Taal

(see page 6)

113 Gentrisenos, nakabilang sa tupad program

Nasa 113 mamamayan ng lungsod ng General Trias ang nakabilang sa TUPAD o "Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/ Displaced workers" ng Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

Sa ilalim ng naturang programa, magsasagawa ng mga community project tulad ng clean-up drive ang mga nasabing benepisyaryo sa loob ng sampung araw.

Layon ng proyekto na makapagbigay tulong at trabaho sa mga lubos na naapektuhan ng pandemya.

Source: City Government of General Trias

Munisipyo ng Alfonso, pansamantalang sarado; 5 kawani, positibo sa COVID-19

Nitong Linggo ay ipinabatid ni Alfonso Mayor Randy Salamat, ang pansamantalang pagsasara ng kanilang munisipyo sa publiko matapos na magpositibo sa COVID-19 ang ilang manggagawa nito.

Ayon sa punong ehekutibo, lima sa mga kawani ng kanilang lokal na pamahalaan ang nakumpirmang nagpositibo sa nakakahawang sakit.

Sa kadahilanang ito ay nagpatupad ng alkalde ng Executive No. 47 o pansamantalang pagsasara ng munisipyo para sa contact tracing at disinfection.

"Ang Treasury Office po ay sarado mula June 28 hanggang tanghali ng July 1, 2021. Samantalang ang ibang mga opisina naman po ay sarado mula June 28 hanggang June 29, 2021 lamang," pagbibigay anunsiyo ni Salamat.

"Atin pong ipagdasal ang kagalingan ng mga kababayan nating nakikipaglaban sa pandemyang ito. Muli, hinihikayat ko po ang bawat isa sa inyo na magpabakuna," dagdag pa niya. Source: Mayor Randy Salamat

P5K Cash Assistance ipinamhagi sa Noveleta

Tulong pinansyal para sa mga mangingisda at fisher folks na naninirahan sa tabing dagat, nakatanggap ng tulong pinansiyal sa Noveleta, Cavite, Hulyo 1.

Nagkakahalaga ng P5, 000 cash assistance ang nasabing tulong puhunan para sa mga benepisyaryo ng programa.

Ito ay mula sa koordinasyon ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) at lokal na pamahalaan ng Noveleta, kung saan nasa mahigit 300 na benepisyaryo ang nakatanggap ng nasabing tulong.

Kaugnay nito, nagpaabot naman si Mayor Dino Reyes-Chua sa ipinagkaloob na tulong pangkabuhayan para sa mga butihing mangingisda at fisher folks sa naturang bayan.

"Taos pusong pasasalamat sa pamunuan ng Department of Agriculture! Tuloy-tuloy ang Unlad Noveleta!," ayon sa post ng alkalde.

Source: Mayor Dino Reyes-Chua

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Solon wants overhaul of K-12 system

MANILA – A lawmaker at the House of Representatives on Friday called for an overhaul of the country's curriculum and a focus on functional skills, critical thinking, and good citizenship.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda made the call in reaction to a World Bank report that found that more than 80 percent of children in the country “do not know what they should know in school.”

The report showed that across the three global assessments, only 10 percent to 22 percent of Grades 4, 5, and 9 students in the Philippines posted scores “at or above minimum proficiency.”

“We will get through this pandemic. Economic crises come and go. But literacy and its permanent effects on growth and intergenerational poverty stay. That is why this report is alarming. Unless we make drastic changes to this situation, our actual economic growth will always be much less than our potential. And poor kids will likely have poor families and have poor kids,” Salceda said.

The World Bank said there is a “crisis” in Philippine education, “which started pre-Covid-19 (coronavirus disease 2019)” and has been “made worse” by the pandemic.

The problem is "fundamental", Salceda said, noting that learners are stunted and undernourished, learning materials are substandard, the curriculum is impractical, teachers are overworked, and schools are underequipped.

He said the proposed Comprehensive Education Reform Agenda, which is a series of 10 bills on education policy reform, would solve these problems.

The bills, he added, propose universal school meals, an overhaul of the K-12 system, and a renewed focus on technical and vocational (TechVoc) skills and improved school facilities.

Salceda stressed the need for a joint executive and legislative effort on education to address the challenges on education exacerbated by the pandemic and prevent the lifetime consequences of poor education outcomes.

He noted that due to the delays in the reopening of schools and for those who skipped school this year, the estimated costs would be 0.5 percent to 0.7 percent of this year’s gross domestic product (GDP), and 0.3 percent to 0.4 percent of the GDP for the entire productive life of this generation of students.

“Over the past five years, joint priorities of the Executive and the Legislative were focused on economic and fiscal reform,” Salceda said. “But education policy is long-term socioeconomic policy. The Constitution binds us to giving education the highest priority. It’s time we sit down with the stakeholders and come up with something the next administration can start with.”

He said Congress should push forward an education reform agenda that "we can realistically pass" within this year.

It must include an investment in learners, better quality of education materials, better facilities, and perhaps an overhaul of the impracticalities of the current system, with a renewed focus on TechVoc skills, he added.

“The World Bank observation points out that our learners don’t know what they should. The other side of it is much of the curriculum is impractical. The curriculum tries to be a mile high, but it’s just an inch deep,” Salceda said.

Reforms to be introduced

Meanwhile, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said he is confident that Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Leonor Briones would study and discuss ways to improve the quality of education in the country.

“Huwag po kayong mag-alala, pag-aaralan po natin kung ano ‘yung sinasabi ng report at titignan po natin kung paano natin mababago ‘yung curriculum, lalung-lalo na sa panahon po ng pandemya (Do not worry. We will study what the report has said and we will check how we can change the curriculum, especially amid the pandemic),” Roque said.

He added that DepEd is introducing reforms in education to allow students to adapt to the new normal.

“We are on blended learning po. We utilize modules. We utilize TV, radio, as well as computer-aided forms of educational material po. But I’m sure the process of adapting to the new normal continues and the DepEd, the Department of Education, will continue to introduce innovations,” he said.

On June 19, Duterte thumbed down DepEd’s proposal to resume face-to-face classes even in areas with a low risk of Covid-19 transmission due to the presence of the more infectious Delta coronavirus variant.

Amid the pandemic, new teaching styles, such as online learning, modular learning, television and radio-based instruction, and blended learning, which is a combination of two or more methods of learning, have been introduced. (PNA)

Taal eruption maganda bang pangitain?

Noong Enero 12, 2020, sumabog ang Taal Volcano. Wala pang dalawang buwan ang lumipas, idineklara ng World Health Organization (WHO) ang isang global pandemic dahil sa paglaganap ng COVID-19.

Ngayon, muling sumabog ang bulkan. Ito kaya ay pahi-makas na namamaalam na ang mapaminsalang karamdaman na sa loob nang mahigit isang taon ay naminsala sa buong daigdig? Sana, sana nga.

Sa ating bansa, bukod sa mga tinamaan ng sakit at mga namatay bunga nito, milyun-milyong kababayan natin ang nawalan ng hanapbuhay. Maraming establisimiento ang nagsara o naglimita ng operasyon upang mabawasan kundi man mapigilang ganap ang pagkalat ng sakit.

Napakalaking dagok nito sa ating pambansang eko-nomiya. May mga business establishment na tuluyan nang nagsara at tumaas ang bilang ng unemployment. Dahil pa rin sa pandemya, marami sa mga kababayan nating nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa ang nawalan din ng hanap-buhay. Maging ang pag-aaral ng mga kabataan ay natigil dahil sa pandemya.

Kahit salat sa pondo ang pamahalaan, napilitan itong magkaloob ng ayudang pinansyal sa mga taong na-apek-tuhan ang kabuhayan. Gumulo ang kalagayan ng pulitika sa bansa partikular sa usaping may kinalaman sa paggamit ng salaping inutang para matugunan ang krisis.

Natapat pa naman ang krisis sa nalalapit na pambansa at pampanguluhang halalan kaya ang usapin ay ginagamit para magtamo ng pogi points ang mga puli-tikong nag-aambisyong kumandidato sa matataas na puwesto.

Patuloy naman ang pagbuti ng sitwasyon ng bansa sa pandemya bagamat may mga lugar pa ring sinasabing mataas ang bilang ng karamdaman. Sana nga, ang pagsabog ng Taal ay maging masayang pahimakas na ang sakit na COVID ay malapit nang magwakas.

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GUHIT NG KAPALARAN

CANCER (Hunyo 22 - Hulyo 22) Gugulatin ka ng kaibigan, kamag-anak o kasamahan sa trabaho. Kung ito ay ikatutuwa o hindi, ikawlangangmakakapagsabi. Huwagipagkaitsasariliangpagkainggustongkainin, pamin-minsan, mag-relax din. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 12, 24, 35, 39 at indigo.

LEO (Hulyo 23 - Agosto 22) Maganda ang palatandaan tungkol sa pag-ibig. Kung isang Taurus ang makikilala, magkaka relasyon mosiya. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 19, 22, 33, 40 at red.

VIRGO (Agosto 23 - Setyembre 23) Tanggapin ang pagkakamali, kalakip ang kaluwagan ng kalooban. Mapapalipas ang kaguluhan ng isip sa paglilibang. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 4, 17, 23, 30 at orange.

LIBRA (Setyembre 24 - Oktubre 23) Walang tao na hindi naghahangad ng kaunlaran sa buhay. Para mata mo ito, baguhin ang maling paraan. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 22, 27, 39, 44 at green.

SCORPIO (Oktubre 24 - Nobyembre 22) Kung may duda, huwag ituloy dahil tiyak hindi maganda ang magiging resulta. La-ging maniguro. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 1, 26, 30, 40 at blue.

SAGITTARUS (Nobyembre 23 - Didyembre 21) Kung nagkaroon ng problema, alaminangdahilan. Agad baguhin ang paraan para 'di namaulit. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 2, 17, 25, 37 at sky blue.

CAPRICORN (Disyembre 22 - Enero 19) Nakapaligid ang mapagsamantala, mandarambong at mapagbalat-kayo. Mag-ingatlagi at maging alerto. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 13, 33, 40, 41 at neon green.

AQUARIUS (Enero 20 - Pebrero 18) Pairalin ang hinahon at pang-unawa dahil magiging malapit sa mga taong pikon at mainitin ang ulo. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 4, 14, 32, 33 at red.

PISCES (Pebrero 19 - Marso 20) Ang paglilibang ay magdudulot ng kaligayahan, pero iwasan ang labis na gastos. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 20, 39, 40, 42 at aqua blue.

ARIES (Marso 21 - Abril 19)Huwag maghangad kung alam na imposibleng mangyari. La-ging maging humble sa kapwa at huwag magmataas. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 7, 9, 39, 41 at brown.

TAURUS (Abril 20 - Mayo 20) Taglay ang pambihirang talas ng isip nabagay gamitin sa pagsasaliksik. Makakatawag kang pansin sa kausap. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 8, 24, 34, 38 at jade green.

GEMINI (Mayo 21 - Hunyo 21) Tampuhan at hinanakit ang mapapala kung hindi paiiralin ang pagka mahinahon at pagpapakumbaba. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 18, 27, 36, 40 at bold yellow.

Vax shortage in PH cause of low-rank in Covid-19 resiliency: DOH

MANILA – The low rate of vaccination and availability of vaccines against the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) is one of the major factors for the Philippines' poor ranking in Covid-19 resiliency, according to an official of the Department of Health (DOH) on Friday.

In a virtual presser, DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said many factors contributing to the country's vaccination drive are out of its control, noting the global scarcity in Covid-19 vaccines caused by "competition across different countries".

"Naka-depende po ang ating supplies sa ating mga napag-kasunduang (Our supplies depend on) agreements with the manufacturers where there is a global shortage," Vergeire said.

Another factor to consider, she said, was the different settings or capabilities of other countries, especially high-income countries with "mature" health systems.

"'Pag tinignan po natin, ihahambing tayo sa mga high-income countries, tayo ay may health system na different from them, so ito pong mga ganitong factors ay kailangan nakikita rin po natin (If we compare us to high-income countries, we have a health system that is different from theirs, so these are the factors that we need to consider)," Vergeire said.

She noted that the resilience report also combined positive with negative indicators based on the DOH's initial analysis.

"Pinagsama-sama lahat ng indicators but some of these indicators should be taken na parang negative indicator. Mas mababa kayo, mas okay para sa atin (They combined all indicators but some of these should be taken as negative. The lower the value, the better it is)," Vergeire said.

Despite the low rank, she said the Philippines remains open to these rankings especially to help improve the country's Covid-19 measures.

On Monday, Bloomberg released its Covid-19 resilience ranking which showed the Philippines ranking 52nd out of 53 countries.

In response, DOH Secretary Francisco Duque III said most of the parameters used in the report were "skewed" to a high vaccination rate and was "unfair" since richer countries have secured "80 percent of the global supply of vaccines." (PNA)

Mga estudyante isasama sa priority list ng bakuna

Isinusulong ng Commission on Higher Education (CHED) na maisama ang mga estudyante sa COVID-19 vaccination priority list ng pamahalaan.

"We are pushing to vaccinate faculty members and students of schools who are already conducting limited face-to-face classes. So every layer of protection that is put in, the risk decreases," pahayag ni CHED Chairman Prospero De Vera.

Tinukoy pa ni De Vera ang UP College of Medicine na nagsimula na rin ng kanilang limitadong physical classes noong Disyembre at ang Our Lady of Fatima University na nagsimula na rin ng face-to-face classes noong kalagitnaan ng Enero, na sa ngayon ay nakapagtatala pa rin ng "zero transmission" ng COVID-19.

"It means that if their facilities have been retrofitted well at the implementation of the guidelines of CHED and the Department of Health is really good, we can lower the risk level for students," aniya.

Target nilang mapalawak pa ang limitadong face-to-face classes sa iba pang degree programs na nangangailangan rin ng hands-on activities gaya ng engineering, information technology, maritime programs, veterinary medicine, at industrial technology.

Hanggang Hulyo 4, umaabot na sa 93 higher educational institutions (HEIs) sa bansa ang pinayagang makapagsagawa ng limited face-to-face classes.

COVID-19 'spike' sa Taal pinangangambahan

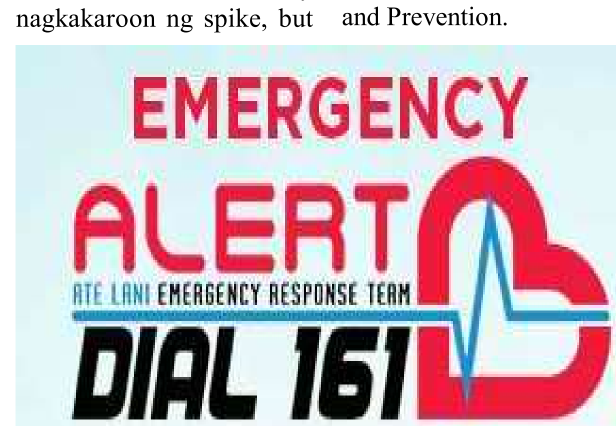
— Nagpahayag ng bahagyang pangamba ang OCTA Research Group sa posibleng pagkakaroon ng 'spike' sa mga bagong COVID-19 cases sa mga lugar na malapit sa bulkang Taal lalo na sa mga evacuation areas.

Sinabi ni Prof. Guido David, miyembro ng OCTA, na nakokontrol naman ito ng pamahalaan ngunit kailangan pa ring sumunod ang mga residente sa ipinatutupad na 'protocols' ng pamahalaan sa mga evacuation sites.

"After these evacuations are over, usually nagkakaroon ng spike, but it's something we can manage," ayon kay David.

Bumagal naman umano ang pagtaas ng mga kaso sa mga 'areas of concern' kabilang ang Iloilo City, Davao City at Bacolod City habang nagkaroon ng pagtaas sa 'hospitalization rate' sa Baguio City na nasa 70% sa ngayon.

Sa kasalukuyan, nasa 5 ang 'average daily attack rate (ADAR) ng buong Pilipinas. Para maklasipiko na 'low risk', kailangan na maibaba sa 1 ang ADAR, ayon sa panuntunan ng US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



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WEEKLY REPORT on the Activities & Programs of Carmona

[A] Congresswoman Dahlia Loyola and former Congressman Roy Loyola led the distribution of educational assistance to 700 student beneficiaries in General Mariano Alvarez and Silang.

In her speech, she emphasized "Ang edukasyon ang susi sa tagumpay. Patuloy kayong magsikap upang maabot ninyo ang inyong mga pangarap."

"Pahalagahan ninyo ang pagkakataon na ibinibigay sa inyo. Gamitin ninyo nang maayos ang tulong na ito upang makatulong sa inyong pag-aaral.", she added.

BM Ivee Reyes and the local government officials of Silang and GMA also graced the said event that was held in EARIST-Cavite Campus and Silang Central Elementary School, respectively.

Dubbed as Iskolar ng CarSiGMA Educational Program, this is a part of the DSWD's Protective Services Program (PSP) that provides help to indigent learners.

Higit 2K Bacooreno kumpleto na sa bakuna kontra Covid-19

Natanggap na ng mga COVID-19 recipient ng Bacoor ang kanilang ikalawang dose ng bakuna, Hunyo 29.

Pumalo na sa 2, 372 na mga indibidwal ang fully vaccinated na sa nasabing lugar.

Ito ay matapos maisagawa ang vaccination program sa mga itinalagang vaccination hubs sa Bacoor.

Kabilang na rito ang SM Bacoor, Queens Row Elementary School, University of Perpetual Help System DALTA – Molino Campus, Bacoor Coliseum at Niog Elementary School.

Bukod rito, mayroon namang naitalang 1, 662 na mga Bacooreno ang nakatanggap ng kanilang paunang dose ng vaccine, na ginanap naman sa Main Square Mall, Bacoor, Cavite.

Ipagpapatuloy ang vaccination program hanggang sa mayroon pang nakalaang suplay ng bakuna para sa proteksiyon ng mga mamamayan ng bayan ng Bacoor.

Source: City Government of Bacoor