

CLIMATE ORGANIZATIONS URGE MARCOS TO HALT KALIWA DAM PROJECT ACTIVITIES PENDING CONCLUSION OF UNBIASED EXPERT INQUIRY

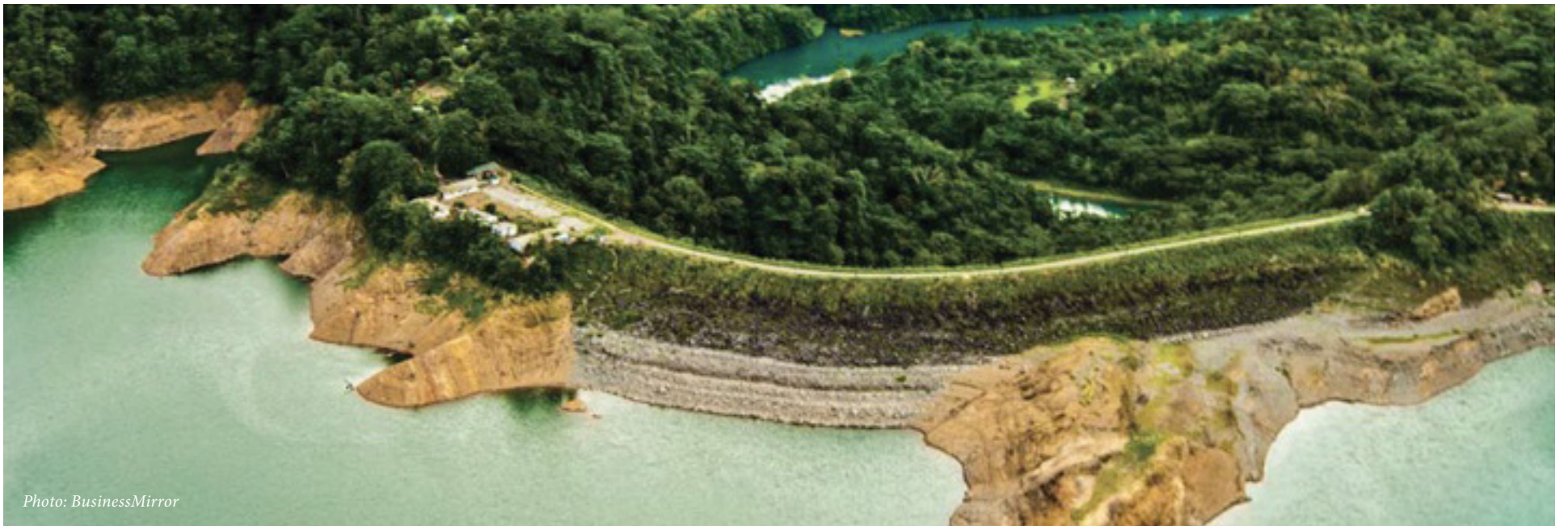


Photo: BusinessMirror

(MANILA, PHILIPPINES) - The Philippines government should order an immediate suspension of all activities related to the Kaliwa Dam Project until an independent expert investigation is completed, Climate Rights International and the Manila Observatory said in an October 16 letter to President Marcos. The organizations also urged President Marcos to commit to implementing the recommendations arising from the investigation.

Climate Rights International (CRI) is a global non-governmental organization dedicated to protecting human rights and addressing climate change, and the Manila Observatory (MO) is a renowned research institute focused on climate change adaptation and disaster risk management. CRI and MO commended President Marcos's commitment to prioritize environmental concerns and the country's resilience in the face of climate change. They also appreciated the acknowledgment of the invaluable role played by Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples in preserving the

Philippines' rich cultural heritage.

However, after conducting field research and consulting local residents and experts, CRI and MO have identified serious concerns related to the Kaliwa Dam Project. These concerns encompass both the environment and the human rights of the Indigenous Peoples within the project area.

Key concerns include:

1. Human Rights Concerns:

- Livelihoods: The construction of the dam is expected to have severe economic repercussions on the Dumagat-Remontado Indigenous People and local communities who depend on agriculture and tourism.

- Compensation: Alleged irregularities in compensation distribution have raised questions about the application of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA).

- Free, Prior, and Informed Consent Process (FPIC): Accusations of insufficient consultation and flawed FPIC processes have been made by local residents and NGOs.

2. Cultural Rights:

- The dam's construction threatens the cultural and spiritual heritage of the Indigenous Peoples, particularly due to the loss of the sacred Tinipak River.

3. Climate Change and Environment Concerns:

- Deforestation: The construction of the Kaliwa Dam within a forest reserve could lead to increased deforestation and damage to the Sierra Madre's unique ecosystem.

- Increased Risks: The project may exacerbate typhoon-related risks, flooding, landslides, and erosion in the region.

- Harm to Ecosystems and Biodiversity: The dam project's environmental impact could negatively affect the Sierra Madre's diverse fauna and flora.

The Philippines, as a party to a variety of international human rights conventions and the Paris Agreement, has international obligations to ensure that its climate actions respect and protect human rights. The Philippines must respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as emphasized by ILO Convention 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In closing, CRI and

MO stress the importance of making the Kaliwa Dam Project a model of environmental and human rights

improvement that can inspire future efforts in the fight against climate change. (Manila Observatory)

Groups stage indignation vs. Israeli ground invasion of Gaza

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES - Sanlakas along with member and allied organizations Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP) and Partido Lakas ng Masa (PLM) will stage an indignation rally against the planned Israeli ground invasion of Gaza. The United Nations had warned of catastrophe in Gaza as Israel prepares for its military offensive. Sanlakas is calling for the stopping of US-Israeli sanctioned genocide of the Palestinians and the end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

The action will be staged on Oct. 25, 2023, 9:30AM at Welcome Rotonda, Manila.

To recall, on Oct 7, Hamas launched a coordinated strike against Israeli com-

munities killing an estimated 1,400 civilians and Israeli forces. In the aftermath, for two weeks, the Israeli Government pursued air raids and bombardment over Palestinian settlements in the Gaza Strip including a hospital facility in the area. To date, more than 4,000 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli Government. More than 2.3 million Palestinians are now growing hungry as they remain blockaded in the Gaza strip. The Gaza strip remains under blockade by the Israeli Government for 17 years now.

Sanlakas stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle against the continued illegal Israeli occupation.

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TINGNAN: Malugod na tinanggap ni Governor Bonz Dolor sa Lalawigan ng Oriental Mindoro si Sec. Christina Garcia Frasco, kalihim ng Department of Tourism sa isinagawang culminating activity ng “Bayanihan sa Bukas na may Pag-asa sa Turismo (BBMT)” na ginanap sa Balai Convention Center, Calapan City noong Oktubre 23.

Ang programang BBMT ng DOT at Tulong Pangkabuhayan sa mga Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program ng Department of Labor and Employment ang nagbigay ng pag-asa at oportunidad sa mga Community-Based Sustainable Tourism Organizations (CBSTOs) at tourism workers sa lalawigan na naapektuhan ng oil spill na magkaroon ng alternative livelihood trainings at pagkakakitaan ang mga ito.

Iginawad nina Sec. Frasco. Gov Bonz, Vice

Governor Ejay Falcon, OIC-Regional Director ng DOT-MIMAROPA, Dir. Roberto P. Alabado III at DOT USec. Shalimar Hofer Tamano ang Certificate of Training ng mga ito.

Ipinahayag naman ni Sec. Frasco ang kanyang paghanga kay Gov Bonz sa matatag nitong pamumuno gayundin sa lahat ng mga mamamayan ng Oriental Mindoro sa aniya’y ipinakitang determinasyon at katatagan sa kabila ng kinaharap na krisis dulot ng oil spill. Umasa aniya, na buo ang suporta ng DOT sa pagsisikap ng lalawigan para sa mabilis na pagbangon ng sektor ng turismo.

Samantala, nagabot ng tulong pinansyal ang Department of Labor and Employment sa 154 na benepisyaryo sa ilalim ng TUPAD program sa panguuna ni Supervising Labor and Employment Officer, DOLE-Oriental Mindoro,

Ramezes Torres.

Ipinagmalakip naman ni Gov. Bonz ang nakatakdang isakatuparan na Cruise Port na itatayo sa Bayan ng Puerto Galera at pasimulan ang konstruksyon sa susunod na taon. Ito aniya ay isa lamang sa mga nakalinyang dagdag proyektong mag-aangat sa turismo ng lalawigan.

Pinasalamatan ni Gov Bonz ang DOT at DOLE sa aniya ay pagbibigay ng pag-asa at oportunidad sa mga mamamayan ng Oriental Mindoro na makabangong muli matapos ang oil spill.

Dumalo at nakiisarin sa naturang gawain ang mga board members sa una at ikalawang distrito gayundin ang mga punombayan, tourism officers at iba pang lokal na opisyal ng iba’t ibang bayan at lungsod sa lalawigan. (PIO Calapan)



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CLIMATE WALKERS FROM MANILA EN ROUTE TO TACLOBAN STOP IN ALBAY

ALBAY — Climate activists who have joined the Climate Walk 2023 have arrived in Albay as part of their 30-day climate walk in commemoration of the upcoming 10th anniversary of Typhoon Yolanda.

Two hundred individuals from the local government of Albay and civil society organizations welcomed the group at Daraga Park.

This was followed by a program that recognized the noble efforts of the climate walkers in upholding climate justice amid all the challenges facing the country, which could lead to another Yolanda, or worse.

Larry Pascua, the Senior Energy Program

Officer of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PM CJ), said, “We are about to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Yolanda, yet the national government has remained silent in addressing the pressing challenges of extreme weather conditions brought about by climate change.”

He added, “We do not want another Yolanda, so the national government must use its power and resources to address it. Declare a Climate Emergency now!”

The declaration of a Climate Emergency has been the resounding call of PM CJ and its member organizations since the IPCC released the Special Report on 1.5°C.

Yolanda claimed thousands of lives and properties. Ten years have passed, and there are rep-

arations yet to be paid and lives yet to be rebuilt. The Climate Walk for Climate Justice is a strong symbol

that shows that this is what Filipinos need now because there is no time to lose.



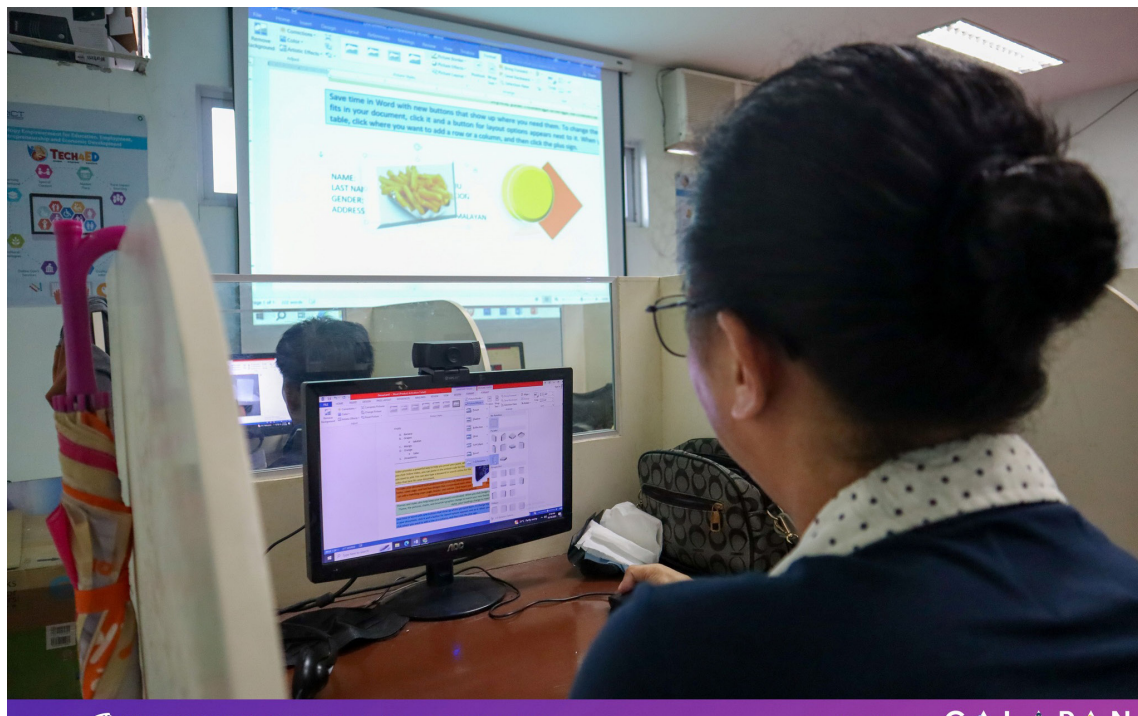
DIGITAL LITERACY TRAINING PARA SA MGA PWD, HANDOG NG PAMAHALAANG LUNGSOD

“NO MAL LEFT BEHIND” Sa patuloy na pag-usbong ng digitalization, sinisiguro ni City Mayor Marilou Flores-Morillo na lahat ay nakakasabay sa pagbabago at walang maiwan kaya naman sa pamamagitan ng Persons with Disability Office na pinamumunuan ni Mr. Benjamin Agua, Jr., pinasinayaan na ang kaula-unahang Digital Literacy Training para sa mga Persons with Disability. Nasa 20 mga PWDs naman ang nakilahok sa pagsasanay na nagsimula noong Octubre 18 hanggang Oktubre 20 sa Language Skills Institute, Provincial Capitol Complex.

Layunin ng programa na matulungan ang mga Calapeñong PWD na magkaroon ng basic computer skills tulad ng paggamit ng Office Ap-

plications upang tuluyang maging Digital Literate - bagay na kalimitang makikita sa listahan ng kuwalipikasyon na hinahanap ng mga employer.

Gayundin, isa ito sa pamamaraan ng Pamahalaang Lungsod upang matulungan ang mga PWDs na makahanap ng trabaho o pagkakakitaan sa kabila ng kanilang mga kapansanan. Naging katuwang naman ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ang Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) sa pamamagitan ni Engr. Norly A. Tabo (OIC Head, Technical Operation Division) at Mr. Keanu M. Oracion na siyang nanguna sa pagsasanay, at ang Language Skills Institute Oriental Mindoro (Thea Marie J. Villadolid/CIO).



MANILA: MICHUELENE MORILLO (top); CALAPAN: CALAPAN



Gasolina at Krudo,
Sigurado at Garantisado

BARANGAY GULOD,
CALAPAN CITY, OR. MINDORO
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BUKOD SA PERA, MAY ART DIN SA BASURA

ITO ang pinatunayan ng ilang piling mag-aaral mula sa siyam (9) na paaralan sa lungsod ng Calapan.

Naging tampok ang malikhaing mga obra ng mga mag-aaral sa isinagawang selebrasyon ng pamahalaang lungsod ng marine protected area day 2023 ika-20 ng Oktubre sa Calapan City Plaza Pavilion na pinangunahan ng Fisheries Management Office sa pamamahala ni FMO OIC, Mr. Robin Clement M. Villas.

Sa temang From Trash to Fine Art: Turning the Thide on Ocean Plastic Pollution pormal na isinagawa ang selebrasyon ng MPA Day 2023 at naging highlight nga ay ang naturang 'Installation Art Contest' na nagshowcase ng samu't saring obra mula sa basura.

Samantala, sapat na kama-layan ng mga mamamayan hinggil sa kahalagahan ng pagkakaroon ng malasakit sa ating yamang-dagat ang sya namang binigyang puntos ni FMO OIC Robin Villas sa kanyang ibinahaging mensahe sa nasabing aktibidad.

Paniniwala naman ni Calapan City Mayor Malou Flores-Morillo, epektibo ang mga pro-gram-

pamahala at mga hak-bangin natin pagdating sa usapin ng MPA, sapagkat ito ay tumutugon sa nag-babagong mga kondisyon o umuusbong na mga banta ng kasalukuyang panahon.

Dagdag pa niya, bilang administrasyon na naglalayon at nangangarap ng isang luntiang Calapan, importanteng aspeto ang epektibong konserbasyon at pagpapataas ng antas ng proteksyon ng ating mga likas

na yaman.

Ayon naman kay Mr. Orlando A. Maliwanag, Green City Program Director, ang mga ganitong gawain ay tunay na tinutukan ng city government sapagkat importante sa Ina ng Lungsod, Mayor Morillo ang pagpapanumbalik ng kagandahan at kasaganaan ng ating kalikasan.

Naging susi rin ng katagumpayan ng na-

turang selebrasyon ang partisipasyon ng ilang dedica-ted na indibidwal na ang hangarin ay pangalagaan at pagyamanin pang lalo ang kalikasan natin, na kinabibilangan nina City ENRO, Wilfredo Landicho, Mr. Carlos Valino, Blue Alliance Community Coordinator, Clark Ross T. Bautista MPA and CRM Coordinator, at Susana M. Bautista Schools Division Superintendent Calapan City, gayundin ang mga piling indibidwal na nire respeto at kinkilala sa kani-kani-lang larangan na sya namang nagsilbing mga hurado sa isinagawang 'Installation Art Contest' (Kate Rondilla Redublo/CIO).

