

Proper face masks disposal to save env't – DENR

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Central Luzon has appealed to the public to continue help save the environment even in simple means such as the proper disposal of face masks to curb risks of pollution and biodiversity loss.

This was echoed by DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr., saying healthcare wastes such as face masks and gloves must be separated from other regular household wastes that pose danger to both health and the environment.

He said the participation of households in the proper

segregation of these wastes play a significant part in containing the spread of Covid-19.

“The proper disposal of these potentially contaminated healthcare items starts at home. These wastes must be placed in a yellow bin or any separate container, properly labeled as household healthcare wastes,” he said.

Moreno added that the public must refrain from indiscriminately throwing in public places, offices and open bins used face mask as they pose potential health hazards to people who come in contact with them.

DENR records show about 4,500 tons of hazardous wastes,

usually composed of healthcare items like used face masks, personal protective equipment, face shields, and gloves have been collected in the region since July 2020.

Rise in figure of plastic pollution and marine litter, the agency warned, would affect the sustainability of aquatic and terrestrial animals and would suffocate the natural habitat of wildlife.

Improper disposal of hazardous wastes is punishable under Republic Act No. 6969 otherwise known as Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990.

CHIGALOPE-H



Pampanga town health facility gets German grant

THE government of the Federal Republic of Germany donated a flood protection project to the municipality of Masantol in Pampanga for its Central Health Care Center located at the municipal hall grounds, which caters to the health needs of hundreds of residents daily.

The grant was facilitated through the intercession of German Ambassador Anke Reiffenstuel. Flood Control Asia RS Corporation, a German flood protection company based in Clark Freeport Zone, was tasked to implement the project.

Dr. Andreas Klippe, Flood Control Asia RS Corp. President and CEO, said in a statement sent to The Manila Times that the installation of flood protection barriers at the facility will ensure 100 percent safe from floods, adding that such structures will last for the next 50 years guaranteed

by world-renowned German technology and excellence.

As the Pampanga River traverses right at the middle of this town, its waters have become perennially-existent on the streets, on households, and low-lying areas even during the hottest days of the summer season.

This is further aggravated by the swelling of the river especially during intense rains with the monsoon season besides Masantol's low topography as a contributory factor to the floods that curtail the mobility of the town folks while commerce and services are severely affected.

The German government saw the health sector as among the most affected during flooding, emphasizing situations on emergency cases and those that require immediate medical attention.

“How can one imagine a heart attack patient who could not be rushed to the emergency room because of very

deep flood waters?” Klippe said, noting consideration on the Covid 19 pandemic and other diseases that affect communities with poor drainage and sewer systems.

Meanwhile, Mayor Danilo Guintu expressed gratitude to the German government for the donation, saying that the project will ensure that his constituents will be guaranteed safety from floods while seeking medical treatment.

It can also be recalled that a similar project was also donated by the German government to the Jose C. Payumo Memorial District Hospital in Dinalupihan, Bataan, which is also prone to flooding due to its very low topographical elevation.

Gov. Albert Garcia said that their doctors and medical staff heaved a sigh of relief as they already work efficiently without the fear of getting at risk and vulnerable to flood.

CHI GALOPE-H



DA SEC. DAR (2nd from right) is joined by DBP, Citicore, and local government officials in this ceremonial groundbreaking for the project. [PIA photo]

DA, DBP encourage farmers to form, join coops

TARLAC CITY: The Department of Agriculture (DA) and Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) encouraged farmers to form or join existing cooperatives to help them improve their living condition.

In his visit at the Citicore Agrosolar Plant in barangay Dalayap here Thursday, Agriculture Secretary William Dar highlighted the advantages of being a member of a cooperative as such organizations give power to farmers.

“It helps you stand on your own which makes you strong not only in production but more importantly in the market,” he said, noting the numerous assistance available from the

government. Among the extension services of the government include machinery distribution, shared service facilities construction and others are easily cascaded to cooperatives.

“We want to have cluster farming through cooperatives because individual farming can no longer exist in a long-term manner,” Dar said.

The secretary lauded the Agrosolar Plant conceptualized by Citicore to use renewable energy in agriculture. The company has another plant in barangay Armenia in Tarlac City.

“Congratulations Citicore for having this project which will also help our farmers and the community around it

because 50 percent of the proceeds go to them,” he said.

Dar also encouraged local officials to form a cooperative for the whole city to avail of a large amount of credit that will improve the production and distribution of farmers' crops.

Mayor Cristy Angeles vowed to respond to the

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