

DENR calls for continuing care for the environment amid COVID

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BAGUIO CITY, June 15 (PIA) - - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources Cordillera (DENR – CAR) reports a good environmental condition for the region amid the COVID pandemic and calls for a continuing partnership among the government, community and the people, in protecting the environment for a healthier Cordillera especially for the future generations.

DENR – CAR Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations Augusto Lagon, in the kapihan on June 10, affirmed the good state of the environment in the region with the four major watersheds - the river basins of Agno, Abra, Apayao – Abulug and Cagayan under proper care of their respective watershed management councils.

Forest covers are also increasing with the continuing implementation of the National Greening Program and the strict enforcement of environment laws especially against agriculture settlement (farm expansion), land - use conversion and anti – illegal logging, Lagon added.

DENR - CAR Environmental Management Bureau Director Maria Victoria Abrera affirmed that the implementation of community quarantine helped in the improvement of air quality with lesser vehicles plying the streets.

From the air monitoring reading of 82 micrograms per cubic meter before the March 17 enforcement of Enhanced Community Quarantine, the air quality reading averages 42 microgram per cubic meter in April and May, Abrera reported.

With public utility vehicles slowly going back to the streets, Abrera enjoined local government units to ensure that the PUVs that will be given permits are compliant or pass the smoke emission standards so that good air quality will be maintained.

DENR - CAR Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo calls on the local communities and people of Cordillera to continue to help protect and preserve mother nature as protecting the environment is also important in protecting lives. (CCD/PIA CAR)

DENR - CAR Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo encouraged local communities and people of Cordillera to continue to help protect and preserve mother nature as protecting the environment is important in protecting lives and sustaining the future.

With the community lockdowns, the environment heals on its own, so let us also help nature heal as we protect ourselves from the COVID pandemic by adhering to the prescribed health protocols, Pablo said.

In the kapihan promoting the observance of June as Environment Month and the 33rd anniversary celebration of the DENR – CAR regional office, Pablo bared that even with the COVID pandemic, DENR – CAR continues to pursue its mandate and priority programs are on track with the targets.

He presented DENR accomplishments on Clean Air; Clean Water; Solid Waste Management; Geo – hazard, ground water assessment and responsible mining; forest and Watershed Management; Intensified Forest Protection and anti – illegal mining; enhanced bio-diversity conservation; Scaling – up of Coastal and Marine eco system; improved land administration and Management; Forest Management Projects; Integrated Natural Resource and Environment Project.(JDP/CCD-PIA CAR)

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