

# Ash blankets more areas around Mayon

By CET DEMATERA and CELSO AMO

**LEGAZPI CITY** – More areas around Mayon Volcano were hit by ashfall as it continued to spew ash plumes and lava fountains in the past two days.

Ed Laguerta, Mayon resident volcanologist, said the volcano erupted again at about 11:55 a.m. yesterday.

The volcano also had an "energetic" lava effusion with sporadic lava fountaining and lava-collapse-fed pyroclastic density currents, locally known as *uson*, between 7:50 p.m. and 11:06 p.m. on Monday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

The lava fountains reached 200 meters high and generated ash plumes that reached 1.5 kilometers above the crater, Phivolcs said.

A total of 119 volcanic

earthquakes and 68 rockfall events were recorded in the past 24 hours.

"The pyroclastic density current fell in Basud channel in Sto. Domingo town and was carried by northeast trade winds toward Daraga and the upper barangays of Legazpi," Laguerta said.

Significant ash was reported in Camalig and Guinobatan. Ashfall also reached Barangays Salvacion Miisi, Busay and Malabog, Tess Bausa, Daraga municipal disaster risk reduction officer, reported. Classes remained suspended in the four barangays.

Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum reminded the public

to remain vigilant against pyroclastic flows and ashfall.

"Should Mayon continue with its explosive eruptions, the pyroclastic flow might roll beyond the five-kilometer permanent danger zone... Ash would drift further," Solidum said.

Cedric Daep, chief of the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office, said residents of areas hit by ashfall should wear masks to protect themselves from its harmful effects.

A total of 21,880 families or 84,339 persons displaced by Mayon's eruptions are staying in 77 evacuation centers.

## Latrines built, masks distributed

To address health and hygiene concerns in evacuation centers, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) constructed at least 10 latrines in Guino-

batan and Malilipot.

"As displaced individuals flock to evacuation centers, lack of sanitation facilities becomes a problem," PRC chairman and Sen. Richard Gordon said.

The PRC distributed 240,000 liters of clean water and installed 5,000-liter water bladders in schools in Malilipot, Tabaco and Sto. Domingo. At least 8,000 masks, 2,000 dust masks, and 120 N95 masks were distributed to Albay residents.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources under its Under Operation Tabang Kan DENR sa mga Bakwit sent 100,000 masks to the regional office over the weekend. It distributed another 2,000 in Guinobatan on Monday.

– With Helen Flores, Non Alquitran, Rhodina Villanueva

\*VOLCANO

