

Refrea, Mar John S.

4IT - B

Refrea, Mar John S.

4IT-B

## Scarcity of Water in Romblon and Marinduque

Research:

Romblon and Marinduque, both small island provinces in the Philippines, are facing persistent problems with water scarcity. Their geography makes them vulnerable, as they rely heavily on rainfall, underground aquifers, and small rivers as their main water sources. However, these resources are limited and climate change has worsened the situation by causing irregular rainfall and prolonged dry seasons. In Romblon, communities often depend on deep wells or rely on water delivery systems, but these are not always reliable. Meanwhile, in Marinduque, the problem is aggravated by population growth, environmental degradation, and the effects of past mining operations that have disrupted water systems and watersheds. Water scarcity directly impacts the livelihood of residents, Agriculture, which is the main source of income for many, suffers greatly because irrigation is insufficient, leading to poor crop yields and reduced food production. On a household level, many families are forced to buy drinking water at high cost, which places additional financial burdens on communities already struggling with poverty.

Reaction:

As someone from Cabuyao, Laguna, I feel very fortunate that our place has access to water through deep wells, water districts, and refilling stations, unlike the struggles faced by people in Romblon and Marinduque who rely only on rainwater and limited natural sources. Imagining life there makes me realize how difficult it would be to meet daily needs such as cooking, bathing, and farming, and it also shows how often we take water for granted here in Laguna. For me, their situation is wake-up call to value water more, conserve it properly and support efforts to help communities that live with scarcity every day.



Refree, Mar John S.

411-B

Mainit Hot Spring in Masara, Maco, Davao De Oro

Research:

The Mainit Hot Spring in Masara, Maco, Davao de Oro is famous for its naturally heated sulfuric waters that are believed to have therapeutic and medical benefits, making it a popular destination for both locals and tourists seeking relaxation and healing. Despite its appeal, the hot spring faces significant environmental and safety challenges due to its location in a mining community that has experienced landslides and disasters linked to mining activities, which threaten not only the residents but also natural sites like the spring itself. Human activities such as mining residues, land use changes, and unregulated tourism raise concern about pollution, waste accumulation, and overcrowding, all of which could diminish the area's ecological balance and natural beauty if left unmanaged. While tourism brings economic opportunities and helps promote the area, it also carries the risk of overexploitation, which without proper regulation and conservation efforts, could intimately damage the very resource that sustains its attraction and value.

Reaction:

Here in Cabuyao, Laguna, we are close to natural spots like the hot springs in Calamba and Los Baños, which makes me understand how important the Mainit Hot Spring in Davao de Oro is for both tourism and local relaxation. Learning that mining and environmental issues threaten its preservation makes me sad, because if our own hot springs in Laguna were destroyed by pollution or negligence, it would affect not only tourism but also part of our culture and identity. That is why I believe the people in Maco deserve to have their hot spring protected, since natural sites like these are not just economic resources but also symbols of pride that should be preserved for the next generation.



Refree, Mar John S.

41T-13

Mercury Contamination in Mount Diwalwal, Davao de Oro

Research:

This is one of the most famous gold mining sites in the Philippines, where small-scale and unregulated mining has long used mercury and cyanide, causing serious environmental damage. Mercury contamination has polluted rivers like the Naboc River, endangering both communities and aquatic life. Prolonged exposure to mercury can lead to severe health problems, and despite government efforts, illegal mining continues. This reflects the conflict between livelihood and sustainability while mining provides income, it risks human health and the welfare of future generations.

Reaction:

I know how industrialization affects the environment since we also have factories and industrial zones nearby, but reading about mercury contamination in Mount Diwalwal is even more alarming because it directly endangers people's health and pollutes rivers. If such contamination happened here, it would be devastating for families who depend on Laguna de Bay and water sources. I feel bad for the communities who are forced to live with the consequences of illegal mining, because while gold brings income, it is not worth the risk to people's lives and the environment. For me, stricter laws and safer methods should be enforced, since protecting nature is the only way to secure the future of both communities and the country as a whole.