

Longest solar eclipse

**7-minute phenomenon due on June 20;
world scientists expected to flock here**

Details of the most outstanding and rare phenomenon of our time and the times to come — the longest total solar eclipse in the living memory of man scheduled to take place on June 20 this year — were revealed for the first time yesterday by Jose Pura, astronomical computer of the weather bureau.

In an exclusive interview with *The Manila Times*, Pura said the moon will start covering the face of the sun at exactly 10:47 a.m. on June 20, resulting in a partial solar eclipse.

The partial eclipse will last until 12:19 p.m. which is the beginning of the total eclipse when the face of the sun will be fully covered by the moon, thus plunging several parts of the earth into pitch darkness for a full seven minutes.

The total eclipse will end at

12:25 p.m. which will be the beginning of the second partial eclipse, when the moon starts to uncover the sun. This partial eclipse will end at exactly 1:52 p.m. when the sun will again be fully visible.

Pura said the 7-minute total eclipse next June will be the longest in recorded history and it is not expected to occur again within the next several thousands years.

The eclipse will be visible as total in Northern Visayas, Southern Luzon, and South Central Luzon, and as partial in all other parts of the Philippines.

The phenomenon will also be visible in certain sections of Ceylon, Burma, and Thailand but will be of lesser durations.

Several noted astronomers the world over will come to the

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Philippines to view the eclipse because it will last the longest here.

For this reason, the weather bureau is now making hectic preparations for the memorable event. It is locally producing powerful star cameras which will be attached to equally powerful telescopes to record the celestial phenomenon.

The eclipse can well be seen by the layman through the use of exposed films or smoked plain glass. The vantage point to view the eclipse will be in Batangas and Tayabas where the middle of the eclipse is expected to pass.

The occurrence of the heavenly phenomenon was first announced by Director Casimiro del Rosario of the weather bureau last December 25 shortly after occurrence of an annular solar eclipse, the first to take place on a Christmas Day.