

## Leptospirosis cases going down...

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avoid wading in floodwaters but if this could not be helped, protective gear like boots must always be worn.

Caused by leptospia bacteria, leptospirosis is acquired by wading in floodwaters contaminated by the urine of animals, particularly rats. It could be fatal when vital organs like the kidney, liver and brain are damaged.

Dr. Anthony San Juan, an epidemiologist at the DOH-National Capital Region, clarified on October 26 that doxycycline is not being used as anti-retroviral drug for leptospirosis.

San Juan added that anti-retroviral drugs are being used among people with Human Immunodeficiency Virus and not with leptospirosis.

Doxycycline, a type of prophylaxis drug, is being used as an antibiotic treatment for people who contracted leptospirosis and those who have been exposed to the illness.

The DOH is distributing doxycycline to residents - except for pregnant and nursing women and children below eight years old - in areas affected by tropical storm "Ondoy" and typhoon "Pepeng" who have waded through floodwaters and to health personnel and social workers involved in medical and relief operations.

This scheme is seen as contributory to cases. Meanwhile, in La Union, six persons died and 36 more were confined in different hospitals after contracting leptospirosis.

Dr. Hector Beñas of the Provincial Health Office (PHO) disclosed that most of the affected were from the town of Bauang, parts of which are still submerged.

Reports of patients' deaths also came from the towns of Balaoan, Naguilian and San Fernando City, with one casualty each.

Residents from the towns of Aringay, San Juan, Naguilian, Sto. Tomas, Burgos, Caba, Sudipen, Rosario and San Fernando also sought treatment for leptospirosis.

"Human and vermin wastes were confined in a smaller place, so in the process, they easily get to humans with lower body resistance," Beñas explained.

As a preventive and medical assistance, Beñas said the provincial government under Gov. Manuel Ortega distributed antibiotics such as doxycycline and tetracycline to fight off the flood-borne infection. Meanwhile, the DOH regional office confirmed that the death toll from leptospirosis in the region reached 14 and cases have increased to 116 as of Oct. 26. ■

## Defense chief to step down...

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lacking in materials for a running mate," Claudio said in a telephone interview.

There were reports that Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos, Sen. Bong Revilla, Sen. Loren Legarda and Tourism Secretary Ace Durano were among those being eyed to be Teodoro's running mate.

The effort to woo Legarda was accompanied by moves of some Lakas-Kampi-CMD leaders to push for a coalition with the NPC, to which the senator belongs.

Teodoro and Sen. Manny Villar are among the presidential aspirants who have not yet announced their running mates.

There were reports, however, that Villar was able to convince Legarda to join him.

Claudio said there are three more male political personalities

being eyed for possible pairing with Teodoro. He however refused to elaborate.

"There are many prospects who want to run in tandem with Gibo," he said in a radio interview, adding that Teodoro's opinion would carry much weight in the selection.

He, however, admitted that there were talks between Teodoro and Garcia on a possible tandem but clarified that it was not an official move of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

"That (Teodoro-Garcia tandem) is something that is being talked about and endorsed by certain quarters within the party... that's a good combination but there's nothing official about that," he told a radio interview.

Claudio said that the choice of Garcia, if it would materialize,

would be a boost to the candidacy of Teodoro, who is from Luzon.

Former senator and socioeconomic planning secretary Ralph Recto, who is running for the Senate, is open to the idea of a Teodoro-Garcia tandem.

"She's (Garcia) a natural choice, especially that Cebu is an administration bailiwick," Recto said.

Claudio said it is up to Legarda to decide on her political plans.

**No turning back for Bayani**  
Meanwhile, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Bayani Fernando on October 26 said he would still pursue his presidential bid in next year's polls even if it means running as an independent. ■

## Ping denies charges in...

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to his claim since they were together in that summit.

He had included an affidavit of Roxas as an annex in his counter-affidavit and asked the DOJ to summon Roxas to the preliminary investigation, he added.

Lacson said Mancao himself admitted during the court hearing that he was not certain of what he actually overheard.

"My alleged involvement now becomes rather doubtful," he

said. "A witness who is certain of his narrations will remain staunch (in the face of) the assiduous efforts of the defense to demolish his credibility notwithstanding."

"On the other hand, a witness who prevaricates will find it hard to stick to his story and will find himself eventually entangled in the web of lies he has woven. Easily Mancao falls under this category."

Lacson asked the DOJ to sum-

mon former police superintendent Glenn Dumlao to testify before the preliminary investigation.

GMA News reporter Maki Pulido and ABS-CBN News anchor Ted Failon, who both interviewed Mancao in 2008, must also be summoned, he added.

The DOJ granted the request of Lacson to summon all five and set the next hearing on Nov. 6.

Lacson said complainants Emily and Sabina Dacer had no personal knowledge of the killings of their father and Corbito. (Philstar.com)



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