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DENR

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Siargao mangrove reserve cited

**By Joel
dela Torre**

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has welcomed the recognition of the Del Carmen Mangrove Reserve in Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (SIPLAS) as a Wetland of International Importance.

DENR Asst. Secretary Marcial Amaro Jr. emphasized the importance of wetlands such as mangrove swamp forests in serving as communities' barrier and first line of defense against natural

disasters and effects of climate change.

The Del Carmen Mangrove Reserve was cited during the World Wetlands Day (WWD) 2023 celebration last February 2.

Anchored on the theme, "It's Time for Wetland Restoration," the national celebration of WWD 2023 was led by the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and hosted by the local government unit of Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte.

The celebration showcased the ecological benefits of a restored wetland and the restoration efforts

in the Del Carmen mangroves, reaping the fruits of wetland conservation, protection and restoration work with increased fishery resources, alternative livelihood from tourism and increased protection from storm surge, especially during the onslaught of typhoon Odette in December 2021.

"The wetlands of Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape or SIPLAS serve as a testament to these ecological functions during the height of typhoon Odette. If not for these mangrove forests, the damage to the communities of SIPLAS

could have been worse and more people could have suffered. This testament is one of the many reasons we should protect our wetlands from further degradation," Amaro said.

According to the DENR official, the recognition of Del Carmen Mangrove Reserve serves as a precursor to its nomination for inclusion in the global network of significant wetlands known as the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance or Ramsar Sites.

The mangrove reserve has already fulfilled two of the criteria for being a

Ramsar Site. Its rich biodiversity and the ecological benefits of 4,800 hectares of mangrove that cover one of the largest contiguous mangrove reserves in the country, and the presence of an assemblage of endemic, native and migratory species, make this part of SIPLAS globally important.

In 2010, the municipal government of Del Carmen worked to restore the mangrove forest and save it from illegal activities, such as mangrove cutting and poaching. The area now covers about 53 percent of Siargao Island's total mangrove forest.



DENR, Prime Infra-led WawaJVCo ink MOU on reforestation project

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Prime Infra-led WawaJVCo Inc. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the reforestation of a 1,800-hectare area within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL).

The milestone partnership is in line with the vision and mission of DENR and the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework of Prime Infra that integrates sustainability thinking in resource management and decarbonization strategies.

"We're very glad for this new effort on the part of the public and private sector to address the very complexity that we are facing in terms of risks for the country. The private sector is among the leading engines of growth for the country, and we would like very much to continue exploring this type of multi-stakeholder partnerships to move the agenda of the Department forward," said DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga.

"We're very grateful that some of our work in terms of keeping our forests whole and generating new forests will be part of the work of this group as well. Thank you very much, Mr. Razon, and to the group. We hope that this will be the first of many other endeavors together," the Secretary added.

"This MOU for environmental stewardship between government and private sector reflects the commitment of both parties to develop and implement science-based strategies in support of sustainable development," said Enrique K. Razon Jr., Prime Infra and WawaJVCo Chair-

man. "We thank the DENR for making it possible for us to contribute to environmental protection and biodiversity management."

Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga and Razon signed the MOU on February 20, Monday, with WawaJVCo President Melvin John Tan and DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas Leones as witnesses. Also present during the ceremonial signing were Independent Director Cesar Buenaventura and Chief Regulatory Officer Donato Almeda of Manila Water, WawaJVCo's customer; DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations Juan Miguel Cuna; and Prime Infra President and CEO Guillaume Lucci and Chief Regulatory Officer Vince Dizon.

WawaJVCo is the developer and operator of the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project in Rizal province designed to deliver a reliable water supply of at least 518 million liters per day (MLD) to Manila Water and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

The MOU integrates water security, watershed protection, and forest carbon and biodiversity management in the area covering 1,800 hectares.

DENR and WawaJVCo will "design, develop, and establish Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation programs" within the UMRBPL. The said programs intend to generate carbon units, based on internationally accepted voluntary carbon standards, which will enable investments in sustainable social and environmental projects for the communities where WawaJVCo and Prime Infra operate.



Prime Infra, DENR ink reforestation pact

THE Prime Infra-led Wawa JV Co Inc. and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) signed a landmark deal for the reforestation of some 1,800-hectare area within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL).

The partnership, which was sealed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), is in line with the vision and mission of DENR and the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework of Prime Infra.

Wawa JV Co is the developer and operator of the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project in Rizal province designed to deliver a reliable water supply of at least 518 million liters per day (MLD) to Manila Water and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

"We're very glad for this new effort on the part of the public and private sector to address the very complexity that we are facing in terms of risks for the country. The private sector is among the leading engines of growth for the country, and we would like very much to continue exploring this type of multi-stakeholder partnerships to move the agenda of the Department forward," Environment Secretary

Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said in a statement.

"We're very grateful that some of our work in terms of keeping our forests whole and generating new forests will be part of the work of this group as well. Thank you very much, Mr. Razon, and to the group. We hope that this will be the first of many other endeavors together."

"This MOU for environmental stewardship between government and private sector reflects the commitment of both parties to develop and implement science-based strategies in support of sustainable development," said Enrique K. Razon Jr., Prime Infra and Wawa JV Co Chairman. "We thank the DENR for making it possible for us to contribute to environmental protection and biodiversity management."

Loyzaga and Razon signed the MOU on February 20 with Wawa JV Co President Melvin John Tan and Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones as witnesses.

Also present during the ceremonial signing were Independent Director Cesar Buenaventura and Chief Regulatory Officer Donato Almeda of Manila Water, Wawa JV Co's customer; DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations—Lu-

zon, Visayas and Environment Juan Miguel Cuna; and Prime Infra President and CEO Guillaume Lucci and Chief Regulatory Officer Vince Dizon.

The MOU integrates water security, watershed protection, and forest carbon and biodiversity management in the area covering 1,800 hectares.

DENR and Wawa JV Co will "design, develop, and establish Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation programs" within the UMRBPL. The said programs intend to generate carbon units, based on internationally accepted voluntary carbon standards, which will enable investments in sustainable social and environmental projects for the communities where Wawa JV Co and Prime Infra operate.

The MOU also affirms the commitment of Wawa JV Co to exert best practices in stakeholder consultations with and involvement of the local community and indigenous peoples (IPs).

"This 1,800 hectares reforestation will ensure the sustainability of our water supply, while providing a natural carbon sink program and ultimately, protect our environment and support local communities," said Lucci. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



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Prime Infra, DENR sign reforestation agreement

PRIME Infra through WawaJVCo Inc. and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have committed to undertake the reforestation of a 1,800-hectare area within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL).

Prime Infra and the DENR on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) where the latter and WawaJVCo will design, develop and establish ~~afforestation~~, reforestation and revegetation programs within the UMRBPL.

The MOU is in line with the vision and mission of DENR and the Environmental, Social and Governance framework of Prime

Infra that integrates sustainability efforts in resource management and decarbonization strategies.

The programs intend to generate carbon units, based on internationally accepted voluntary carbon standards which will enable investments in sustainable social and environmental projects for the communities where WawaJVCo and Prime Infra operate.

The MOU also affirms the commitment of WawaJVCo to exert best practices in stakeholder consultations with and involvement of the local community and indigenous peoples, as it is the developer and operator of the Wawa bulk water supply project in Rizal province designed to de-

liver a reliable water supply of at least 518 million liters per day to Manila Water and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Guillaume Lucci, Prime Infra president and chief executive officer, said the reforestation project will also "ensure the sustainability of our water supply while providing a natural carbon sink program and ultimately, protect our environment and support local communities."

Lucci added the MOU could serve as a blueprint for a wider implementation of Prime Infra's nature-based solution program to create value in its other energy and waste management businesses.

Jed Macapagal



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Razon to finance DENR's 1,800-ha. reforestation project

By Rio N. Araja

WITH help from Solaire Resort and developer and Manila Water Co. Inc. owner Enrique Razon Jr., the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will reforest a 1,800-hectare area of the Upper Marikina River basin protected landscape for water security, watershed protection, and forest carbon and biodiversity management.

"We're very glad for this new effort on the part of the public and private sector to address the very complexity that we are facing in terms of risks for the country. The private sector is among the leading engines of growth for the country, and we would like very much to continue exploring this type of multi-stakeholder partnerships to move the agenda of the department forward," DENR Secretary

Antonia Loyzaga said.

The DENR chief and Razon of the Prime Infra-led WawaJVCo Inc. recently signed a memorandum of understanding, deemed a "a milestone partnership," in line with the vision and mission of the DENR and the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) framework of Prime Infra integrating sustainability thinking in resource management and decarbonization strategies.



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KAGUBATAN PROTEKTAHAN - PBBM

PATULOY na isinusulong ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang makatotohanang pagpapahalaga sa kalikasan kabilang ang pagbibigay proteksyon sa nalalabing ilang ektaryang kagubatan sa bansa dulot nang walang habas na pagpuputol ng kahoy ng illegal loggers at dambuhalang mga kompanya ng minahan.

Sa kanyang mensahe sa isinagawang pagtitipon ng Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association kamakailan, sinabi ni Presidente Marcos na ipatutupad ng kanyang administrasyon ang mga polisiya hinggil sa pagpapaunlad ng ekonomiya kaakibat ang green technology kabilang ang renewable energy sa usapin nang pag-suplay ng elektrisidad sa bansa.

Sa totoo lang, coal at krudopa rin ang ginagamit ng malalaking kompanya sa power genera-

tion nitong matagal ng isinantabi ng iba't ibang bansa bunsod sa ibinubugang usok na ayon sa mga siyentipiko ay ugat ng nararanasan ngayong global warming.

Ayon pa kay PBBM, hindi mababayaran ang halaga ng ilang makakapal pang kagubatang nagsisilbing source and sink ng oxygen at carbon dioxide na itinuturing na puno't dulo ng buhay ng bawat indibidwal.

Subalit ilang dayuhang kompanya ba ngayon ang nagsusulong ng responsableng pagmimining hindi lang mga maliit na minero ang nagreklamo ng kanilang pang-aabuso sa kalikasan kundi maging ang makakalikasang grupo ay isinusuka rin ang pagsasalaula sa kagubatan?

Kagaya ng Filminera Resources Corporation na pag-aari ng Canadian investors at halos 15 taon



nang tinabas ang malawak na kabundukan ng Arroy, Masbate dahil sa open-pit na pagmimina nitong patuloy na ipinangangalandakan ang responsableng pagmimina samantalang mistulang disyerito na ang hitsura ng lugar at marami pa ang gutom na maliit na mining hindi binigyan ng kabuhayan nitong mahirap pa sa daga ang kalagayan ngayon.

Maibabalik pa ba ng kompanya ang dating hitik sa punong kahoy na lugar na halos isang siglo nang printektahan ng mga tagarito bunsod sa rito sila kumukuha nang ikinabubuhay para sa kanilang

pamilya sa pamamagitan ng small scale na pagmimina?

Ilang kompanya ba ngayon sa bansa ang sumusunod sa direktiba ni PBBM na kung sisilipin ang bawat dayuhang nagmamay-ari ng large scale mining ay totoong lumalabag sa responsableng pagmimining matagal nang hindi inaakusyunan ng gobyerno?

Kapag hindi busisiin ni PBBM ang mga kompanyang ito, hindi pa rin maitutuwid ang mga pang-aabusing ginagawang sadyang pinapasasaan na lang ng mga dayuhan ang yaman ng bansa samantalang pobre naman ang nasasakupang tinabas nitong mga lugar.



TAO PO!

Ni BOBOT FRADEJÁS
(Email: bootsfra@yahoo.com)

Abusado ang Altai Mining

TULOY ang operasyon ng pagmimina ng isinusukang Altai Philippines Mining Corp. sa matulaing isla ng Sibuyan sa lalawigan ng Romblon. Kahit may order mula sa DENR na suspendido ng walang takdang panahon ang operasyon ng Altai Mining, hindi ito tumitigil sa pangunguha ng nickel ores sa Sibuyan. Napansin ito ng bumisiting Senador Risa Hontiveros sa isang post sa social media.

Pumunta kamakailan si Risa at kasama ang kanyang legislative staff sa Sibuyan upang tingnan ang sitwasyon doon. Ayon sa kanyang kampo, nakunan nila ng video ang pagmimina ng Altai Mining bilang ebidensiya, o patunay na tuloy na operasyon ng Altai Mining sa isla. Handa nilang iharap ang video kahit saang forum, kasama na ang imbestigasyon ng Senado.

Mukhang hindi pinakinggan ng Altai Mining ang DENR. Mukhang sa media ang suspensyon pero hindi sa tunay na buhay. Mukhang malakas ang Altai Mining sa mga nasa poder. Mukhang may kapit, sa maikli.

"I saw it myself," ani Risa. "They're conducting movements inside. Nakuhanan namin [sila] ng video," aniya. "Ayon sa mga residente, 'yong exploration nila (Alta Mining), ongoing pa rin," dagdag Risa sa kanyang post.

Ayon sa aming kaututang dila sa isla (ako'y taga Odiangan), mukhang tinakot ang mga residente na mga pulis na tinawag mula sa PNP Provincial Command upang magmanman sa Sibuyan. Kahit suspendido, hinayaan ng mga pulis na ilabas ang trak trak na mga nickel ores na namina ng kontrobersyal na Altai Mining.

Dinala sa pansamantalang pantalan ng isla ang mga nickel ores at inilulan sa mga barko upang iluwas sa China. Pag-aari ng pamilya Gatchalian ang Altai Mining at ang subcontractor na Atlantic Dynamo na siyang bumubungkal at nagbaligtad sa mga lupain sa paanan ng Mt. Guiting Guiting sa Sibuyan.

Ipinabubuwag ng Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) ang pantalan dahil walang itong permit. Ang PPA ang may kapangyarihan na subaybayan ang lahat ng daungan at pantalan sa buong bansa. Sinuspindi ng DENR ang operasyon ng Altai Mining dahil pinutol nito ang mga puno sa isla ng walang pahintulot.

Tumingkad ngayon ang pangangailangan na humingi ng remedyong legal mula sa husgado ang mga residente. Kailangan na magharap ang mga abogado ng mga residente ng petisyon sa Korte Suprema o Court of Appeals para sa madaliang pagpapalabas ng Writ of Kalikasan.

Isang remedyong legal ang Writ of Kalikasan upang itigil ang anumang proyekto, pampubliko o pribado, na maaaring magbigay ng masamang epekto sa kalusugan ng mga mamamayan at kaligiran. Ayon sa Konstitusyon ng 1987, may karapatan ang bawat mamamayan na magkaroon ng malinis na kaligiran upang pangalagaan ang kalusugan.

Maaaring humingi ng Writ of Kalikasan sa pangamba na maaaring masira ang kaligiran, partikular ang mga bukirin at ilog ng Sibuyan sa patuloy na operasyon ng Altai Mining. Kinilala ang Sibuyan sa magandang kaligiran kung saan mayroon "biodiversity" dahil sa iba't ibang uri ng hayop at halaman. Kung masira ang kaligiran, kinatatakutan ang baha, landslide, at pagguho ng lupa sa isla. "Katapusan na dahil wala kaming tatakbuhan," sabi ng isang residente.

NATAWA kami sa palitan ng tweets ng ilang mamamayan sa social media. Mula sa isip-batang Senador JV Ejercito: "Soon we will not be able to see the famous Sunset at Manila Bay from Roxas Boulevard. Wala na rin wedding by the Sea sa Coconut Palace at Sofitel sa ngayon. Simple things we will miss..."

Sumagot si Paring Koy, ang netizen na pari: "Wow! Buti ka pa iyong mga grand weddings by the Sea sa Coconut Palace at Sofitel which are not simple by the way ang mamimiss mo. Sa ilan, kabuhayan, bahay at buhay ang namimiss nila."

Hindi nagtagal isang nangangalang Galhad A. Pe Benito ang nagwika: "Whose lives got better with the Manila Bay reclamation? Definitely, not the hotel owners/operators (ask Sofitel), not the restos with a view, not the condo owners, not the tourists, not the squatters, not the residents, and definitely not the fishermen and ordinary people."

Nakisali ang isang Venancio Borrromeo (hindi ko alam kung totoong pangalan dahil uso ang pekeng pangalan sa social media): "Plus, the environmental damage sa mga community along the coast. Hindi pwedeng walang magaganap na displacement ng tubig dahil diyán."

Sa post ni JV, naaalala kong bigla si Erap Estrada, ang dating pangulo na naging local official kinalaunan. Bilang alkalde ng Maynila, si Erap ang nag-apruba sa tatlong reclamation project sa bahagi ng Manila Bay na sakop ng siyudad ng Maynila. Ito ang 148-ektarya Solar City ng City of Manila at Manila Gold Coast Holdings, isang kumpanya na pag-aari ng pamilya Tieng na may interes sa cable TV, satellite communications, at construction. Itatayo sa likod ng Manila Yacht Club malapit sa Cultural Center of the Philippines. Gagamit ito ng solar panel sa bawat gusali.

Katabi ng Solar City project ang ikalawang proyekto, ang 419-ektarya Horizon Manila project na itinatayo ng City of Manila at JBros, isang hindi kilalang kumpanya sa construction na kasama ang mangangalakal na si Ricky Razom bilang "silent partner." Mayroon ang P60 bilyon ang halaga ng project na may tatlong isla na halos iisa ang sukat.

Nag-umpisa na itayo ang 318-ektarya Manila Waterfront reclamation project ni William Gatchalian, ang mangangalakal na ama ni Senador Sherwin Gatchalian. May halaga ang proyekto ng P100 bilyon at itatayo ito sa likod ng Quirino Grandstand. Anga pamilya Gatchalian ang may-ari ng isinusumpang Altai Mining na may ilegal na operasyon ng pagmimina sa isla ng Sibuyan.

Payag si Erap sa tatlong project, ngunit si Isko Moreno ang nagbigay ng go signal. Binigyan ang tatlong proyekto ng notice to proceed ng Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA). Tuloy tuloy na ang tatlong reclamation project doon.

Teka, hindi totoo na apektado ang mga mangingisda. Ang mga mangingisda sa Manila Bay ay nasa gawi ng Las Pinas City, Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga, at Bataan. Wala ng mangingisda sa gawi ng Paranaque, Pasay City, at Maynila. Matagal na silang wala doon-mga 50 taon na. Bilang sagot kay Galahad Benito, paki-update mo ng data mo. Wala reclamation project sa gawi ng Las Pinas City dahil hindi natuloy. Ang reclamation project sa Navotas City ay halos tapos na at lumipat sa Bulacan at Pampanga ang mga mangingisda doon.

Kay Venancio Borrromeo, kamangmangan ang sinabi mo. Nakita mo ba ang reclaimed area sa Cultural Center of the Philippines, gawi ng Experimental Cinema of the Philippines hanggang diyán sa Uniwid, Solaire, at kahabaan ng Macapagal Avenue?

Walang baha diyán kahit noong dumale ang bagyong Ondoy kasi maganda ang drainage system sa sinasabi kong lugar. Ang baha ay sa mismong Maynila, dahil mababa iyan. Kahit wala pa ang mga reclamation project sa Manila Bay, bumabaha sa Maynila. Maski noong panahon pa ng mga Amerikano kung alam mo lang. Hindi ka updated sa kaalaman mo.

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HIS ADVICE: GET INSURED

GEOLOGIST WARNS OF HAZARDS OF LIVING IN RECLAIMED AREA

By Jane Bautista
@janebautistaINQ

A geology and environmental science expert has warned those planning to purchase reclaimed land, including on any of the multibillion-peso reclamation projects in Manila Bay, to be wary of the dangers that might come with their investment, such as land subsidence, storm surges and tsunamis.

"My last resort is to tell anyone who wants to buy property on reclaimed land: Make sure you can get damage insurance. If you cannot, be forewarned. Don't be a fool," said Kelvin Rodolfo, a professor at University of Illinois in Chicago, who received the Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan in 2022.

In a message to the Inquirer on Tuesday, he extended his cautionary note to insurance companies, saying: "To protect themselves, insurance companies also must educate themselves of the hazards and risks" concerning any big-ticket reclamation project.

The geologist issued the warning after reviewing the **A2**



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GEOLOGIST WARNS OF HAZARDS OF LIVING IN RECLAIMED ARE

grains of bay-fill materials so buildings on top of sediments could sink or topple over.

"It is therefore very possible that liquefaction during an earthquake would cause the heavy steel pilings to sink deeply into the bay floor, leaving the reclamation without its containment," he said.

'Big One'

Rodolfo also cited a 2004 report by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) which said Metro Manila was overdue for a magnitude 7.2 earthquake, or the "Big One."

In such a catastrophe, the geologist said the "greatest damage" would likely happen in the shore areas being

planned for reclamation.

This is because ground shaking and the likelihood of liquefaction are greater in unconsolidated or partly consolidated sediment present in reclamation sites, he said.

He noted, however, that reclaimed areas in Manila Bay did not need an earthquake to happen to suffer "serious damage."

In 1968, a magnitude 7.3 earthquake in Casiguran, Quezon province, which was 225 kilometers away from Metro Manila, destroyed many structures near the Pasig River, Rodolfo said.

"The six-story Ruby Tower in Binondo collapsed from amplified ground shaking, liquefaction, or both, killing 260

people," he said.

The massive magnitude 7.8 earthquake on Feb. 6 that devastated southeastern Turkey and parts of Syria and claimed over 40,000 lives has triggered fresh calls from lawmakers to prepare the country for the next big temblor.

The Jica study, made together with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, also noted that many structures in the National Capital Region and nearby provinces would not be able to withstand a magnitude 7.2 earthquake.

Experts believe such a powerful quake may originate from the Marikina Valley Fault System, particularly the West Valley fault line. **INQ**

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proposed P34-billion Manila Waterfront City Reclamation project, a joint venture agreement that involves the reclamation and development of 318 hectares of foreshore and off-shore areas of Manila Bay.

Rodolfo expressed alarm over the scale and breadth of the developments in the bay.

"Despite the clear dangers from land subsidence, storm surges, tsunamis and liquefaction during earthquakes, Manila Bay reclamation is proceeding rapidly," he said.

He noted that, along with the revival of the mothballed

Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, the massive reclamation projects on Manila Bay were among the "biggest human-made threats to the environment" in the country.

'Very bad idea'

In a peer-reviewed article published in 2014, Rodolfo said land subsidence, or the lowering of the surface closer to sea level, delayed runoff from rains and worsened flooding and tidal occurrences.

This and other reasons were what made near-shore reclamation a "very bad idea," he said.

Based on his study, coastal areas in Metro Manila were sinking as fast as 9 centimeters every year.

"Caloocan, an industrial area that uses large volumes of groundwater, subsided 8 cm/y in 2004 and 2005," he said.

Rodolfo said increased pressure from the weight of new buildings in reclaimed areas could also speed up the compression of the surface, resulting in subsidence.

"Coastal areas, whether underlain by natural deposits like those of the Pasig River delta or artificial reclamations, also experience seismically induced liquefaction," he said, referring to the process that takes place when sediments near bodies of water behave like quicksand.

During earthquakes, the shaking of the ground tends to break the contact between



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Marikina eyes dredging expansion

Marikina City Mayor Marcelino Teodoro on Tuesday said they will expand their dredging activities in Marikina River this year as part of the city government's flood control measures.

The city government is also eyeing to complete the construction of sustainable slope protection in the river banks using high resistant materials which serve as protection against river bank erosion that will reduce falling of debris into the water.

"The dredging and slope protection is a big help to increase water carrying capacity of Marikina River, our most effective protection against flooding," Teodoro said.

He added that the city government will construct additional facilities to the city's river park and will further improve the environment of the river.

"Our river is our ecological heritage, many of our city's history lie on the banks of the river and its surrounding environment," Teodoro said.

The Marikina Riverpark Promenade is a 22-kilometer long linear park along the river from Barangay IVC until Barangay Nangka where the city government will put new jogging and bike lanes, park and water amenities, and facilities like flower gardens, gondola rides, amusement park, picnic groves, commercial hubs, events place, fresh food market and a lot more.

"We will put a big ferris wheel where riders will have an overlooking view of the whole city," Teodoro said.

NEIL ALCOBER



MWSS turns over P160 M for Kaliwa Dam construction

By DANESSA RIVERA

The Metropolitan Waterworks Sewerage System (MWSS) has remitted P160 million to the Rizal and Quezon Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs) as construction disturbance fees for the construction of Kaliwa Dam.

In a ceremonial turnover yesterday, the MWSS turned over P80 million to the IPOs in Rizal and another P80 million to the IPOs in Quezon.

These will cover the disturbance fees for the duration of the construction of the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project, which is expected to be completed

by end-2026, MWSS administrator Leonor Cleofas said.

These are part of government's commitment to the affected communities in the ancestral domains under their memorandum of agreement (MOA) after securing free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) process, which took nearly eight years, she said.

The turnover was made as some 300 Dumagat-Remontado IPs march from Gen. Nakar, Quezon to Malacñang from Feb. 15-23 to show their opposition to the Kaliwa Dam Project.

In an interview after the ceremony, National Commission on In-

igenous Peoples (NCIP) regional hearing officer and designated spokesperson for Kaliwa Dam in Region 4A Josefina Agusti said the value turned over by MWSS was determined by the IPOs themselves.

"The P80 million is the valuation of the IPs. They did not only compute the material impact but also considering their culture and tradition. They have considerations which is very unique to them," she said.

The Rizal and Quezon IPOs have formed their respective community royalty management and development plans to use the proceeds from MWSS.

"One of the roles of NCIP

is to ascertain that all benefits will be received by the IPs from MWSS. We will also guide the IPs, especially with their community royalty management and development plan. They plan out the projects they need in the community according to the ancestral domain sustainable development plan," Agusti said.

The NCIP will also assist the IPOs NCIP in the trainings needed to uplift their technical skills on management and will also be part of the monitoring team on their spending and ensuring compliances of their rights.

Once the project is complete,

the MWSS will provide annual financial assistance of P1 million per community in both provinces, or P36 million in Quezon and P10 million in Rizal, Cleofas said.

"[The P160 million] will be replaced by a financial assistance of P1 million per community recognized by the NCIP. The NCIP recognized community in Rizal is 10 and 36 in Quezon," she said.

The MWSS official said the clear objective is to deliver the Kaliwa Dam project by end-2026.

"Including the detailed engineering design, the overall project is now 22 percent completed," Cleofas said.



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Kaliwa Dam construction

THE Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) said on Tuesday that the Kaliwa Dam in Rizal and Quezon provinces is now 22% complete.

"(Including) detailed engineering design... the Kaliwa Dam is now 22% complete," Leonor C. Cleofas, MWSS administrator, told reporters.

Ms. Cleofas said that MWSS hopes to complete the Kaliwa Dam, which will serve as the new source of water for Metro Manila, by the end of 2026, with

operations commencing by 2027.

Last year, the MWSS said a memorandum of agreement was concluded with the indigenous peoples around the Kaliwa river, a waterway in Rizal and Quezon provinces.

The Dumagat-Remontado indigenous peoples who have an ancestral domain claim, received a P160-million "disturbance fee" for the construction of the dam.

"It was a recognition that they are the owners of the ancestral domain; again, there is no transfer

of ownership. Their ownership for the land is being recognized through the disturbance fee," Josefina R. Agusti, regional hearing officer of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples Calabarzon, told reporters.

She said P80 million each was distributed to Tanay Dumagat-Remontado Ancestral Domain Development, Inc. and to Pinagtaanan ne Dumagat-Remontado de General Nakar, the two IP organizations will also receive a share of the revenue, known as the "benefit share,"

progress hits 22%

once the dam starts operations.

"After the awarding of P80 million, of course we will be expecting their yearly benefit share which is P36 million for General Nakar, Quezon. For Tanay, Rizal, that is another P10 million per year," Ms. Agusti said.

The Kaliwa Dam is a bulk water supply project which is a component of the New Centennial Water Source program of the MWSS. It is expected to supply 600 million liters per day of water. — Ashley Erika O. Jose



PHILSTAR FILE PHOTO



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Protest vs Kaliwa Dam construction slated

The Alyansa Tigil Mina on Tuesday disclosed that hundreds of Indigenous Peoples, various groups and individuals will arrive in Manila to protest against the proposed construction of the Kaliwa Dam.

In a statement sent to the *Daily Tribune*, the ATM said they support the call for President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to order a halt to the Kaliwa Dam project, particularly the tunneling in Teresa Rizal, which has already started and is continuing even when the 'Free Prior and Informed Consent' process is still ongoing.

It added that at least 300 IPs arrived Monday in Teresa Rizal marching for five days coming from Real, Infanta and Nakar, Quezon Province, just to air their grievances over Kaliwa Dam Project, just in time for the observance of the World Day of Social Justice.

JING VILLAMENTE



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MBC backs PBBM's push for creation of WRMO

By ANDREA E. SAN JUAN

THE Makati Business Club (MBC) has thrown its support behind President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s decision to issue a new executive order (EO) for the creation of the proposed Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) to boost water supply across the country.

"We believe the WRMO will help address urgent issues, even as we encourage Congress to pass a law creating an even more effective Department of Water," MBC said in a statement issued on Tuesday. The MBC also noted there are as many as 30 agencies with water-related mandates, which, it said, are slowing down upgrades and expansion.

Citing the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) and the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Masterplan (PWSSMP), MBC said 45.2 percent of the population relies on point sources (e.g., springs, rivers, streams, wells, peddlers, and other sources) that are susceptible to contamination.

Of the 54.8 percent who had access to safe water supply, only 15 percent to a piped distribution network, and 11.2 percent relied on communal faucet systems, MBC noted.

Further, according to MBC, Neda said to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6—clean water and sanitation for all—by 2030, yearly investments of P132 billion are needed. However, MBC said the current rate is in the "single digits."

The business group stressed, "Most water service providers are unable to deliver adequate services to a growing population due to financial, technical, efficiency, and coverage issues."

Further, MBC said the situation is expected to reach "critical levels" by 2040 if the sector remains "stagnant."

"The 1995 Water Crisis Act helped address the situation at that time, including the awarding of Metro Manila concession agreements to private sector players in 1997, leading to vastly improved and expanded services in the capital," MBC said.

With this, MBC said, "We are confident that a WRMO and a Department of Water can do the same for the current crisis."

Likewise, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) said in a statement last week it welcomes the creation of the WRMO as a transitory body pending the creation of a Water Resource Department.

The foreign business group said the creation of the WRMO is a "welcomed first step in fully realizing this as it aims to strengthen collaboration among various agencies in implementing water management programs in accordance with the Integrated Water Management Plan."

ECCP underscored the need to approach water resource planning using Integrated Water Resource Management (IWFm), which it described as an "internationally recognized" framework that is used to guide countries in their journey to water security.

This is based on the idea that water issues should not be approached in "isolation," but rather in a "more holistic" manner due to the interdependence of the uses of finite water resources, the business chamber explained.

Three weeks ago, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said President Marcos ordered the formation of the WRMO during a multi-sectoral meeting in Malacanang to consolidate water management efforts of all concerned government offices.

PCO said the core task of WRMO would be to formulate and ensure the implementation of the Integrated Water Management Plan of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Local Water Utilities Administration, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.



SMCPC seeks clearance for power plant

SAN Miguel Consolidated Power Corp. (SMCPC) is preparing for the development of a 56-megawatt (MW) diesel power plant project in Zamboanga City, documents submitted to the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) showed.

The project has an indicative estimated cost of P3.2 billion that will include the conduct of feasibility study, preparation of detailed engineering design, acquisition of necessary government permits and licenses, site development, leasing and construction of power plant components, procurement of equipment and materials, environmental management and protec-

tion, pollution control facilities, and environmental monitoring activities.

The EMB filing showed initial project cost for the first 28 MW phase is P1.6 billion and the other P1.6 billion is for the 28 MW second phase.

SMCPC said in the filing it initially applied and secured an environmental compliance certificate for a single 28 MW gas turbine power plant project but decided to increase it to 56 MW due to projections of increasing power demand in the entire Zamboanga Peninsula in the coming years.

The company said the project is

seen to help the looming low voltage issue in Zamboanga City as the Zamboanga Peninsula lacks local generators which trigger voltage difficulties and power instability in northwestern Mindanao.

Among potential environmental impacts cited by SMCPC that are being assessed by EMB for the project are soil erosion, vegetation removal and loss of habitat, threat to existence or loss of important local species, pollution of land, ground vibration and possible surface water pollution and water quality deterioration from solid and liquid wastes, among others. -

Jed Macapagal



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San Miguel power unit building ₱3.2-b gas turbine power plant in Zamboanga

By Alena Mae S. Flores

SAN Miguel Consolidated Power Corp. is building a 56-megawatt gas turbine power plant in Zamboanga City at a cost of ₱3.2 billion.

SMCPC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of SMC Global Power Holdings Corp., said in a report to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources it received an environmental compliance certificate for the project's first phase involving a 28-MW gas turbine power plant in Sangali, Zamboanga City.

The ECC-approved project is under

construction, but SMCPC decided to increase its power generating capacity to 56 MW because of the projected increase in power demand in the Zamboanga Peninsula.

SMCPC submitted the gas turbine power plant expansion project to the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau for public scoping.

SMCPC said the deployment of modular, fast-start, high-speed, quick-response, small-capacity, diesel-fired generating units would alleviate the power supply delivery and voltage stability issues in Zamboanga.



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PHL biodiversity to get lion's share in global environment cash pool

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

@jonlmayuga

THE protection and conservation of the country's rich biodiversity will be getting the proverbial lion's share under the 8th replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility (GEF8), an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

AIO. Orolfo, director of the DENR Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Services, said that with over \$52-million in total allocations the Philippines is expected to "narrow the gap" for biodiversity spending. The allocation is one of the largest in Southeast Asia.

There are a dozen proposed projects for GEF 8 funding and five focal areas in which these projects are categorized. Seven of the proposed projects fall under "climate change," three under "chemicals and wastes

and land degradation" and two projects under "International Waters."

The DENR said the FASPS will be working with the GEF Secretariat and various implementing multilateral financing agencies in overseeing the project's implementation during the 4-year cycle covering the years 2023 to 2026.

In implementing the GEF-funded projects, the DENR hopes to advance the country's efforts to address environmental issues. These efforts include: tackling the drivers of ecological degradation; strengthening the country's commitments to multilateral environmental agreements and contributing to global environmental benefits; supporting integrated approaches; and, ensuring that programs are inclusive and prioritizes the most vulnerable.

Private capital

THE projects are also being eyed to

help realign private sector capital to achieve wider scale and impact, empower local communities to harness their contributions, strengthen their capacities, protect their livelihoods, uplift their socio-economic conditions, and enhance resilience.

The GEF is the largest multilateral fund dedicated to addressing environmental threats. Established as a \$1-billion pilot program of the World Bank during the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the cash pool was created to fund environmental actions by developing countries.

The GEF funding window now serves as a financial mechanism for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Now on its eighth replenishment cycle, the GEF grants have reached a

total of 774 million with co-financing reaching over \$5 billion with the support of agencies like the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, among many others.

Counter-financing

IN presenting an overview of the GEF in the Philippines during a forum last January 18, Orolfo noted the evolution from the piloting phase during the first to third GEF rounds, the "taking-off period" under the fourth to fifth GEF rounds, Institutionalization under GEF 6, and "Going for Greater Impacts" under the GEF 7.

"Now GEF 8, we have adopted 'Systematic and Transformational Strategies' that will support integrated approaches and ensure programs are inclusive and prioritizes the most vulnerable projects with potential for scalable transformation or impacts," he said.

According to Orolfo, the FASPS

and the GEF Secretariat along with other GEF agencies will integrate the different proposals.

"We are adopting the integrated approach because it is stronger and better in terms of impact," he said.

Orolfo said the 40-percent increase in the allocation for the PHL "is an opportunity to provide some financing gaps to funding different environmental concerns."

He said the government and the GEF actors will adopt metrics to measure the impact of the projects.

"In the end, it should trickle down to the communities but, at the same time, it should also have a global impact," Orolfo said.

"From the project implementors, we expect them to consolidate resources."

He noted the GEF allocation for the Philippines would be buffered by cash and non-cash counter-financing.



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Batis sa Benguet umuusok, kumukulo

KINAMANGHAAN online ang isa sa mga dinadayong batis sa Benguet dahil sa kakaibang ganap nito.

Ito ay ang Badekbek Sulfur Spring na matatagpuan sa Bokod, Benguet. Ang ibig sabihin ng pangalan ng batis na ito ay kumukulo dahil literal na umuusok ito at kumukulo!

Isa sa mga mapansin dito ay ang magsangang nitong amoy na tila nabubulok na itlog. Bukod dito, agaweksena rin ang mga puting bato sa paligid nito habang kulay putik naman ang kumululong batis.

Marami ang bumibisita sa kakaibang batis na ito dahil pinaniniwalaang nagpapagaling ito ng ilang sakit tulad ng sakit sa balat,

sugat, diabetes at iba pa.

Ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), kumukulo umano ang tubig ng Badekbek dahil isa itong sulfur spring kung saan mataas ang pagpapalitan ng init sa ground nito.

Dagdag pa rito, ayon naman sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, possible umanong isang 'inactive volcano' ang kinatatayuan ng batis na ito kaya ito umuusok at kumukulo.

Talaga namang mapapaisip ka na lang sa mga kayang i-offer ni Mother Earth sa atin!

Ikaw, bet mo bang pumunta sa batis na ito? **(Moises Calleon)**



(Travel To The Philippines)



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Germany extends ₱2-B aid for PH climate actions

By JOSEPH PEDRAJAS

Germany has extended around ₱2 billion or 50 million euros assistance to the Philippines for the country's pro-environment initiatives.

This came after German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock met her Filipino counterpart, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Enrique Manalo, who was touring various German cities for a series of activities, including fostering bilateral ties and participating in a security conference.

According to the German Foreign

Office, it is important for Germany to strengthen its cooperation with its partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

"As one of the countries most affected by the climate crisis, the Philippines has embarked on an ambitious course in their transition toward renewables. As a partner country of the German Climate Initiative, we are supporting them with over €50 million," it said, reiterating Baerbock's commitment to Manalo.

Aside from climate support, Germany also expressed intention to intensify its cooperation with the Philippines to attract more skilled workers as the latter's "largest trading

partner" in the European Union as well as support for the peaceful resolution of conflict in Mindanao.

In his Twitter posts, Manalo said he is "very pleased to have had a comprehensive meeting" with Baerbock in Berlin, when they "exchanged views on regional security issues, including West Philippine Sea and the Ukraine crisis."

"We reaffirmed the importance of a rules-based international order and the peaceful settlement of disputes. We agreed to increase cooperation on climate change, renewable energy, trade and investment, labor and human rights, among others," he added.



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Climate action setbacks as countries go back to fossil fuels and nuclear energy

THE world is still struggling with the energy crisis as the global economy continues to slow down and the price of energy remains high. This was exacerbated by the Russia-Ukraine conflict which



URBANISTA
**DAPHNE
OSEÑA PAEZ**

brought about the EU sanctions on Russian oil and gas in 2022. This is according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) report on surviving the energy crisis and the energy outlook in 2023. The Philippines has had an impending and ongoing energy crisis even before the Russia-Ukraine war, as the Shell oil refinery announced its plans to permanently close its Tabango refinery in 2020 and Malampaya natural gas forecast to run dry by 2027. We are a net energy importer even though our consumption remains low. We produce oil, natural gas and coal. In 2019, 88 percent of our energy consumption drew from fossil fuels. But before climate activists react, know that this is a drop in the bucket of overall global greenhouse gas emissions.

The EIU Energy Outlook 2023 is forecasting some global setbacks in climate action, namely the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Despite the SDG targets to reduce carbon emissions, including the failed Paris Agreement, we will see a growth in the consumption of coal again to compensate for the need for gas supplies. Extreme weather conditions will also push many countries to rely on fossil fuels, delaying the commitment to transition to clean energy. We may see a surge in renewable energy consumption in Asia, but investment in this sector will weaken as funding countries will have to prioritize dealing with their domestic energy crisis. And interestingly, some governments will reconsider their efforts to phase out nuclear power.

These setbacks in climate action strategies may just be the reality check that Bjorn Lomborg of the Copenhagen Consensus has been alluding to. In many of his reports, articles and interviews, he stated that the panic on the apocalyptic forecasts from climate change has caused many governments to come up with bad and unrealistic climate policies. He is not a climate change denier, far from it. Climate change is real. Temperatures are rising. But Lomborg says more people die from extreme cold than from heat. He has numbers, after all, he runs a think tank. He advocates for smarter and saner policies and investment in research and innovation to mitigate and adapt to climate change. It cannot simply be solved by transitioning to renewable energy. Besides, this quest to switch to all renewables comes at a bigger cost to poor countries, such as the Philippines, which haven't had the benefit of building wealth from the Industrial Revolution.

The EIU forecasts an increase in coal usage due to extreme weather events such as droughts,

heat waves and typhoons. Droughts will affect river systems such as the Yangtze in China, the Danube and the Rhine in Europe, and the Colorado River in the US. This may impact hydropower generation and force countries to fall back on coal. Heat waves could also lead to more blackouts as this increases power demand for air conditioning use. The EIU forecasts China and India to rely back on coal as hydro power accounts for 10 percent of their electricity generation.

As all countries in the Global North and South deal with their own domestic energy crises, this may set back any gains in pushing for climate finance. Again, it will be the developing countries that will be impacted. The Philippines has been clamoring for climate justice in the form of finance. We have been badly battered by typhoons caused by the La Niña and El Niño cycles, which are now generically referred to as climate change, for more than two decades. This brings me back to what President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said in his speech at the UN General Assembly in September 2022: "The effects of climate change are uneven and reflect a historical injustice: Those who are least responsible suffer the most. The Philippines, for example, is a net carbon sink, we absorb more carbon dioxide than we emit. And yet, we are the fourth most vulnerable country to the effects of climate change." The President emphasized the need for nations to correct injustices by accepting their share of responsibilities. We may expect to see a shift in public sentiment in countries that initially committed to funding global climate mitigation solutions, as they deal with their own volatile economic and geopolitical environment domestically.

A very interesting point in the EIU report is the idea that some governments may rethink their plans to phase out nuclear power. Japan, whose Fukushima Daiichi disaster in 2011 prompted not just their own cancellation but many other countries' idling of nuclear plants, now plans to restart seven nuclear reactors by the summer of 2023. Japan has 23 commercially operable but offline nuclear reactors. We may also see Germany, which gradually shut down nuclear power plants since the Fukushima disaster, make a U-turn on its nuclear policy due to the energy crisis.

The Philippines continues its commitment to expand renewable energy sources like hydropower, geothermal, solar and wind, as promised by BBM in his July 2022 SONA. It'll be interesting to navigate through a world where both rich and poor, northern and southern countries are experiencing the energy pinch. We stay the course. After all, resiliency, a word that has been trivialized by the culture wars, is actually not a bad thing in the discussion on climate change policies.



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SERMONIA GETS SOUTH KOREA'S INT'L AWARD

By Alfred Dalizon

THE South Korean government on Monday commended Philippine National Police Deputy Chief for Administration, Lieutenant General Rhodel O. Sermonia for his major contribution to all PNP efforts to protect Korean tourists in the country while helping save the environment at the same time.

The PNP's no. 2 official on Monday received a plaque of appreciation from Republic of Korea's National Defense Committee chairman Lee Hun-Seung for winning the Best International Award for his great contribution to environmental protection and community service.

The plaque was personally accepted by Lt. Gen. Sermonia from the Korean official at Korea's National Assembly office in Seoul.

The official was cited among scores of foreign law enforcement officials who joined the international competition centering on the preservation of the global environment and sharing with those who suffer from the destruction of the world's natural resources.

He also received an award from Yoon Sang-Hyun, the chairman of the 15th Korea Environmental Awards Committee during their meeting at the same office.

Lt. Gen. Sermonia also paid a courtesy call on South Korea's Deputy Speaker Chung Woo-Taik and Philippine Ambassador to South Korea Theresa Dizon de Vega to discuss matters of mutual concern.

During their talk, the official offered



PHILIPPINE National Police Deputy Chief for Administration Lieutenant General Rhodel O. Sermonia (right) receives from Republic of Korea's National Defense Committee chairman Lee Hun-Seung the Best International Award for his contribution to environmental protection and community service.

the help of the PNP leadership under General Rodolfo S. Azurin Jr. in addressing peace and order concerns of Overseas Filipino Workers in the country as well as the PNP's program to address transnational crimes involving Filipino workers abroad including those in South Korea.

Lt. Gen. Sermonia also represented the PNP during a bilateral meeting on police cooperation with Korean National Police Agency officials led by HyeongSe Lee, the Director General of Foreign Affairs of the KNPA.

The PNP's 2nd-highest official was cited for the environmental programs he started when he was still the director of the Police-Community Relations Group, now known as the Police-

Community Affairs Development Group.

The Korean Congress recognized the official's KALIGKASAN program to protect the environment and for launching efforts to ensure the safety and protection of South Korean tourists and other foreigners visiting, doing business or living in The Philippines.

Amb. De Vega, a former New York Consul General and ambassador in Europe likewise commended the Global Peace Community Relations program launched by Sermonia saying it is has been recognized by South Korean businessmen who already have big business ventures in the country or are planning to invest more in The Philippines.



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SERMONIA GETS S. KOREA'S INT'L AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENT, TOURIST PROTECTION
- Philippine National Police (PNP) Deputy Chief for Administration, Lieutenant General Rhodel O. Sermonia is shown with the plaque of appreciation he received from Republic of Korea Congress officials Lee Hub-Seung and Yoon Sang-Hyun in Seoul on Monday.
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Sermonia gets S. Korea's international award

By **ALFRED DALIZON**

THE South Korean government on Monday commended Philippine National Police Deputy Chief for Administration, Lieutenant General Rhodel O. Sermonia, for his major contribution to all PNP efforts to protect Korean tourists in the country while helping save the environment at the same time.

On Monday, the PNP's no. 2 official received a plaque of appreciation from the Republic of Korea's National Defense Committee chairman Lee Hun-Seung for winning the "Best International Award" for his significant contribution to environmental protection and community service.

The plaque was personally accepted by Sermonia from the Korean official at Korea's National Assembly office in Seoul.

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competition centering on preserving the global environment and sharing with those who suffer from the destruction of the world's natural resources.

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During their talk, the official offered the help of the PNP leadership under General Rodolfo S. Azurin Jr. in addressing peace and order concerns of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the country as well as the PNP's program to address transnational crimes involving Filipino workers abroad including those in South Korea.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD
8th Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

SMILE CITHOMES CONDOMINIUM CORPORATION,
Applicant. Case No. 23-3529
X-----X

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant, an authorized operator of the waterworks system within Smile Cithomes 1 Condominium, Barangay Kaligayahan, Novaliches, Quezon City, Metro Manila, applies for the renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience.

Notice is hereby given that this application will be initially heard by the Board on **13 March 2023**, hearing will start at **9:00 o' clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila and send by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of (i) the application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any affected party to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard and the Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 24th day of January 2023.

By Authority of the Board:

Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, JR. CESO III
Executive Director

DOP: February 22, 2023