

16 February 2023, Thursday



DENR

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PBBM names critics' son as DENR undersecretary, promotes PCG officers

President Marcos has appointed geologist Carlos Primo David as undersecretary for integrated environmental science at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. He is the son of journalist-sociologist and known Marcos critic Randy David and the late former Civil Service Commission chair Karina Constantino David.

Malacañang announced David's appointment on Feb. 14, though his appointment papers showed he was appointed to the post on Dec. 28, 2022.

According to the DENR website, David is a professor at the National Institute of Geological Sciences at the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman.

David's parents became prominent in the struggle against the first Marcos administration. His maternal grandfather was Renato Constantino, a well-known historian and author.

The new DENR undersecretary is also the brother of broadcast journalist Kara David, UP Diliman's journalism department chair.

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PBBM names critics' son as DENR undersecretary; promotes PCG officers ◀ 1

Marcos also promoted several Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) officials. They are:

- Joseph M. Coyne - Vice Admiral
- Ronnie Gil L. Gavan - Vice Admiral
- Robert N. Patrimonio - Vice Admiral
- Gregorio I. Adel Jr. - Rear Admiral
- Hostillo Arturo E. Cornelio - Rear Admiral

- Eustacio Nimrod P. Enriquez Jr. - Rear Admiral
- Edgardo T. Hernando - Rear Admiral
- Rudyard M. Somera - Rear Admiral
- Nelson B. Torre - Rear Admiral
- Armando Balilo - Rear Admiral

Balilo is currently the PCG spokesman. (Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)



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DENR supports bill declaring Kaliwa River Forest Reserve protected area

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has expressed its support for a bill declaring the Kaliwa River Forest Reserve (KRFR) as a protected area under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).

According to its Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, it supports all efforts to further protect and preserve KRFR and the rest of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

Joining the DENR are the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and the local government of Rizal province.

House Bill 5055 filed by Rep. Emigdio "Dino" P. Tanjuatco III of the second district of the province of

Rizal seeks to establish the Kaliwa River Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Republic Act 7586 or the NIPAS Act, as amended by RA 11038 or the Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018, mandates the DENR to implement measures and programs to protect, maintain, and sustain the perpetual existence of all native plants, animals, and natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Kaliwa River Forest Reserve is named after its geographic location being on the left side of watersheds situated in Luzon's northeastern seaboard and part of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

According to a recent suitability assessment, the

proposed KRFWS is under the jurisdiction of the municipalities of Tanay, Rizal and General Nakar, Quezon with a total area of 31,883 hectares.

It is known to be the home of various endangered wildlife species such as the Northern Philippine Hawk-eagle (*Nisetus philippensis*), Philippine Brown Deer (*Rusa marianna*), Philippine Warty Pig (*Sus philippensis*), Northern Rufous Hornbill (*Buceros hydrocorax*) and others. It is also considered to be the home of the critically endangered Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*), a species endemic to the Philippines.

The proposed Kaliwa River Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary has 12,147 hect-

ares of remaining forest, with approximately 172 types of plant species, 39 of which are endemic and 17 are classified as threatened. Some species that can be found in the area are *Rafflesia* (*R. philippinensis* and *R. lagascae*), and *Tayabak* or *Jade Vine* (*Strongylodon macrobotrys*).

A recent study on Pungapong (*Amorphophallus* sp.) led the way to the discovery of a new species of Pungapong (*Amorphophallus funtarumii*), which was first found in a portion of the proposed Kaliwa River Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary.

This new species has been classified as highly endangered due to the present threats of forest degradation and destruction.

"All those species are

endemic, meaning, they can only be found in the Philippines. Those are considered keystone species, with crucial roles in defining an entire ecosystem," said DENR Calabarzon Regional Director Nilo B. Tamera.

"Once legislated, fund support for the management of the KRFWS is assured and stringent regulations will be implemented," he added.

Apart from its rich biodiversity, Kaliwa River Forest Reserve is also home to the Indigenous Peoples of the Dumagat-Remontado of the Sierra Madre, who play an important role in the conservation and protection of the environment and natural resources within the area. **Joel dela Torre**



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SAVED The white-eared brown doves (at left and in cages), locally known as "alimokon," seized from a safe house of a vlogger in Glan, Sarangani, on Monday are in the custody of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and will soon be released back to the wild. —PHOTOS COURTESY OF DENR

39 BIRDS RESCUED IN SARANGANI

SOCIAL MEDIA FIRMS URGED TO FIGHT ONLINE WILDLIFE TRADE

By Erwin Mascariñas
@InqNational

DAVAO CITY—Local environmentalists are urging social media companies and platforms to take down pages and channels used by vloggers for the illegal wildlife trade.

The call came as personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Soccsksargen (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos) region rescued birds intended for sale online by vloggers, the most recent of which was on Monday in Glan, Sarangani, involving 39 birds. On Feb. 1, environmental law enforcers rescued 21 birds offered online in Tampakan, South Cotabato.

"Ideally, platforms like YouTube, Facebook and others should never allow such groups or individuals who are into poaching and wildlife trade to operate because it reflects badly on them as well," said Emerson Sy, herpetologist and wildlife trade analyst who works as a consultant to various environmental non-government organizations.

Sy said that his group scoured social media sites last year and compiled more than 200 hunting channels on YouTube and more than 300 groups on Facebook involved

in selling wildlife all over the Philippines.

"We requested Google to take down the YouTube channels since, aside from doing illegal acts, some of them are now 'monetized' and earning from their illegal activities," Sy said.

"Most deals were closed via Facebook Messenger, away from any prying eyes, making it difficult for effective monitoring of illicit online activity. In at least one case, a trader was documented using a ride-sharing service to deliver wildlife to a buyer," he added.

On Monday, DENR personnel seized white-eared brown doves, locally known as "alimokon," at Barangay Pangyan in Glan, Sarangani.

Rosalinda Cortez, Community Environment and Natural Resources Office head in Glan, said they raided the house of a vlogger after receiving information from concerned residents. The confiscated alimokon were illegally caught and kept in cages for wildlife trading.

She said the raiding team failed to arrest the vlogger, who is behind the page Alimokon Glan Sarangani Province, since he was out allegedly hunting wildlife species. The page has since been taken down. —WITH REPORTS FROM EDWIN FERNANDEZ AND BONG SARMIENTO INQ



DENR-12 to file charges vs vloggers

BY FRANZ SUMANGIL

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region 12 (DENR-12) said criminal charges will be filed against several vloggers in South Cotabato who allegedly hunted or trapped wild birds for content creation on social media.

Khadija Benpolok, DENR-12 information officer, said on Monday the suspects from Danlag village in Tampakan town will face charges for violating Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the "Wildlife Resources

Conservation and Protection Act," which prohibits the collection, hunting or possession of wildlife species.

"The last time I checked, our enforcement unit was still preparing

the necessary charges against the vloggers," Benpolok said.

The DENR-12 Enforcement Division, Conservation and Development Division, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office-South Cotabato, and the City Environment and Natural Resources Office-General Santos, and the local police raided the village after receiving information from concerned residents about the vloggers' activity.

Felix Alicer, DENR-12 executive director, earlier created a composite team to investigate the information that the vloggers allegedly

hunted or trapped wild birds for content production shown on their social media account.

He lauded the civilians for their information that led to the seizure of at least 21 wildlife species from the residence of the vloggers and some of their neighbors.

Included among those confiscated were a crested goshawk and several short-billed brown doves, which were turned over to the DENR-12 Regional Wildlife Rescue Center in Lutayan, Sultan Kudarat for proper care.

Benpolok said the seized wild birds have been released to their

habitat in Tampakan town.

DENR-12 officials did not identify the vloggers but the agency said in an earlier statement that the suspects' social media channel has at least 22,000 subscribers.

Benpolok said authorities have not caught any of the vloggers and other residents allegedly involved in the illegal wildlife hunting and trapping in the mountains of Tampakan.

"The vloggers and their cohorts may have been tipped by their neighbors before the raiding team could arrive," she added.

Engineer Mama Samaon, DENR-

12 assistant regional director for technical services, earlier said that collection, hunting or possession of wildlife species is a criminal offense under RA 9147.

The law provides that a violator faces an imprisonment of at least one month to four years and a fine of P5,000 to P300,000, depending on the classification of the wildlife species.

Dirie Macabaning, DENR-12 enforcement division chief forester, urged the public to refrain from capturing any wildlife species.

"Let them live in their natural habitats," he said.



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Group cries foul over illegal Bucao quarrying

BY JING VILLAMENTE

Officials of the Anti-Trapo Movement of the Philippines picked up the cudgels for the people of Botolan, Zambales who have been waging a war to protect the ecosystems in their province from massive extraction of sand at the estuary or the mouth of the Bucao River — a vital waterway in their municipality and adjoining communities.

The group on Wednesday trooped to the Department of Environment Natural Resources headquarters in Quezon City along with at least 20 Zambales residents to air their sentiments

on the alleged illegal sand extraction.

Led by ATM founding chairman Leon Peralta, the group brought with them the letter of complaint addressed to DENR Secretary Ma. Antonio Yulo-Loyzaga citing the China Harbor Engineering Corp., Global Sands Inc., Seven West Inc., Magnacorp Realty Development Corp., and Harley Construction, for the illegal extraction of sand at the Bucao River.

"This is a complaint for theft of minerals defined and (punishable) under Section 103 of Republic Act 7982 (Philippine Mining Act of 1995), in relation to Joint Memorandum Circular 1, Series of 2019," Peralta said.

He accused the respondents of illegal extraction, removal, and disposal of state-owned minerals, referring to the dredging or quarrying activities at the Bucao River which were allegedly being carried out with the required lease or permits from the government.

Peralta said CHEC was using a 3-in-1 dredging equipment similar to those being used in the Chinese reclamation projects at the disputed West Philippine Sea, adding that CHEC commissioned at least ten cargo vessels to ferry the sand to Manila to be used as landfills for an ongoing reclamation project at the Manila Bay.



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Quarrying sa Botolan, Zambales, pinatitigil ng grupo ng cause oriented groups

PINATITIGIL ng isang grupo ng cause-oriented group sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang malawakang

quarrying sa Bucao River sa bayan ng Botolan Zambales dahil umano sa pagkasira ng kalikasan ng naturang ilog.

Nabatid sa grupong Anti Trapo Movement of the Philippines (ATM) inirereklamo ng naturang grupo ang China Harbor Engineering Corp., Global Sand Inc., Seven West Inc., Magna Corp Realty Development Corp at Harley Construction sa DENR dahil sa pagkapinsala ng kalikasan sa lugar.

Ayon kay Leon Peralta, founding Chairman

ng ATM, malaki na ang nasira sa kalikasan ng Botolan dahil sa ginagawang quarrying sa naturang ilog.

Inakusahan din ni Peralta ang mga nabenggit na mga kompanya na gumagamit umano ng 3 in 1 dredging equipment na halos kahalintulad ng ginawang reclamation ng China sa West Philippine Sea.

Ayon pa sa kanilang reklamo sa DENR lumapas na rin umano ang mga ito sa itinakda na exclusive river dredging zone kung kayat napipilitan ang ilang residente doon tiisin ang paniminsala.

Nabatid pa sa limang kompanya na gumagawa ng quarrying sa Botolan, dalawa lamang daw sa mga ito ang accredited ng DENR.

Kaugnay nito may mga residente na rin daw ng naturang bayan ang nagtungo sa DENR, DPWH at mga tanggapan nina Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane at Botolan Mayor Doris Maniquiz-Jeresano para ipawalang bisa ang Environmental Compliance Certificate ng mga quarrying companies subalit hindi naman daw sila piansin ng mga ito.

Sa ngayon, nakakaranas na umano ang mga residente doon ng pagtaas ng sea water level na umaabot ng 10 hanggang 12 metro habang nagiging maalat na rin ang kanilang tubig inumin.

Kaugnay nito hahiling na rin ng naturang grupo sa DILG, Ombudsman, NBI at Philippine Coast Guard para imbestigahan ang illegal quarrying sa Zambales. (Boy Celario)



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EYES WIDE OPEN

IRIS GONZALES

A win for Masungi, for us

Isn't it ironic that the biggest threats against our very own homeland usually come from among us – shameless and greedy violators who want to destroy the country's protected areas?



It is therefore a welcome development that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in an order signed by Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna and dated Dec. 19, 2022, cancelled three Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) overlapping the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) and Masungi Geopark Project.

The canceled MPSAs cover 1,343 hectares of the protected area. The canceled MPSAs are those granted to Rapid City Realty and Development Corp., Quimson Limestone Inc. (QLI) and Quarry Rock Group Inc.

"This is a significant step toward the preservation and protection of the ecological services and natural resources of the UMRBPL," said the Upper Marikina Watershed Coalition (UMWC) on the cancellation, which comes after three years of tireless campaigning by the coalition and its partners.

On the ground

The crucial thing now is to ensure that the cancellation is enforced and takes effect on the ground. The coalition is looking forward to seeing this.

More often than not, companies resort to bribing local government officials to skirt around national laws or policies. We must guard against this.

Protecting the environment and its defenders

Indeed, the fight to protect the Upper Marikina Watershed and the Masungi Geopark Project continues.

Some quarries have claimed vested rights within protected areas and have maintained presence on-site.

"Additionally, harmful resorts and land grabbers posing as farmers and IPs have reportedly ramped up harassment against environment defenders and incursions into reforestation sites," the coalition said.

Preventing another Ondoy

Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape is a 26,000-hectare protected area declared through Presidential Proclamation 296 in 2011 after the damage wrought by Typhoon Ondoy.

However, recent studies have shown that despite the National Greening Program and other interventions, the forest cover of the protected area is almost gone at 20 percent and continues to decline.

Aside from being home to a diverse array of flora and fauna, it is also home to indigenous Dumagat-Remontado indigenous cultural community.

The cancellation of the quarrying agreements will help ensure not just their safety but the preservation of their cultural heritage and sacred mountain for years to come.

Thank you DENR for acting on this.

But we must remain vigilant in protecting our protected areas.



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HAGUPIT

Ni Egco

Burak sa Pasig River bawas na

SUMISIGLA nang muli ang Pasig River. Salamat sa adhikain at pagkilos ng San Miguel Corporation (SMC) na siyang pinangunahan ang pagtatanggal sa mahigit isang milyong tonelada ng burak at iba pang kalat sa ilog na ito.

Gumastos lang naman ng dalawang bilyong piso (P2 billion) ang kumpanyang ito upang makayanan ang anumang baha pang darating. Mula sa dating dalawa o tatlong metrong (2-3 meters) kapasidad nito na saluhin ang tubig-baha, anim na metro (6 meters) na ito, simula ngayong buwan ng Pebrero.

Pagayabang ng pero napakasimpleng pinuno ng kompanya na si Ramon S. Ang, President at CEO ng SMC, ang target na mahukay at matanggal ang isang milyong tonelada sa kahabaan ng ilog Pasig ngayong Pebrero ay mapapagtagumpayan na, matapos nila itong sinimulan noon pang buwan ng Hulyo taon 2021.

Siyempre 'picture' o kasama nila diyan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at mga local government units. Di nga lang natin masiguro kung naglabas sila ng pondo. O' baka naman talagang suportang lang ang ibinigay?

Anyway, by the way, highway. Napakagandang adhikain ang mga ganitong postura ng isa sa pinaka-malalaking kompanya sa bansa. Di matatawaran, ika nga, ang kanilang 'social responsibility' at 'commitment' para makatulong sa bayan at pamahalaan.

Bakit ka niyo? Bukod kasi sa kaya na ng ilog Pasig na saluhin ang anim na metrong taas ng tubig-baha, napaganda pa nito ang ligtas na paglalayag ng ating mga ferry, gaya ng ibinabiyaheng ng DoTr, at iba pang mga sasakyang pang-tubig.

Ang paglilinis ng Pasig River ay napakabilis pa ngang nagawa, siguro dahil "private" ang ginawa. Pero, wala akong pinapasaringan dito ha. Buni nang malinaw ang ating usapan.

Sabi nga ni Mr. Ang, ang ginawa nila sa Pasig River ay mas mabilis kaysa sa paglilinis ng Tullahan River. Ito marahil ay sa dami ng pondo, tao at kagamitan ang kanilang ginugol sa pagtatanggal ng burak sa ilog Pasig.

P1-bilyon ang gastos ng SMC sa paglilinis ng Tullahan River kung saan 1.12 milyong tonelada ng burak at basura ang kanilang natanggal noong 2022 matapos ang dalawang taon na paghuhukay at paglilinis.

Sa madaling sabi, iisa lang ang positibong resulta nito - walang ibang makikinabang dito kung di ang mga taga-Metro Manila at yaong mga naninirahan sa Rizal, hanggang Laguna de Bay.

Ang iba naman diyan sa tabi-tabi at nagpapanggap na mga 'environmentalist' ay sinasabi na ang mga nahukay ng SMC ay ipananambak lamang sa mga reclamation site o project ng kompanya at ng pamahalaan.

Magsitigil nga kayo. Karamihan sa nahukay ay galing sa dumi ng tao na gaya niyo. Paano mong itatambak o gagamitin ito bilang panambak sa mga reclamation project kung ito ay mga ebak niyo?



Editorial

Public views on climate change are a policy opportunity

A NEWLY released study by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revealed that there is widespread awareness of climate change issues among Filipinos, and overwhelming support for government action on climate change adaptation and mitigation. This is certainly heartening news in the face of persistent disinformation about climate change, but more importantly, it is a clear signal to the government that the time to ramp up its climate response is now.

The IMF study, which was released last week, is entitled "Public Perceptions of Climate Mitigation Policies: Evidence from Cross-Country Surveys," and was conducted among 30,000 respondents from 28 countries, including the Philippines.

The study's findings with respect to Philippine perceptions of climate change issues and policy were remarkable, to say the least. Awareness of climate change and regard for it as a serious problem is almost universal in the Philippines; 96 percent of the survey respondents here said that climate change is a "very serious problem" or "fairly serious problem," the highest percentage — along with Mexico — of all the countries surveyed.

In terms of when people perceive the ill effects of climate change will be felt, an overwhelming majority of Filipinos answered, "right now," with 69 percent of those respondents saying that their own households are experiencing adverse effects of climate change, and 89 percent believing that other Filipinos are experiencing climate change impacts. Between 91 and 95 percent of Filipinos believe adverse effects will be experienced, either by themselves or by others in the Philippines, between now and 10 years from now.

Awareness of the government's existing climate commitments is also fairly high among Filipinos at about 60 percent of respondents, putting the country among the top 9 or 10 in this category in the survey. Filipinos are also reasonably well-informed about the existence of laws and regulations to limit greenhouse gas emissions (70 percent), and policies for subsidizing renewable energy (66 percent).

The IMF study did devote a significant amount of attention to public perceptions of carbon pricing concepts and policies, which is a complex topic that might be best discussed separately, particularly since the government currently has no carbon pricing policies, nor any apparent plans to formulate them in the foreseeable future.

However, there were other findings of the study that were revealing, and broke preconceived notions about who should be responsible for funding climate adaptation and mitigation.

'Everyone should pay'

First, the study found that nearly 75 percent of Filipinos believe that collective global action is necessary to combat climate change; a majority of respondents across all countries agreed with that, but the Philippines is among the highest. Second, contrary to the assumptions of the government and many other observers, only a rather small minority of Filipinos — about 22 percent — believe that the responsibility for paying for climate action should fall only on the rich countries responsible for the lion's share of global emissions. By contrast, about 73 percent of Filipinos believe that "everyone should pay," which tends to cast some doubt on public support for the government's existing emissions reduction commitments under the 2015 Paris Agreement, more than 90 percent of which are "conditional" on receiving funding from other countries or multinational institutions.

The message for the government from the findings of this most revealing study can be summed up quite simply. Filipinos believe that climate change and its adverse effects are an immediate, serious problem; they broadly support — and expect — government policies to address climate change, and they are willing to pay a fair share of the cost of the global effort.

The Philippine governments, despite serving for a single, non-renewable term, have always been keen to take advantage of positive public sentiment to advance a policy agenda, and the findings on public perceptions toward climate change policy are offering a political win on a silver platter to the Marcos administration. The government should strike while the iron is hot, so to speak; shift some of its focus from contentious goals of unclear necessity or benefit, and ramp up its efforts to combat climate change.



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UAE's COP28 leader: 'Fight climate change, not each other'

By JON GAMBRELL | *The Associated Press*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—The United Arab Emirates pick to lead the upcoming COP28 climate talks in Dubai called on the world Tuesday to “fight climate change, not each other,” directly addressing the anger activists have felt over his selection.

Sultan al-Jaber, the CEO of Abu Dhabi National Oil Co., also described the upcoming United Nations negotiations as an “unprecedented opportunity to engage the energy industry in a technological revolution.”

His speech at the World Government Summit in Dubai sought to present his nominated presidency as a bridge between oil companies and climate activists long suspicious of the industry’s influence on efforts to limit carbon emissions. Whether it will, however, remains in question.

“We need a major course correction,” al-Jaber said.

However, he added: “The strategies we pursue must leave no one behind. The policies we adopt must be pro-growth and pro-climate at

the same time.”

The speech renewed criticism among activists of al-Jaber’s nomination to shepherd the climate talks.

African youth climate activist Eric Njuguna from Kenya termed the remarks “dismissive of valid and merited concerns brought forth by climate activists.” He called on the U.N. body overseeing the talks to install a conflict of interest policy that checks the influence that oil and gas firms have on the climate talks owing to their “long history of skewing and watering down important climate decisions.”

Al-Jaber, a 49-year-old longtime climate envoy, is a trusted confidant of UAE leader Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He’s been be-

His speech at the World Government Summit in Dubai sought to present his nominated presidency as a bridge between oil companies and climate activists long suspicious of the industry’s influence on efforts to limit carbon emissions. Whether it will, however, remains in question.

hind tens of billions of dollars spent or pledged toward renewable energy—and also leads an oil company that pumps some 4 million barrels of crude a day and hopes to expand to 5 million daily.

That oil money fuels the ambitions of this federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula—as well as the production of more of the heat-trapping carbon dioxide that the UN negotiations hope to limit.

Activists have equated his nomination to asking “arms dealers to lead peace talks” when authorities announced his nomination in January. However, US climate envoy

John Kerry and France’s finance minister both have backed his selection by the UAE, a key Mideast ally. The UAE also wants to be carbon neutral by 2050—a target that remains difficult to assess and one that authorities haven’t fully explained how they’ll reach.

“There are moments in history when humanity comes together to fight a common threat. Let’s prove to ourselves that we can do it once again,” al-Jaber said. “Let’s put our differences aside. Fight climate change, not each other.”

Al-Jaber’s speech, which included portions he previously delivered in January, also acknowledged that “capital is critical to make the loss-and-damage fund real and operational.” That fund, agreed to at the COP27 talks in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, did not include a means by which to fund them. Al-Jaber’s speech also didn’t offer a suggestion on how to raise the money.

However, he did call for “real reform of international financial in-

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stitutions and multilateral banks" to lower the lending risk and provide more private financing for "vulnerable communities."

Al-Jaber called on the world to triple its renewable energy capac-

ity, as well as expand nuclear power, improve battery storage and provide carbon-capture technology. He also drew applause from the largely Emirati audience by defending the Opec-member nation hosting the climate talks.

"We in the UAE are not shying away from the energy transition," al-Jaber said. "We are running to-

wards it."

Each year, the country hosting the U.N. negotiations known as the Conference of the Parties—where COP gets its name—nominates a person to chair the talks. Hosts typically pick a veteran diplomat as the talks can be difficult to steer between competing nations and their interests.

The nominee's position as "COP president" is confirmed by delegates at the start of the talks, usually without objections. However, activists' ire over al-Jaber's selection could see a turbulent start to the negotiations.

Amnesty International on Monday reiterated a call for al-Jaber to resign as president-designate and

criticized plans by the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co.'s drilling arm to pump more oil as it saw record profits last quarter.

"Sultan al-Jaber cannot be an honest broker for climate talks when the company he leads is planning to cause more climate damage," Amnesty's Marta Schaaf said in a statement. "It is obvious, despite

Sultan al-Jaber's denials, that his dual role is a glaring conflict of interest which will contribute to further climate disaster and unfolding human rights violations."

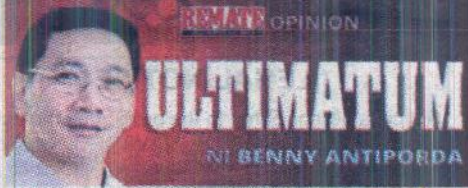
COP28 will be held at Dubai's Expo City from November 30 through December 12. *Associated Press writer Wanjohi Kabukuru in Nairobi, Kenya, contributed to this report.*



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TAGTUYOT AT SUNOG

AYON sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, maaaring hindi magkabagyo mula sa Pebrero hanggang Marso at Abril.

Kung meron man, maaaring paisa-isa lang.

Sa mga buwan ng Mayo hanggang Hunyo maaaring magkaroon ng isa o dalawang bagyo.

TAGTUYOT

Dahil sa sinasabi ng PAGASA na maaaring wala o may paisa-isang bagyo mula Pebrero hanggang Abril, nangangahulugan, mga Bro, na matagal-tagal ang tagtuyot sa mahal kong Pinas.

Bagama't medyo malamig-lamig pa nang konti sa ilang bahagi ng bansa ngayong Pebrero, nagsisimula namang uminit na sa kalakhan nito mula Batanes hanggang Jolo.

Sa katunayan, sa Cagayan Valley, na higit na nakararamdam ng lamig dahil sa lamig ng panahon na galing sa China, nagsimula nang uminit ang panahon.

Sa Tuguegarao City, Cagayan pa nga madalas narerekord ang pinakamainit na panahon sa buong bansa.

TUBIG KUKULANGIN

Heto ang isang mahalagang usapin sa tagtuyot.

Sa mga lalawigan, maraming ilog ang matutuyot bagama't buhay na buhay ang mga ilog na malapit lang ang bukana sa mga karagatang nakapalibot sa atin.

Labas-masok kasi ang mga tubig-high tide sa nasabing mga ilog.

Pero sa mga ilog sa mga pagitan ng mga bundok, marami ang matutuyo dahil sa mga kalbong kagubatan.

Sa Metro Manila, magkakaroon ulit ng labis na kakulangan ng tubig-inumin.

Sinasabing hindi na kasi kayang suplayan ng Angat dam, Ipo dam at La Mesa dam ang dami at patuloy na dumaraming populasyon ng Metro Manila.

Sa simpleng sukatan, sa bawat 12 dram na dapat gamitin ng mga nasa Metro Manila, nasa 4 dram lang ang hanggagaling sa nasabing dram.

Ang iba, galing na sa mga deep well, sa Laguna de Bay, sa mga ipon ng mga mamamayan kung may ulan at ang iba, galing sa ibang bansa gaya ng mga imported na de-boteng plastic o galing sa lalawigan gaya ng Rizal, Laguna at Bulacan.

Tayo mismo nakasasaksi ng mga tanker ng tubig na galing sa mga lalawigan ito at sinusuplayan nila ang mga taga-Metro Manila na malalapit sa kanila.

MAGTIPID NG TUBIG

Ngayon pa lang, mga Bro, kailangan na nating alalahanin na dumarating na ulit ang kakapusan ng tubig-inumin.

Kaya naman, dapat tayong magtipid at maging wais sa paggamit ng tubig.

Sa pagpapaligo, halimbawa ng mga sasakyan, maaaring isang car wash na lang sa isang linggo at naspu-naspu na lang sa ibang mga araw.

Ang mga nagamit sa paglalaba, ipunin at gawing pambuhos sa mga palikuran.

At marami pang iba.

SUNOG PAGHANDAAN

Paano kung magkasunog, meron bang laging malakas na suplay para sa mga bumbero?

Ito ang tanong na dapat may maayos na sagot.

Kung wala, magdasal-dasal na tayo na iadya tayo ng Panginoon sa sunog.

Alalahanin nating manakawan ka na ng 1,000

pesos buwang ka lang masunogan kani isang beses lang.

Alam niyo na!

oOo



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
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SERVICE

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San Jose del Monte inaugurates New River Adventure Park

By Jane Eleda

SAN Joseños have something new to see.

This after the local government of the city of San Jose Del Monte inaugurated the New River Adventure Park in conjunction with the celebration of Valentine's Day.

Mayor Arthur Robes and his wife, SJDMM lone Rep. Florida 'Rida' Robes led a Mass and the inauguration of the adventure park.

The river adventure park is open to the public.

According to Mayor Robes, during the pandemic, people were not allowed to go out, so this is one of the projects he launched in preparation for the easing of the situation for San Joseños.

He said when he was in Congress, his project was to develop parks and playgrounds in the city of San Jose Del Monte.

"Actually, we just hurried it a little bit in celebration of the Heart's Day," the mayor said.

The Mayor also announced that the local government also plans to build bike lanes and jogging lanes on the side of the river bank.



Mayor Arthur Robes and his wife, SJDMM lone Rep. Florida 'Rida' Robes during the inauguration of the New River Adventure Park



TITLE:



Republic of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU Cordillera Administrative Region 30 Diego Silang St., Baguio City, 2600 Tel. No. 83 74 442 6392; Fax No. 63 74 304 2596; Website: www.car.mgb.gov.ph E-mail: car@mgb.gov.ph; car_mgb@yahoo.com; mgb.cordillera@gmail.com



NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF YAMANG MINERAL CORPORATION FOR EXPLORATION PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 21 of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2010-21, Series of 2010, the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the "PHILIPPINE MINING ACT OF 1995", YAMANG MINERAL CORPORATION filed an application/proposal for Exploration Permit for the exploration of gold, copper, molybdenum and other related minerals particularly described as follows:

- A) Tenement No. : EXPA No. 129
B) Name of Applicant : YAMANG MINERAL CORPORATION
C) Contact Person & Address : DARREN P. BOWDEN, President, 18B Point Tower, Central Park, West St. San Lorenzo, Makati City
D) Date Applied : February 7, 2022
E) Additional Applied Area : 2,368.7332 HECTARES
F) Cleared Area : 2,368.7332 HECTARES
G) Location : PROVINCE OF ABRA

Table with 2 columns: MUNICIPALITY/IES and BARANGAY/S. Rows include BAAY-LICUAN (SUBAGAN MAPISLA), SALLAPADAN (SALLAPADAN BO. UD-UDIAO), and BUCLOC (LINGEY).

H) Technical Description of the Additional/Cleared Area:

AREA (2,368.7332 Has.)

Table with 6 columns: CORNERS, LATITUDES, LONGITUDES, CORNERS, LATITUDES, LONGITUDES. Lists 12 corners with their respective coordinates.

For further details, please see attached sketch plan.

- I) Term of the Permit if approved: Two years, renewable for like periods but not to exceed a total of eight years.

- J) Exploration Activities: YEAR 1 (Data Compilation/Compilation, Regional Geological Survey, Semi-detailed Geologic/Geochemical Survey, Geophysical Survey, Semi-detailed Geologic Mapping, Topographic Survey) and YEAR 2 (Detailed Geologic Mapping, Detailed Subsurface Investigation/ Drilling, Report Writing).

K) Other Information: Area Status and Clearance and area verification, the 2,368.7332 hectares additional area to be included in the EXPA No. 129 of Yamang Mineral Corporation located in Baay-Licuan, Sallapadan and Bucloc is considered open to mining application. The remaining areas considered closed to application are:

- a) Declared Minahang Bayan of Ag-agit Small Scale Mining and Multipurpose Cooperative;
b) Applications for Minahang Bayan; and
c) Strategic Agricultural and Fisheries Development Zone (SAFDZ).

The following shall also be closed to mining locations except the written consent of the concerned government agency or private entity subject to the evaluation and validation of the Bureau; areas near or under public or private buildings, cemeteries, archeological and historical sites, bridges, highways, waterways, railroads, reservoirs, dams or other infrastructure projects, public or private works including plantations of valuable crops.

Areas covered by Certificate of Ancestral Domains/Ancestral Land Claims shall require prior written consent of concerned individuals, groups or other government agencies having jurisdiction over the area/s applied for.

This "Notice of Application" shall be:

- (a) Published once in two (2) newspapers: one of general circulation published in Metro Manila and another published in the Province of Abra where the proposed permit area is located;
(b) Posted on the Bulletin Board of the MGB-CAR, Provincial Capitol of Abra, Municipalities of Baay-Licuan, Sallapadan and Bucloc, copy furnished the concerned Barangays where the proposed permit area is located for a minimum period of one (1) week copy furnished the MGB-Central Office;
(c) Radio broadcasted daily for one (1) week in a local radio program and shall consist of the name and complete address of the applicant, area location, duration of the permit applied for and instructions that information regarding such application may be obtained at the Regional Office(s) concerned.

Any and all persons having adverse claims, protests and/or opposition to the above-mentioned application are hereby notified that their adverse claims should be filed within ten (10) days from the last date of publication or from the last date of posting/posting directly with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Regional Office CAR or through any concerned Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) or Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) of the DENR for filing in the Regional Office for purposes of its resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators and/or concerned appellate body/ies pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 7942 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. Adverse claims, protests or oppositions should be accomplished in accordance with Sections 203 and 204 of DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-21, Series of 2010 and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the applicant/contractor by the adverse claimant.

For further particulars, file or course your inquiries to the Regional Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, DENR-CAR, Baguio City.

Issued on January 11, 2023.

Signature and stamp of Regional Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, DENR-CAR, Baguio City.

