

17 February 2023, Friday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

02-17-23

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

Marcos appoints son of so-called 'pinklawan'



LITO GAGNI

PRESIDENT Marcos is walking his talk for unity when he appointed a son of known Marcos critic Randy David as undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. A geologist, Carlos Primo Constantino David's appointment was made last December but was announced only recently upon his arrival from a successful trip to Japan where he served as witness to various investments that Japanese companies are funneling into the country.

The appointment of a member of a family known for their acerbic write-ups on the Marcoses just goes to show that President Marcos means what he says when, upon garnering a landslide win, he offered his hand for a united take on the country's future given the wreckage brought about by the pandemic that saw many businesses either close shop, face massive losses and see debts rise, and resulted in many people losing their employment.

That statesmanlike gesture comes at a critical juncture in our history, what with the massive debt that the country incurred due to the pandemic, more than P13 trillion, that would need a joint effort from all fronts so that the economy can

again hum back and bring with it a medium-income status for the Philippines. In a way, the reopening of the economy has seen foot traffic to malls nearing pre-pandemic levels, which would augur well for the citizens.

The appointment cements Marcos's legacy as it shows that his plaintive plea for unity is backed up by his desire to see through a progressive Philippines. We understand that even a new department secretary was appointed to an important economic post even when the President was told that his wife was photographed holding a photo placard of another aspiring presidential contender. Told about it, the President said he does not mind, and forthwith issued the



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business



02-17-23

TITLE: MARCOS APPOINT

PAGE

DATE

appointment.

With a united front, the President can look forward to more visits to other developed economies that will bring home the bacon for the country, just like in the case of his five-day state visit to Japan where he renewed the country's economic ties and saw through the signing of several business partnerships that would mean more jobs, more revenues and more dollars with which to pay the debts incurred during the pandemic.

It is noteworthy that the country got over \$13 billion or P708 billion investment pledges from his official visit to Japan. About 240 Philippine companies and 1,300 Japanese firms, composed of 3,472 business leaders, registered for the meetings held during Marcos' historic Tokyo visit. From out of these meetings, there were at least 30 business deals forged.

These deals are estimated to create some 24,000 new jobs for Filipinos, helping not only the country's growth but also see through a recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. "Coming back, we have carried with us over \$13 billion in contributions and pledges to benefit our people and create approximately 24,000 jobs and further solidify our economic environment," Marcos said upon his arrival at the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City.

In a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, both sides

have committed to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the Philippines and Japan, including closer security ties with Tokyo over concerns about aggressive Chinese actions in the region.

Marcos and Kishida penned a deal to allow their armed forces to work together during disaster relief, an agreement seen as a step towards a broader pact that could allow the countries to deploy forces on each other's soil, similar to the Visiting Forces Agreement the Philippines has with the US, which would boost maritime security and ensure greater protection for Filipino fishermen.

Japanese firms expressed strong interest in expanding operations in the Philippines during Marcos's first official visit to Japan. The prospective deals include projects in clean and renewable energy, highly skilled manufacturing, infrastructure development, retail, healthcare, transportation, agriculture and digital transformation.

During his trip, Marcos held meetings with Japan's Sumitomo Corporation, Toyota Motors Corp., Mitsumi Inc., Mitsubishi Motors Corp., Tokyo Gas Co. Ltd., and Marubeni Corp., among others, and he was able to swing ODA support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency, which expressed its funding support to address the wide-ranging development needs of the country, especially in infrastructure.



02-17-23

TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

No approved SWMP for 445 LGUs, DENR unit reveals

A TOTAL of 445 local government units (LGUs) still have no approved 10-year solid waste management plan (SWMP) as mandated by Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Plan of 2000.

According to the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the DENR-led National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) reported that out of 1,592 local government units (LGU) nationwide, only 1,147 have approved SWMPs.

The DENR-EMB is looking forward to the approval of all remaining 10-year SWMPs of cities and municipalities nationwide this year.

To achieve the 100 percent target, EMB has called on the remaining 445 LGUs with no approved and submitted SWMPs to take proactive actions to develop their plans and have them approved by the NSWMC.

The EMB urged governors and mayors whose provinces, cities, and municipalities concerned to expedite the submission of their plans, as it expressed its commitment to help LGUs needing assistance and technical support.

During the celebration of National Zero Waste Month in January, the EMB, the Department of the Interior and Local Government and EMB regional offices conducted a two-day virtual meeting that served as a platform for LGUs to raise their issues and concerns on the preparation of their plans.

The virtual meeting was attended by over 300 participants from LGUs across three regions, which availed of consultations and made status follow-ups and requests in relation to their respective SWMPs.

After the meeting, the EMB expressed hope that all LGUs nationwide will have their approved SWMPs by the end of the year.

Under RA 9003, every LGU is mandated to have a 10-year SWMP. The law states that "the province, city or municipality, through its local solid waste management boards, shall prepare its respective 10-year solid waste management plans consistent with the national solid waste management framework."

The said plan should put "primary emphasis on implementation of all feasible reuse, recycling, and composting programs while identifying the amount of landfill and transformation capacity that will be needed for solid waste which cannot be reused, recycled, or composted."

In the SWMP process, the concerned EMB Regional Office will review and evaluate the plans submitted by the LGUs and endorse them to the EMB Central Office for further review.

If the plan lacks specific requirements, the SWMP will be returned to the LGU for further action. If the plan is suitable for consideration, it will be recommended to the Executive Committee of the NSWMC, which will decide whether or not to support the plan for final approval by the NSWMC en banc. *Jonathan L. Meyuga*



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

Cemex, Manila Water pioneer use of biosolids as alternative fuels

Cemex Philippines and Manila Water Co. recently signed a partnership allowing the use of biosolids as alternative fuels, a first in the Philippines and a major accomplishment in helping address climate change in alignment with the Philippine government's priority thrust toward adaptation and resiliency.

"This partnership is a significant step in making sure we maximize every opportunity to increase the use of alternative fuels, ensuring we are forerunners of circular economy and innovation," said Luis Franco, Cemex Philippines president and CEO.

"Co-processing of these as alternative fuels to power our plants help reduce CO2 emissions

in the atmosphere and lessen our dependence on fossil fuels, which is aligned to Cemex's Future in Action program aimed at becoming a net-zero CO2 company by 2050," he said.

Biosolids are organic materials coming from a sewage treatment process. Wastewater undergoes full treatment and clean water is discharged to rivers, and byproducts such as biosolids can be turned into useful resource, such as alternative fuels. Use of biosolids as alternative fuels is an important step to sustainability and developing climate-friendly energy solutions that help address climate change.

"This is circular economy, and this is the way to stand up to what's important in the way we

do business. It's very responsible and a very relevant initiative," said JV Emmanuel De Dios, Manila Water president and CEO.

Cemex Philippines has been offering co-processing as a reliable and efficient waste management solution. Currently, there are more than 30 local government units and corporations working together with Cemex in pursuing innovative and effective waste management system in the Philippines. These partnerships have helped reduce wastes that end up in landfills or bodies of water.

The partnership with water and wastewater service provider Manila Water will utilize the co-processing technology of Cemex which has demonstrated to be a proven sustainable waste disposal solution recognized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"An initial 10 metric tons of dried biosolids has been delivered from our Makati South Sewage Treatment Plant to the Cemex Antipolo Plant, which we hope to scale up very soon," said Donna Cabalona-Perez, Manila Water's head of wastewater operations.

"As pioneers in the country of biosolids as alternative fuels, we have just signed what will now create the series of significant steps towards making circular economy a reality," said Christer Gaudiano, Cemex Philippines' sustainability and public affairs director.



(From left): Manila Water chief administrative officer Roberto Jose Locsin, and president and CEO Jose Victor Emmanuel De Dios, Cemex Philippines president and CEO Luis Guillermo Franco Carillo, and VP for strategic planning Jesus Ortiz Dela Fuente show the partnership agreement the two companies entered into allowing the use of biosolids as alternative fuels.



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

NATIONWIDE ROUNDUP

Environmental groups amplify call for oil companies to wean from fossil fuel

ENVIRONMENTAL groups on Thursday amplified their call for oil companies to start weaning away from fossil fuel and reiterated their demand for accountability through climate compensation.

The groups, led by Greenpeace Southeast Asia-Philippines, said they have sent demand letters to some of the biggest companies, including Shell, Exxon Mobil, British Petroleum, and Chevron.

"Our communities live with the reality of climate impacts. We feel in our pockets and in our guts, with each climate disaster carving up wounds that will never heal. Despite our suffering, you continue to drill more oil and expand your fossil fuel business," the letter read.

The groups want the companies to acknowledge their "disproportionate role in historical carbon emissions and commit to a just transition away from fossil fuels."

"We are not just asking for sustainable practices, we are not just asking for these businesses to change, we are asking them to pay up," Greenpeace campaigner Jefferson M. Chua said in a media briefing.

An agreement was reached at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in November 2022 to create a fund that will compensate vulnerable countries for "loss and damage" arising from climate disasters.

Jochelle L. Magracia of Young Bataenos Environmental Advocacy Network (YoungBEAN) said fuel-driven activities have affected not just the environment but also the livelihood of communities, such as those in coastal areas.

Citing the latest World Risk Index, the groups said the Philippines has been ranked consistently as a top disaster and climate crisis hotspot. —

Sheldeen Joy Talavera



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

COMMENTARY

JESLEN B. TESORO

Thinking green in government

It's lunch time and I am in a *carinderia* where meals are served in Styrofoam with plastic cutlery. The fast service rivals that of fast food outlets due to the convenience offered by the take-away packaging. This has been the norm in *carinderias* since the pandemic hit, but behind this convenience at the moment, did we imagine the inconvenience it would bring in the long-term?

Plastic pollution has become a major environmental problem, with the increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelming our capacity to dispose them. The COVID-19 crisis has led to a surge in the use of disposable face masks and food takeaway packaging, and the environmental crisis is expected to worsen as the world shifts to the new normal and economic activities resume, since we are producing twice as much plastic waste as two decades ago.

A study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development shows that only 9 percent of 6.3 billion tons of plastic is recycled, with the majority ending up in landfills, are incinerated, or leaking into our surroundings. Incineration means profit for companies burning plastics into energy. However, this process of breaking down plastic releases chemicals that pollute our surroundings and cause health problems.

We've been taught that recycling is part of the solution, that we are part of this solution. So, what can we do?

Sustainable Development Goal No. 12 emphasizes responsible and sustainable consumption and production. Then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo established a green procurement program under Executive Order No. 301, which integrates green practices into the long-established government procurement process through Republic Act No. 9184. This emphasizes the technical specifications of goods and services that are "environmental friendly" and which suppliers must comply with. While meant to promote the culture of making environmentally informed decisions in government agencies, the executive order is applicable only to the executive branch of government. With the government considered a major player in the market because its purchasing power accounts for 20 percent of gross domestic product, it can and must take on a leading role in converting the existing market into a green market.

The House took one such initiative in House Bill No. 6468, which was on its second reading in December 2022. Otherwise known as the Green Public Procurement (GPP) Act, its aim was to give green procurement a more holistic character by making it a practice in all branches of government.

While waiting for that bill to become law, concerned officials and agencies might consider the following: First, align the proposed bill to already existing initiatives, such as the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Resolution No. 15-2013 that started integrating a GPP approach in the procurement process; the 2017 Philippine Green Public Procurement Roadmap adopted by the GPPB that had identified green common-use supplies and equipment (CSEs) and non-CSEs, and the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

ALL
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02-17-23

TITLE:

THINKING GREEN...

PAGE

1/2

DATE

Next, it is suggested that the green technical specifications already identified by the Procurement Service-Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) be integrated into the 2016 revised implementing rules and regulations of RA 9184 and into the public bidding documents for reference among procuring entities. Third, why not tap local resource institutes in researching environmentally friendly packaging and other best practices, as well as conduct studies to assess the impact and effectiveness of the GPP and to allocate funds for their research and publications?

Fourth, conduct an extensive market study on the prices and other important details of goods and services, not only for CSEs being posted in the PS-DBM website, but also for non-CSEs to be posted on the GPPB website for ready reference by procuring entities. Fifth, encourage the community through local government units and civil society organizations (CSOs) to mass produce natural packaging, such as those using abaca and banana fibers, to be purchased by suppliers.

Another suggestion is to give semi-annual recognition or awards to consistently compliant suppliers that use green technical specifications. While there is already an existing monitoring mechanism of the GPPB through the Agency Procurement Compliance and Performance Indicators System, there is a need to strengthen monitoring by tapping third-party verifiers. Lastly, regular fora and capacity building activities should be conducted to promote the GPP, with suppliers, CSOs, and other stakeholder partners invited. Having these livestreamed means further reach and easier public access.

A single person thinking and practicing green may seem like scratching only the surface now, but imagine what a whole-of-society approach can do for the Earth's entire surface. As I threw away the packaging of my lunch, I promised myself that tomorrow, I will bring my own reusable and washable lunch box. It may be inconvenient at the moment, but think of what it can achieve in the long run!

Jeslen B. Tesoro is a published author of the poetry book "Unclipped Wings and Paper Planes," and is currently working in the Department of the Interior and Local Government Region 1.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

AS
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02-17-23

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

DENR backs legislated NIPAS listing of Kaliwa River wildlife sanctuary

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

A BILL that seeks to establish Kaliwa River Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary as a legislated protected area (PA) under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act has gained the support of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

House Bill (HB) 5055, filed by Rizal Province 2nd District Rep. Emigdio "Dino" P. Tanjuatco III pushes the protection of the forest reserve and wildlife sanctuary.

Legislated PAs are assured of stronger protection measures and a more rigid management regime. They also enjoy regular appropriation for protection and conservation-related activities.

The DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), and the local government

of Rizal province said they support all efforts to further protect and preserve the forest reserve and wildlife sanctuary against various threats, along with the rest of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

Republic Act (RA) 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



02-17-23

TITLE:

DENR BRKS

PAGE

2/2

DATE

and future generations.

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

A recent suitability assessment revealed the KRFS is under the jurisdiction of the municipalities of Tanay, Rizal, and General Nakar, Quezon. It has 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 (*Nisaetus 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 (KRFWS) has 12,147 hectares 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. philippensis* and *R. lagascae*), and Tayabak or Jade Vine (*Strobilodon 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. Tamoria. "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.



DENR tinukuran pagdeklara sa Kaliwa River Forest Reserve bilang protected area

SUPPORTADO ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang panukalang ideklara ang Kaliwa River Forest Reserve bilang 'protected area' sa ilalim ng National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).

Ayon kay DENR CALABARZON Regional Director Nilo B. Tamoria, pabor din ang DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) at lokal na pamahalaan ng probinsya ng Rizal maprotektahan at mapreserba ang KRFR at iba pang bahagi ng Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

"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," dagdag ni Tamoria.

Sa ilalim ng Republic Act 7586 o ang NIPAS Act na inanyemdahan ng RA 11038 o Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018, binibigyan ang DENR ng mandato na magpatupad ng mga hakbang at programa upang protektahan at panatilihin ang habambuhay na pananatili ng lahat ng mga katutubong halaman, hayop at likas na yaman para sa benipisyo ng kasalukuyan at susunod na henerasyon.

Isinunod ang pangalan ng Kaliwa River Forest Reserve sa lokasyon nito sa kaliwang bahagi ng mga watershed northeastern seaboard ng Luzon at bahagi ng Sierra Madre Mountain Range. Ang panukalang KRFWS ay nasa ilalim ng hurisdiksyon ng mga bayan ng Tanay, Rizal at General Nakar, Quezon na may kabuuang sukat na 31,883 ektarya. (Riz Dominguez)



A death knell in the Sierra Madre

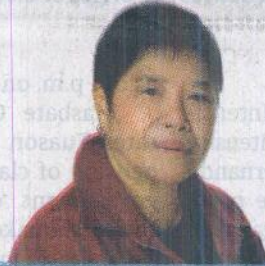
In those early years (of martial rule and as a Columban missionary in the Philippines), I shared the view of many in the social action movement that ecological concerns were more likely to be championed by the upper class, economically secure people who were not engaged in the political and economic struggle. In fact, ecological concerns could appear to be a distraction from the pressing work of building a more just and caring society. Subsequent experience proved how wrong I was.—Sean McDonagh SSC, author of “The Death of Life: The Horror of Extinction” and several books on ecology.

McDonagh, an Irish, immersed himself for years among the T’boli communities in Mindanao, where he ministered and gathered scientific data and formed theological insights as a priest, ecologist, and author.

How about this: “A tree falls. A tree dies. The forest lives forever.” Nah, the popular saying ain’t true no more. Not literally.

Some forests are deliberately killed to give way to human endeavors that would boost human lives in some places other than the forests. Some of these endeavors will wipe away a whole web of life, an ecosystem that includes trees, flowering and medicinal plants, creatures that fly, creep, and crawl, as well as their human brethren that had been there with them since time began. Include elemental beings as well.

While I am writing this, members of indigenous communities from some parts of the Sierra Madre are on a 148-kilometer protest march from Camp Nakar in Quezon to Metro Manila to protest the construction of the Kaliwa Dam that will inundate 9,700 hectares of watershed areas in the Sierra Madre mountain range in Quezon and Rizal provinces. Spearheaded by the Metropolitan



HUMAN FACE

MA. CERES P. DOYO

Waterworks and Sewerage System, the construction is expected to proceed any time now. It is supposed to boost the water supply in Metro Manila, where population increase is galloping beyond control (Another story).

According to a news report by Delfin T. Mallari Jr., participating in the march are more than 300 tribe members, church leaders and workers, environmentalists, farmers, and residents from northern Quezon. Last Tuesday, the Inquirer had, for its banner photo, a Dumagat-Remontado woman tribe elder explaining, with maps and all, at a press conference the dam’s impact on their survival.

There could be no stopping the construction of the dam meant to be completed in 2026 through a P12.2-billion development assistance agreement with China Energy, but the protest marchers are doing a last-ditch effort. This partnership with China rings alarm bells for me.

Just a few months ago, we wrote paeans to the great Mountain Mother for shielding the lowlands from the fury of the storm that emanated from the Pacific Ocean. Myths and legends about the Sierra Madre sprang back to

life, giving glimpses of the mountain’s forest primeval that many could not have visualized.

I did go through the foothills of the Sierra Madre a few months ago for an event at the Carmelite monastery in Infanta, Quezon, where joyful nuns live out their contemplative life in communion with the wilderness and the community around them, a refreshing move from the confining, cloistered life of old. Progressive Bishop Julio Labayen, himself a Carmelite, inspired this monastic community’s founding. Though no longer around, Labayen’s confreres in the Infanta prelature are active in the Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance.

The alliance’s estimate of families to be affected is about 1,465, something like a barangay in Metro Manila. But, hey, 1,465 families in the 9,700-ha in the Sierra Madre ancestral domain cannot be compared. One cannot simply count human heads. As I said earlier, an area in the so-called “last great forest” is host to more than just human beings. Even the forest floor is alive! I, who had climbed mountains as part of my journalistic itinerary, had seen this.

Inexorable could be the word to describe the Kaliwa Dam project, which means there could be no stopping it? The “Stop Kaliwa Dam, Save Our Future!” petition is still hoping for “alternatives” and saying “yes, to better solutions.” Read the full text in bit.ly/stopkaliwadam.

In the petition is a reminder from Pope Francis’ encyclical “Laudato Si” on the environment: “Caring for ecosystems demands farsightedness, since no one looking for quick and easy profit is truly interested in their preservation. But the cost of the damage caused by such selfish lack of concern is much greater than the economic benefits to be obtained.”

Send feedback to cerespd@gmail.com



TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

Urban farms

When I was last in the US the other year, I noticed a growing movement to convince suburbanites to convert their lawns and/or backyards to grow vegetables, fruits and herbs. The sustainability movement is about preserving the environment and promoting healthy living.

All that green grass in suburban homes may look nice but bad for the environment. The maintenance required to keep those lawns green increases greenhouse gases, pollutes ecosystems, wastes water, and diminishes biodiversity. Hmm... all those golf courses should start buying carbon credits too.

DEMAND AND SUPPLY



BOO CHANCO

Grass lawns, the sustainability crowd points out, are expensive, unsustainable, and poor investments. Grass lawns and their upkeep come with heavy carbon costs. Better to grow salad vegetables and kitchen herbs and spices instead.

Urban farms may sound exotically new to many but not for me. My late mother, who grew up in Camiling, Tarlac, managed a small urban farm in our 450-square meter lot in Paco, Manila where we lived. She was a doctor whose medical clinic was in our house.

I am not sure it could be done the way my mother did it back then in the 50s and 60s. There must be ordinances that ban piggeries. She raised at any one time, up to three mother pigs, a dozen or two of chickens, some ducks and a couple of geese. We also had a lot of banana trees, a guava, star apple, mango and coconut trees within the lot.

We grew some vegetables. And all the household garbage ended up in a compost pit that produced the organic fertilizer for the plants.

Being a stickler for cleanliness, my mom made sure the pig pens are clean and odor free so we got no complaints from the neighbors. Still, there were times when some avian pest would decimate our chickens.

So urban farming may be considered something trendy



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



TITLE:

urban farms ...

PAGE

1

02-17-23

DATE

today but my mom had been there long before. She was far ahead of her time.

What is urban farming for today's generations? I Googled to find out.

Urban farming, according to one website, is a local food system of growing plants and raising livestock in and around cities, as opposed to traditional rural areas. It claims that today, 800 million people around the world rely on urban agriculture for access to fresh, healthy foods.

"Urban agriculture is versatile, allowing for different crops to be grown. This provides urban communities with direct access and control over nutritious and locally-produced food, which creates jobs and boosts the local economy.

"Urban farming is also good for the environment and positively impacts household food security. All of these factors result in poverty reduction, which helps quickly developing urban areas."

If it is so good, why aren't we seeing more of it around us? I emailed Tessie Sy-Coson and Robina Gokongwei-Pe to get them excited about using the resources of their conglomerates to promote urban farming.

Their conglomerates include a property arm which I am sure, has done a lot of land banking. A lot of the land in their land bank is probably idle while waiting for the next condo/mall plans to materialize. In the meantime, why not grow some food there.

One other reason why I zeroed in on these two ladies is because they have giant supermarkets. There are times when typhoons and floods cut off our vegetable supply line from Baguio. It is good to have an in-city source.

That was also what former agriculture secretary Art Yap was thinking of, an alternative to Baguio vegetables. We visited some of these upland farms in Quezon province with Baguio cool weather and the idea seemed promising. Sec. Art established *bagsakan* markets along the superhighway to NCR but I guess this was not enough.

I am not sure I convinced the two ladies. Their replies to me were rather lukewarm. Perhaps, they might be thinking they are too big to think this small and I am wasting their time.

Is the idea too small for a big conglomerate?

Not if you ask Ramon Ang of San Miguel. RSA initiated an urban farming project on a 750-sqm space right in SMC's head

office complex in Ortigas Center. Called Backyard Bukid, it aims to respond to food security, generate additional income and develop a sense of empowerment among some of its head office support staff.

Those who signed up are now growing produce to either augment their own food supply or to sell to other employees. The "gardeners" visit the garden twice a day, six times a week. They assign among themselves who will sow seeds, water the plants, apply organic fertilizer and remove weeds.

The selling process is also a team effort, as each member makes sure all orders are fulfilled.

SMC tapped the School for Experiential and Entrepreneurial Development (SEED) Philippines to help launch the project. SEED conducted agri-entrepreneurship training and mentorship program with modules on values formation, farm management, supply chain management and agri-enterprise development.

SMC's backyard gardeners have successfully grown bokchoy, camote, eggplant, kangkong, green lettuce, romaine lettuce, mustard, okra, siling labuyo, pechay, cilantro, winged bean and kale.

They tested their entrepreneurial skills last year when they held their first box-all-you-can-event, where customers pay a fixed amount for a full box of fresh produce from the "bukid."

Last Christmas, they also offered the Halaman Holidays Growing Kits, a DIY home gardening kit complete with seedlings, a ceramic vase, soil, fertilizer and a growing guide. RSA said they will expand the project to other SMC sites.

It amazes me how RSA can think of very big projects one day like a brand-new international airport and the next day, a backyard garden on a 750-sqm portion of SMC's head office parking lot. The very big and the very small projects are both needed as we face the future.

I noticed in my QC property tax receipt this year that there is now an imposition for idle land. NCR LGUs should require idle lot owners to plant or the city can use the money collected to have someone else to plant. The urban areas must think of their food security too.

Boo Chanco's email address is bchanco@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @boochanco



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

02-17-23

DATE _____

BuCor to probe titling of Masungi Georeserve

By RALPH EDWIN VILLANUEVA

The Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) has vowed to investigate the reported "ocular inspection" of the Masungi Georeserve by some of its personnel.

Five cars and about 20 people who claimed to be BuCor personnel arrived at the conservation site at around 6 a.m. yesterday to conduct an ocular inspection, the Masungi Georeserve Foundation reported yesterday.

In a statement, the foundation said the BuCor

personnel showed a "newly minted title" for over 270 hectares of the property in the name of BuCor.

In a message to **The STAR**, BuCor acting director Gregorio Catapang Jr. said he would ask for an investigation report on the circumstances surrounding the incident.

He stressed that BuCor supports the Masungi Geopark project.

"There is nothing to worry about as we are all pro-environment," Catapang said.

The foundation said the remaining 30 hectares of Lot 10 were reportedly titled in the name of the Department of Environment and Natural

Resources.

"Lot 10 and the 300 hectares in question comprise the Masungi Georeserve," it noted.

The foundation asked the government to intervene to uphold the Masungi Geopark project.

It asked for the appointment of a "competent project manager" to resolve conflicts and prevent further violence against environment defenders.

The foundation also called for a stop to "unending issuances and applications of unscrupulous instruments within Masungi and adjacent protected areas and make those responsible accountable."



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

02-17-23

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

DENR urged to stop quarrying in Zambales river

A GROUP yesterday appealed to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to order a stop into the ongoing quarrying in Bucao River in Botolan, Zambales that is causing destruction to the river.

According to ATM cause-oriented group, the dredging being done on the river is damaging the nature in Botolan.

Leon Peralta, founding chairman of ATM, also said residents in the area are complaining of the ill effects of quarrying.

The residents said they are now experiencing an increase in the sea water level, reaching 10 to 12 meters, while their drinking water is also becoming salty.

In their complaint filed before the DENR, Peralta said the companies conducting quarrying activities at Bucao River are allegedly using 3-in-1 dredging equipment that is almost similar to the machine used in the reclamation done by China in the West Philippine Sea.

The group also stated in their complaint that the quarrying firms exceeded the imposed exclusive river dredging zone, forcing residents to endure the effects of the ongoing excavation.

Peralta said of the five companies conducting quarrying operations in Botolan Tiver, only two are accredited by the DENR.

The group requested the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Ombudsman, the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine Coast Guard to investigate the alleged illegal quarrying in Botolan.

Meanwhile, affected residents have sought the help of the DENR, the Department of Public Works and Highways and the offices of Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane and former Botolan Mayor Doris Maniquiz-Jeresano for the cancellation of the Environmental Compliance Certificate of the quarrying companies. **Jane Eleda**



APMC, may paglabag daw sabi ng DENR!

HINDI ko alam kung sino ang sinungaling o sino ang nagsasabi ng totoo sa pagitan ng Altai Philippine Mining Corp (APMC) o Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Hinggil ito sa kontrobersiyal na mining na nagaganap sa Sibuyan Island sa Romblon. Ang mga nagreklamang residente, sunud-sunod ng dumarating sa aming action center.

Naging ugat ng kaguluhan sa probinsiya ng Romblon ang umano'y mining activities ng APMC.

Pahayag ng APMC sa media kamakailan: We, in ALTAI, vehemently deny all malicious allegations hurled against us. WE ARE NOT ILLEGAL MINING OPERATORS. We will address each and every issue before the proper forum so we can focus on the real issues at hand.

Merong daw silang permit to explore, transport and ship ore samples mula sa DENR. Eh ano ngayon kung may permit kayo, kung marami namang naperwisyo ng



inyong pagmimina?!

Iba'yung lehitimo ang ginagawa dahil may permit. Iba naman'yung may permit pero may mga paglabag na ginagawa kaya nagiging ilegal ang aktibidades.

Eto naman ang sabi ng DENR na naka-post sa kanilang website noong February 8, 2023:

1. Altai Philippines Mining Corporation (APMC) to CEASE AND DESIST the construction and operation of its causeway in Sitio Bato, Brgy. España, San Fernando, Romblon;

2. Ore Transport Permit No. OTP-APMC-162-001-2022-MIMAROPA issued to APMC is SUSPENDED, in view of the non-operation of its causeway;

3. APMC to STOP transporting ore from the contract site to the causeway;

(Sundan sa pahina 5)

BEN TULFO... Mula pahina 4

4. APMC's application for Miscellaneous Lease Agreement is DENIED for its violations of Commonwealth Act 141, as amended, otherwise known as the Public Land Act, and its related issuances;

5. PENRO Romblon to file appropriate legal actions, if warranted, on the reported cutting of trees without permit; and

6. PENRO Romblon to conduct investigation on the alleged damage/destruction of seagrass and other marine resources.

All these orders are IM-

MEDIATELY EXECUTORY upon receipt."

Nitong Martes lang, may mga taga-Romblon akong nakausap na dumating sa aming tanggapan. Isa sila sa mga humarang kamakailan sa nagpupumilit na truck umano ng APMC sa kabila ng violation notice ng DENR na nakapaskil sa mining site.

Ngayong ipina-BITAG na kayo, magbantay kami sa inyong mga sasabihin APMC kung tugma ang inyong mga sinasabi sa inyong pinagagagawa.



50 troso ng narra, nasabat

MALOLOS CITY, Bulacan - Sa patuloy na implementasyon ng Oplan Kalikasan, 50 iligal na mga troso ng narra ang nasabat sa lalawigang ito matapos ang buy-bust operation na isinagawa ng Criminal Investigation and Detection Group Regional Field Unit 3 (CIDG-RFU3) kasama ang Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources Office (BENRO), Bulacan Police Provincial Office (BPPO), Pandi Municipal Police Station at City Environmental

and Natural Resources (CENRO) na ginanap sa Matiaga St., San Roque, Pandi, Bulacan noong Martes.

Dalawang suspek ang inaresto at 43 piraso ng 1x10x6 pulgada at pitong piraso ng 1x10x7 pulgada ng troso na narra ang nakumpiska na may tinatayang market value na humigit kumulang P45,000 kasama ang isang sasakyan.

Kasunod ng matagumpay na implementasyon ng pansamantalang pagsuspindi sa pagmimina, nakiusap

si Gob. Daniel Fernando na itigil na ang pagsasagawa ng mga iligal na aktibidad sa lalawigan at singuro na ang mga gumagawa ng iligal ay harap sa naaayong kaparusahan.

Nahaharap ngayon ang mga naarestong suspek sa kasong paglabag sa PD 705 o ang illegal possession of timber - narra at inihahanda na para sa pagsasampa sa Bulacan Provincial Prosecutor's Office sa lungsod na ito. (Crisar Padilla)



WATER STRESS BA ANG PILIPINAS?

SA pagtatapos ng buwan ng Pebrero ngayong 2023, inaasahan ang deklarasyon ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) ng pagsisimula ng "Summer season" o "dry season" sa ating bansa.

Dala ng epekto nang magsisimula ng "El Nino phenomenon", tinatayang mas mahaba at mas mainit na panahon ang ating mararanasan ngayong tag-init na ito.

Kaya ngayon pa lamang ay nagbibigay babala na ang National Water Resources Board (NWRB), bagamat mataas pa sa ngayon ang water level ng Angat dam na nasa 211.90 meters na siyang pangunahing pinagkukunan ng Metro Manila ng pangangailangan nito sa malinis na tubig, na maghanda o ika nga sa wikang English, "brace yourself".

Alam n'yo ba na 16 years na pa lang nakararanas ng water stress ang National Capital Region at ang malaking bahagi ng bansa?

Batay sa depenison, ang water stress ay ang kakulangan sa malinis na tubig sa isang ak-

mang panahon o pagkakatagan.

Sa datos ng Council of Foreign Relations (CFR), nasa dalawang bilyong tao sa buong mundo ang nakararanas ng water stress kung saan 10% nang kasalukuyang populasyon ang walang access sa malinis na tubig o nasa 11 milyong katao.

Sinabi mismo ng NWRB na simula pa taong 2007 ay water stress na ang 33 highly urbanized cities (HUCs) ng bansa partikular ang lahat ng nasa Metro Manila gayundin ang mga lungsod ng Angeles, Bacolod, Baguio, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, General Santos, Iligan, Iloilo, Lucena, Olongapo, Puerto Princesa, Tacloban, Zamboanga, at iba pa.

Ibig sabihin, bumababa na sa pagitan ng 1,000 m3 hanggang 1,700 m3 per capita per year ang nagagamit na malinis na tubig ng mga nabanggit nating HUC's. Noong taong 1995, ang water availability sa bansa ay nasa 2,100 m3 per capita per year, at sa kasalukuyan ay nasa 1,300 m3 per capita per year na tayo.



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

That thing called climate change



BUSINESS CORRIDOR

FIL C. SIONIL

In his 2nd State of the Union Address Tuesday last week, US President Joe Biden told members of Congress that the climate crisis is a “reality” and encompassing, it has no colors nor boundaries.

As he pointed out: “Climate change is literally an existential threat to our nation and to the world.” Anywhere else, the paradigm is environmental, social and governance (ESG). Thus, it’s no surprise to me that most of the businesses, from banking to mining, described to be one of the most pollution contributors, are into ESG.

That thing called climate change has actually engulfed the Rotary Club Makati-Paseo de Roxas, where I am a member. Recycling plastics is one of the projects that we support.

One mining firm that has the same paradigm is Eramen Minerals, Inc. Like the late Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Gina Lopez, I’m indifferent to mining firms because of the environmental hazards its operations pose to the localities.

Eramen, though, has a good story to tell. Learned that this mining firm bagged the prestigious 2022 Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award in the Surface Mining Category and 1st runner-up in the Best Mining Forest in the Metallic Category at the 68th Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference.

It was in acknowledgement of its exceptional commitment, initiative, and innovation in environmental protection, safety and health management, and social development.

My research showed that sometime two years ago Eramen launched the Mine Environment Modernization (MEMO) Program to enhance its environmental protection and natural

resource management.

One of the projects under the MEMO program was the development of a new 1-hectare forest nursery with a capacity to grow 500,000 seedlings. The new nursery is also the location of Eramen’s Forestry Research Laboratory, aimed to boost the cultivation of high-quality seedlings, particularly the Mindoro Pines, using in vitro germination.

To date, Eramen has planted over 510,000 trees covering more than 657 hectares, including mined-out sites, buffer zones, NGP, and DENR-Eramen bamboo plantation program areas.

In addition to the forest nursery, Eramen also developed an organic agroforestry farm to grow a variety of fruits, vegetables, and other crops not only to augment food sources and sustainability of the mine but also to aid in reducing the impact of climate change.

As a chemist, I was awed by its waste-to-nutrient project, gathering vegetative waste or biomass to capture not only the biological macro-element such as nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus but also beneficial microelements.

Through the process, symbiotic microorganisms will grow exponentially, and dosing of enzymes is done periodically henceforth, producing cytokinin enhancers in the form of liquor. The liquor then is applied to seedlings in the nursery, especially endemic and native species of Mindoro Pine, which exhibit good growth and development proven after a year of experimentation.

Food waste and animal manure are being used to produce organic fertilizer that is mixed with other media for potting and final capping activities in progressive rehabilitation – Gulayan sa Minahan and agroforestry areas. Way to go Eramen.

As the wheels of business and life churn, it is a certainty that we have to our share in protecting mother nature. It’s a reality that all of us must contribute our share for the sake of our children’s future.

Talkback to me at sionil731@gmail.com



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



PAGE

 UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02-17-23

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

MAGNITUDE 6 QUAKE JOLTS MASBATE

Over 100 aftershocks recorded

By NIÑO LUCES,
AARON RECUENCO,
ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

A magnitude 6.0 earth-
quake
rocked
Butuan

town in Masbate early yes-
terday morning, causing
minor damage to several
buildings and houses, and
triggering power outage
and class suspensions in the
province.

(Turn to Page 2)



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

2 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2023

Magnitude ...

(From Page 1)

Asst. Sec. Raffy Alejandro IV, spokesperson of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), said the

suspension of classes is part of the safety measures as local authorities conducted assessment on establishments and other infrastructures.

Based on the initial assessment, the tremor resulted in the power outage in Masbate and Ticao

Island.

"There were no major damage reported as of reporting time," Alejandro said in a statement issued at 7 a.m. But he said patients of the Masbate Provincial Hospital were transferred to tents outside as part of the safety protocol.

He added that there were no injured patients.

Gremil Naz, Office of the Civil Defense Bicol (OCD Bicol) spokesperson, said minor damage was reported at Masbate Provincial Hospital and at Magallanes Coliseum.

"As of 11 a.m. today, assessment is still ongoing. Cracks were reported in several buildings in Masbate City and damaged buildings are under consolidation," Naz said.

Naz added that five tents were set up outside Masbate Provincial Hospital for at least 200 confined patients, watchers, and medical staff.

Lt. Col. Malu Calubaquib, Police Regional Office 5 (PRO-5) spokesperson, said that based

on the situational report from Masbate police, there are three houses that are partially damaged in Batuan town, Ticao Island.

Both OCD Bicol and PRO-5 said there were no reported casualties as of press time.

Naz added that power interruption hit some barangays in Masbate.

"May kuryente po sa ibang barangay, pero sa iba po ay wala po," Naz said.

Water service and communication lines were uninterrupted.

Seismologists said the epicenter of the quake was located 11 kilometers southwest of Batuan town of Masbate.

Intensity VII, classified as destructive, was felt in Masbate City while intensity V was felt in Dimasalang, San Fernando, and Uson in Masbate.

The tremor was also felt in other parts of Bicol region and as far as Eastern Visayas

and, Marinduque, Quezon and Negros Occidental.

AFTERSHOCKS

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has so far recorded 123 aftershocks following the magnitude 6.0 earthquake.

Phivolcs had detected 123 aftershocks, with magnitudes ranging from 1.5 to 4.2.

Of the recorded earthquakes, 44 earthquakes have been plotted by three or more stations, while 13 tremors were felt.

The epicenter of the 6.0-magnitude earthquake was traced 11 kilometers southwest of Batuan, Masbate, at an estimated depth of 10 kilometers.

According to Phivolcs, the 6.0-magnitude quake, or "mainshock," was preceded by a 5.0-magnitude quake, or "foreshock" yesterday.

Foreshocks are earthquakes that precede larger earthquakes (mainshock) in the same location.