

09 May 2023 Tuesday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



05-09-23

DATE

TITLE:

DENR eyes mining sector strategy

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is eyeing the adoption of "big brother-small brother" strategy in the mining sector.

The department said it was studying its integration in the social development and management programs (SDMP) of large mining companies.

Environment Secretary Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said the big brother-small brother strategy would include capacitating small miners and enhancing the resilience of mining communities.

"There must be a way to negotiate the resilience of communities where mining is happening, the social development needs to happen," Yulo-Loyzaga said in a statement.

"This way, inclusivity in

terms of the progress of the community as a whole can really be institutionalized," she added.

Yulo-Loyzaga also said that the social development funding of large mining companies must be revisited for the strategy to happen.

"In this government, you cannot move forward with your for-profit agenda without a national dividend that redounds to a local community. And that's the bottom line," she said.

DENR Administrative Order 2010-21, or the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 7942, otherwise known as the "Philippine Mining Act of 1995," requires mining contractors and permit holders to have an SDMP, aiming for the

sustained improvement in the living standards of host and neighboring communities.

The SDMP has a timeline of five years and is funded by the companies themselves by allocating 1.5 percent of their annual expenses.

Out of this allocation, 75 percent goes to community development, 10 percent goes to the development of mining technology and geosciences, and the remaining 15 percent is for an information, education and communication campaign.

The Environment chief noted that the current administration is open for responsible miners who consider not only the environmental aspects of mining but also promote social development.

JANINE ALEXIS MIGUEL



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Manila Standard



UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05-09-23

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

DENR eyes large mining firms as 'big brothers'

By Rio N. Araja

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources wants large mining companies to act as "big brothers" to small-scale miners through their Social Development and Management Programs (SDMP) as mandated under law.

Secretary Antonia Loyzaga said it is high time for big mining firms to help small-scale miners meet their social

development targets by setting aside a portion of their social development fund for such purpose.

"There must be a way to negotiate the resilience of communities where mining is happening, the social development needs to happen. This way inclusivity in terms of the progress of the community as a whole can really be institutionalized," she cited.

She described the big-brother small-

brother strategy as one that would include capacitating small miners and enhancing the resilience of mining communities.

To make this happen, Loyzaga said there is a need to revisit the social development funding of large mining companies.

"In this government, you cannot move forward with your for-profit agenda without a national dividend that redounds to a local community. And that's the bottom line," she said.



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

1/2



REGIONS

Fishing ban lifted in 7 Mindoro towns

CITY OF CALAPAN—Oriental Mindoro Gov. Humerlito Dolor on Monday lifted the fishing ban in seven coastal towns due to improved water condition. But the ban, he said, will stay in the waters off the capital city of Calapan and the towns of Naujan, Pola, Pinamalayan, Gloria and Bansud "due to the risk of contamination by the oil" from fuel tanker MT Princess Empress, which sank on Feb. 28. —STORY BY MADONNA VIROLA

A5

In Or. Mindoro, fishing ban off in 7 areas, stays in 6

Improved water condition allows return of fishers in some parts of the province, says governor

By Madonna T. Virola
@mvirolaINQ

CITY OF CALAPAN—Oriental Mindoro Gov. Humerlito Dolor on Monday lifted the fishing ban in at least seven towns in the province, saying the coastal waters in these areas were already "within acceptable standards" for fishing activities based on recent sample tests.

The fishing ban, however, will stay in the waters of the capital Calapan City and in the towns of Naujan, Pola, Pinamalayan, Gloria and Bansud "due to the risk of contamination by the oil" that continued to linger in the waters off these areas, Dolor said.

At a press briefing on Monday, Dolor said fishing was already allowed in the towns of Bongabong, Roxas, Mansalay, Bulalacao, Puerto Galera, San Teodoro and Baco because the levels of oil and grease in these areas were below the standard

limit of 3.0 milligrams per liter. The most recent tests were done on April 17 and April 24.

The governor said residents in towns where the fish ban remained in effect could still go to other parts of the province where fishing was already allowed so they could make a living.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) earlier recommended alternative fishing grounds to help affected fishers. These are the municipal waters of Paluan, Abra de Ilog, San Jose and Magsaysay in Occidental Mindoro; Boac and Gasan in Marinduque; and Concepcion in Romblon.

Recommendations

Dolor said he heeded the recommendations of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the Department of Health (DOH), the BFAR and oil spill experts to lift the fish ban due to the improving water conditions in some of

the areas that were hit by the oil spill caused by MT Princess Empress, which sank off Naujan town on Feb. 28 while carrying 800,000 liters of industrial fuel.

The spill caused massive coastal damage to Oriental Mindoro and went as far as Caluya Island in Antique and Taytay town in Palawan.

The PCG recently declared it had completed almost 80 percent of its cleanup operations, while the DOH said their samples from drinking water in some areas in Oriental Mindoro yielded "favorable results."

Prof. Hernando Bacosa, lead expert for oil spills at the Department of Science and Technology, also cited test results showing that toxic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons that were found in fish species in these seven towns were already in low concentration.

The provincial government enforced a fishing ban in the affected areas in early March

to prevent its residents from ingesting contaminated water and seafood.

As of April 26, the estimated losses to agriculture and fisheries had reached P3 billion, according to the Office of Civil Defense. Nearly 200,000 people, mostly in Oriental Mindoro, and in some parts of Batangas, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan and Antique provinces were affected by the oil spill.

In Oriental Mindoro alone, more than 75,000 families living in coastal villages continued to reel from the widespread oil spill, said Dolor.

Continuous monitoring

Dolor said monitoring of all sites would continue according to the scheduled sampling plan. "Precautionary measures shall be implemented in the event that the levels of contamination have increased such that the risks to the food safety of fish and fisheries products

become significant," said Dolor during the press briefing.

But Protect VIP, a coalition of communities, sectors and advocates for the protection of the Verde Island Passage (VIP), was alarmed by Dolor's decision to lift the fishing ban in some towns.

VIP, the body of water between Mindoro Island and Batangas City and is considered as the center of the world's biodiversity, was briefly hit by the oil spill in March.

In a statement, Protect VIP said it understood the urgency of letting the fisherfolk make a living, "but we question why the ban is being lifted when MT Princess Empress continues to leak toxic oil into the waters of VIP," and could cause ailments on fishermen if they encounter spill-affected waters.

The BFAR, in a separate statement, said it recommended the lifting of the fishing ban in Bongabong, Roxas, Mansalay, Bulalacao, Puerto Galera,

Baco and San Teodoro as water in these towns were already within acceptable standards for fishing activities.

But it said the ban should remain in Calapan City and the towns of Naujan, Pola, Pinamalayan, Gloria and Bansud as recent analyses revealed the risk of contamination from traces of oil that have yet to be removed from these areas.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had estimated that the spill's damage to the ecosystems (mangrove areas, seagrass beds and coral reefs) in Oriental Mindoro, Antique and Palawan was about P7 billion.

The DENR said the projected amount was not yet final as the actual value of losses following the incident would depend on ground validation, thorough habitat impact assessments and further economic valuation exercises. —WITH A REPORT FROM JORDENNE B. LAGARE DIO



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER



PAGE



UPPER

LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

05-09-23

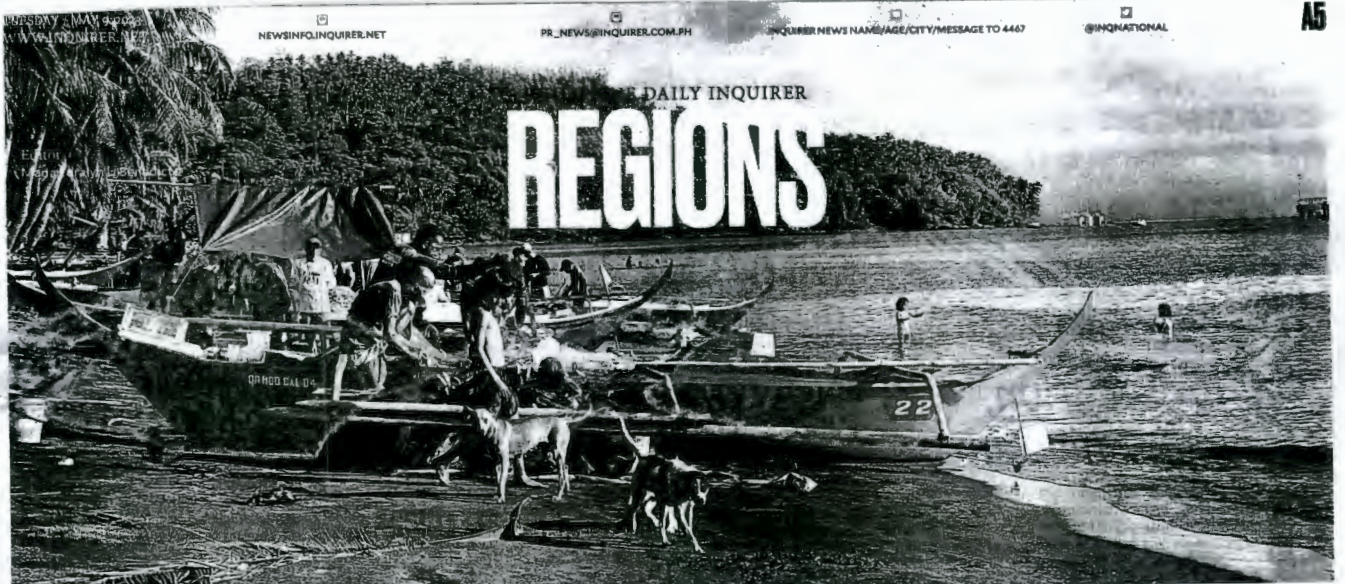
DATE

TITLE:

In Or. Mindoro...

PAGE

2/2



SEASIDE LIVING Residents of Barangay Lazareto in the City of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, spend their day along the shoreline amid the continuing fishing ban imposed on the area that has been affected by the oil spill from the sunken MT Princess Empress in this photo taken on May 6. —MADONNA T. VIOLA

A5



Pagasa should develop better heat index monitoring system - Villar

By **PAOLO ROMERO**
and **CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE**

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) should develop a better and stronger system of monitoring heat index to give Filipinos early warning against debilitating or even potentially fatal high temperatures, similar to the alert system used during other calamities, Sen. Mark Villar said yesterday.

In filing Resolution 590, Villar urged the concerned Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to assess the current status of existing heat index monitoring and warning systems in the country, identify the potential impacts of extreme heat on public health and the economy, and determine best practices and technologies on heat index monitoring and alert systems in other countries.

The senator explained that he filed the resolution because of reports that reached his office about an incident in Cabuyao City in Laguna, where 120 students were taken to hospitals in

the province after they fainted while a fire drill was being conducted in their school and another one that occurred recently at a festival in Taytay, Palawan, where 90 people experienced dizziness and fainted because of extreme heat.

"PAGASA should also give a warning when it is too hot in places here in the country. By providing our countrymen with sufficient and early information through text messages and other technologies, we can save lives and prevent any other heat-related incidents from occurring. If we have a system for typhoons, we should also have one for heat index," he said in English and Filipino.

"I am committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all Filipinos. This inquiry is necessary to ensure that appropriate preventive measures will be taken when heat indices reach dangerous levels," he added.

Villar also mentioned that these heat-related illnesses affect not only

the public's health, but also the agricultural and industrial sectors' productivity, ultimately affecting the country's economic and social welfare.

"With a more extensive and effective system to monitor and provide information on the level of heat in the Philippines, it is expected that the public's health will be better protected. Moreover, it can avoid the negative impact it may have on the economy and the social welfare of the country," he said mostly in Filipino.



05-09-23

DATE

III

PAGE

ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Magnitude-5.3 quake jolts Isabela

A magnitude-5.3 earthquake jolted the town of Maconacon in Isabela at past 7 p.m. on Sunday, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

Phivolcs said the quake's epicenter was located 27 kilometers east of Maconacon. It was felt at Intensity 5 in Maconacon and Enrile, Cagayan.

Intensity 4 was felt in Tuguegarao, Iguig and Peñablanca, and Intensity 3 in Solana, Allacapan, Lasam, Gonzaga and Gattaran in Cagayan.

Intensity 2 was recorded in Cabagan, Cauayan, Delfin Albano, Ilagan, Jones, Ramon and San Pablo in Isabela, and Intensity 1 in Sinit, Ilocos Sur; Dinapigue, Isabela, and Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte.

Phivolcs said the quake was not expected to cause damage