

25 April 2023 Tuesday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Taking precautions is not anti-science

GENETICALLY modified organisms (GMOs)



OR RLY?

ORLANDO MERCADO

isms (GMOs) should not recklessly be made part of the Filipinos' diet. This was our stand when we filed the petition to the Supreme Court to put a halt to GMO field trials in the Philippines, specifically for *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) eggplant, in April 2012, and it remains our belief now more than a decade later.

► MercadoA6

Greenpeace Philippines, Magsasaka at Siyentipiko sa Pagpapaunlad ng Agrikultura (Masipag), and several individuals, including myself, urged the high court then to issue a writ of *kalikasan* against the initiative on the grounds of social and environmental concerns, and the constitutional right of Filipinos to a "balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."

On the opposite side were the institutions behind the project, namely the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications, the Environment Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Bureau of Plant Industries of the Department of Agriculture, the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), and the UPLB Foundation Inc.

In the same year, the Supreme Court issued the writ while also referring the case to the Court of Appeals (CA). Thus began a lengthy battle that mostly favored our side, when both the CA directed the Bt eggplant proponents to cease and desist their field trials and the Supreme Court permanently prohibited the field testing of Bt eggplant. However, it did not stop our opponents from trying to move for reconsideration, which was granted on the ground of mootness in 2016.

Nevertheless, our fight against the uncertainties posed by GMOs did not end there.

Last year we also filed a petition for writ of *kalikasan* and continuing *mandamus* (with prayer for issuance of temporary environmental protection order) before the Supreme Court — this time to direct the DA to stop the commercial propagation of Golden Rice and issuance of safety permits for the commercial propagation of Bt eggplant.

Our belief that these GMOs pose more harm than good is backed by science, as both Dr. Teodoro Mendoza and Dr. Donna Ria Josue-Canacan, who have more than enough years under their belts studying crops, posit that GMOs like Golden Rice and Bt eggplants would cause "irreversible environmental damage through contamination, cross-pollination, accidents and other means when released to the environment."

Thankfully, just last April 18, the Supreme Court already granted our prayers through their en banc deliberations though the ruling is yet to be made publicly available. We celebrate the efforts of environmental advocates, the scientific community, farmers, and legal assistance organizations such as the Community Legal Help and Public Interest Centre (C-Help) headed by lawyer Zelda D.T. Soriano.

As we remain opposed to GMO, we have heard several accusations thrown our way — mostly that

we are anti-science and anti-food security. After all, some believe that GMOs are just as safe to eat as their non-GMO counterparts, and may even be healthier especially if they are modified to have higher nutritional value or have less need for pesticides — the way Golden Rice and Bt Talong were promised to be.

These allegations are simply not true.

For example, while the proponents of Golden Rice said that it would promote the intake of Vitamin A for children with deficiency, the amount supplied by a serving of rice in a single meal will not make a huge difference. In fact, a person would need to eat around 4 kilograms of Golden Rice to meet daily Vitamin A requirements! Instead of focusing on rice alone, perhaps it would be better to make vitamin-rich foods more accessible, such as kamote tops, alugbati and malunggay.

This does not even include the negative effects that planting Golden Rice can have on lands and livelihood, especially as growing this variant might require overreliance on pesticides and herbicides that our poor farmers will not be able to afford. It will modify traditional farming methods.

As for Bt eggplant, it is a variety promised to be resistant to the pest fruit and shoot borer, but how certain are we that it would be safe for humans to eat, especially those who are pregnant or have comorbidities?

Just how safe are these two GMOs for both the humans meant to consume them, and the environment meant to grow them?

The introduction of these GMOs would hurt the heirloom varieties of our crops. Because we lack long-term studies, particularly independent risks and impact assessments on the effect of these crops on the local environment, we cannot, in good conscience, simply turn a blind eye, let them wreak havoc on our local ecosystem, and hope for the best.

We must be very vigilant. These GMOs are — coincidentally or not — promoted by big pesticide corporations which do not exactly have a spotless track record in environmentally and socially acceptable practices. Just because a crop is developed and distributed for humanitarian purposes does not automatically mean we should mindlessly embrace it.

We merely adhere to the "precautionary principle" in environmental law. "When human activities may lead to threats of serious and irreversible damage to the environment that is scientifically plausible but uncertain, actions shall be taken to avoid or diminish that threat," it says.

It is always better to be safe than be left dealing with irreversible damage. Nobody should play God, especially when lives are at stake.



PhilSA, DOST prepare satellites to monitor El Niño

By **RAINIER ALLAN RONDA**

The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) and Department of Science and Technology (DOST) are preparing to mobilize their space and satellite technology capabilities and assets in an effort to monitor the expected onset of the El Niño phenomenon in the country this year.

Joel Joseph Marciano Jr., PhilSA director general, said the preparations will also include the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture and other agencies, and also leverage on the partnerships forged by the PhilSA and DOST with other international space agencies and multilateral organizations.

"We want to monitor the data for the El Niño phenomenon that we might be encountering this year. So that, I think, is a concern that we have to address in terms of mobilizing space data and capabilities as well together with the DOST and various groups, the DENR, the Department of Agriculture," Marciano said at a press briefing yesterday for the PhilSA, DOST and European Union's launch of the National Copernicus Capacity Support Action Programme for the Philippines at the Hotel Hilton Manila in Pasay City.

"Teams are working together as we speak," Marciano said.

Science Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. said the Earth observation activities using the

country's Diwata-2 microsatellite and the satellite images provided by other space agencies were crucial to assess the impact on the country's agricultural productivity and food security.

"Inflation is related to the cost of rice, yellow corn, sugar and dairy ... Essentially, we need to monitor the production and also the effects of natural hazards like during the past typhoons, strong winds, floods and El Niño or La Niña," Solidum said.

"So all of these now can be further utilized and we can now see the very important relationship between monitoring and economy," he added.

Copernicus

The Copernicus Capacity

Support Action Program for the Philippines or CopPhil is a three-year partnership with the European Union on space-based technologies to develop the country's climate change adaptation and disaster resilience capabilities.

The CopPhil project is seen to be worth 10 million euros or P610 million.

Under CopPhil, the PhilSA and DOST, alongside the EU, will join forces to enable the Philippines to develop national systems that make use of the EU's earth observation satellite data to pursue initiatives on disaster mitigation, climate change adaptation and food security strategies.

"The Copernicus program for the Philippines is a pioneer

initiative in Asia and Asia Pacific and a starting point for a larger program on Digital Connectivity. The program will enhance capacities for a stronger and more shock-resilient Filipino economy and society," EU Ambassador Luc Véron said.

"In the long term the European Union is exploring the possibility to create a network of Copernicus partners in the ASEAN region, aside from other parts of the world. The uptake of innovative technologies such as Copernicus will trigger growth, jobs and modernization of digital infrastructures that can be used in many sectors in the Philippines," he added.

The EU's Earth observation flagship program, Copernicus

provides free environment and climate data derived from a constellation of satellites - the Sentinels - which monitor the Earth and its many ecosystems round the clock. This free information aims to help public authorities, businesses and international organizations mitigate climate change impacts and build a sustainable future for all.

In the Philippines, Copernicus' satellite images have helped authorities monitor the situation of remote communities in the aftermath of typhoons such as Odette or accidents like the *M/T Princess Empress* oil spill in Mindoro to help authorities plan their disaster preparedness and mitigation programs.



EDITORIAL

Indeed, let's make it happen

WHEN President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. urged this week his 114 million countrymen to participate in world efforts to address the negative effects of climate change, he on the nose marked the gravity of the global problem.

The world, which now has 8 billion people, celebrated Earth Day on April 22 – but this should be in the awareness of the people every day for 365 days of the year.

“This Earth Day, we urge the public and our fellow public servants to join the global action against climate change,” President Marcos said in a post on Twitter.

The Philippines has been cited as among the most vulnerable countries to climate change with an average of 20 typhoons visiting it annually.

The President is aware of the figures, chasing that with “Our administration remains fully supportive of environmental programs and policies.”

Unquestionably, there are government initiatives to combat climate change, which are clear on the social media sites of the Climate Change Commission, the lead policy-making body which the President chairs.

The CCC ensures mainstreaming climate change in national, local and sectoral development plans towards a climate-resilient and climate-smart Philippines.

At the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

“ We join advocates in not only imagining a #HealthierTomorrow – let's make it happen.”

CEO Summit in Bangkok, Thailand in November last year, the President highlighted that climate change was “the most pressing existential challenge of our time” that indelibly impacts the global economy.

He underscored how the Philippines was at great risk from the climate crisis, as it stood to lose over six percent of gross domestic product annually by 2100, citing a study by the Manila-based Asian Development Bank.

Indeed, Filipinos should rally behind the President and recognize the importance of our planet for the sake of our health and that of the succeeding generations.

Research has shown that 66,230 died in the Philippines in 2019 from the negative effects of air pollution alone, of which 64,920 deaths were estimated to be adults and 1,310 children.

This is significantly higher than previous estimates made for the country, aligning the impact with the most recent literature.

They are among more than 13 million deaths round the world, caused by avoidable environmental factors, based on analysis by the Geneva-based World Health Organization.

This figure takes into account the accelerating climate crisis, which is the single biggest health threat facing humanity, but also includes air pollution, inadequate sanitation and clean water, exposure to chemicals and radiation, and unsafe urban environments.

Indubitably, our environment provides the fundamental requirements for life: clean air and water, safe food, and shelter.

But, as the WHO says, nature is both the origin of infectious and vector-borne diseases and the source of medicines, including many antibiotics, stressing human impact on the environment is increasing the risk of emerging infectious diseases in humans, over 60 percent of which originate from animals, mainly from wildlife.

We are inspired by experts' recommendation to adopt a One Health policy recognizing the inter-connection of human, animal and environmental health and tackle environmental issues to set societies on the right track for future generations.

We join advocates in not only imagining a #HealthierTomorrow – let's make it happen.



Government taps surface water to ensure supply

By ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said that the government is "slowly converting" its dependence on water supply to surface water from underground water as the country tries to mitigate the effects of El Niño.

Marcos said this as he stressed the need for government agencies to make the necessary preparations to address the looming dry spell.

In an interview with broadcaster Erwin Tulfo over State-run Radyo Pilipinas, the President said that the government has stepped up efforts to convert the country's dependence on water supply from underground water to surface water.

"We are slowly converting our dependence of water supply from underground water to surface water. 'Yun ang pinaka-basic diyan (That's the most basic) and then the distribution systems," he said.

"Kung pupuntahan mo 'yung mga distribution system natin sa mga water authority, noong panahon pa ng giyera eh noong nilagay 'yung mga tubo-tubo, eh (If you'll visit our distribution systems of the water authorities, the pipes there were installed during war time)," he added.

Marcos, who recently signed an executive order creating a Water Management Office (WMO), said the

government platform will help deal with the country's water crisis.

"Kasi alam naman natin pag walang tubig, walang buhay. Ganun lang ka-simple 'yan (We know that there's no life without water. It's that simple)," he said.

"Kailangan na magkaroon ng sapat na supply ng malinis, ligtas na tubig na kahit pag masyadong mahina ang ulan o nagka-El Niño ay mayroon pa rin tayong water supply (We need to have a sufficient supply of clean and potable water that even if there's no rain or El Niño comes, we still have water)," the President explained.

Marcos said the government has ramped up its alert and warning systems, particularly the capabilities of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), to provide El Niño forecasts and impacts.

In a previous sectoral briefing, Marcos tasked agencies to come up with a whole-of-government strategy to address the El Niño phenomenon that may hit the country this year until early next year.

Two specific instructions given by the President are the adoption of a whole-of-government or whole-of-nation approach and putting up protocol-based and scientific long-term processes that could be adopted by the country.



Marcos eyes shift in water supply plan

BY JANINE ALEXIS MIGUEL AND KRISTINA MARALIT

THE government will step up efforts to reduce the practice of drilling wells to tap underground sources of water as part of a strategy to ease the impact of prolonged dry spells such as the El Niño, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on Monday.

Majority of Filipinos draw their drinking water, as well as water used in cooking and for washing, from wells instead of rivers, the President said in

a radio interview.

Surface water includes both the salt water in the ocean and the freshwater in rivers, streams and lakes. Underground water exists in the form of wells.

"We are slowly converting our dependence on water supply from underground water to surface water. That's the most basic, and then the distribution systems," he said.

The President said the pipes in existing water distribution systems were installed during the Second World War.

The plan also calls for building "collection pools" in different areas to store water during the El Niño, he said.

Marcos said the impending El Niño could impact "all aspects of life," affecting agriculture, irrigation, water supply as well as the energy supply.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has predicted that an El Niño episode could start as early as July and last well into 2024.

►WaterA2

WATER FROM A1

Marcos eyes

The President said that despite unseasonal rain during the past weeks, "the water level of our dams continues to decrease."

Pagasa reported on Sunday that the water level at four major dams in Luzon — Angat in Bulacan, La Mesa in Quezon City, San Roque in the Cordillera and Caliraya in Laguna — has begun to drop.

Last March, Marcos announced that he signed an executive order to create the office of water resource management under the Office of the President.

National Irrigation Administration Acting Administrator Eduardo Guillen said during a press briefing that the NIA's long-term solution to the water crisis brought about by prolonged dry episodes is to build high dams.

Guillen said that high dams could store water during La Niña season and help mitigate flooding.

He added that the dams could also be a source of power and livelihood like aquaculture.

The President also said he is "enhancing the capabilities of the Department of Science and Technology, of Pagasa, so that they can effectively issue warnings with looming problems like this."



TITLE:

Ways to prevent heat exhaustion in summer

editorial

HHEAT stroke is the most serious heat-related illness. This can happen when the body overheats during a heat wave or in a hot climate. This potentially fatal condition is a result of prolonged heat exposure or physical exertion, when the body's core temperature reaches 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) or higher. Heat stroke needs immediate first aid to lower body temperature as quickly as possible. If not, it can lead to organ damage and death.

The World Health Organization said population exposure to heat is increasing due to climate change, and this trend will continue. Globally, extreme temperature events are observed to be increasing in their frequency, duration, and magnitude. Climate scientists said that by the end of the century, parts of Southeast Asia, Pakistan, India, the Persian Gulf and Central America will experience maximum humidity levels at temperatures over 35 degrees Celsius much more often.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Friday that the heat index in Metro Manila will likely reach 50 degrees Celsius on Saturday. Heat index is what the temperature feels like to the human body when relative humidity is combined with the air temperature.

Pagasa's 50 degrees Celsius prediction is the highest in its five-day heat index monitoring that began on April 21, based on the forecast of its Science Garden station in Quezon City.

Luckily for residents in the metropolis, an intermittent drizzle on Saturday afternoon was just enough to ease their suffering from suffocating heat.

Bloomberg report on Thursday: "Scorching temperatures are roasting Asia this week, stretching the region's power grids and raising health risks as the chances of more extreme events later in the year increase. The worst drought in a decade is impacting a key Chinese aluminum hub, while searing temperatures in India have increased the possibility of deadly heat waves and blackouts."

Bloomberg said Thailand hit a national record of more than 45 degrees Celsius (113F) last week, while countries such as Bangladesh are also seeing April temperatures well above 40 degrees Celsius. "Record heat in Thailand, China and South Asia is a clear climate trend and will cause public health challenges for years to come," said Fahad Saeed, an Islamabad-based scientist with Climate Analytics.

The Associated Press reported last week that climate change is causing more "heat stress" in Europe. The European Commission's Copernicus Climate Change Service said comparisons of data going back over decades show record heat last year resulted in hazardous conditions for human health.

"Southern Europe experienced a record number of days with 'very strong heat stress,' defined as temperatures from 38 to 46 degrees Celsius (100 to 115 degrees Fahrenheit), it said. The number of summer days with "strong" (32 to 38 Celsius) or "very strong" heat stress is rising across the continent, while in southern Europe this is also the case for "extreme heat stress" days above 46 Celsius, Copernicus said.

Heat stress is increasingly viewed as a significant issue worldwide as the planet warms due to human-made climate change. Experts say it can cause a wide range of health problems, including rashes, dehydration and heat stroke.

The World Health Organization has issued health guidance for the public on coping with extreme heat: Avoid going outside during the hottest time of the day; avoid strenuous physical activity as much as possible; take cool showers or baths; drink water or fruit juice to rehydrate and avoid alcohol and too much caffeine and sugar; eat small meals and eat more often; and try to get help if you feel dizzy, weak, anxious or have intense thirst and headache.

Pagasa has been predicting high heat indices in the country. People should stay out of the sun to avoid getting heat exhaustion or heat stroke. People can avoid heat stress by limiting outdoor activity to when it's coolest, like morning and evening hours.

Extremely hot weather has pushed the Department of Education to remind heads of public and private schools nationwide that they have the authority to suspend or cancel in-person classes and instead implement modular distance learning modes. A teachers' group, on the other hand, is pushing for shortened teaching time and smaller class sizes to address the extreme heat during summer.

Public and private entities with field personnel would do well to follow the MMDA's policy of giving traffic employees a 30-minute "heat stroke break" as precaution against heat-triggered illness from the scorching weather. It pays to adopt preventive measures to reduce heat stress among outdoor workers. As a wise man once said, "if you take care of your employees, they will take care of your business."



Didipio Mine gives scholarships

KASIBU, Nueva Vizcaya: At least 75 college and vocational students from different Indigenous Peoples (IP) groups in Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino will receive a scholarship grant from Didipio Mine this year.

The mining company said its Community Development Fund (CDF) scholarship program has an annual funding of P3 million. It will provide each student with a stipend of P40,000 per school year.

"As a company committed to the principles of responsible mining, we place a high premium on improving the quality of life of our Indigenous Peoples and supporting them in their aspirations for progress," acting CDF senior engineer Michelle Daulayan said.

She said the scholarship program is a testament to the company's commitment to give back to the community. The program is scheduled for implementation in August 2023.

Daulayan explained that the CDF Scholarship Program gives a special focus on IP groups.

Last year, the Didipio Mine also hosted a training in ethnic dance, traditional songs and beating of gongs to help revitalize and promote the culture of the IP groups in neighboring

communities.

The company said the training was in partnership with Didipio Barangay Council and the Ifugao Intangible Heritage Performing Arts Society.

Didipio Mine president Joan Adaci-Cattiling said the scholarship program is one of the 42 CDF projects approved by the Didipio Mine CDF Technical Working Group for this year.

Adaci-Cattiling said the CDF has a funding of P124 million this year. This has also been earmarked for other projects such as school buildings, farm-to-market and village roads, multipurpose buildings, a health center, a box culvert, and a line-canal improvement.

She said these projects will be implemented in villages in Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino this year.

Daulayan, meanwhile, urged the student beneficiaries to make the most of their scholarship grants.

"We believe in the power of education to transform lives and spur development. Improving the quality of life of our people while staying strong in our resolve to care for our environment are the legacies we want to build," she added.

The projects under the CDF are one

of the improvements in the renewed financial or technical assistant agreement (FTAA) of OceanaGold (Philippines) Inc. They are implemented outside the mine's immediate host and surrounding villages.

The FTAA is a permit issued to multinational companies sharing technology and resources to explore and extract minerals in the Philippines.

According to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region 2 Director Mario Ancheta, the company's CDF is the first and only CDF in the Philippines established by a mining company.

Recently, the Didipio Mine's CDF planning was attended by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources led by (Region 2) Cagayan Valley Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan and the Didipio Mine led by Adaci-Cattiling.

Officials of the National Economic and Development Authority in Region 2, Department of the Interior and Local Government Region 2, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya Province local government units, and the Philippine Institute of Environmental Plan Nueva Vizcaya-Quirino chapter also attended the said CDF planning.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Climate (in)justice (1)

General Santos City—For the past two weeks, this very dry and arid chartered city in South Cotabato once again experienced almost feverish temperatures of 37-38 degrees Celsius. Last Sunday, April 23, was particularly very hot, and the air seemed to be dry as well, with nary a sight of a moving leaf in the few trees surrounding our neighborhood. The heat seemingly pierced through our concrete walls and made us feel like being toasted in a blazing wood-fired oven.

Experiencing this type of weather here is not new; my family and I started our lives here more than two decades ago, at the onset of a very long dry season in 1998. This does not mean though we have become comfortably adjusted to it: Now, as senior citizens, my husband and I have become weaker and more vulnerable to any extreme rise in environmental temperature.

But thinking about that past and this present urged me once again to write about climate change, but on another aspect—on how the adverse effects of climate change have created more injustice to historically marginalized and excluded populations, both here and abroad.

On its homepage, the Environmental Center of the University of Colorado at Boulder posted this blurb about climate justice: “[It] is fundamentally an issue of human rights and environmental justice that connects the local to the global. With rising temperatures, human lives—particularly in people of color, low-income, and indigenous communities—are affected by compromised health, financial burdens, and social and cultural disruptions. Those who are most affected and have the fewest resources to adapt to climate change are also the least responsible for the greenhouse gas emissions ...”



KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

RUFA CAGOCO-GUIAM

The tragic experiences of Native Americans and other people of color (African Americans), who had been socially and politically excluded through the years, have triggered the grassroots climate or environmental justice movement. In addition to being socially and politically marginalized, they have also been disproportionately affected by the consequences of several natural calamities compared to their white, more affluent American counterparts.

On Oct. 24-27, 1991, the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit was held in Washington. Its delegates drafted a historic document, the 17 Principles of Environmental Justice. These principles have since then become the “defining document for the growing grassroots movement for environmental justice” (Environmental Center, University of Colorado, Boulder).

The preamble of the Declaration of the 17 Principles sums up the group’s assertion of their inherent rights as indigenous peoples of color to renew their spiritual moorings around Mother Earth; to respect and celebrate each of their diverse cultures, languages, and beliefs about their natural world and their ca-

pacities for healing themselves, and of ensuring environmental justice. Through this landmark document, the delegates also expressed a strong plea to be freed from more than “500 years of colonization and oppression, resulting in the poisoning of our communities and land and the genocide of our peoples ...”

Space does not allow me to enumerate the 17 Principles, but one of them struck me as something that the indigenous and impoverished communities in our country, in Mindanao and in the Bangsamoro, must also assert. Principle No. 8 says: “Environmental justice affirms the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment. It also affirms the right of those who work at home to be free from environmental hazards.”

Environmental hazards include daily exposure to toxic fumes from the burning of nonbiodegradable garbage and emissions from factories processing fish meal or fish feed products. The latter is true in General Santos, where many businesses in the fishing industry produce fish meal from the extracted entrails of tuna and other fish species caught locally and from as far as Indonesian or Papua New Guinea waters.

Unskilled workers engaged in extractive projects like mining, drilling for natural gas, and harmful agricultural practices like monocrop cultivation of cash crops are the ones who are first victimized by “accidents” arising from these exploitative practices. They are also among the least capable of protecting themselves from the harmful effects of such “accidents.”

(To be continued)

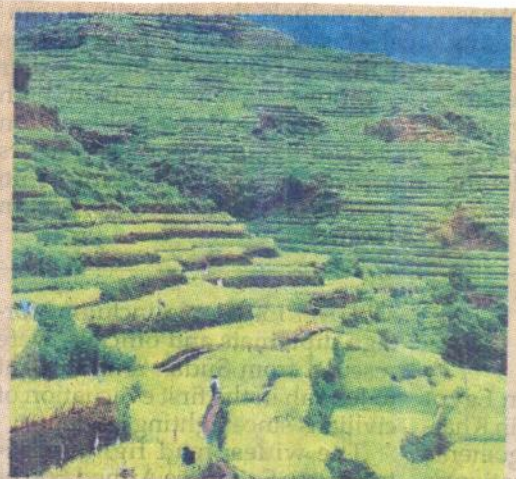
Comments to rcguiam@gmail.com



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____



Maligcong rice terraces in Bontoc.

Bontoc terraces nominated for Unesco award

By ARTEMIO DURLAO

BAGUIO CITY - The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) through its Cultural Properties Protection and Regulation Division (CPPRD) has nominated the Maligcong rice terraces in Barangay Maligcong, Bontoc, Mountain Province for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)-Greece Melina Mercouri

Turn to Page 2

Bontoc From Page 1

International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes.

The Maligcong rice terraces of Bontoc is one of the treasures of the Mountain Province. It is a site where local and foreign tourists can enjoy a mesmerizing sunrise view.

The scenic beauty of the Maligcong rice terraces is best seen at the top of Mount Kofafey, also in Maligcong.

The International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes aims to recognize and reward outstanding

examples of action to safeguard and enhance the world's major cultural landscapes. It seeks to promote the importance of integrated conservation and sustainable management of cultural landscapes.

The prize was established in 1995 by Greece and named after the actress and activist Melina Mercouri, a strong advocate of integrated heritage conservation and former minister of culture of Greece.

The UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize is awarded every two years and the winner, who may be an individual, an institution or a non-governmental organization, receives an award of \$30,000.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
PUBLICATIONS
SERVICE

04-25-23

TIME

PAGE

DATE

Malabon creek clean-up yields 30 sacks of garbage

By DIANN CALUCIN

At least 30 bags of garbage were collected during a clean-up drive conducted by the Malabon City Police Station (MCPS) along a creek in Barangay Tonsuya, Malabon City on Sunday, April 23.

The MCPS said it coordinated with the barangay officials and groups advocating for environmental protection, including Kaligkasan Advocacy Support Group, Alpha Kappa Rho (AKHRO) Force Multipliers, Malabon E-Trike Volunteer Brigade (MEVB), Mike Delta Force (MDF), and Philippine Guardian Brotherhood Inc.

(PGBI) on the clean-up.

The 30 sacks of garbage were collected and hauled during the clean-up operation.

The MCPS said they conduct clean-up drives in Tonsuya creek and other city waterways twice a month.


The Malabon City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) said the hauled garbage in the city undergoes a "Waste Analysis and Characterization Study (WACS)," which is a process of classifying the types and weights of the garbage.

WACS is conducted by barangay officials and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) personnel.




CREEK CLEAN-UP — Members of the Malabon City Police Station (MCPS) and environmental groups haul garbage from a creek in Tonsuya, Malabon on Sunday, April 23.






Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Tel Nos. (632)927-1517; 928-3725; Fax No. (632)920-2258
Website: www.emb.gov.ph Email: recordsco@emb.gov.ph



Management System
ISO 9001:2015
ISO 14001:2015
www.tuv.com
ID: 010000027



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) of the proposed LIMESTONE QUARRY PROJECT of the HELIX MINING AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION to be located in BARANGAYS TINOTO AND KAMANGA, MAASIM, SARANGANI PROVINCE.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed LIMESTONE QUARRY PROJECT to attend the Public Hearing on:

Date	Time	Venue
09 May 2023 (Tuesday)	9:00 AM <i>Registration starts at 8:30 a.m.</i>	Brgy. Covered Court, Barangay Kamanga, Maasim, Sarangani Province

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EIS of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Project Name	Limestone Quarry Project
Project Location	Barangays Tinoto and Kamanga, Maasim, Sarangani Province
Project Type	Extraction of non-metallic minerals (limestone)
Project Size Parameters	Area: 425.1146 hectares Extraction Rate: 2.1 MMTPY
Project Rationale	Helix Mining and Development Corporation (HMDC) is a duly registered corporation primarily engaged in the supply of cement and aggregates (crushed stone, sand and gravel, limestone, and other minerals). The company has been operational since 2000 and operates with a total capacity of 7.7 million tonnes at all cement plants nationwide. The growing demand for cement requires additional limestone raw materials that the company is currently processing to maintain its operation and meet market demand. For this reason, HMDC is proposing the Limestone Quarry Project. The project is located at Barangay Tinoto, which is adjacent to Barangay Kamanga, Maasim, Sarangani Province under MPSA No. 274-2008-XI Amended II - Parcel 4.
Project Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarry Area • Mine Yard • Waste Dump and Topsoil Stockpile Area • Access Roads • Mobile Crusher • Water Reservoirs • Sediment Ponds • Materials Recovery Facility • Hazardous Waste Storage Area • Administrative Buildings • Warehouse • Fuel Depot • Motorpool • Nursery
Proponent	Helix Mining and Development Corporation

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in these Public Hearings should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD) of this Office through mail or email at ela@emb.gov.ph, at least three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable at our website: www.eia.emb.gov.ph (kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found in our website) while copies will be available in the following offices:

- EMB Region XII**
Regional Government Center, Barangay Carpenter Hill, City of Koronadal, South Cotabato Tel. No. (083) 228-1071 / 228-1071
- Maasim Municipal Hall**
Municipality of Maasim, Province of Sarangani

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 8539- 4378 loc. 116 through the project case handlers, Leonil Marie Gergar and Joena Marie Pagulayan.


Protect the environment... Protect life...




TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

 **Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Tel. No.: (632) 8539-4378
Website: www.emb.gov.ph E-mail: recordsco@emb.gov.ph

 Management System ISO 9001:2015 ISO 14001:2015

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT of the proposed Dalton Pass East Alignment Road Project of Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) located in Municipality of Carranglan, Nueva Ecija and Municipality of Santa Fe and Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed Dalton Pass East Alignment Road Project to attend Public Hearing that is scheduled as follows:

Date	Time	Venue	Participants
03 May 2023 (Wednesday)	9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:30)	Covered Court of the Municipal Hall of Aritao, Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya	Residents of Nueva Vizcaya
04 May 2023 (Thursday)	9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:30)	PAG-ASA Gymnasium of the Municipal Hall of Carranglan, Carranglan, Nueva Ecija	Residents of Nueva Ecija

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EIS of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The following is the project information:

Project Name	Dalton Pass East Alignment Road Project	
Project Location	Municipality of Carranglan, Nueva Ecija and Municipality of Santa Fe and Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya	
Project Type/Length	Road Project/23 kilometers	
Project Rationale	The objective of this project is to construct a bypass road that includes but not limited to roads, bridges, tunnels and slope protection works, that will serve as an alternate route bypassing the existing Dalton Pass Section along Pan-Philippine Highway (PPH) in the event of road closure brought about by calamities/natural disasters such as typhoons and earthquakes, thereby directly connecting the Cagayan Valley Region (Region II) and eastern part of Central Luzon Region (Region III) to the National Capital Region (NCR)	
Project Components	Road	Total Length: 23 km Lane: 4 lanes Design Speed: 60 km/hr. Width: 60 m ROW
	Tunnel	Length of the North Tunnel: 4.5 km Length of the South Tunnel: 1.6 km Construction of lighting, ventilation, and emergency facilities
	Bridge	Total Number: 14 Total Length: 3.5 km
Proponent	Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)	

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper submitted to the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD) of this Office through e-mail or eia@emb.gov.ph, at least three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public is downloadable at our website: www.eia.emb.gov.ph (kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/Consultation link found on our website) while copies will be available in the following offices:

EMB Region II 20 Pagayaya Road, Regional Government Center, Cangui, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan	Municipality of Aritao Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya
Municipality of Santa Fe Santa Fe, Nueva Vizcaya	EMB Region III Masinop Corner Matalino St., Diosdado Macapagal Government Center, Mainpils, San Fernando City, Pampanga
Municipality of Carranglan Carranglan, Nueva Ecija	

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 8539 4378 local 116 and look for the project case handler **Engr. Joel G. Polintan** or **Ms. Joena Marie Pagulayan** at this e-mail: joel_polintan@emb.gov.ph and joena_pagulayan@emb.gov.ph.

Protect the environment... Protect life...

(PDI-April 18 & 25, 2023)




04-25-23



PAGE _____

DATE _____

TITLE: _____



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Tel. Nos.: (632) 927-1517, 928-3725; Fax No.: (632) 920-2258
Website: www.emb.gov.ph E-mail: recordsco@emb.gov.ph

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) of the proposed 95.2 MW IN ISLAND BASELOAD POWER PLANT PROJECT of the CONAL HOLDINGS CORP. to be located in BARANGAY IMELDA, UBAY, BOHOL.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed 95.2 MW IN ISLAND BASELOAD POWER PLANT PROJECT to attend the Public Hearing on:

Date	Time	Venue
03 May 2023 (Wednesday)	9:00 AM <i>Registration starts at 8:30 a.m.</i>	Covered Court, Barangay Imelda, Ubay, Bohol

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EIS of the aforementioned project, by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Project Name	95.2 MW In Island BaseLoad Power Plant Project
Project Location	Barangay Imelda, Ubay, Bohol
Project Type/Capacity	Thermal Power Plant (Diesel)/95.2 MW
Project Rationale	The proposed project aims to develop a diesel power plant with an installed capacity of 95.2 MW located in Brgy. Imelda, Ubay, Bohol. The plant will serve as a backup power plant when the Leyte to Bohol submarine cable shall undergo maintenance and when an Islanding Event occurs in Bohol Island, rendering the Bohol sub-grid totally electrically isolated from the Visayas Grid. Additionally, in order to comply with the 100% dependable capacity requirement as indicated in the Terms of Reference of the One Bohol Joint Distribution Utilities Competitive Selection Process, the capacity of the In-island power plant will be the same as the contracted capacity of the power supply.
Project Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72 units of Diesel Generators with total installed capacity of 95.2 MW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 67 operating units and 5 spare units • Interconnection System/Switching Station • 2 x 2500 m³ diesel fuel storage capacity • Plant Switchyard • Operator Room • Cooling Water System • Fire Protection System • Oil-Water Separator • Wastewater Discharge Pond
Proponent	Conal Holdings Corporation

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in these Public Hearings should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD) of this Office through mail or e-mail at eia@emb.gov.ph, at least three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable at our website: www.eia.emb.gov.ph (kindly access the *Notice of Public Hearing/Consultation link found in our website*) while copies will be available in the following offices:

1. **EMB Region VII**
DENR Compound, Greenplains Subdivision, Banilad, Mandaue City
Tel. No. (032) 260-9777
2. **Ubay Municipal Hall**
Municipality of Ubay, Province of Bohol

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 8539-4378 loc. 116 through the project case handlers, Engr. Carl Anthony del Rosario and Ms. Leonil Marie Gargar.

(PDI – Apr. 18 & 25, 2023)