

31 January 2023, Tuesday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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DENR launches TRANSFORM

By Joel dela Torre

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has launched TRANSFORM (Transdisciplinary Approach for Resilient and Sustainable Communities) – a new resilience and sustainability program for localities and communities.

An offshoot of a panel discussion during the multistakeholder forum in Visayas recently, project TRANSFORM will support the government's resiliency framework to deliver environmental, social and economic gains for local government units (LGUs) nationwide.

Mayor Lucy Torres-Gomez said she is grateful that Ormoc was selected as the pilot site for Project TRANSFORM, as the city will gain more environmental protection, assistance and inputs.

"Our localized sustainability and resilience program will now be turbo boosted by the DENR to offer higher level solutions to raising ecological integrity and improving social economic conditions, not only for Ormocanons, but for the surrounding municipalities as well," Torres-Gomez said.

Environment Secretary Antonia Loyzaga said that the project aims to put together all the best practices from both government and the private sectors to deliver an inclusive, science-based, and data-driven template that all stakeholders, partners, and LGUs can use in fighting the accelerating climate emergency.



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Biodiversity: PH's most underutilized resource

It's been months since I heard a really uplifting story, and I wonder how much longer the doldrums will play out. The country seems to have entered a mood of cynical political and socioeconomic nonchalance.

But last Friday, I felt some stirrings of hope during the 16th weekly forum of The Filipino SDG Hour, a Zoom-enabled public gathering of the Future Earth Philippines held every Friday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. (<https://bit.ly/40c7qUd>) that highlights ideas, insights, innovations, and initiatives for achieving the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals in local communities.

Our speaker was Philip Cruz, a multi-awarded scientist-entrepreneur and the president of Herbanext Laboratories, Inc., a highly successful medicinal plant manufacturer and advocate, with 100 employees based in Bago City, Negros Occidental.

Cruz told us, "Biodiversity is our single most underutilized economic resource." Compounds from our forests and seas, he said, can be sources of novel drugs that can bring huge socioeconomic benefits to the Philippine economy, if only we realized their value and they merited protection by local governments and communities.

Sure, we've heard this before, how the Philippines is the center of the global center of marine biodiversity and evolution. In addition to 10,000 species of aquatic plants and animals, we have 32,000 species of terrestrial plants and animals, 60 percent of which are endemic. But our impression of this is more about how much biodiversity is poached and exploited by the more predatory countries of the world.

I sat up and listened intently when Cruz cited some statistics. He told us that two global drugs sourced from Philippine biodiversity, Ilosone (Erythromycin), launched in 1953 for treatment of bacterial infections, has annual sales of \$3.2 billion, inclusive of derivatives;



ON THE MOVE

SEGUNDO ECLAR ROMERO

while Prialt (Ziconotide), derived from the seashell *conus magnus* (with significant contribution from the work of National Scientist Lourdes Cruz) that is 1,000 more powerful than morphine, has sales of \$30 million annually.

By comparison, Cruz mentioned the relatively unimpressive annual value of our extractive industries—\$3 billion from fisheries, \$2 billion from mining, and \$50 million from forestry. These are the industries that have caused us so much misery for decades for promising so much but delivering so little at high political and environmental costs.

Cruz said the winds have changed. There is a renaissance in the use of natural products for health and wellness. There is a slower yield from the synthetic drug pipeline, while interest in medicinal plants has increased. Only about 15 percent of the estimated 300,000 plant species worldwide have been evaluated for their pharmacological properties.

I realized just how blindsided we have been when Cruz said that China alone employs around 2 million farmers of medicinal plants, cultivating some 100 species over an area of around 460,000 hectares. India has some 150,000 medicinal herb farmers, while Indonesia has at least 20,000.

Filipinos have not realized just how inclusive an economic resource our biodiversity is. Medicinal plants are high-value crops that require little input and are therefore suitable for marginalized farmers. For every million consumers of herbal products, as many as 10,000 farmer jobs can be created in the rural countryside, earning at least P5,000 per month. In contrast, imported medicines generate very few local jobs.

The second most important realization I had from Cruz's presentation is this: Without mainstreaming an alternative livelihood strategy, biodiversity conservation is a losing battle. The poor in rural and agricultural settings must be target beneficiaries of biodiversity cultivation and conservation programs.

Nowhere is this more urgent than for many upland and coastal communities, where the cultivation of medicinal plants can help reduce deforestation. The farming of beach forest species can help protect coastal zones and generate supplemental livelihood for fisherfolk. Adding some specific details, Cruz mentions these medicinal beach forest trees that can give protection from storm surges—*alagaw*, *bitaog*, *dapdap*, *malabago*, *noni*, *sibukaw*, *sulasi*.

Having listened to Cruz, I can now find new meaning in Imelda Marcos' quip that the Philippines is a rich country pretending to be poor. Her son President Marcos Jr. is now singing a similar tune, the Philippines belonging to the VIP club of countries and being the fastest growing economy in Asia. I wonder, what would it take for him to repurpose the Maharlika Investment Fund and point it away from urban edifice complexes and toward actualizing inclusive strategic opportunities and germinating new livelihoods for Filipinos in rural and agricultural settings?

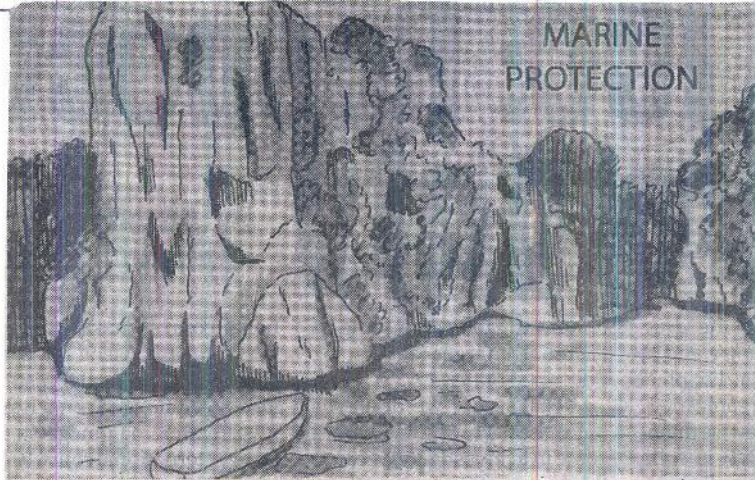
doyromero@gmail.com



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MARINE
PROTECTION

EDITORIAL

Marine area protection

SOMETIMES it takes a law with a separate purpose to achieve what government policy is unable to.

Can a law mandating the protection and preservation of a natural resource also compel the State to repel unauthorized foreign incursions into the country's territories, especially environmentally sensitive and protected areas?

We would soon find out when a bill which had just passed muster in a congressional committee becomes a law.

Palawan 3rd District Rep. Edward Hagedorn has expressed gratitude to the congressional leadership and his colleagues over the swift and overwhelming approval by the Committee on Natural Resources of House Bill 6373, or the Kalayaan Island Group and Scarborough Shoal - Marine Protected Area Bill, which he principally authored.

"I thank House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez for his strong support and commitment for the passage of the bill. The good Speaker gave high priority over the bill and allowed the immediate committee hearing to take place," Hagedorn said.

HB 6373 aims to declare all low-tide elevations and high-tide features, and an area of three nautical miles surrounding the Kalayaan Island Group and Scarborough Shoal as a marine protected area.

The measure, once enacted, would prohibit and penalize certain acts and activities within the waters of the said area to protect the country's marine resources, to guarantee protection of marine habitat.

Traditional fishing, however, would still be allowed as it is considered generally harmless to the marine ecosystem.

The Palawan lawmaker also thanked all the committee members, especially its chairman, Cavite 4th District Rep. Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr. "for ably leading the hearing and for pushing for its approval".

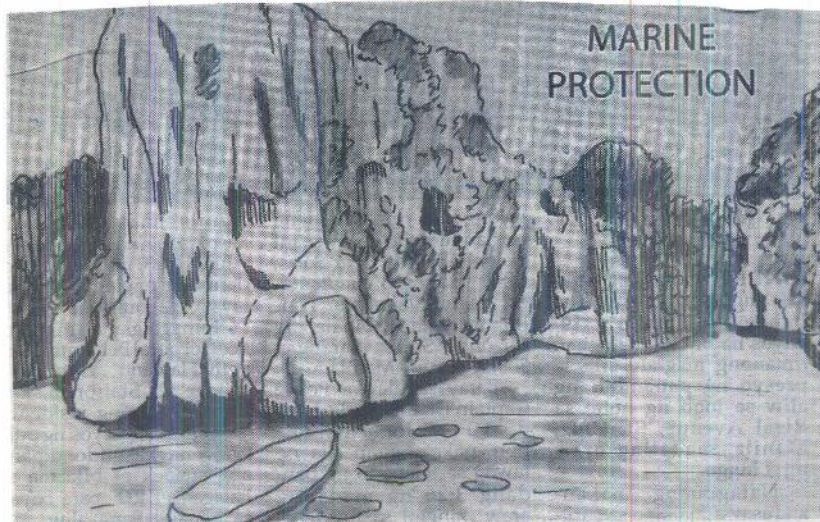
He also cited his fellow Palaweno, Palawan 2nd District Rep. Jose Alvarez who strongly showed his support during the hearing.

"But a most special thanks should be given to CIBAC Party-list Rep. Eduardo 'Brother Eddie' Villanueva who, in my absence during the hearing, stood in my behalf as the sponsor of the bill. He brilliantly presented and explained to the body the very essence of the bill. His inclusion of biblical passages highlighted the overarching and transcendental importance of protecting our natural resources in the KIG and Scarborough Shoal," Hagedorn's statement read.

In presenting the proposed measure, Villanueva stressed that the bill is focused on the protection of the marine environment of the KIG and Scarborough Shoal, and not on the territorial disputes in the West Philippine Sea.



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He cited a study by the University of the Philippines-Marine Science

Institute in 2019 which showed that coral reefs in Kalayaan Islands - particularly in Pag-asa Island, Panata Island and Sabina Shoal - were damaged by alleged illegal activities, such as blast fishing.

"We cannot afford not to act because the habitat of marine life in our waters, which benefits not only the Philippines but also adjacent countries like China, Taiwan,

Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei, is being destroyed," Villanueva was quoted as saying during the committee hearing.

Hagedorn also cited known WPS advocate and retired Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio after the latter gave his full support to the bill.

Carpio, one of the country's leading experts on WPS issues, and whose incisive insights

provided a better refinement of the salient provisions of the bill.

Hagedorn also extended his gratitude the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, Interior and Local Government, National Defense, as well as the Armed Forces for their strong support.

"It is my sincerest belief that pushing for environmental protection for the KIG and Scarbor-

ough Shoal is a common ground that every Filipino could rally behind.

We do hope that this environmental lens would be likewise used by other coastal states surrounding the West Philippine Sea and the South China Sea to promote cooperation and environmental protection for greater peace, stability and prosperity for the entire region," he said.



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NEWS

Manila Bay 'dead,' fisherfolk told

Local officials have been telling fisherfolk like Edlyn Rosales that Manila Bay is "dead." "But that is not true," she said. "We can still fish from its waters." Environment activists supporting the fisherfolk want a government study on Manila Bay's ecosystem before the green-lighting of dump-and-fills and seabed quarrying projects now overcrowding the bay. —SPECIAL REPORT

BY MARIEJO S. RAMOS AND KRIXIA SUBINGSUBING

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Fishers urged not to venture into Manila Bay, told it's 'dead'

SPECIAL REPORT

By **Mariejo S. Ramos**
and **Krixia Subingsubing**
@Team_Inquirer

(Last of two parts)

Local officials have been telling Edlyn Rosales that Manila Bay is already a dead body of water.

Friends who otherwise meant well have told her the same, she said.

But as for barangay officials who compared the 58-kilometer-wide bay "to a sewer where you can only get mud," it dawned on Rosales finally that her family and their community were being persuaded to leave their home.

Their huts are perched on stilts and bamboo bridges on the coast of Limay town in Bataan, the province west of the bay opposite Bulacan province, Metro Manila and Cavite province.

She insisted that "Manila Bay is not a sewer. They've been telling us that Manila Bay is dead, but that is not true. We can still fish from its waters."

In this fisherfolk community, it was her task to sift through her husband and brother's catch—mostly "alubaybay," a sardine variety. She would place the fish in neat rows on bamboo mats, then salt and dry them in the sun, until they are ready to be packed and sold.

With that catch, how could Manila Bay be dead?

DENR order

Environment activists supporting the fisherfolk in Limay want the government to do a thorough study of Manila Bay's ecosystem before green-lighting dump-and-fills and seabed quarrying projects that are now overcrowding the bay.

These activities, they said, are reversing the ongoing rehabilitation efforts there.

Seabed quarrying, however, is permitted by Administrative Order No. 2000-25 of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The 2000 order authorizes the "utilization of offshore areas not covered by approved mining permits and contracts as sources of dredgefill materials for government reclamation projects and for other purposes."

Under that directive, seabed quarrying ventures may secure a permit from the DENR, while the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, an agency of the department, is tasked to study the "character of the seafloor" in the sites for those enterprises.

Another agency, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, which is under the Department of Agriculture, evaluates how those projects may affect aquatic and fishing grounds in their intended locations.

But for Fernando Siringan, a marine scientist from the University of the Philippines (UP), these agencies should ask the proponents if they have conducted studies on the areas they wish to exploit.

The government must also take stock of its marine resources, including how to tap mineral resources "with minimal impact on the environment," he said.

"The country needs to fund research on what lies at the bottom of our ocean. Studies on coral reefs are popular, for good reason. But even areas that are sandy or muddy are significant—and these are the kinds of environment that studies often neglect," Siringan said.

He noted that Filipino scientists have the knowledge and capacity to do research on seabed quarrying, but not the budget and the support of the bureaucracy, whose processes are often an obstacle.

This is true even for UP's Marine Science Institute where he teaches, Siringan said.

"Funding is part of the challenge but what's more stressful is the procurement stage. [It is] so horrible," he said of the government procedures in obtaining funding for the equipment needed in a particular research, for instance.

The lack of Filipino marine scientists is another disadvantage. Siringan said there are "many scientists in other fields, [but] marine scientists, especially those who look [into] mineral resources, can be counted by one hand."

Closer look

Meanwhile, scientists, civil society groups and affected fisherfolk communities want a closer look into



BAY'S BOUNTY Fisherman Angelo Dula of Limay, Bataan province, is among those depending on Manila Bay for their livelihood. —KATHLEEN LEI LIMAYO/CONTRIBUTOR

the quarrying enterprises.

Last year they called on the Senate to investigate those projects, which they said had proliferated after then President Rodrigo Duterte issued an executive order in 2021 reversing a moratorium imposed by Executive Order No. 79 of 2012.

According to environmental group Oceana Philippines, seabed quarrying and ore mining are underway not only in Limay, but also in Tayabas Bay, Lingayen Gulf and in the provinces of Cavite and Cagayan, while land reclamation or dump-and-fills are also in the pipeline at Sogod Bay (Southern Leyte), Cancabato Bay (Tacloban City), and in La Union province.

Lawyer and Oceana vice president Gloria Estenzo Ramos said that seabed quarrying—despite the DENR order permitting it—ran counter to laws against the destruction of marine habitats.

"The seabed is a habitat, same as corals, seagrass and mangroves. That's why no exploration or exploitation of fishing areas can happen without... an extensive environmental impact assessment process. Because that is required, it's in the Fisheries Code (Republic Act No. 8550)," she said.

Ramos said the government must be transparent about the resulting destruction and "ensure sustainable management of our fisheries."

She said local governments, particularly coastal cities and municipalities, have the principal responsibility to protect their waters.

"When you allow seabed quarrying, you're allowing de-

struction of something upon which lies duty on your part to protect it... It's even a violation of [your] mandate," Ramos said.

Keep a record

What should coastal communities do to protect their environment?

She suggested the first step would be "to record what is being taken away from them," adding that affected communities may note down cases of harassment and of infringement on their municipal waters and keep a record on small yet significant details such as their catch.

Fisherfolk could also learn to document illegal fishing activities. This is where organized groups such as Pangisda Pilipinas—of which Rosales is a member—could help.

Rosales recalled how stakeholders, during public consultations on a mining firm's application to quarry Limay's coast, appealed to authorities against its approval, as they knew this would affect their livelihood.

Pangisda and the Nuclear/Coal-free Bataan group have also filed several letters objecting not just to reclamation and quarrying projects but to the four coal-fired power plant projects in the province whose waste often feed into the bay.

Yet many still hesitate to protest quarrying because they either fear retaliation or are just on "survival mode," Ramos said.

"They are often only concerned about their daily catch and how to sell it. So do you expect them to measure [loss and damage] or even find time to do it?" she said. "That's why there has to be capacity building for them to realize that it is important [to gather evidence]."

Legal remedies

Ramos also believes that seeking legal remedies can create a ripple effect on other communities affected by similarly destructive activities.

"We can increase our level of engagement in lawsuits by including impacts, damages and loss of ecosystem services," she said.

Both Ramos and Siringan challenged the view that Manila Bay—for centuries, a natural harbor for trade in the country—had long



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ago breathed its last.

That notion “shows that there is a lack of appreciation of the important role of [fishing] communities” in protecting the environment, Ramos said.

Siringan said: “Even in sea-floor areas with low oxygen lev-

els, ... there are still organisms that can survive in such settings.”

“That is the wonder of life on Earth—life can be found in different parts of the environment. How do they even define life? Maybe they do define it differently from us,” he said. INQ

(This story was produced with the support of Internews' Earth Journalism Network.)



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Neda gives long-stalled land use bill a new push

By CAI U. ORDINARIO [@caiordinario](#)

PASSING the National Land Use Act (Nalua) would allow the country to make headway in Right of Way issues that need to be resolved to undertake infrastructure projects, according to the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

On Monday, Neda Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan told reporters on the sidelines of the formal launch of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), that the Executive branch is working with Congress to craft and finally pass the Nalua.

Balisacan said this will allow the current administration to speed up right of way acquisition (Rowa), which is often the cause of delay in undertaking many infrastructure projects.

"The absence of a national land use is contributing to that difficulty of building infrastructure. Since we do not have that land use, you get into crazy situations where suppos-

edly a highway that goes straight is moving (in another direction)," Balisacan said.

Balisacan said having a national land use law would guide the better planning of infrastructure projects and where they can best be located. He said the Nalua would be able to identify which lands are commercial and which are agricultural.

The Nalua, Balisacan added, could also identify areas that cannot be built on or those that are protected by environmental laws.

He believed that even if the Nalua has been in the pipeline for the past 50 years, there is



BALISACAN

a chance that the law could be passed under this administration. Both houses of Congress, he said, have agreed to prioritize the crafting of the law.

"The leadership of both Congress have indicated to us when we met during the first Ledac (Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council) and it is included in the list of priority legislation of the executive," Balisacan said.

The Nalua has been identified as the priority legislation of administrations for decades. How-

ever, the bill has yet to be passed.

Last year, former Neda Secretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua said if the next administration wants to finally pass the Nalua, the government must adopt a "door-to-door approach" used by the Duterte administration in passing the tax reform program.

Chua and the architect of the country's tax reform program said this approach would ensure that lawmakers are able to understand the impact of passing such a law.

He said the Neda staff could carry on this mandate by explaining to each legislator and making as many presentations as possible.

Chua said there are currently many misunderstood portions of the proposed Nalua. He said some quarters are saying that land use will be the responsibility of one centralized agency in government.

He said this was not true and that local government units (LGUs) still had jurisdiction over land use. However, land conversion of land from agriculture to other use has to be decided by a more centralized agency.



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LADEN WITH MERCURY, AVAILABLE ONLINE

Ecowaste warning: Keep off toxic underarm cream



By **Krixia Subingsubing**
@krixiasINQ

Smoother, lighter but “toxic” armpits?

The toxics watchdog Ecowaste Coalition has warned consumers against using two Thailand-made underarm whitening cream brands after its tests showed that the products supposedly contained mercury beyond the allowed limit.

On Monday, Ecowaste’s chemical screening on Snow White Armpit Whitening Underarm Cream and 88 Total White Underarm Cream, both marked “made in Thailand,” contained

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mercury above the one part per million (ppm) trace amount threshold under the Asean Cosmetic Directive (ACD) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Using an Olympus Vanta M Series X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analyzer, the group detected 3,035 ppm and 3,042

ppm of mercury on 88 Total White and Snow White creams, respectively.

The group bought the products, with November 2022 manufacture dates, from an online shopping platform, prompting them to call on regulators to strengthen enforcement against mercury-added cosmetics sold online.

The country’s Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had flagged both products. It is-

in 2020 against Snow White after Myanmar’s FDA found it to contain mercury, and in 2021 on 88 Total White for not having a valid certificate of product notification and the warning “may pose health risks to consumers” on its label.

Serious damage

“Our investigation shows that toxic mercury is also present in some cosmetics

that claim to reduce body odor and lighten dark underarms,” said Aileen Lucero, national coordinator of Ecowaste Coalition, which has detected mercury in facial creams since 2011. “This is worrisome as many Filipinos are obsessed with smooth and white armpits.”

“Mercury in creams could pose serious health effects not only to those who directly use them but also to their

families, especially children who might inhale the mercury vapors from the contaminated products or get exposed by using towels and items tainted with mercury,” said Lucero.

She called on cosmetic manufacturers to abide by the ACD and the Minamata Convention and for cosmetic regulators to strengthen compliance and enforcement strategies. INQ

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Welcoming

Constitutional reform, it appears, is on the agenda again.

Last week, deliberations began at the House of Representatives over proposals to change the basic law of the land. The same proposals repeated over the past three decades were made: remove the restrictions in foreign investments, shift to federalism, adopt a parliamentary system of government and lift term limits.



On the other side of the aisle, the same objections were raised. Constitutional changes were not needed. This was not the time to dabble with the constitutional order. The politicians simply want to get rid of term limits.

We know the arguments on either side quite well by now. This is the third or fourth serious effort to undertake constitutional reform. The 1987 Constitution, it seems, was written in a way to make reforming it a challenging task.

There is one distinct element that is new, however. House Speaker Martin Romualdez has both the numbers and the political skills to gain some headway against the conservatives. The Senate appears to be open to the idea of constitutional reform.

Rep. Benny Abante, in a recent interview, said it was better to begin the process of constitutional change early in the new presidential term so that it will not be clouded with the partisan posturing that happens close to each electoral cycle. That is a good point — except that he accorded the lifting of term limits the same importance as reforming the economic orthodoxy enshrined in the 1987 document. This is an invitation to partisan positioning even this early in the presidential term.

I was involved in the effort to introduce constitutional reforms late in the Ramos administration. I supported the effort to surgically remove the restrictive economic provisions during the Estrada administration. I sat as commissioner in the 2005 Consultative Commission on Charter Change.

From my involvement in these previous efforts, I understood that the task of making our constitutional framework more welcoming to the participation of foreign investments was the most urgent. Opportunities pass us each day while we cling to some 19th century economic nationalist orthodoxy against the reality of contemporary investment flows.

For instance, even as the internet removed all political boundaries to the flow of information, investment restrictions caused us to miss all opportunities to be a major content provider to the world. The requirement that all media be Filipino owned invited needless controversy over Philippine Depositary Receipts and the flow of investments to boost our technical capacity for content creation.

Recently, applying obsolete constitutional doctrine, our Supreme Court narrowed the possibility for joint ventures in exploiting whatever natural wealth lies beneath the South China Sea. The same nationalist provisions prevent us from rapidly capitalizing our agricultural sector to deliver food security for our people.

In his "soft launch" of the Makarlika Investment Fund (MIF) in Davos, President Marcos Jr. invited investors to participate in a fund that will modernize the backward sectors of our economy. This could run into issues involving the negative list on investments prescribed by the 1987 Charter.

Never mind term limits and federalism. It is the restrictive economic provisions that is truly preventing us from achieving a prosperous future for our people.

Incapacitated

Garbage is piling up along the streets of Parañaque. This happens because of the decision of the city mayor to award the garbage collection contract to a company that did not have the capacity to do the job despite the plump contract it won.

Last Dec. 27, while everyone was distracted by the holidays, Mayor Eric Olivarez transferred the garbage collection contract from the contractor of long-standing, Leonel Waste Management Corp., to an untried contractor, Metrowaste Solid Waste Management Corp. The size of the contract was increased to a whopping P414 million even as the new contractor did not have the equipment required to get the job done.

The contract was concluded without consulting the city council. For this reason, an inquiry has begun at the council, pitting the mayor against his own vice mayor, the city councilors and nearly all the barangay chairmen. Those opposing the contract claim the mayor violated the Local Government Code.

According to the vice mayor, the former contractor completed 39,731 garbage collection trips from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2022. The new contractor, Metrowaste, completed only 765 such trips from Jan. 1 to 18 this year.

The former contractor last year collected a daily average of 2,581 cubic meters of trash. By contrast, Metrowaste had a daily average collection of only 1,328 cubic meters of trash during the first three weeks of January. This is because Metrowaste has only 24 trucks, including 20 small ones with compactors to fulfill its contractual obligations. This is certainly not enough for the city's needs.

To compound things, the former contractor owned a sanitary landfill in Rizal province. The new contractor is still searching for a landfill that will accept Parañaque's waste.

Parañaque is not a small city. It has a land area of 46.57 square kilometers and a population of 689,992 at the last census. This translates into a volume of trash that far exceeds the new contractor's capacity.

It is not easy to solve the new contractor's deficiency in equipment and lack of a sanitary landfill. Resolving these deficiencies could take months. In the meantime, trash will continue to pile up and the citizens will get increasingly agitated.

The garbage crisis will quickly translate into a political crisis for the beleaguered mayor.

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Abante Dunong

Kalabaw, tamaraw bawal katayin

SA administrasyon ni dating Pangulong Ramon Magsaysay ipinagbawal na katayin ang mga kalabaw. Inutos niya ito sa pamamagitan ng Executive Order No. 8 na ipinatupad sa loob ng isang taon simula Enero 31, 1954. Ito'y upang bigyan ng proteksyon ang mga kalabaw na pangunahing ginagamit sa pagsasaka.

Nagpatupad din ng katulad na hakbang ni dating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Sr. sa pamamagitan ng Executive Order No. 626 na nilagdaan noong Oktubre 21, 1980. Sa kanyang kautusan, bukod sa kalabaw ay ipinagbawal din ang pagkatay ng tamaraw. Pero kailangan ng permit kung kinakailangan talagang katayin ang kalabaw o tamaraw.



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

EQUILAND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT (EPMC) CORPORATION, Applicant. Case No. 22-3521

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Tierra Sueño Calamba Subdivision, Barangay Milagrosa, Calamba City, province of Laguna, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional

Pipe Size	0-5 m ³ (min)	6-10 m ³	11-20 m ³	21-30 m ³	31-40 m ³	Over 40m ³
½"	P 181.00	39.80	43.40	47.00	50.70	72.40

Commercial and Industrial

Pipe Size	0-15 m ³ (min)	16-30 m ³	31-500 m ³	501-1000 m ³	Over 1000 m ³
½"	P 1,066.00	66.80	166.50	168.50	168.50
¾"	P 1,737.00	138.90	173.70	173.70	173.70
1"	P 3,474.00	277.90	347.30	347.30	347.30

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **20 February 2023**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o'clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

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

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

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

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

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 29th day of December 2022.

By Authority of the Board:
Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:
The Secretary
Sanguniang Panlungsod, Calamba City, Laguna
The Barangay Chairman
Barangay Milagrosa, Calamba City, Laguna
The Homeowners Assn. President
Tierra Sueño Calamba Subdivision
Barangay Milagrosa, Calamba City, Laguna
The General Manager
Calamba Water District, Lakeview Subd.,
Bgy., Bgy. Halang, Calamba City, Laguna 4027 (REMATE: Jan. 31, 2023)L

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

EQUILAND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT (EPMC) CORPORATION, Applicant. Case No. 22-3522

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Tierra Vista Dasmarinas Subdivision, Barangay Langkaan 1, Dasmarinas City, province of Cavite, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional

Pipe Size	0-5 m ³ (min)	6-10 m ³	11-20 m ³	21-30 m ³	31-40 m ³	Over 40m ³
½"	P 165.00	36.30	39.60	42.80	46.10	49.40

Commercial and Industrial

Pipe Size	0-15 m ³ (min)	16-30 m ³	31-500 m ³	501-1000 m ³	Over 1000 m ³
½"	P 988.50	79.10	85.70	88.90	88.90
¾"	P 1,582.50	126.40	137.10	138.20	138.20
1"	P 3,163.50	253.10	274.20	276.40	276.40

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **20 February 2023**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o'clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

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

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

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

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

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 29th day of December 2022.

By Authority of the Board:
Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:
The Secretary
Sanguniang Panlungsod, Dasmarinas City, Cavite
The Barangay Chairman
Barangay Langkaan 1, Dasmarinas City, Cavite
The Homeowners Assn. President
Tierra Vista Dasmarinas Subdivision
Barangay Langkaan 1, Dasmarinas City, Cavite
The General Manager
Dasmarinas Water District, Camerino Avenue, Zone 1,
Dasmarinas, Cavite 4114 (REMATE: Jan. 31, 2023)L