

DATE : 29 JUL 2019

DAY : Monday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



DENR eyes Panay as bamboo center

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is eyeing Panay Island as the center for bamboo production in the Philippines.

In a statement over the weekend, the DENR said this development came after Secretary Roy Cimatu expressed support to the National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD) during its third summit in Iloilo City.

He said Panay Island, being naturally abundant with bamboo, would be "transformed [into] the center for bamboo production and make it the DENR's major contribution to the NCI-SRD."

"We will adopt the latest technology in producing lumber and timber out of the bamboo stands. This can usher in inclusive development in the island and provide

income and livelihood not only to the marginal farmers, and promote Panay as the country's 'bamboo capital,'" He added.

Cimatu then directed DENR Western Visayas Regional Executive Director Francisco Milla Jr. to conduct an inventory of all existing bamboo plantations on the island, and to fast track the establishment of bamboo processing plants that would produce engineered bamboo products.

He also instructed Milla to plant bamboo in identified denuded areas around the island.

Initially, the DENR-Western Visayas had identified 60 hectares for the propagation of bamboo in Panay Island, where more than 6,100 hectares of plantation currently exist.

The agency has committed to plant 13,500 hectares of in-

dustrial bamboo species such as bamboo *tinik*, giant *buhô*, *bayog* and *bolo* in 2020.

To do this, some P10 million has been initially earmarked in the 2019 budget for the production of planting materials and capacity-building of farmers.

Bamboo is envisioned as one way to address the country's wood requirements as an alternative for high-value forest products. It has been included as selected species to use for reforestation activities under the government's National Greening Program (NGP).

Under the NGP, farmers would be capacitated on scientific methods of harvesting bamboo. They would be entitled to regular salaries while caring for bamboo plantations prior to harvest season.

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ



Govt to open bamboo processing plants in Panay Island

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jonlmayuga

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is keen on expanding bamboo plantations and establishing processing plants in Panay Island to boost the country's wood supply.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said he has directed DENR Western Visayas Regional Executive Director Francisco Milla Jr. to conduct an inventory of all existing bamboo plantations on the island, and to fast-track the establishment of bamboo processing plants.

Cimatu said he has also instructed Milla to plant bamboo in identified denuded areas around the island.

"We will adopt the latest technology in producing lumber and timber out of the bamboo stands. This can usher in inclusive development in the island and provide income and livelihood not only to the marginal farmers, and promote Panay as the country's 'bamboo capital,'" he said in a statement.

The DENR in Western Visayas had initially identified 60 hectares for the propagation of bamboo in Panay Island.

The DENR also estimated that there are more than 6,100 hectares of plantations in the entire island.

The agency has committed to plant 13,500 hectares of industrial bamboo species such as bamboo *tinik*, giant *buho*, *bayog* and *bolo* by 2020.

To achieve this, some P10 million has been initially earmarked in the 2019 budget for the production of planting materials and capacity building of farmers.

Bamboo is envisioned as one way to address the country's wood requirements as an alternative for high-value forest products. It has been included as selected species to use for reforestation activities under the government's National Greening Program (NGP).

Under the NGP, farmers would be capacitated on scientific methods of harvesting bamboo. They would be entitled to regular salaries while caring for bamboo plantations prior to harvest season.

The development of the Philippines's bamboo industry is mandated by Executive Order (EO) 879, Series of 2010 signed by then-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on May 14, 2010.

The EO mandates the creation of the Philippine Bamboo Industry De-

velopment Council to promote the bamboo industry development project and directing the use of bamboo for at least 25 percent of the desk and other furniture requirements of public elementary and secondary schools, and prioritizing the use of bamboo in furniture, fixtures and other construction requirements of government facilities and allocating funds therefore and other purposes.

According to various literature, bamboos are giant grass species and are naturally occurring in warm and moist tropical and warm temperate climates.

Bamboo poles are often used as construction materials and were widely utilized in the early days in the Philippines in the construction of nipa huts.

The establishment of more bamboo plantations was pitched during the third summit of the National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD) held in Iloilo City recently.

Cimatu said with Panay Island being naturally abundant with bamboo, the DENR will work to "transform [it] as the center for bamboo production and make it the DENR's major contribution to the NCI-SRD."



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DENR eyes Estero de Marala cleanup

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources, next clean-up target is the 2.7-kilometer Estero de Marala in partnership with the Pollution Control Association of the Philippines Inc. (PCAPI).

Estero de Marala which is located on the boundary between Navotas and Manila, drains into Manila Bay. It

also links the Estero de Vitas in the south, Estero de Maypad in the north and Estero de Maypajo in the east.

The DENR and PCAPI committed to develop a comprehensive program intended to reduce the degradation of the river.

Under the Memorandum of Agreement, both parties also agreed to coordinate with each other

in regular planning and implementation of meetings, and validate how many informal settlers are living in the area.

Joel dela Torre



#nationataglance

CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION: BAGUIO CITY
DENR-Cordillera sets July 29 public consultation on Baguio environmental issues

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources-Cordillera Administrative Region

(DENR-CAR) is holding a public consultation on key environmental concerns in Baguio City on July 29 at its office conference room. The Baguio City government, in a press release on Sunday, said the discussions will include the draft executive order setting a moratorium on the construction of high rise buildings. Other matters lined up are: Requirements and procedures for the issuance of tree-cutting permits and Environmental Clearance Certificate; geo-hazard status of the different areas in the city; and solid waste management. Last week, Mayor Benjamin S. Magalong said he had initial talks with DER Secretary Roy A. Cimatu and Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo M. Año on the possibility of having the President issue an executive order mandating the rehabilitation of Baguio City, a popular mountain tourist destination. The rehabilitation will involve a one-year moratorium on the construction of high rise buildings and a budget allocation for the expansion of the city's sewerage treatment system.



BW FILE



Banned Yakal species, nasabat sa checkpoint

GEN. TINIO, Nueva Ecija -- Dahil sa pinaigting na malawakang kampanya laban sa illegal logging, tinatayang nasa 3,238 board feet na banned yakal species ang nalambat ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng Department of Environment of Natural Resources at National Bureau Investigation Cabanatuan District Office makaraang masabat sa checkpoint sa Barangay Pulong Matong sa bayang ito, Biyernes ng madaling-araw.

Kinilala ni PENRO-DENR head Joselito Blanco ang naarestong driver na si Marvin Ortega, 35, ng Purok Lanzones, Bgy. Concepcion ng nasabing bayan.

Dakong 4:30 ng madaling-araw nang ikasa ng DENR at NBI ang joint

operation matapos makatanggap ng tip sa isang concerned citizen na may daraan umanong cargo truck na may plakang GHT-523 na naglululan ng illegal sawn lumber shipment na 3,238 bd. ft. at may value na P194,274.40.

Walang maipakitang dokumento ang driver para shipment, kaya agad na inaresto at in-impound ang cargo truck.

Mismong si NBI-Cab. District Office Chief Pedro C. Roque Jr. at mga tauhan nito ang nagkasa ng joint operation sa nasabing lugar.

Ayon kay CENRO head Jimmy Aberin, nahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa Section 28 ng Presidential Decree 705 ang suspek.

Light A. Nolasco



PASASALAMAT NG DENR SA MGA KASAPI NG ASEAN.
Nakipag-kamay si Environment Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas Leones (4th from left) kay Pham Ven Dien, deputy director general ng Vietnam Administration of Forestry (2nd mula sa kanan), habang inaabot niya at ni Forest Management Bureau Director Nonito Tamayo (left), ang token of appreciation bilang pasasalamat sa kanyang pagdalo sa ika-22 pagpupulong ng mga ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry sa Makati Diamond Residences noong July 18, 2019. Ang pulong, na pinangunahan ng Pilipinas, ay layunin na pagtibayin at palawakin ang kalidad ng mga produktong panggubat mula sa mga bansang kasapi ng ASEAN. Maliban kay Dien, binigyan din ng token sina (L to R): Boupone Sengthong, deputy director ng Department of Forestry of Lao PDR; Borhanudin Bin HJ Arshad, head of delegation ng Malaysia; Sapol Boonsermsuk, director sa International Forestry Cooperation Division of Thailand; at si Pham Quang Minh ng ASEAN Secretariat.



AS A MATTER OF FACT

SARA SOLIVEN DE GUZMAN

While we were sleeping

* * *

In his SONA the President also highlighted the protection of the environment. He mentioned the Manila Bay rehabilitation program which started last January 27, 2019 but nothing has been heard of this much publicized clean up in the past five months. I wonder what Secretary Cimatu reported to the President? I really want to be surprise with the results because this massive multi-billion rehabilitation of the Manila Bay has raised the hopes of Filipinos and foreigners alike. Has the Manila Bay Task Force (Administrative Order #16) led by Secretary Roy Cimatu come up with the strategic plan supposedly contained in the First Quarterly Report to the President? Has the relocation of the several hundred thousand families living along the banks of the Bay and Pasig River started? How about the 17 rivers from the four provinces, the five cities in Metro Manila and the 1,918 polluted *esteros* in the metropolis that drains their trash and sewage to the bay?

Last I heard, the self-imposed one-year deadline of Cimatu has not even reached the middleground. What about the Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan still being done by the Consultants from the Netherlands? What is happening? I hope Cimatu clears himself to the public and most especially to the President who thinks that "thy will be done immediately".

The "Battle of the Manila Bay" can only happen when you put your heart and mind in the work. I think the key here is the new mayor of Manila who has the will (so far) to really get things done.

★





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CLEANUP CONTINUES. Backhoes dredge garbage and silt at the Manila Yacht Club compound, considered the ground zero of the Save Manila Bay project under Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Public Works and Highways reported they have hauled 3,036.6 metric tons of garbage and waste materials in its continuous cleanup efforts from MYC to the coastal areas of Tarlac province as of July 4.



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Impossible? not anymore People take a dip or fish, which are becoming common recreations in the area when before these are impossible to do in Manila Bay.

DAVID JOHN CUBANGBANG



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Whiling time away Boys enjoy telling tales at the banks of the Pasig River, which is slowly being

rehabilitated by various government units and private organizations. ALFONSO PADILLA



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Experts: Forensic science 'a must' to combat illegal wildlife trade

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

AS the Philippines intensify efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade, organizers and participants of a three-day national conference on wildlife forensics held in Mandaue City in the middle of July have affirmed the need to enhance the country's capacity in the application of science to pursue cases involving wildlife crime.

The conference, dubbed "Wildlife Forensics as a Tool in Combating Illegal Wildlife Trafficking," co-organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the USAID through the Protect Wildlife Project and the US Department of Interior through its Partnership for Biodiversity Conservation from July 16 to 18, tackled the lucrative illegal wildlife trade, globally estimated to be worth \$10 billion a year.

Organized crime

WILDLIFE trafficking is the fourth most lucrative transnational crime, next to illegal drugs, arms and human trafficking.

In the Philippines, with an illegal wildlife trade worth around P50 billion or \$1 billion a year, law enforcers believe that wildlife trafficking is getting worse, with criminal syndicates becoming more clever to avoid arrest and prosecution.

Roberto M. Aguda, head of the secretariat of the National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (Nalecc) for the DENR, briefed the participants, mostly wildlife law enforcers from various DENR field offices, of the current initiatives on wildlife forensics and criminal investigation training. Aguda represented DENR Assistant Secretary for Field Operations Marcial Amaro Jr.

He said that unlike ordinary crimes, environmental crimes, wildlife crime in particular, has far-reaching effects to the environment, health, security and the economy of nations.

As such, he said "all available methods and system that strengthen government programs to combat it must be utilized."

Not lagging behind

FORENSIC science, he said, is one field that is currently being strengthened to bolster efforts against wildlife trafficking.

The Philippines, once declared a consumer, source and transit point of illegal wildlife, is not lagging behind in this effort.

He cited that the Institute of Biology of the University of the Philippines Diliman (UP-IB) has established a wildlife forensics laboratory, which the DENR and other law enforcement agencies are able to tap to boost investigation and case buildup.

He said the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) has entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with UP-IB for the DNA barcoding of some of the commonly traded wildlife species endemic to the Philippines.

Moreover, during the first Wildlife Law Enforcement Summit in November 2016, as a way forward for the Philippines on wildlife forensics science, wildlife law enforcement officers must undergo training, hence, the "Wildlife Forensics and Criminal Investigation Training" design was developed for the purpose.

Species identification

DR. Ian Kendrick C. Fontanilla, head of the DNA Barcoding Laboratory of the UP-IB, said with the country being one of the megadiverse countries in the world, identifying hundreds of thousands of wildlife species is already a challenge.

At the minimum, he said it will require around 15,000 taxonomist to identify all species of flora and fauna in 7,641 islands and islets in the Philippine archipelago.

High in endemism, he said the Philippines's known flora and fauna are endemic species or species that can be found only in the Philippines.



Experts: Forensic science 'a must' to combat illegal wildlife trade ^{P-2}

DNA barcoding, he said, is so accurate and can be very useful in identifying species from specimen submitted for laboratory testing.

Fontanilla, who is battling for the establishment of a network of forensic laboratories in the Philippines, said forensic science, however, also relies heavily on the identification of unknown samples to their known species, because many species have not been identified and properly recorded, yet.

As such, experts in taxonomy will be highly qualified as wildlife forensics.

Proper identification of species from a specimen, he said, can be via the taxonomic keys, guides, written description, specimen comparison usually from herbaria or museums, image comparison, and expert determination.

DNA barcoding

HOWEVER, Fontanilla said law enforcement agents are hampered by their inability to accurately and instantly identify species, either because they are not trained taxonomists themselves, or the animals they confiscate are no longer intact.

In such case, he said DNA barcoding may come to play.

DNA barcoding is defined as a taxonomic method that uses one or more standardized short genetic markers in an organism's DNA to identify it as belonging to a particular species.

"Through this method, unknown DNA samples are identified to registered species based on comparison to a reference library," said Barcode of Life Data System (BOLDSystem) in its web site.

BOLDSystem is an informatics workbench aiding the acquisition, storage, analysis and publication of DNA barcode records.

DNA barcoding makes use of a small section of DNA sequence from a standardized region of the genome to identify species, according to Fontanilla.

"Through barcoding, unknown individuals could be assigned to species," Fontanilla said.

BOLD, CBOL

THE Philippines, he said, is doing its share in the global effort to build a wildlife database through DNA barcoding under the BOLD-System. It is a member of the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL).

Launched in May 2004, CBOL now includes more than 120 organizations from 45 nations. The consortium fosters the development of international research alliances needed to build, over the next 20 years, a barcode library for all eukaryotic life.

The Philippines—which started the initiative on DNA barcoding through the late Perry Ong, then the head of the UP-IB, and former DENR-BMB Director and now Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim, in 2008—have a modest contribution to BOLD.

Under the DENR-BMB and UP IB partnership, specimens collected by the DENR-BMB, including confiscated wildlife, are submitted to the UP-IB's DNA Barcoding Laboratory for analysis and recording.

The Philippines's barcodes on BOLD as far as barcode count is concerned include 27,639 sequences, 3,586 named species, 4,772 Barcode Index Numbers (BINs).

Special Coverage includes 141 species of plants, 1,885 species of vertebrates, 1,076 species of arthropod, and 510 species of other inverts. BIN coverage includes 2,010 vertebrates, 1,460 arthropod, and 1,216 other inverts.

The figures, he said, are a modest contribution compared to the country's biodiversity in terms of numbers of species.

"What we need is do more DNA barcoding, and get more samples or specimens to help build our database," he said.

According to Fontanilla, the applications of DNA barcoding

include the discovery of new species, biodiversity assessment, Phylogenetic studies of closely related taxa, and regulation of export and import of endangered species.

Effective fighting tool

DURING the conference, two actual wildlife crime cases were presented as proof that wildlife forensics is an effective fighting tool in wildlife crime investigation and in combatting the illegal trade in wildlife.

Rainier Manlegro, Ecosystem Management specialist of the DENR Central Visayas Enforcement Division, presented the marine turtle case involving a dead female marine turtle discovered in the Acapulco Beach in Barangay Canaoay, San Fernando, La Union, on May 8, 2019.

Through an examination of the carcass of the marine turtle, the cause of death was determined—gastrointestinal problem caused by ingested hook and line. In this case, however, the marine turtle was killed by accident.

For his part, Esteven Toledo of the DENR-BMB cited the need to bring a specimen from still unidentified dried bush to the laboratory in UP to identify the species that led to the arrest of suspects involved in wildlife crime.

A joint operation by the DENR-BMB's Task Force Pogi, the National Bureau of Investigation Environmental Crime Division and DENR Calabarzon region, the 2018 Bantigi Case stemmed from a report from members of a nongovernment organization regarding the alleged massive harvesting of the plant species.

Bantigi is found in Australia, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand and the Philippines. It is collected for trade as bonsai ornaments and as fuel wood despite being identified as a threatened species. It is nationally protected in the country under Wildlife Act with "endangered" category in accordance with DENR Administrative Order 2017-11 dated May 2, 2017.

Upon confirmation that the species was bantigi, law enforcers were able to confiscate a total 34 sacks of illegally harvested bantigi plants.

Eventually, the suspect pleaded guilty, sentencing by the local

Experts: Forensic science 'a must' to combat illegal wildlife trade ^{P-3}

court for six months incarceration and a fine of P10,000.

Toledo said it would have been impossible for law enforcers to identify the species of the plant they discovered had it not been through the help of the laboratory tests conducted on the specimen.

'A necessity' in wildlife crime investigation

ORGANIZERS of the event said a fully functioning wildlife forensic laboratory has become a necessity that will require an interagency collaboration.

"There is recognition and it is timely for the need to strengthen the capacity of the government in wildlife forensics," said Ma. Ronely D. Bisquera-Sheen, in-country coordinator of US Department of Interior, International Technical Assistance Program for the Partnership for Biodiversity Conservation.

Asis G. Perez, of Tanggol Kalikasan and former director of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic

Resources (BFAR), said with such affirmation of the need to put up a forensic laboratory, a way forward is to determine the design or overall look, and what laboratory equipment is needed.

"In preparation for the establishment of the laboratory, the participants agreed to conduct an assessment and inventory of the different collection or specimens we have and catalog it. Forensics is not just about genetics, there is also morphology. They saw the need to organize what we have," Perez said.

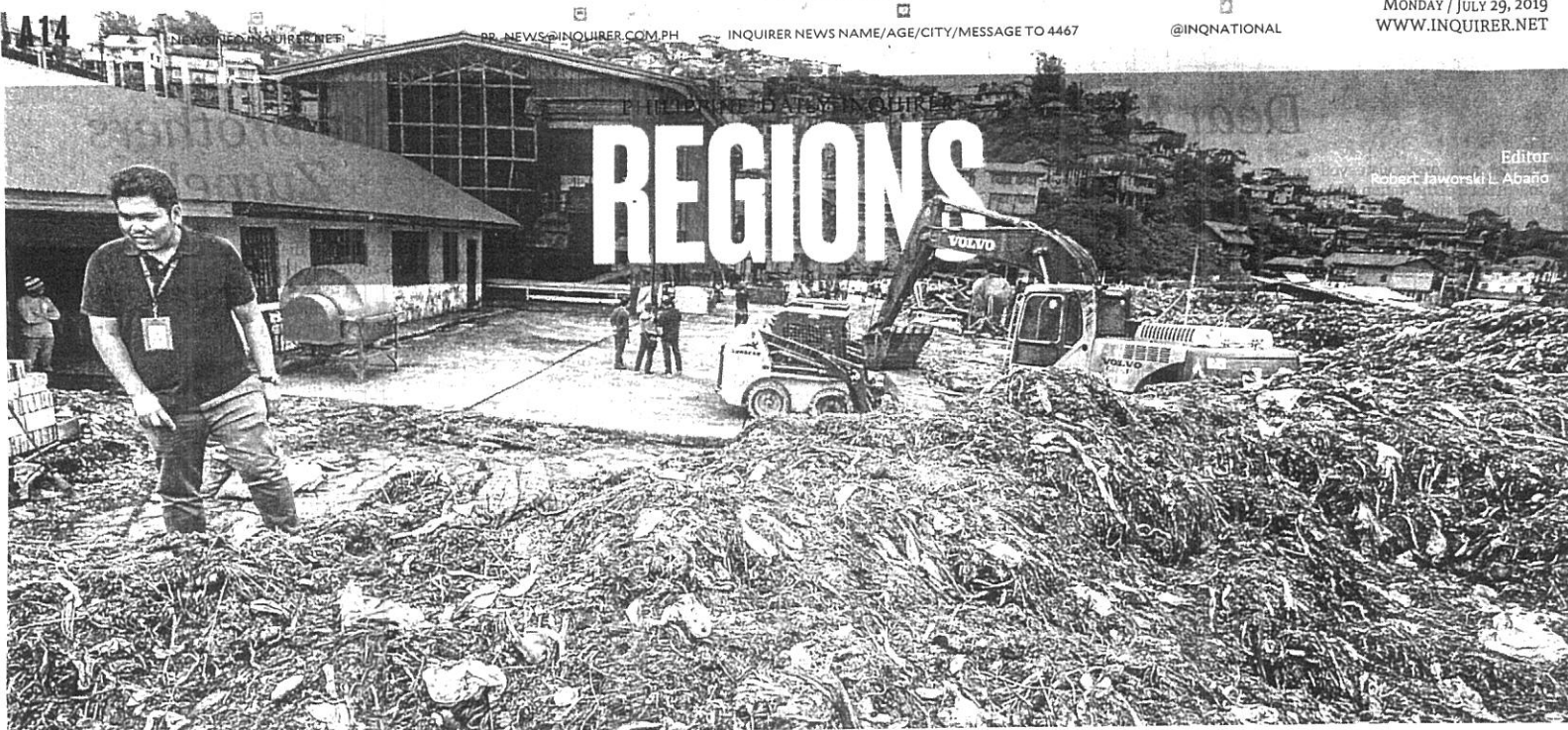
Aguda said a policy recommendation will soon be drafted and submitted to the DENR chief consistent with an action plan proposal.

Being a major driver of biodiversity loss, illegal trade in wildlife—which experts believe is no longer just about hunger and poverty but an economic crime—requires, more often than not, intensive investigation and the proper application of forensic science.

Indeed, to effectively combat illegal wildlife trade and the more lucrative wildlife trafficking in a global scale, wildlife forensics is an added tool and a must for wildlife law enforcement.



THE tour US Fish and Wildlife Service Forensic Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, in the United States gives the Philippine delegation a glimpse on the necessary elements, components and personnel and logistical needs in setting up a wildlife forensics laboratory. Members of the Philippine delegation examine skull specimens inside the laboratory. USAID PROTECT WILDLIFE PROJECT



GOING GONE Trash remaining at the decommissioned Irisan dump in Baguio City will be removed soon as the city government begins its conversion into an ecological park. —KARLSTON LAPNITEN

FROM EYESORE TO TOURIST SPOT

BAGUIO DUMP REHAB FEATURES: FLOWER AND HERB GARDENS, SOLAR-POWERED CAFES

BAGUIO CITY—Cafes, gardens and a view deck—all powered by solar energy—are some of the features proposed for the city's decommissioned dump, which would be converted into an ecological park according to the terms of a 2012 writ of kalikasan.

Details of the plans were released by City Hall last week after Mayor Benjamin Magalong announced that the dump

would be turned into a model park by 2021.

The Baguio dump was shut down in 2009 by residents of Barangay Irisan, who feared it had breached its capacity. Following a typhoon in 2011, the dump collapsed, killing seven people and scattering decades-old trash into houses below the 50-meter heap.

Covered by an environmen-

tal protection order, the Baguio dump (where 176,600 tons of biodegradable trash and plastics had been deposited) has to be rehabilitated by year-end using a P10-million fund, according to a progress report to the Court of Appeals, which is monitoring how the city is enforcing its writ obligations.

The city government plans to put up floral and herbal gar-

dens in about 4,000 square meters of dump for the first stage of the P17-million project.

'Dap-ay'

Tourists may go through grasslands near a "dap-ay" (community assembly area) which will be put up there. The gated park will also have a parking space.

A water-permeable fiber

called geotextile will be installed over 9,000 sq m of the dump's surface to compress loose soil and trash.

Walkways lighted by a system of solar-powered batteries, a food hub, a cactus garden and more dap-ay as well as a tree nursery will be added in the project's second phase.

Magalong did not say when the park project would start but

said two machines that converted kitchen waste into powdered fertilizer had been fixed.

To address the city's solid waste management as population continues to surge, Magalong said he intended to put up a waste-to-energy plant at a section of the Baguio Dairy Farm reservation that was donated by the Department of Agriculture.

—VINCENT CABREZA INQ



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Pine trees found 'poisoned' in Baguio City

By **ZALDY COMANDA**

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Benjamin Magalong promised to file appropriate charges against the perpetrators who “intentionally killed” 45 fully grown Benguet pine trees in a vacant lot along Legarda Road using “poisonous or toxic substance.”

Magalong, who personally inspected the area, saw that the Benguet pine trees were deliberately damaged as evidenced by the presence of numerous holes drilled into the lower trunk of the trees.

“The holes were utilized to infuse poisonous or toxic substance destroying and killing the trees immediately,” said the report of

Forest and Watershed Management Division of the City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO) dated July 12, when a personnel conducting routine patrol along Burnham-Legarda Barangay and observed a cluster of dead Benguet pine trees inside a vacant lot.

The report added that the trees were fully mature, naturally grown and had no indications of infestation unlike other pine trees infested by *Ips Calligraphus*, which may have triggered death at a slow pace.

The 45 pine trees were measured to have a total volume of 45.18 cubic meters, each tree having a ¼ inch-diameter holes drilled into them.



Nickel industry ups reforestation efforts with 5.3M trees

THE Philippine Nickel Industry Association (PNIA), through its seven member-companies, has once again boosted greening efforts as part of ongoing rehabilitation and reforestation in their respective mining areas.

Ensuring environmental and ecological sustainability in areas where nickel is mined, members of the nickel industry have planted an estimated 5.3 million trees to date in the Caraga region and in Palawan as part of its Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP).

The number of trees planted has risen 27 percent since PNIA's report of planting 4.2 million trees in June 2018.

"The nickel-mining industry has real and continuing accomplishments in caring not only for our communities, but also for the environment. We contribute at least 3 percent to 5 percent of our operating cost to [EPEP] programs. No other industry is mandated to do this," said PNIA Executive Director Charmaine Olea-Capili.

On top of current reforestation efforts, mining companies are mandated to implement the Temporary Revegetation Program (TRP).

PNIA member-companies have planted over 284 hectares of various vegetation and have spent P45 million.

"We are required to plant 100 trees for every one tree we cut down. Our industry has made continued efforts to rehabilitate the areas where we mine since we started operations. With the ongoing TRP, we can provide short-term vegetation growth that can control soil erosion and assist communities during natural calamities," Capili added.

Indigenous and endemic tree and grass species have been successfully planted since the start of rehabilitation efforts. These include fruit-bearing trees and cash crops, among others.

Furthermore, PNIA's bamboo reforestation also serves as a strategic complement to ongoing reforestation and rehabilitation programs. To date, more than 22,000 seedlings have been planted by PNIA member-companies.

The nickel companies' reforestation and revegetation programs not only facilitates ecological rehabilitation of mined-out areas. It also provides employment to residents and to the indigenous community. It also creates livelihood programs that are vital to strengthening the local economy.

These projects range from sponsoring backyard nursery projects; to plantations of coffee, rubber, cacao and bamboo; and even to the development of areas for productive use.

These activities also allow the companies to help their respective host communities as seedlings can be donated to the community in support of various greening initiatives.

Companies also regularly distribute seedlings and fertilizers to farmers in the community to increase their crop production and yield.

These continued efforts demonstrate PNIA members' commitment and contributions to the government's "Enhanced National Greening Program," which targets the reforestation of 1.2 million hectares between 2017-2022.

Moreover, PNIA members also focus on other environmental preservation programs, such as biodiversity marine protection programs, mangrove plantations, coral transplantation, fish production and other activities that improve the environment.

Organized in 2012 as nonstick, nonprofit organization, the PNIA seven nickel member mining companies, are Platinum Group Metals Corp., CTP Construction and Mining Corp., Citinickel Mines and Development Corp., Carrascal Nickel Corp., DMCI Mining Corp., Marventures Mining and Development Corp., and Agata Mining Ventures Inc.

Recently, it included 13 contractors providing ancillary services as new members.



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More protection for forests pushed

A BILL proposing a comprehensive sustainable forest-management strategy to safeguard the country's dwindling forest resources has been filed at the Senate.

In a statement, Sen. Pia Cayetano said the Senate Bill 284, or the Sustainable Forest Management Act, aims to preserve and optimize the utilization of forest resources.

"Forests provide the country with natural resources that contribute to economic growth. They provide livelihood through raw materials that are converted into finished products," Cayetano said.

"At the same time, forests serve as protection and buffer from natural disasters, and help mitigate the effects

of climate change," she added.

The lady lawmaker cited that the country has been losing approximately 47,000 hectares of forest each year, increasing the risk of massive social and economic losses from resource depletion and climate disasters.

She stressed the need to protect the forests not just as an environment matter, but an "economic imperative", as she quoted President Duterte in saying "natural disasters are poverty creators".

The bill mandates the Forest Management Bureau as the primary agency to oversee the development, management, and utilization of forest lands, including the identification of

areas for protection or production purposes.

It also proposes to rationalize the establishment, operations, and development of forest-based industries.

The bill seeks to establish agroforestry economic zones to ease the conduct of business and attract local and foreign investments.

It provides for a Community-Based Forest Management Program to be undertaken by concerned national agencies and the local government units.

"With this, we aim to empower indigenous people's groups and other forest-based communities as stewards managing our forest resources in a sustainable way," Cayetano said.



AbanteMO

Pinoy nag-recycle ng basurang plastic para maging upuan

MARAMING eksperto ang nagsasabing hindi maaaring pagsamahin ang pitong uri ng plastic.

Pero kay Engineer Winchester Lemen, nagawa niya ito sa pag-recycle ng mga basurang plastic upang maging school chair at iba pang furniture.

Sa planta ng Winder Recycling Co. sa

Sasa, Davao City, pinoproseso dito ang 90 tonelada ng basurang plastic sa pamamagitan ng imbensyon ni Lemen — ang thermal heating technology.

Nagkaroon ng ideya sa recycling ng plastic si Lemen dahil sa nakikitang problema ng tambak na basurang plastic.

Sa ulat ng United Nations Environment

Programme (UNEP), tinatayang 6,875 tonelada ng plastic trash ang tinatapon sa basurahan bawat araw.

Sa imbensyon ni Lemen, makakagawa ng isang school chair sa pagtipon ng 10,000 piraso ng balat ng kendi o kaya'y 300 bote ng mineral water.

Ang mga balat ng kendi, sachet at bote ng mineral water at softdrink ang karaniwang makikita sa mga basurahan araw-araw pero dahil sa imbensyon ni Lemen ay nare-recycle ito upang mapakinabangan ng maraming tao.



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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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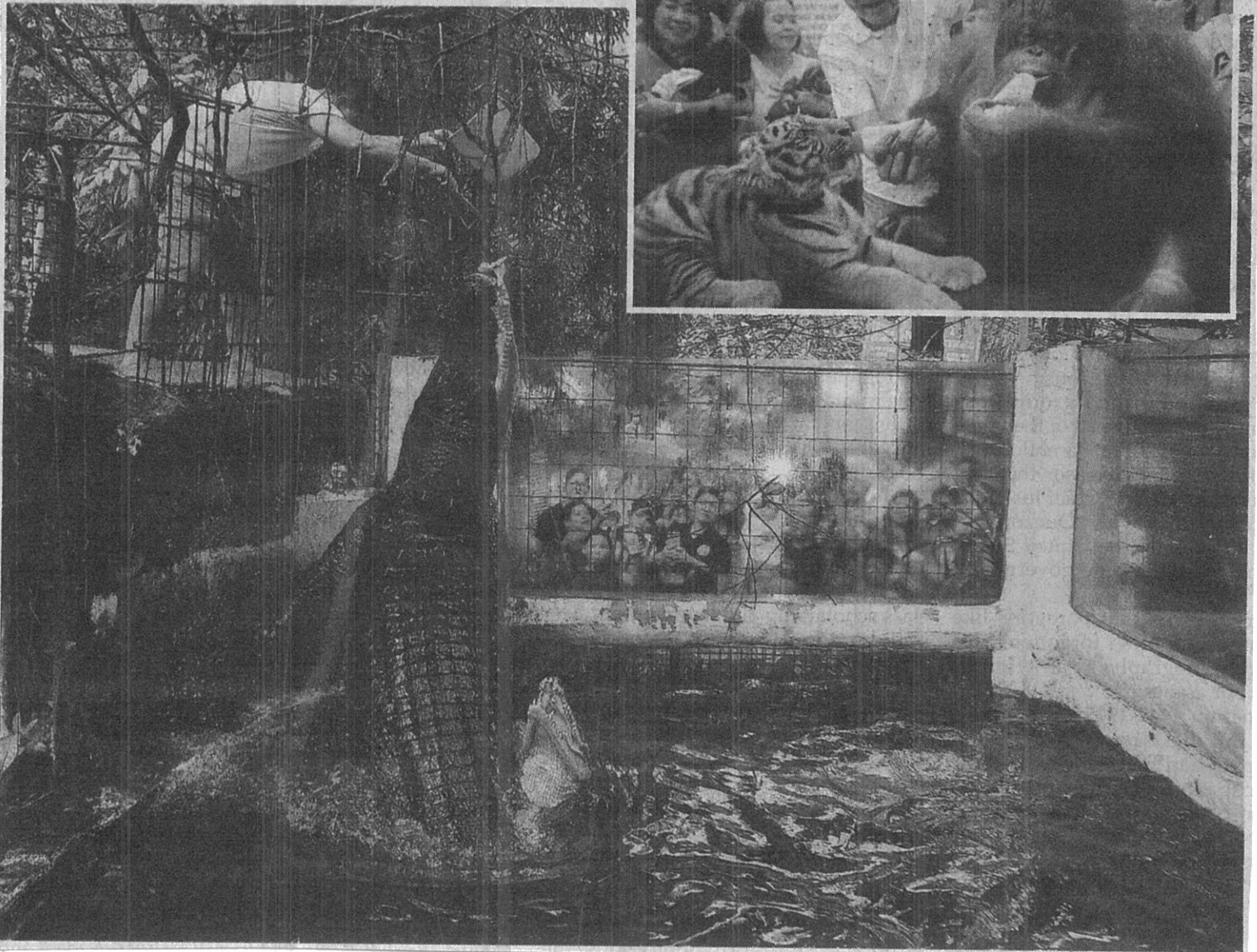
metro

EDITOR: **DULCE A. SANCHEZ**

MONDAY | JULY 29, 2019

A worker feeds a crocodile at the Malabon Zoo. Inset shows zoo owner Manny Tangco with Baby Tiger Rody and Pacquiao the orangutan during the zoo's 30th anniversary yesterday.

MICHAEL VARCAS





Duterte pledges to provide clean water to the people

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**

Water is "essential to life" and must go "beyond the commerce of men," President Duterte declared recently amid the government's resolve to ensure public access to clean and potable

water.

The President has renewed his commitment to continue to provide for the people's basic needs, including clean water, as he reached the halfway mark of his six-year term.

The government aims to ▶2

Duterte pledges to...

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attain the target of 95.9 percent water supply coverage throughout the country by 2022.

"Access to safe water is a fundamental human right and necessity, and it is our responsibility to provide clean and potable water to our citizens," Duterte said in his midterm report to the nation.

"Our businessmen should realize that they are catering to a public need and, as such, profit should be balanced with public service and convenience. The government is, therefore, relentlessly pursuing measures to ensure that our people shall have equal access to clean water," he said.

To prevent a repeat of the water shortage in Metro Manila and meet the growing demand for water in other parts of the country, the President said the government has started to develop alternative water sources.

"In this regard, we have set the

implementation of our water projects into full speed, as we continue to pursue our strategic infrastructure development agenda through the 'Build, Build, Build' program," he said.

Among the projects cited by the President are the Bulacan Bulk Water Supply Project (BBWSP), New Centennial Water Supply-Kaliwa Dam Project (NCWS-KDP), Angat Water Transmission Improvement Project (AWTIP), and Ipo Dam 3 Project.

As of May 2019, Duterte said the construction of the Angat water transmission project had a 92.48 percent accomplishment rate. The project, which involves the construction of a 6.4-kilometer tunnel, aims to improve the Ipo-La Mesa Transmission System to continually supply sufficient raw water to Metro Manila.

"We expect to complete the project by February, 2020, ahead of its targeted September, 2020, completion," Duterte said.



Gov't stresses resolve to provide clean water

Water is "essential to life" and must go "beyond the commerce of men," President Duterte declared recently, amid the government's resolve to ensure public access to clean and potable water.

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He recalled that when water interruptions hit Metro Manila and nearby areas last March, he ordered the Metropolitan Waterworks

and Sewerage System to coordinate with Manila Water and Maynilad to take steps to ensure sufficient supply of water.

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On the Bulacan water project, Duterte said it aims to provide an additional 388 million liters per day of potable water to the province by 2022. The BBWSP's water treatment facilities and conveyance system for Stages 1 and 2 have been operational since April 2019. (Genalyn Kabiling)



Angat Dam water level up 1 meter

The water level of Angat Dam increased by almost one meter yesterday, amid rains in the afternoon and evening in most parts of the country.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration monitoring showed the water level at Angat Dam yesterday at 162.40 meters from 161.46 meters last Saturday.

PAGASA said the southwest monsoon or "habagat" will prevail over the western sections of Luzon and Visayas today.

The whole country will experience cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms.

PAGASA warned that sudden rains due to severe thunderstorm activity especially in the afternoon or evening may cause flash floods or landslides in low-lying or mountainous areas.

Two to four tropical cyclones may form in August based on PAGASA historical records.

The Philippines has been experiencing below normal tropical cyclone activity this year.

Only seven tropical cyclones have developed in the past seven months. The country averages 20 tropical cyclones every year.

Generally near normal with patches of above normal rain condition is likely in some portions of Isabela, Metro Manila, Southern Luzon, and Bicol next month. (El-lalyn V. Ruiz)



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WATER LEVEL NG ANGAT AT IPO PATULOY SA PAGTAAS

PATULOY ang pagtaas ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam sa Bulacan dahil sa sunod-sunod na pag-ulan sa bahagi ng Angat Watershed Forest sa bayan ng Norzagaray.

Ayon sa Hydrology Division ng PAGASA, mula sa 161.46 meters kamakalawa ay tumaas ito ng halos isang metro at naging 162.40 meters kahapon (Hulyo 28).

Ang isa pang dam sa Bu-

lacan, ang Ipo, na nasa ibaba ng agos ng Angat Dam at bahagi ng Angat-Ipo-La Mesa water system, ay naging 100.66 meters kahapon mula sa 100.65 kamakalawa.

Sa kabila na pumasok na ang tag-ulan ay patuloy pa rin ang panawagan ng PAGASA sa publiko na magtipid sa paggamit ng tubig.

Una nang sinabi ng PAGASA na hanggang sa mga buwan pa ng Setyembre-Okubre mararanasan ang krisis sa tubig.

Sa pag-angat ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay maraming negosyante ang natuwa partikular ang mga katutubong Dumagat na namumuhay sa paligid ng dam na umaasa sa pangingsda rito.

DANNY GRAVADOR



LEBEL NG TUBIG SA ANGAT DAM, TUMAAS

PATULOY ang pag-angat ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam dahil sa sunud-sunod na pag-ulan.

Mula sa 161.46 meters, tumaas ito ng halos isang metro at naging 162.40 meters.

Nadagdagan din ang mga tubig sa La Mesa Dam mula 73.96 meters ay naging 73.93 meters habang ang Ipo Dam ay naging 100.66 meters mula 100.65 meters.

Tumaas din ang tubig sa Ambuklao, Binga, Magat at Kaliraya Dams.

Gayunman, mababa pa rin ang tubig sa San Roque at Pantabangan Dams.

(V. Reyes)



29 JUL 2019

DATE

WATER LEVEL NG ANGAT DAM AT IPO DAM, PATULOY SA PAG-ANGAT

PATULOY ang pag-angat ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam sa lalawigan ng Bulacan dahil sa sunud-sunod na pag-ulan sa bahagi ng Angat Watershed Forest sa bayan ng Norzagaray.

Ayon sa Hydrology Division ng PAGASA, mula sa 161.46 meters kamakalawa ay tumaas ito nang halos isang metro at naging 162.40 meters kahapon (Hulyo 28).

Samantala, patuloy din ang pagtaas ng lebel ng tubig sa Ipo Dam, na nasa ibaba ng agos ng Angat Dam at bahagi ng Angat-Ipo-La Mesa water system, na naging 100.66 meters kahapon mula sa 100.65 kamakalawa.

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Sa pag-angat ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam, maraming negosyante ang natuwa pati na ang mga katutubong Dumagat na namumuhay sa paligid ng dam na umaasa sa pangangisda rito. **(MICKA BAUTISTA)**



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EDITORIAL



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BELOW THE LINE

Just add H₂O

By **JOSÉ ABETO ZAIDE**

IT'S one of the ironies of Manila — to thirst in the midst of a flood.

Manila is one of the most providentially blessed cities, sitting in one of the finest bays in the world. It is traversed by the Pasig River. Nearby is Laguna de Bay and farther afield are Taal Lake and Caliraya. And there is the Wawa river flushing torrents to the sea. Despite all these, Manila is not always able to quench the thirst of the populace.

The ohrwurm that seems to ring in my ear on some rainy days without water is the Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner: Water, water, everywhere... not a drop to drink. Many of us can probably still remember the time when an enraged citizen hung a protest sign in front of a municipal hall: "Walang tubig: Mabuti pa si Meyor, may tuló!" A colorful vernacular which defies translation in polite circles.

Filipinos are one of most ingenious peoples. The water shortage that hit the East Zone of Metro Manila in April this year spurred proposals to preclude this happening again. When I was a kid, my mother told us that they used to save rainwater from the roof for household use. But today our subdivisions expand and build upon available real estate, paving the streets and driveways, and directing the rainwater to sewers flow flush into the sea... while floods rise in the city in the process. Famine in the midst of plenty; or thirst in the midst of a flood.

There are many ways to conserve water — like building weirs, conserving river water by drawing water from Laguna de Bay and from old wells, or, in extremis, creating a Department of Water to address our perennial shortage. One project that answers our water problem is the approval of the Wawa Bulk Water Project. It is a joint venture of Enrique Razon, the chairman of the International Container



Terminal Services, Inc., and Oscar Violago, the head of the San Lorenzo Ruiz Water Development Corp. It will supply 80 million liters a day (MLD) by 2021, 500 MLD by 2025, boosting water production in the East Zone by 30 percent. The proponents are investing up to P20 billion to ensure water-supply security over the medium- and long-term.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System approved the proposal for the construction of a dam in Montalban as a medium-term water source. This undertaking revives the Wawa Dam in Rodriguez, Rizal. (Wawa was Manila's source of water before it was abandoned in 1968 when Angat Dam was built.) Reviving the Wawa to slake the thirst of a burgeoning Metro Manila population and nearby areas is the medium-term answer, according to MWSS Chairman Franklin Demonteverde and Administrator Reynaldo Velasco.

The tariff impact of the Wawa project is expected to be minimal because of the strategic location of the new water supply source. The search for other new sources of water continues, along with the upgrading of the established systems of tunnels and aqueducts. Other possible water sources are Putatan, Cardona, Sumag River, Calawis, Rizal Wellfield, Lower Ipo, Muntinlupa, Laguna Lake, and Kaliwa Dam in Quezon Province.

NEXT PICTURE. Gus Albor, the enfant terrible I knew when I was also young and full of hope, will have his nth exhibition titled "Encompassing" on 31 July-29 August 2019 at the Finale Art File at 2241 Chino Roces Avenue. The collection includes a 7-foot oeuvre (conceived for the Venice Biennale 2015 but not executed because of transport costs) — a walk-in contraption for extra-sensory experience.

FEEDBACK: joseabetozaide@gmail.com



CTALK
CITO BELTRAN

**Not a game among
generals**

“Where there’s smoke, there’s fire” and in the Philippines, where there are rumors there is a great possibility of truth to those rumors.



In the case of the Presidential shutdown of all government sanctioned gambling at the local level, we are told that President Rodrigo Roa Duterte got fed up upon discovering that much of the graft and corruption in state sponsored local gambling is controlled, influenced or masterminded by retired and active generals in the Military and the Police. That of course is nothing new. I for one have known and mentioned in this column that part of the in-fighting and mudslinging in the “local gambling industry” had to do with the fact that a bunch of retired generals had joined the business, tried to displace historical gambling lords, tried to muscle their way into PCSO by dislodging uncooperative officials and eventually tried to broker their hard won and over priced “Franchise” back to a well-known gambling lord. That was just last year. Before that there were earlier retirees who managed to get “lotto outlets” from the very beginning. Greed simply multiplied and attracted an even “greedier” batch of retirees.

The thing about these “General” problems of the President is that they are anywhere and everywhere there is money to be made via influence, connections, batch mates or muscle. Far from being a marginalized sector in the landscape of corruption, these general headaches are well entrenched in businesses that operate on cash flow. The tragic part about it is that their nefarious activities are only spoken about in the form of rumors because you could end up getting your vehicle carnapped as I did when we merely featured “The Mansions of the Generals” back when I was just starting out on TV with ABS CBN. It wasn’t even my idea but I paid the price and got the message not to mess with the “Lifestyle of the Generals.” Fortunately, I do have friends in interesting places and it was also a police general who told me that the mastermind behind my stolen SUV was the son of a retired police general!

But let’s not get distracted. It may interest President Duterte to know or perhaps just recall that rumors abound about how many of the buses on EDSA as well as provincial buses belonging to “generals”. In the provinces, I’ve been told about one or two generals who control the business of commuter vans in parts of Mindoro and Cebu province. Then there is of course the often-mentioned involvement if not direct ownership of Security Agencies by retired generals and colonels and the way they underpay guards just like in the military. Of course, when you hear about security agencies, you also hear about armored trucks and vans, that once upon a time were the terror of city streets for their impunity and reckless disregard of the law. Does anybody out there have actual knowledge of generals that own tow trucks? That would not surprise me one bit! Let’s also not forget about trucking services at the different piers and customs because even there, their presence is felt.

There is also the long talked about ownership by generals and politicians of fish cages and fish pens in Laguna de Bay and Lake Taal. Every time a major fish kill or pollution issue pops up, we all talk about removing those fish farms that have over populated the lake but what always bounces back to the public is that they are untouchable because they belong to generals and politicians! Every now and then, President Duterte talks about or tells stories about people and friends who were involved in small claims mining particularly near Davao. I remember a time when a businessman I knew had looked into a major paper mill in the area that also had potential sites for gold mining. What he initially called a high potential project was quickly abandoned and when I asked him why, he said that most of the gold mining operations were in the hands of “Generals” or the NPA!

At the risk of finding an empty parking space once again, I humbly suggest to President Duterte to seriously consider forming an investigative panel to look into how deep these “General Headaches” have penetrated and corrupted government and public services and businesses. If the President is convinced that his Generals are true Officers and Gentlemen, then it is time for them to clean up their own ranks. It is one thing for a retired officer to go into business, but it is a totally different thing to do so through corruption, intimidation and impunity.

* * *



BIZ BUZZ



Land use conundrum

Three years into his term, Mr. Duterte has yet to breathe life into the passage of the National Land Use Bill and, if Sen. **Cynthia Villar** is right, the measure may not be enacted anytime soon despite being a priority bill of the Chief Executive.

In an interview with reporters, the lawmaker—who received criticism for allegedly shelving the bill to protect the interests of her family’s mass housing and development business—said that no one in Congress would sponsor a bill that could sabotage relationships with local government units.

You see, land use is currently determined by local government officials and adopting the National Land Use Bill would mean stripping them of this power to do so. This would also mean repealing the local government code.

“Do you want the ire of all the mayors in the Philippines? No Congress will do that... I don’t want to do that. That’s their power. They’re even asking for more powers to be returned to the local government,” Villar said.

The measure continues to gather dust in Congress as politics continue to rule the legislative branch. The question now is, whether or not the allies of the President in Congress are enough to push for the passage of the National Land Use Bill.

Without it, the utilization of the country’s land resources remains unchecked and makes the country more vulnerable to

natural disasters.

For a lot of civic groups, stopping the occurrence of disasters altogether is improbable, but the proper use of the country’s resources could mitigate its adverse effects. This, however, can only be done if policies are in place. —KARL R.

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Warning out on FDA-banned skin-whitening products

By **CHITO CHAVEZ**

Environment advocate EcoWaste Coalition has warned the public against buying skin whitening products the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had banned in 2017 for containing mercury, a highly toxic chemical.

The group issued its latest product alert after finding Sunday that imported "Goree and Collagen Plus Vit E" skin-whitening products are being sold in at least six beauty and herbal kiosks in Tutuban Center Mall in Tondo, Manila.

"Consumers should heed FDA's public health advisories and not waste their money buying these poisonous skin whitening products. Repeated application of such cosmetics may result in chronic exposure to mercury and cause damage to the brain and the central nervous system, the kidneys and the skin itself," said Thony Dizon, Ecowaste's chemical safety campaigner.

"As mercury can cross the placental barrier, we strongly advise pregnant women not to use mercury-contaminated products to protect themselves and the babies in the womb against this toxic substance," he said.

In its Advisory 2017-289, the agency banned Goree Beauty Cream and Goree Day & Night Beauty Cream from Pakistan for containing toxic mercury levels beyond the one part per million (ppm) maximum limit under the ASEAN Cosmetic Directive.

The FDA said adverse health effects from using highly toxic mercury in cosmetics products include kidney damage, skin rashes, skin discoloration and scarring.

"The transfer of mercury to fetuses of pregnant women may manifest as neurodevelopment deficits later in life," it further warned. Ecowaste said the symptoms of mercury exposure include depression, drowsiness, exhaustion, hair loss, inflamed gums, irritability, memory loss,

nervousness, rash, sleeplessness, tingling of the extremities, tremors and weakness.

It also noted that Collagen Plus Vit E Day & Night Cream is among the 85 "unnotified" cosmetics cited in FDA Advisory 2017-314.

Chemical screening conducted by the group indicated high concentrations of mercury up to over 20,000 ppm in Goree products, while mercury in samples of Collagen Plus Vit E had more than 10,000 ppm.

It urged the city government to prioritize the enactment of an ordinance banning and penalizing the manufacture, importation, distribution and sale of mercury-containing cosmetics such as skin whitening creams and soaps.

The group also suggested that mall managements monitor and control products being sold by their tenants to ensure that adulterated, banned and counterfeit products are not offered for sale in their premises.



Philippine firms brace for impact of new laws

Cost of doing business in PH to be affected, says P&A Grant Thornton

New laws passed during the 17th Congress will have a major impact on the cost of doing business in the country, said auditing firm P&A Grant Thornton.

"The fiscal burden for Philippine corporations varies depending on their business activities and registration. There are generous incentives alongside relatively high-income tax rates, but reforms underway can definitely be a welcome development particularly as they emphasize ease of compliance," said Maria Victoria España, chair and CEO of the local auditing firm.

She cited eight new laws that could have far-reaching impact on Philippine businesses:

Tax Amnesty Act (Republic Act No. 11213): This offers businesses with long overdue tax liabilities a clean state—the first-ever amnesty on delinquencies in the country.

The tax amnesty would allow businesses with delinquencies to pay only at least 40 percent of the tax assessed.

National Payment Systems Act (RA No. 11127): Payment system providers—which may include banks, credit card companies, and online payment platforms—now have to seek prior authority to operate from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). This is expected to pave the way for the adoption of electronic receipts, invoices, digital signatures, as well as boost digital payments in the government and private sector.

Telecommuting Act (RA No. 11165): While it remains voluntary for employers to offer telecommuting as a work option, they still have to pay full benefits and possibly even shoulder or subsidize the telecommunications cost of their employees, España said. According to the law, the terms and conditions for telecommuting should be mutually agreed upon by the employer and the telecommuting employee. Companies, however,

have to provide access to company information and opportunities for their employees to meet with coworkers regularly. The implementing rules and regulations (IRR) from the Department of Labor and Employment provide a list of the contents of an employer's telecommuting policy or agreement.

Social Security Act of 2018 (RA No. 11199): This mandates an increase in monthly contributions from 2019 to 2025, with varying rates every year. For accounting professionals, it is important to stay up to date on the applicable rates, said España. For human resource and payroll professionals, it is crucial to keep abreast of the increase in monthly SSS contributions since it falls under their responsibility, she added.

105-Day Expanded Maternity Leave Law (RA No. 11210): This requires both government and private offices to give mothers 105 days of paid maternity leave. With employers hav-

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ing to provide full pay during the maternity leave and even grant additional days, depending on the circumstances, the cost of ensuring business continuity and possibly hiring temporary staff becomes steep, said España.

"Small businesses specifically bear the brunt as they potentially lack the human capital or financial resources to shoulder the long-term absence of female employees," she said.

New Central Bank Act (RA No. 11211): Amending the charter of the BSP and increasing its capitalization, the law widens the BSP's industry coverage to include money service businesses, credit granting businesses, as well as payment system operators. It also gives the BSP additional power to slap administrative and criminal sanctions as well as increased fines on erring financial services institutions, from a ceiling of P30,000 a day for every violation to P1 million "for each transactional violation."

Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines (RA No. 11232): As part of government efforts to ease the way of doing business in the country, the 38-year-old Corporate Code now permits forming one-person corporations or companies with only one stockholder instead of a minimum of five, making it easier for entrepreneurs to establish their own businesses. It also allows a perpetual corporate term for existing and future corporations, unless specified in the company's articles of incorporation. The new code also encourages using technology for corporate filing, stockholder meetings, and board meetings, making it easier to administratively comply with the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (RA No. 11285): Energy efficiency and conservation is no longer a best practice or nice to have, but a must for businesses, especially for auto-

motive and real estate industry players.

The new law paves the way for the employment of Certified Energy Conservation Officers, Certified Energy Managers, Energy Service Companies, and energy labels.

"This is welcome news for companies whose products or services seek to provide energy efficiency to end users," España said.

Despite the passage of these new laws, the road to implementing them can still be long and arduous.

She cited RA No. 11127, or the National Payment Systems Act, that mandates the BSP as the oversight body for all payment systems.

While the law was enacted on Oct. 30, 2018, the IRR are still in the draft stage and have yet to be issued by the BSP.

"The primary challenge is usually the long wait between the effectivity date and the release of the IRR," she said. —CON-

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future of growth
together.**

Españo

8 new laws that impact Phl in 2019

While not all were mentioned as priority bills in President Duterte's fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA), new laws passed during the 17th Congress will have a major impact on the cost of doing business in the country, according to P&A Grant Thornton, one of the country's top five auditing firms.

"The fiscal burden for Philippine corporations varies depending on their business activities and registration. There are generous incentives alongside relatively high income tax rates, but reforms underway can definitely be a welcome development particularly as they emphasize ease of compliance," said Maria Victoria Españo, chairperson and chief executive officer of the local auditing firm.

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2. National Payment Systems Act (RA 11127) Payment system providers – which may include banks, credit card companies and online payment platforms – now have to seek prior authority to operate from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). This is expected to pave the way for the adoption of electronic receipts, invoices, digital signatures, as well as boost digital payments in the government and private sector.

3. Telecommuting Act (RA 11165) While it remains voluntary for employers to offer telecommuting as a work option, they still have to pay full benefits and possibly even shoulder or subsidize the telecommunications cost of their employees, Españo pointed out. According to the law, the terms and conditions for telecommuting should be mutually agreed upon by the employer and the telecommuting employee. Companies, however, have to provide access to company information and opportunities for their employees to meet with coworkers regularly. The implementing rules and regulations (IRR) from the Department of Labor and Employment provides a list of the contents of an employer's telecommuting policy or agreement. "While this is a noteworthy development, the agency could provide more specific guidelines," Españo said.

4. Social Security Act of 2018 (RA 11199) This mandates an increase in monthly contributions from 2019 to 2025, with varying rates vary every year. For accounting professionals, it is important to stay up-to-date on the applicable rates, Españo said. For human resource and payroll professionals, it is crucial to keep abreast of the increase in monthly SSS contributions since it falls under their responsibility, she added.

5. 105-day Expanded Maternity Leave Law (RA 11210) This requires both government and private offices to give mothers 105 days of paid maternity leave. With employers having to provide full pay during the maternity leave and even grant additional days, depending on the circumstances, the cost of ensuring business continuity and possibly hiring temporary staff becomes steep, Españo said. "Small businesses specifically bear the brunt as they potentially lack the human capital or financial resources to shoulder the long-term absence of female employees," she said.

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"The primary challenge is usually the long wait between the effectivity date and the release of the IRR," Españo said.



Are we really helpless in the face of climate change?



Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

RISING SUN

ALMOST every day the reports are posted and each one does not offer too much hope. And yet, we don't have much choice except to hope because we, together with our children, are already in the middle of this catastrophe.

The Economist recently published a piece about the unprecedented heat waves being experienced in many places today, including Europe. The write-up offered a kind of a silver lining—that deaths and injuries arising out of heat waves are preventable.

One thing to do, according to the article, is to establish an efficient information campaign to warn people about heat waves that are happening. People must know that it is not wise

to stay out in the sun or to pass on the water during episodes like these. Social media is an excellent tool for this purpose.

Cities must also establish cool, shaded areas like parks and provide fresh water for everyone. In communities where homes don't have air-conditioning, public places like community centers and schools can serve as a haven for overheating humans.

Those in charge of building structures must be mindful that their designs are resilient to the threat of extreme heat. Suggestions include installing "cool roofs" and white walls. There must be more green spaces, too, so everyone can breathe easier.

According to an old WWF article from March of last year, there are many reasons why people must remain hopeful in the midst of all the negative predictions and updates. I believe the reasons for hope are still relevant today.

For example, we must know that there are thousands of influential people working together to fight climate change. These are volunteers, student leaders, tribal leaders, government officials, school presidents, CEOs, entrepreneurs, and many others.

More businesses and capitalists, along with communities, schools, tribes, cities, and countries, have joined or are starting to join the campaign to reduce carbon emissions and

adopt ways to mitigate the negative effects of climate change.

There are strong campaigns ongoing worldwide that call for greater access to renewable energy sources. There are also more companies that are working to shift their power source to renewable-energy, and hopefully, more businesses will follow suit.

People believe that their efforts, no matter how small, make a difference and so there are many campaigns and projects that seek to recycle/reuse trash, save energy or reduce one's carbon footprint, revive the environment, clean the oceans, save animals and alter wasteful lifestyles.

We have to keep believing that our concerted efforts will eventually bear fruit. We need to be positive and hopeful. We should learn to adapt to present-day realities while we take action—because adaptation is never enough. We need to do our share today. Not tomorrow.



GLOBAL WARMING

COMEDIAN, UN CHIEF TALK SUICIDE AMID CLIMATE WOES

LONDON—"Shall we all just kill ourselves?"

It was an odd title for a comedy night, but British stand-up Carl Donnelly turned out to have chosen an environmental theme with impeccable timing.

With temperature records broken daily in last week's European heat wave, a crowd in an east London bar seemed primed to appreciate his darkly humorous riffs on the threat posed by climate change.

That foretaste of a radically hotter world underscored what is at stake in a decisive phase of talks to implement the 2015 Paris Agreement, a collective shot at avoiding climate breakdown.

With studies showing climate impacts, from extreme weather to polar melt and sea level rise outstripping initial forecasts, negotiators have a fast-closing window to try to turn the aspirations agreed in

Paris into meaningful outcomes.

"There's so much on the line in the next 18 months or so," said Sue Reid, vice president of climate and energy at Ceres, a US nonprofit group that works to steer companies and investors onto a more sustainable path.

Suicidal

In October, the UN-backed Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned emissions must start falling next year at the latest to stand a chance of achieving the deal's goal of holding the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

With emissions currently on track to push temperatures more than three degrees higher, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres is working to wrest bigger commitments from governments ahead of a summit in New York in September.

Guterres said failing to cut emissions would be "suicidal."

—REUTERS



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

29 JUL 2019

DATE



PUSONG PANALO

ni Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

HALOS araw-araw, naglalabasan ang mga balitang nagdudulot ng kawalan ng pag-asa. Ngunit wala tayong magagawa kundi ang umasa na kahit papaano'y may kinabukasan pa rin ang ating mga anak. Ang pag-asa ay kinakailangan sapagkat narito na tayo sa kalagitnaan ng sitwasyong ito.

Naglabas kamakai-

lan ng isang artikulo ang The Economist tungkol sa heatwave na nararansan sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo ngayon, partikular sa Europa. Ayon sa artikulong ito, ang mga kamatayan at pinsala na dulot ng heatwave ay maaaring maiwasan. Hindi ba't magandang balita ito, kahit na papaano?

Isa sa dapat gawin,

TAYO BA AY WALANG LABAN SA CLIMATE CHANGE?

ayon sa artikulo, ay ang pagkakaroon ng maayos at epektibong information campaign upang mabigyan ng babala ang mga tao tungkol sa mga heatwave na magaganap. Kailangang alam ng mga tao na hindi ligtas ang mamalagi sa labas, sa ilalim ng araw, o ang hindi pag-inom ng tubig sa mga panahong ito. Mainam na kasangkapan ang social media para sa gawaing ito.

Kailangan din daw

na magkaroon ang mga siyudad ng malalamig at malililim na bahagi o lugar katulad ng parke. Narapat na may sapat na tubig para sa lahat. Sa mga komunidad na mayroong mga tahananang walang air-conditioning, ang mga pampublikong lugar katulad ng community centers, barangay, at eskuwelahan ay maaaring magsilbing kanlungan o pook silungan para sa mga taong labis na naiinitan.

Yaong mga namamahal sa pagtatayo ng mga gusali ay dapat ding maging maingat upang masigurong ang mga disenyo nila ay kayang mananggalang laban sa labis na init. Kabilang sa mga suhestiyon ay ang pagkakaroon ng "cool roof" at puting dingding. Kailangan din ang mas maraming halaman at puno upang mas maluwag ang paghinga ng lahat.

(Itutuloy)



TITLE:

NAGSABAY ang peke at tunay na lindol kama-kalawa sa Metro Manila at sa lawaligan ng Batanes.

'Yung peke, siyempre, puyat lang ang inabot ng mga lumahok para kunwari iligtas ang kanilang mga sarili at iba.

Pero 'yung tunay, aba, namatayan na sila, may nasugatan pa.

'Yung peke, isinagawa sa Metro Manila sa pamamagitan ng batingting at ang tunay, nangyari sa Batanes at nagkatunugan ang mga nasirang bahay at iba pang mga gusali gaya ng mga simbahan at ng sa pamahalaan.

9 PATAY, 100 SUGATAN

Gumuho ang mga bahay, eskwela at may nasira sa mga simbahan at gusali ng pamahalaan sa Batanes.

Ito'y makaraang sumalakay ang lindol na magnitude 5.4 dakong 4:00 ng madaling araw; magnitude 5.9 bago mag-alas-8 ng umaga at sinundan pa ito ng magnitude 5.4.

Habang tinitipa natin ito, may mga aftershock pa at halos 200 na.

Para hindi mapinsala sa buhay ang mga residente, lalo na sa bayan ng Itbayat, pinanatili sila ng pamahalaan sa mga evacuation area.

MATIBAY SA BAGYO HINDI SA LINDOL

Karaniwang gawa sa adobe at pinulbos na malalagkit na bato na hinahalan ng apog at semento ang mga bahay ng mga taga-Batanes.

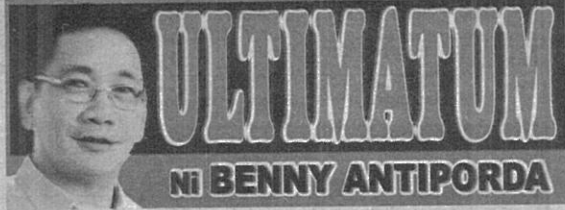
Karamihan walang gamit na bakal kundi pinagpapatong-patong na adobe at binububungan ng mga cogon na mga kahoy ang mga pinagkakabit.

Hindi umuubra ang bagyo sa mga bahay na ito dahil matitibay naman.

Tanging ang mga bubong lang ang binabaligtad o tinutuklap at inililipad ng mga malalakas na bagyo na tumatama sa lugar.

Ngunit nang dumating ang lindol, anak ng tokwa, nagsiguhuan at nagiba ang mga bahay at iba pang mga istruktura.

Kaya naman may mga namatay at nasugatan



PEKE, TUNAY NA LINDOL DAPAT HUWAG BALEWALAIN

MAHIRAP TUMULONG

Gusto ng mga taga-mainland ng Cagayan at Ilocos ang tumulong sa mga biktima ng lindol.

Kaya lang, masungit ang dagat at hindi puwede ang mga maliliit na bangka na pambiyaheda la ang mga rescue group at relief goods.

Masungit ang dagat dahil tag-ulan na at maalong.

Kung may mga ligtas mang pandagat na sasakyan, tanging ang mga barko at lantsa ng Philippine Navy at Coast Guard.

Ang totoo, sa mga panahon na ito tumitigil ang biyaheng Batanes-Cagayan dahil nga sa sungit ng panahon.

Sa mga panahon ding ito nabubuo ang mga biglaan at parang signal number 4 na bagyo na nagtatalag ng isang oras at winawasak o binabaligtad ang mga bangka sa laot.

HELIKOPTER, EROPLANO

Dahil sa delikadong karagatan, helicopter at eroplano na lang ang pagasa para sa mabilis na paghahatid ng tulong sa mga biktima.

Ang maliliit na patrol boat ng Philippine Coast Guard at Philippine Navy ay kasama sa mga hindi uubra para lakbayin ang karagatan at ang mga malalaki lamang ang puwede.

Ganito kahirap, mga Bro, ang pagpunta sa pinangyarihan ng lindol at para tumulong.

Kaya naman, dasal na lang at iba pang paralisdong paraan makatutulong ang iba.

Mayroong sariling mga pasilidad, tauhan at relief goods ang mga taga-Batanes dahil alam nilang dapat nilang ihanda ang mga ito.

Subalit nangyari ang hindi inaasahan, ang pagtama ng lindol na sumira sa kanilang mga buhay at tahanan at iba pang silungan.

Kung may mga material man na gustong ipadala na mga taga-mainland

mula sa Cagayan Valley at Ilocos Region, pinakamainam na dalhin ang mga ito sa mga ahensya ng pamahalaan na inatayang bibiyaheda patungong disaster areas.

Alalahaning inilipad sa capital ng Batanes, sa Basco, ang mga nasugatan dahil hindi nakayanan ng nag-iisang doctor na asikasuhin ang mga ito.

Kaya naman, maaaring dalhin ang tulong sa Basco at bahala na ang mga awtoridad na magdala ng tulong sa mga mamamayan sa mga isla.

THE BIG ONE

Habang ginigiba ng tunay na lindol ang ilang bahagi ng Batanes, nagkakaroon din ng mga pagsasanay ang mga taga-Metro Manila kaugnay ng inaasahang The Big One na magnitude 7.2.

Katumbas ng lindol na ito ang lindol na sumira sa Bohol, kasama ang Cebu, noong 2013 na ikinamatay ng 222 katao at ikinasugat ng halos 1,000 katao.

Ginawa ang pagsasanay ng kunwari walang paghahanda dahil talaga namang mangyayari at mangyayari ang lindol nang walang paa-lam.

Ang isang mahalagang tanong sa mga tao: nasaan ang mga Quadrant na sinasabi ng mga awtoridad na takbuhan ng tao bilang evacuation areas?

Kung ang tanong na ito ay wala sa kamalayan ng 15 milyong mamamayan sa Metro Manila, maghanda-handa na tayo sa grabeng sakuna.

Kabilang dito ang posibleng pagkamatay ng 30,000-50,000 katao sa pagguho ng mga gusali, sunog, pagkahulog sa mga bitak ng lupa at iba pa.

God help us!

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo ay maaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa banti-porda@yahoo.com.



POLLUTION ADJUDICATION BOARD (PAB) RESOLUTION NO. 1
Series of 2019

**DELEGATION OF THE POLLUTION ADJUDICATION BOARD TO THE
EMB REGIONAL OFFICES THE DETERMINATION OF PERMITTING
VIOLATIONS AND IMPOSITION OF FINES THERETO**

WHEREAS, under Section 14 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9275 otherwise known as the "Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004" and under section 1, Rule 19 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 8749 otherwise known as the "Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999", the Regional Offices are empowered to issue a Discharge Permit and/or Permit to Operate, *respectively*.

WHEREAS, in relation to the aforementioned function, the Regional Office (RO), conducts surveys and/or monitoring inspections on all establishments to check their compliance with permitting requirements provided by the above-mentioned laws.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the survey and/or monitoring inspection conducted, the Regional Director issues a Notice of Violation and invites Respondent to a Technical Conference. Thereafter, the Regional Office elevates the case to the Board for imposition of fines.

WHEREAS, under Section 28 of the R.A. 9275 and Section 45 in relation to Section 47 of the R.A. 8749, the Pollution Adjudication Board (hereinafter referred to "PAB") has the power to impose the fines to violators.

WHEREAS, also under Section 28 of R.A. 9275, the fines prescribed shall be increased by ten percent (10%) every two (2) years to compensate for inflation and to maintain the deterrent function of such fines;

WHEREAS, under Executive Order No.192¹, the powers and functions of the Board may be delegated to the regional officers of the Department in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the Board.

WHEREAS, pursuant to DAO 2016-07, or the DENR Manual of Authorities for Technical Matters, the approving authority for the imposition of administrative fines shall be the PAB Chairperson or the EMB Regional Director.

WHEREAS, whether imposed by PAB or Regional Office, the fines would go to the National Treasury, for which special accounts were established, such as the National Water Quality Management Fund² and the Air Quality Management Fund³;

WHEREAS, regional offices must secure a clearance from the Board before they issue the necessary permits applied by these erring establishments under existing environmental laws, rules and regulations.

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT, the PAB hereby delegates to the Regional Office, thru its Regional Director, the determination of administrative violations and the imposition of fines for the following:

1. Operating facilities/ air pollution source installations without valid Discharge Permit and/ or Permit to Operate;
2. Discharging regulated water pollutants without the valid permit; and
3. Refusal or failure to designate Pollution Control Officers as required by the Department; and
4. Failure to submit reports within the prescribed period.

All of the aforementioned cases delegated to the Regional Office shall be numbered and docketed consecutively and entered into an appropriate logbook in accordance with a system of numbering and docketing of cases adopted by the PAB thru its Secretariat.

Thereafter, a Notice of Violation shall be issued with invitation to attend Technical Conference not later than fifteen (15) days from the issuance of said Notice. Only one (1) Technical Conference shall be allowed. The failure of such respondent to attend the technical conference or submit his position paper on the said date, shall mean a waiver of his right to contest the findings of the report or present evidence in his defense and the case may be decided based on evidence on record.

The PAB Secretariat, motu proprio or upon invitation, may attend the Technical Conference scheduled by the Regional Offices. As such, the Regional Offices shall furnish the PAB Secretariat the copies of Notice of Violation with invitation for Technical Conference prior to the conduct of said Technical Conference.

The fines to be imposed against erring establishments shall be as follows:

- a. For permitting violations of Clean Water Act (R.A. 9275), and considering that an establishment is required to pay a discharge permit fee³ annually, a fine of Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 19,500) shall be imposed for every year of violation
- b. For permitting violations of Clean Air Act (R.A. 8749), and considering that a Permit to Operate has a validity of five (5) years⁴, a fine of Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 19,500) shall be imposed for a five-year violation by the establishment.
- c. For failure to designate a Pollution Control Officer, a one-time fine of Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 19,500) shall be imposed against the establishment.
- d. For failure to submit reports, a fine of Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 19,500) shall be imposed against the establishment for every failure to submit said report within the prescribed period.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT, the Regional Office shall immediately endorse to the PAB for its adjudication the case of erring establishments should there be violations committed under R.A. 9275 and R.A. 8749 aside from the permitting violations abovementioned, such as but not limited to, emission or discharge of pollutants, oil spill, by-pass, refusal of entry, etc.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT, the Respondent may file for a Motion for Reconsideration to the Regional Office as regards the adverse Order it received. Respondent also has the remedy of appeal within fifteen (15) days from the receipt of the Order of Regional Office to the Pollution Adjudication Board.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT, the Regional Office is hereby authorized to issue a one-time temporary permit with a validity of not more than three (3) months, provided that the establishment which was issued a temporary permit **must be inspected and the Regional Office must conduct sampling during such inspection** to ensure compliance with environmental laws, rules and regulations.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT, all records relative to PAB cases from the Regional Office shall be addressed and immediately received by the Pollution Adjudication Board Secretariat.

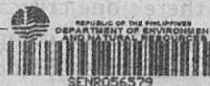
RESOLVED FINALLY THAT, the Regional Office shall submit a monthly report to the Pollution Adjudication Board the names of establishments with their corresponding dockets and imposed fines in order for the PAB to issue the necessary clearance for the issuance of the regular permits of these establishments.

All related pending cases not yet adjudicated by the PAB shall be remanded to the Regional Office accordingly.

This Resolution shall take effect fifteen (15) calendar days after its completion of publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon submission of a copy thereof to the Office of the National Administrative Register at the University of the Philippines Law Center.

Done in Quezon City this ___th day of JUL 01 in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Nineteen.

SEC. ROY A. CIMATU
Chairman



USEC. RODOLFO C. GARCIA
Presiding Officer

USEC. JONAS R. LEONES
Member

USEC. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA
Member

USEC. ERNESTO D. ADOBO, JR.
Member

DIR. METODIO U. TURBELLA
Member

MR. DEMETRIO L. IGNACIO, JR.
Member

Attested by:

ATTY. JANICE E. REGOSO
Board Secretary and Legal Counsel

ENGR. TERESITA A. PERALTA
Deputy Board Secretary

¹ Section 19, E.O. 192, Series of 1987

² Section 9, Article 1, Chapter 2, R.A. 9275

³ Section 14, Article 1, Chapter 2, R.A. 8749

⁴ DAO 2005-10, Section 14.5

⁵ DAO 2004-26, Section 6 of Rule XIX