

DATE : 17 AUG 2019

DAY : Saturday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Aboitiz Group in river rehab

The Aboitiz Group, through its parent firm Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. (AEV) and its social responsibility arm Aboitiz Foundation, is working closely with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to restore the San Juan River.

On Friday, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu and AEV chief Operating Officer Sabin Aboitiz signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) allowing the private group to donate materials required by the DENR to pursue the river rehabilitation project.

Under the agreement, AEV will be the overall project manager while the Aboitiz Foundation will be the overall director for implementation.

The DENR will head the conduct of community social regulations and manage the overall sustainability program involving local chief executives, homeowners associations, private partner and other stakeholders.

Over the next three years, both DENR and AEV will develop and implement a comprehensive program envisioned to reduce toxic waste in the San Juan River through garbage removal and cleanup activities, silt elimination, easement recovery and protection.

"Today, we take a solid and resolute step towards winning the battle for Manila Bay with the signing of the MoA among the DENR, AEV and Aboitiz Foundation for the sustainable cleanup and rehabilitation of the San Juan River," Cimatu said.

"Cleaning up the San Juan River will entail a great deal of work and money and so thank you Aboitiz Equity Ventures and the Aboitiz Foundation for sharing with us the objective of protecting and preserving the environment," he said.



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REHAB DEAL. Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu (left) and AEV chief operating officer Sabin Aboitiz sign a memorandum of agreement to help rehabilitate the San Juan River at the DENR office in Quezon City. **Manny Palmero**



Cimatu: Bamboo good substitute

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu on Friday said the Philippines must embrace bamboo as a substitute for wood timber if it wants to increase the nation's forest cover and fight climate change.

To use bamboo as an alternative to traditional hardwood building materials would eliminate the need to cut trees in the forest, thus helping lessen climate change impacts, he said.

"We are envisioning to produce engineered bamboo as a substitute for actual lumber instead of cutting trees that are there in the forest so that we will increase our forest cover in the next several years or decades to catch up with our ASEAN neighbors," he said.

Only 23 percent of the country's total land area is covered by forest, which makes the Philippines having one of the lowest forest covers in Southeast Asia.

The average forest cover in other countries in the region is between 30 and 35 percent.

"We are not competing that we should be the highest—that we should be there at the top of the forest cover, but it is a necessity for us because we used to have the biggest forest cover in the ASEAN, in Southeast Asia. But not now because of our overuse of our timber," Cimatu said.

He said that bamboo—technically a grass, not a tree—is not only a sustainable alternative to wood, but also has the potential to significantly offset carbon emissions. **Rio N. Araja**



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PAGPAPATITULO NG PUBLIC LAND, "ISUMITE ANG APLIKASYON SA BARANGAY"

UPANG mapadali ang pagpapatitulo ng mga public land, tatanggap na ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng aplikasyon para sa pagpapatitulo ng public alienable and disposable lands sa mga barangay sa buong bansa.

Sa ipinalabas na DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2019-08 ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, inaatasan nito ang lahat ng Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) at Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) na tumanggap ng aplikasyon sa pagpapatitulo ng lupa sa mga barangay.

"This is part of our continuing effort to simplify, streamline and fast track the disposition of public alienable and disposable lands through free and homestead patents, and we

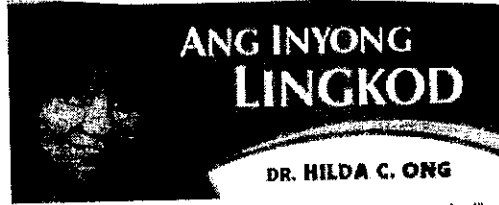
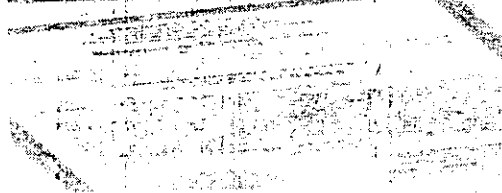
are doing this in strong partnership with local government units (LGUs)," sabi ni Cimatu.

Inatasan ni Cimatu ang Land Management Bureau (LMB) ng DENR na magbigay ng patnubay at technical assistance upang matiyak na magiging maayos ang implementasyon ng DAO 2019-08 o ang "Applications of Public Land Tiling at the Barangay Level."

Ayon kay LMB Director Emelyne Talabis, sa pamamagitan ng naturang DAO ay mapatalapit na sa publiko ang pagpapatitulo dahil dadalhin na ito sa kanilang mga barangay.

"We are thrilled that with this new policy, we can impact land owners' lives by providing a more accessible and transparent service of the government," ani Talabis.

Nakasaad sa DAO na ang mga PENRO at CENRO, sa pakikipagtulungan ng LGU at



mga opisyal ng barangay, ay tatanggap na ng aplikasyon para sa pagpapatitulo ng lupa na isinumite sa tanggapan ng kani-kanilang barangay.

Upang maging madaling maintindihan ng publiko ang proseso at malaman ang iba pang impormasyon na may kinalaman sa pagpapatitulo, ang LMB ay magdidikit ng mapa ng kadasiro (cadastral maps), daloy ng aplikasyon (procedures), mga streamlined requirements at halaga ng kaukulang bayarin sa isang lugar sa barangay hall na madaling makita ng lahat.

"Instead of the people going to the CENROs which may be far from their residence, it will be the CENRO staff who will go to the barangays to conduct information dissemination and encourage the community to apply for land tiling," sabi pa ni Talabis.

Dagdag pa nito, tatanggap din ng on-site application sa barangay basta't kumpleto ang mga kinakailangang dokumento. Nilinaw ng LMB na sa simula ng pagpapatupad ng DAO, tatanggapin lamang sa barangay ang aplikasyon kung may kasalukuyang naganap na pagpapatitulo dito. Pinapayuhan din nito ang publiko na alamin ang schedule ng pagpapatitulo sa kani-kanilang mga barangay.

Bilang paghahanda naman sa implementasyon ng DAO ay kasalukuyan nang nagsasagawa ang mga tauhan ng

LMB ng "tenure appraisal" sa iba't-ibang rehiyon upang matukoy ang mga lote na maaaring patituluhan.

Kasalukuyan na ring nagsasagawa ng training ang LMB para sa field personnel ng DENR at mga kinatwan ng mga LGUs kung paano mapapabilis ang proseso sa aplikasyon ng public land titles.

Inaatasan din ng DAO ang mga regional offices na magsumite ng written at video documentation ng kaganapan o "proceedings" ng tiling operation at isumite ito sa LMB para sa kanilang monitoring. Ang documentation ay magiging bahagi ng database ng Land Administration and Management System (LAMS).

Ang LAMS ay ginawa upang magkaroon ng epektibong pamamahala ng land records sa buong bansa at ng maayos na paghahatid ng land services sa publiko. Ito ay nagmula sa Land Administration and Management Project na layuning mabigyan ng solusyon ang problema sa pamamahala ng DENR land records.

Ang DAO 2019-08 ay kahalintulad ng DAO 2011-06 na nagbibigay ng patnubay sa implementasyon ng public land titling katuwang ang mga LGUs, at ng DAO 2007-09 na layunin naging mapabilis ang pamamahagi ng "public alienable at disposable lands sa pamamagitan ng free and homestead patents."



TO MITIGATE EFFECTS OF WEATHER PHENOMENON

PALACE REACTIVATES TASK FORCE ON EL NIÑO

By Julie M. Aurelio
@JMAurelioINQ

Malacañang has ordered the reactivation and reconstitution of a task force dedicated to mitigating the effects of El Niño, which is expected to continue until the end of August.

Executive Order No. 38 on the reactivation of the El Niño Task Force was signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea on Aug. 13, which the Palace released on Friday.

The directive was issued two months after the weather bureau officially declared the start of the rainy season, but with the warning that weak El Niño conditions are "likely to continue" until August.

"Current climate models suggest that there is a 75-percent probability that the El Niño phenomenon will persist from June until August 2019," the EO read.

It stressed that "the recurrence of the El Niño phe-

nomenon calls for the implementation of both short and long-term solutions to ensure food, water and energy security."

The presidential task force to mitigate the effects of El Niño will revise and update the Roadmap for Addressing the Impacts of El Niño (RAIN) crafted in 2015.

In 2015, the Philippines suffered a P15.2-billion loss in the agriculture sector as a result of the effects of El Niño that year.

EO 38 mandated that the presidential task force will be led by the socioeconomic planning secretary and director-general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

The agriculture secretary will be the head for food security; the environment secretary as head for water security; the energy secretary as head for energy security; the health secretary as head for health security; and the interior secretary as head for safety. INQ



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Duterte reactivates El Niño Task Force

By GENALYN D. KABILING

The Presidential Task Force has been reactivated to mitigate the impact of the El Niño phenomenon on food, water and energy security, public health, and safety in the country.

The task force, reconstituted by President Duterte under Memorandum Order No. 38, has been mobilized after government data showed El Niño dry phenomenon will likely persist from June until August 2019.

"The recurrence of the El Niño phenomenon calls for the implementation of short and long-term solutions to ensure food, water and energy security, safeguard livelihoods, and improve the country's disaster and climate resilience," the order read.

Under MO 38, the El Niño task force will be led by the National Economic and Development Authority Director General.

The secretary of Department of Agriculture has been assigned as head for food security, the secretary of Department of Environment and Natural Resources as head for water security, the secretary of Department of Energy as head for energy security, the

secretary of Department of Health as head for health, and the secretary of Department of Interior and Local Government as head for safety.

The members of the task force include the Cabinet Secretaries of national defense, science and technology, social welfare, labor, trade, and presidential communications.

Also part of the team are the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council chair, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority director general, Office of Civil Defense administrator, National Food Authority administrator, National Irrigation Authority administration, and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration administrator.

The President has directed the task force to update the Roadmap for Addressing the Impacts of El Niño (RAIN) and monitor the implementation of programs on the five critical areas, namely: food security, water security, energy security, health, and safety.

The task force may tap other government agencies to extend support to implement the roadmap.

The funding requirement will be sourced from the budget of the agencies of the task force.

The memorandum, signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea on behalf of the President last August 13, takes effect immediately.



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'El Niño' Task Force back to mitigate bad weather

By MJ Blancaflor

THE government is reactivating the El Niño Task Force tasked to enhance coordination in agencies and lessen the impact of the weather pattern in light of forecasts that reduced rainfall may persist until the end of the month.

In a memorandum released by Malacañang Friday, the Palace ordered the reactivation and reconstitution of the Presidential Task Force to mitigate the effects of El Niño on food and water security, energy, health, and safety.

The task force, headed by Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia, will also be asked to revise and update the existing Roadmap for Addressing the Impacts of El Niño which has been in place since 2015.

The task force was first engaged

in 2015 when the Philippines was reeling from one of the strongest El Niño occurrences on record, when the agriculture sector lost P15.2 billion worth of crops and livestock.

Under the memorandum, each cluster will be headed by a Cabinet secretary. Agriculture Secretary William Dar will head the food security cluster, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on water security, Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi on energy security, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III on

health, and Interior Secretary Eduardo Año on safety.

The other members of the task force are the Department of Science and Technology, Department of National Defense, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Trade and Industry, and Presidential Communications Operations Office, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, National Food Authority, National Irrigation Authority, and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration were also part of the task force, according to the memorandum.

Current climate models of the DOST-PAGASA suggest that there is 75 percent probability that the El Niño phenomenon will persist from June until August.



Duterte revives Task Force El Niño

PRESIDENT Duterte has reactivated the government's El Niño Task Force to mitigate the effects of the dry spell in the Philippines.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, by authority of the President, signed Memorandum Order No. 38 on August 13, "reactivating and reconstituting" the task force formed in 2001 under former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Under his order, Duterte said that "current climate models of the DOST-Pagasa suggest that there is a 75 percent probability that the El Niño phenomenon will persist from June until August 2019."

"[T]he recurrence of the El Niño phenomenon calls for the implementation of both short and long-term solutions to ensure food, water and energy security, safeguard

livelihood, and improve the country's disaster and climate resilience," the memorandum read.

Economic Secretary Ernesto Pernia will be the overall head of the task force. The agriculture secretary will be the head for food security, the environment secretary for water security, energy secretary for power security, health secretary for health and the interior secretary for safety concerns.

The memorandum ordered the task force to revise and update the Roadmap for Addressing the Impacts of El Niño (RAIN), the implementation of short and long-term solutions and programs identified on the five critical areas of food security, water security, energy security, health, and safety.

The task force could ask the support of the Department of Foreign Af-

fairs, Department of Tourism and all other government entities.

It has to submit to the President through the Executive Secretary a monthly report on the implementation of the order.

The funding of the task force would be charged against existing appropriations of the member agencies of the task force, it added. — *Inquirer*



EL NIÑO TASK FORCE BINUHAY

MULING pinagana ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang El Niño Task Force upang maibsan ang epekto ng El Niño phenomenon.

Sa bisa ng Memorandum Order No. 38 na nilagdaan ni Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea ay muling binigyang buhay ang naturang task force.

Nakasaad sa kautusan na ang kasalukuyang climate models ng Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration ang nagsabing mayroong 75 porsiyento na mananatili ang El Niño phenomenon mula Hunyo hang-

gang Agosto ng taong kasalukuyan.

"The recurrence of the El Niño phenomenon call for the implementation of both short and long-term solutions to ensure food, water and energy security, safeguard livelihoods, and improve the country's disaster and climate resilience," ang sabi sa kautusan.

Ang Director-General at Socioeconomic Planning Secretary ng National Economic and Development Authority ang nagsisilbing over-all head ng nabanggit na task force.

Samantala, ang secretary ng Department of Agriculture ang mamuno sa food security;

secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang head ng water security; secretary ng Department of Energy bilang head ng energy security; secretary ng Department of Health bilang head para sa health at ang secretary ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) ang head ng safety.

Mayroon pa ring ibang miyembro mula sa iba't ibang ahensiya ng gobyerno ang makakatuwang sa pagpapatakbo ng task force.

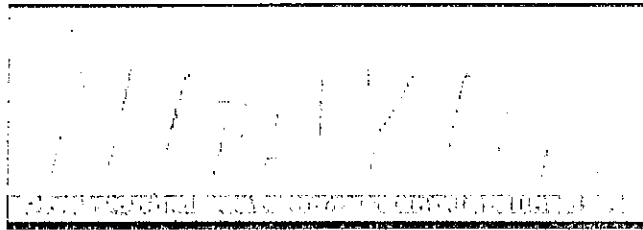
Ang task force ay naatasang magrebisa at mag-update ng Roadmap for Addressing the Impacts of El Niño (RAIN),

at mag-monitor sa mga short at long-term solutions at maging mga programa partikular sa mga kritikal na lugar gaya ng food security, water security, energy security, health, at safety.

Ang funding requirements para sa implementasyon ng kautusan ay ikakarga sa kasalukuyang appropriations ng mga member-agencies ng nabanggit na task force.

Sa pinakahuling El Niño, maraming mga lugar sa Mindanao ang nagdeklara ng state of calamity bunsod na rin ng malalang epektong dulot ng tagtuyot sa kanilang mga lugar.

EVELYN QUIROZ



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El Niño task force binuhay

Binuhay ng Malacñang ang El Niño task force dahil sa pagtataya ng PAGASA na dadanasin ng bansa ang El Niño mula Hunyo hanggang Agosto ng taong ito.

Nilagdaan ni Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea ang Memorandum 13 nitong Agosto 13 para sa reactivation ng El Niño task force.

Binuo ang El Niño task force ng Executive Order 16 na ang pangunahing trabaho ay mag-monitor sa pagpapatupad ng Comprehensive Disaster Preparedness and Rehabilitation plan para sa El Niño at La Niña.

Ang NEDA chief ang overall head ng task force habang pinuno ng food security ang DA chief, head ng water security ang DENR, head ng energy security ang DOE secretary, head ng health ang DOH chief, pinuno ng safety ang DILG secretary miyembro naman ang DOST, DND, DSWD, NDRMMC, DOLE, DTI, PCOO TESDA, NFA, NIA at PAGASA.

Direktang mag-uulat ng mga update ang pinuno ng El Niño task force kay Pangulong Duterte at Medialdea.
(Rudy Andal)



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Rain water collection

In the last two weeks, Metro Manila and nearby provinces experienced non-stop rain, downpour at times resulting to clogged streets, overflowing rivers, school buses cancelations, cargo delays – virtually standstill traffic almost everyday! It was until a month ago, for two to three months, water taps of Metro Manila were dry for lack of water. Water was getting rationed, senate hearings conducted and ended with no solution – with reservoirs depleted, the problem is forgotten – at least until next dry season.

These scenarios happen every year. With the country geographically in one of the highest rainfall areas of the world, we could be able to harness the gift of nature for our benefit. We need sound water management.

If we can collect only a small fraction of total annual rainfall, we have enough fresh water to irrigate our fields, provide more an enough for our industries and households during dry season and minimize flooding during the rainy season.

How do we accomplish this?
Every house and building should be required to install rain water collection

tanks, the size proportionate to the covered area of property, say 1,000 liters for a house with roof and cemented driveway/pathway area of 300 sqm; for multilevel residential building proportionate to number of residents. The new construction of multi level buildings and malls should be required to provide underground collecting pools. The rain water is good for all washing including laundry, gardening, flushing toilets which account for majority of water usage and for bath if roof is maintained clean and initial few minutes of rainfall is bypassed to storm drain. Those who can afford may provide a pump to bring water inside the house and upper floors through the same plumbing system with proper valve to separate MWSS.

In case the tank is already full and there is a coming heavy rain per PAGASA advisory, a scheduled area by area discharge of water to the storm drain should be done to make room for coming heavy rainfall thus avoiding flash flooding of the city streets.

One can google various designs and installation of rainfall collection tanks. The cost of tank and installation could be easily recovered in 2-3 years considering the high cost of

Maynilad and Manila Water. The government may help by providing soft loans for the purchase and installation of tanks. The use of interconnected 3 to 5 200-liter steel or plastic drums for residential houses may serve the purpose.

Rainwater collection tanks are the most economical means of collecting and storing fresh water in many of the country's islands where there is little or no groundwater.

For year round irrigation to make farms productive and avoid lowland flooding during rainy season, the government should build mini dams to hold water every 5 to 10 kilometers along rivers and big streams, and in cases they reach very low water level in summertime, should dredge the area behind the dam to maintain its water holding capacity for the next rainy season.

Furthermore, the government should pursue its plan of creating a cabinet level water department to manage collection, storage and distribution of fresh water for the farms, industries and households. Water is a critical resource for our growing population.

Many countries are not endowed with rainfall like us, let us manage nature's gift properly. – CORNELIO B REFORMINA JR., nreformina@yahoo.com



Palace to LGUs: Strictly implement anti-littering laws in Boracay

By **CHRISTINA MENDEZ**

Malacañang called on local government officials in Boracay to strictly enforce the anti-littering ordinance in the world-class island resort, following a viral video which recorded two tourists spoiling the beach.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo pushed for the need to implement the local ordinances related to environment protection to preserve the beauty of Boracay.

"We understand that

most local government units have an anti-littering ordinance. We therefore ask the heads of these LGUs to strictly implement the same, and apprehend violators accordingly," Panelo said.

Panelo also called on the public to make sure that the tourists abide by the basic rules on cleanliness and discipline. "We urge everyone — locals and foreign nationals alike — to help in making and maintaining our surroundings and our communities clean and safe for everyone's apprecia-

tion and pleasure," he said.

"We feel insulted with such discourtesy done in the beautiful island this administration recently rehabilitated with intense and collective efforts employed by various departments and agencies of the government," he added.

Authorities have not yet identified the two female tourists in the viral defecation video, with one woman recorded washing a toddler's buttocks on the shore, while the other tried to bury what appeared to be the child's diaper in the sand.

Boracay Interagency Rehabilitation Group General Manager Natividad Bernardino said on Friday that identifying the tourist seemed to be a "hopeless case."

This is contrary to reports that the "foreign" tourist was already identified. She was allegedly Chinese but the authorities won't pursue charges against her.

"The Bureau of Immigration is also trying to ascertain the identity of the tourist, and so is the local police," Bernardino said.

Panelo said the Palace is commending the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the swift action in ordering an immediate clean-up in the portion of Boracay where the incident allegedly took place.

On Thursday, that portion of the beach was reopened after results of the water qualifying test was known.

Bernardino said the test, done by the Environmental Management Bureau-Region 6, showed that the coliform level in the area is less than 1 most

probable number (MPN) per 100 milliliter (ml). Comparatively, when Boracay Island reopened after a six-month rehabilitation on October 2018, the coliform level was at 18 MPN/100 ml.

"We also laud the Department of Tourism for taking the right step of coordinating with tour operators and travel agencies on the proper travel etiquette in the Philippines so as to avoid a similar occurrence from taking place again," Panelo said.

— With Jennifer Rendon



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Portion of Boracay closed for poop cleanup now

open for swimming

THE beachfront area in Boracay Island where the "pooping" incident happened is now open for swimming.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu has ordered the lifting of the swimming ban and cordoning off the area after the DENR's Environment Management Bureau (EMB) Region 6 found out that the coliform test for water samples taken last Wednesday showed safe levels at >1 mpn/100ml (where the standard is set at not exceeding 100mpn/100ml).

In the morning of Aug. 14, Cimatu ordered the closing of and swimming ban at the beachfront area in Station 1 where the viral beachfront pooping incident video was taken.

In the video, one female foreign national allowed a child to defecate in Boracay's waters and the other female foreign national is seen burying a used diaper in the white sand.

After the incident, the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG) has implemented an intensified information campaign on the "dos and don'ts" for tourists visiting the world-famous resort island.

BIARMG director Natividad Bernardino said that the intensified information campaign should send a strong message to local and foreign tourists to uphold the government's advocacy for sustainable tourism and to observe the rules and regula-

tions being implemented while enjoying the island paradise.

According to Bernardino of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the BIARMG is considering some new measures to help tourists comply with the rules and regulations in Boracay, particularly the anti-littering ordinance that prohibits littering, urinating, defecating, spitting and dumping trash in public places.

"We are planning to give pamphlets through the airline on the dos and don'ts on the island, especially on the proper way to throw garbage and the policy against defecation at the Boracay beach," Bernardino said.

Cory Martinez

INFO DRIVE PARA SA KALINISAN SA BORA GAGAMITAN NG FOREIGN LANGUAGE-DENR

LALONG palalakasin ng Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BI-ARMG) ang kanilang kampanya upang mapanatili ang kalinisan ng isla ng Boracay matapos ang naging viral video na nagpapakita ng dala-

wang dayuhang turista na nagkalat ng dumi ng tao sa pampang at sa tubig ng world famous resort island.

Kasalukuyan, tinitingnan ni BIARMG Director Natividad Bernardino ng Department of Environment and Natural

Resources (DENR) ang kumakalat na video sa social media kung saan may babaeng turista na hinahayaang dumumi ang isang bata sa tubig dagat habang ang isa naman ay ibinabaon sa puting buhangin sa pampang ang maruming diaper.

"This move should send a strong message to local and foreign tourists to uphold the government's advocacy for sustainable tourism and observe the rules and regulations being implemented while enjoying the island paradise," paliwanag ni Bernardino.

Ayon kay Bernardino, ikinukunsidera na ng BIARMG ang iba't ibang paraan upang makasunod ang mga turista sa ipinatutupad na regulasyon sa Boracay partikular ang tungkol sa "anti-littering ordinance" na nagbabawal sa lahat na magkalat, umihi, dumumi, dumura at magtapon ng basura sa mga pampublikong lugar.

Aniya, pinag-iisipan na rin nilang isulat sa ibang foreign language ang mga karatula o signages na nilalagay sa beachfront bilang ba-

bala sa mga nagkakalat, naninigarilyo, nagdadala ng babasaging bote at iba pa.

"Majority of the foreign visitors are from China and South Korea," pahayag ni Bernardino. "Considering the great proportion of Chinese and Korean visitors relative to the total number of Boracay's visitors, we should now perhaps include Chinese and Korean languages in the signages, which presently carry warnings only in English."

Batay sa talaan ng Malay Municipal Tourism Office (MMTO), sa kabuuang 619,034 turista na bumisita sa Boracay mula Enero 1 hanggang Abril 15 ng kasalukuyang taon, 357,041 o 57% sa bilang na ito ay mga banyaga at karamihan sa mga ito ay Chinese at



Koreans.

Ang local tourists ay may bilang na 240,745 at 22,148 ang mga overseas Filipino worker. Habang ang iba pang banyagang turista na nagtutungo sa Boracay ay nagmula sa mga bansang Japan, Russia, Taiwan, United Kingdom at United States.

Lumalabas din sa record ng MMTO na mula Enero hanggang Marso ay nakapagtala ang naturang tanggapan ng 1,043 na lumabag sa mga batas sa isla. Ito ay pinangunahan ng mga Chinese tourist na mayroong 605 violators; sinundan ng South Koreans, 220 at Filipinos, 173.

Ani Bernardino, ang viral video ng dalawang banyaga ay isang halimbawa ng mga irresponsableng turista na hindi marunong rumespeto sa Boracay, lalo na sa mga

naninirahan dito at sa kanilang mga kapwa turista.

Sa pahayag mula sa ulat ng Boracay Enhanced Security, Strategy and Tactics (BESST) Police, ang mga nahuling lumabag sa Phase I beachfront ay bumaba na mula 270 noong Abril 2019 hanggang 74 ngayong Hunyo 8. Sa Phase II main road, mula sa 527 ay bumaba ito sa 8 sa parehas na petsa.

Nauna rito, nitong Agosto 14 ng ipinagutos ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na i-cordon off ang beachfront area sa Station 1 kung saan kinunan ang viral video. Pansamantala itong ipinasara ng 48 oras o hanggang ang water quality tests ay magpakita ng safe levels for human contact.

BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR



Adelle Chua, Editor

EDITORIAL

The restored white beach

WE JOIN the government in raising a forbidding fist against those who have no manners in poking fun at the “anti-littering” ordinance on the restored Boracay’s erstwhile spotless white beach.

The malicious abasement of its water quality, caused by sewage from uncontrolled development, had in years taken a ravaging toll on the health of Boracay’s coral reefs, fisheries, residents, and tourists.

Sans doubt, the government was aware of this, with President Rodrigo Duterte last year calling Boracay, one of the country’s top tourist destinations, a cesspool.

The powder white sand beaches encouraged an influx of local and foreign tourists as well as people from other islands of this Southeast Asian archipelago who were desperate for income, the illusion high income wads were being

churned out there.

Eventually, six months of government rehabilitation efforts appeared to have paid off, with Boracay’s beach spotless yet again, the erstwhile powdery sands now unaccustomed to the toxic green algae that used to blight the coastline.

When it was reopened in October last year, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources vowed to intensify the enforcement of environmental laws in Boracay, with a promise to set up permanent offices there, as in other top tourist destinations, to strictly implement environmental laws.

But what contemptuous behavior that had maligned the Filipinos—Exhibit A, a video which circulated online showing a tourist letting her child defecate on the beach while another was caught burying a diaper on the island’s white sand, the two still unidentified but their actions graphic.

Beyond doubt, their disdainful behavior is appropriately “offensive to sight” which insults the government and the Filipinos who take pride in this tourist jewel.

It is high time the government went beyond the eloquence of expressed alarm and disquietude. Holding Exhibit A as piece of evidence, it should take an added step and punish those thick-skinned bipeds who are guilty of making government’s rehabilitation efforts a laughingstock.



DENR lifts swimming ban on Boracay area in poop incident

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

THE beachfront area in Boracay Island where the "pooping" incident happened is now open for swimming.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has ordered the lifting of the swimming ban and cordoning of the area after the DENR's Environment Management Bureau (EMB) Region 6 found the coliform test for water samples taken last Wednesday showed safe levels at >1 mpn/100 ml (where the standard is set at not exceeding 100mpn/100ml).

In the morning of Aug. 14, Cimatu ordered the cordoning and swimming ban at the beachfront area in Station 1 where the viral beachfront pooping incident video was taken.

In said video, a female foreign national allowed a child to defecate in Boracay's waters and the other female foreign national buried a used diaper in the

white sand.

Also in view of the incident, the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG) has implemented an intensified information campaign on the "do's and don'ts" for tourists visiting the world-famous resort island.

BIARMG Director Natividad Bernardino said the intensified information campaign should send a strong message to local and foreign tourists to uphold the government's advocacy for sustainable tourism and to observe the rules and regulations being implemented while enjoying the island paradise.

Bernardino of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the BIARMG is considering some new measures to help tourists comply with the rules and regulations in Boracay, particularly the anti-littering ordinance that prohibits littering, urinating, defecating, spitting and dumping

trash in public places.

"We are planning to give pamphlets through the airline on the do's and don'ts on the island especially on the proper way to throw garbage and the policy against defecation at the Boracay beach," Bernardino said.

Bernardino added they are also planning the inclusion of other foreign languages in the signages installed at the beachfront against littering, smoking and carrying of glass bottles, among others.

"Majority of the foreign visitors are from China and South Korea. Considering the great proportion of Chinese and Korean visitors relative to the total number of Boracay's visitors, we should now perhaps include Chinese and Korean languages in the signages, which presently carry warnings only in English," said Bernardino.

Records from the Malay Municipal Tourism Office (MMTO) showed that out of the 619,934 tourists who

visited Boracay from January 1 to April 15 this year, 357,041 or 57 percent are foreigners, majority of whom are Chinese and Koreans.

Local tourists account for 240,745 while overseas Filipino workers number 22,148.

The rest of the foreign tourists came from Japan, Russia, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

MMTO records also showed that 1,043 violators were reported from January to March this year led by Chinese tourists at 605 violators; followed by South Koreans, 220; and Filipinos, 173.

Bernardino said the foreign nationals featured in the viral poop video are examples of irresponsible tourists who have no respect for Boracay, the locals and their fellow tourists.

"Although it may be considered an isolated incident, we are nonetheless taking this seriously, which is why my office is seeking out to the person who uploaded the video so that substantial information can be made and appropriate actions can be taken on the matter," Bernardino said.



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PINANGUNAHAN ni Pres. Lydia Bueno ang mga miyembro ng Pasay City Host Lions Club sa gift giving sa daan katao; environmental orientation at food donatlon sa 100 motorcycle riders at tree planting sa Ipo Dam, Norzagaray, Bulacan sa pakikipagtulungan ni DENR Usec. at District 301-A2 FVDG Benny Antiporda at REMATE Riders.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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THE EXHIBITION OF THE PHILIPPIN PROGRESS
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Ilocos Norte sets landfill target

By **FREDDIE G. LAZARO**

LAOAG CITY, Ilocos Norte — The provincial government of Ilocos Norte wants to make the province as the first in the country to have sanitary landfills in all its municipalities.

Gov. Matthew Marcos Manotoc said he will monitor the heads of the 21 towns and two cities in the province who promised to open their own sanitary landfills by the end of the year.

The mayors in Ilocos Norte made the promise during the consultation meeting last August 8 with Secretary Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“Let’s make Ilocos Norte a model in full compliance of the solid waste management act. We

can do it if we all work together,” Cimatu prodded the mayors.

“I am looking forward to the day when all towns in Ilocos Norte have their own sanitary landfills,” he said.

Cimatu is doing the rounds of all provinces in the country to ask local leaders to address the worsening problem on garbage collection and disposal.

He admitted that effective solid waste management may be expensive, but added that LGUs can pool their resources to set up a common landfill or loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP).

Cimatu particularly lauded the officials of Bacarra, Banna, Nueva Era, Paoay, Piddig, San Nicolas, and Vintar for having a sanitary landfill.



Basura

NOONG nagtatrabaho pa ako sa isang malaking kompan-
yang gumagawa ng hotdog at iba pang processed meat, may
isang babaeng factory worker ang lagi kong nakikitang namu-
mulot ng plastic bottles at lata ng softdrinks sa mga basurahan
ng buong planta. Palibhasa ay wala naman siyang kinalaman
sa aking mga trabaho, hindi ko ito masyadong pinapansin.

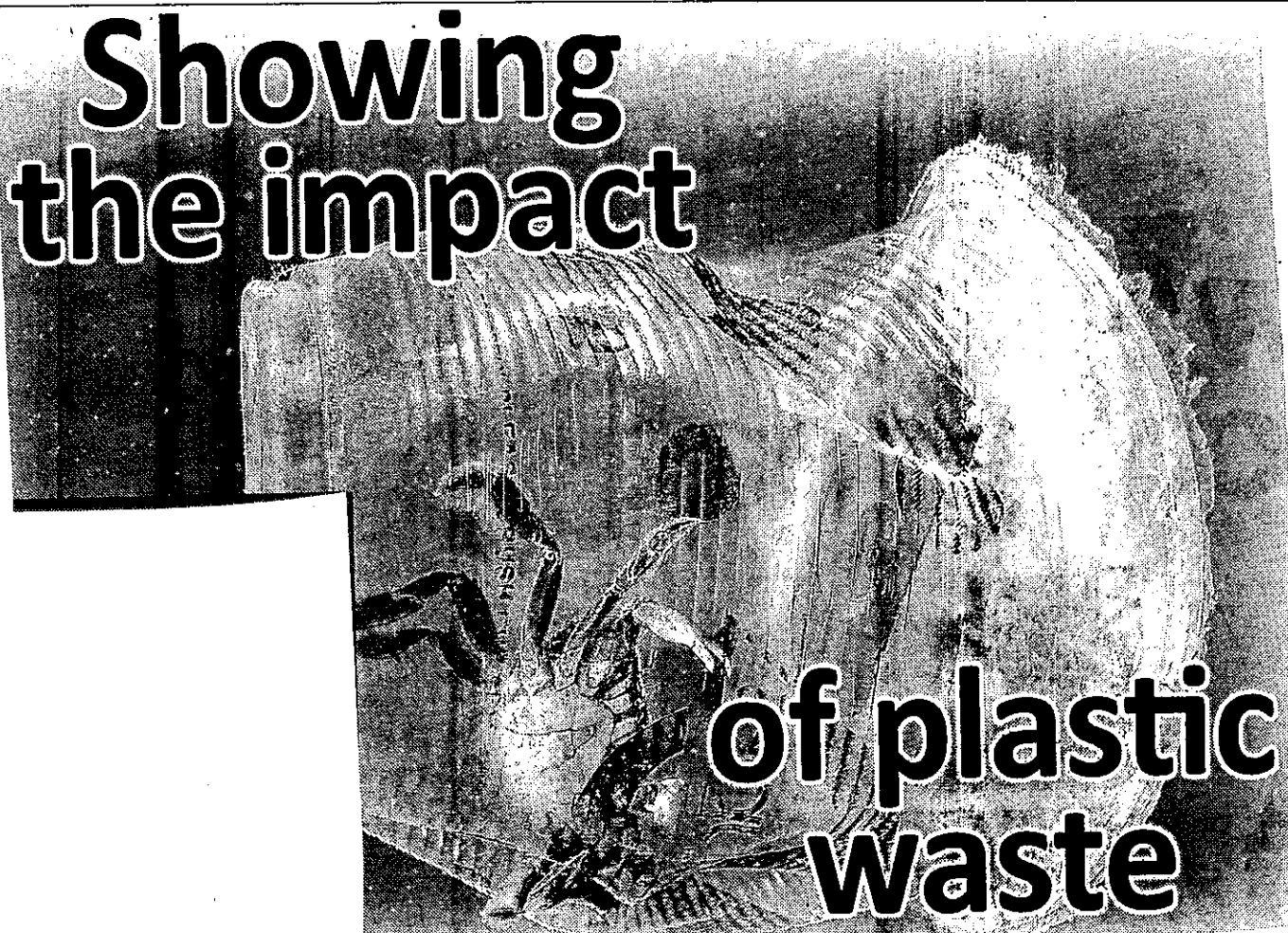
Minsan ay itatapon ko na lang ang lata ng softdrink sa ba-
surahan nang mula sa likuran ay may nagsalita: "Miss sa akin
na lang ang lata..." Paglingon ko ay ang babaeng namumulot
ng basura. Ibinuka ang hawak niyang plastic bag para roon ko
na lang i-shoot ang aking hawak na basyo ng softdrink.

"Ang sipag mo naman, nagagawa mo pang mamulot ng
lata... magkano ang kilo ng lata ngayon?"

Napangiti ang babae. "Hindi ko ho alam. Ibinibigay ko
lang ito sa aking kapitbahay na namamasura. Minsan kasi,
wala na silang mapulot sa mga basurahan. Marami na kasing

kakumpetensiya. Kung walang kita; walang makain. E, wala
naman akong maitulong na cash, sabi ko'y tutulungan ko na
lang silang mamulot ng basura rito sa planta. Sagana kasi rito sa
plastic cups, bote at lata ng softdrink. Kaya heto, nakasanayan
ko nang mamulot ng basura. Sa maliit man lang na paraan ay
makatulong ako.

Napa-wow ako sa kadakilaan ng babaeng 'yun. At akala pa
niya ay "maliit" na pagtulong ang kanyang ginagawa. Hindi
ako nakatiis. Sinabihan ko ang babae na malaking kadakilaan
ang kanyang ginagawa. Nginitian lang ako at nagpasalamat sa
latang ibinigay ko sa kanya. Simula noon hanggang ngayon,
hindi na ako nagbebenta ng mga bote at plastic bottles sa mga
nangangalakal, sa halip inipon ko ito at ibinibigay sa mga ba-
surero tuwing collection day ng basura para madagdagan ang
kanilang ibebenta sa junk shop, na ang kinikita ay pinaghahati-
hatian daw ng kanilang grupo.



One of the highlights is a series of thought-provoking images of local surfers with accumulated plastic trash in their hands, picked up from the beach in a five-minute period

Among the 195 countries in the world today, the Philippines ranked third after China and Indonesia with the most volume of plastic waste thrown into the ocean. This was based on a study conducted by the University of Georgia in 2015.

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB), through its Center for Campus Art (CCA), decided it's time to remind everyone of the immense impact of the looming environmental problem through "Alon!", a specially curated exhibition that aims to create awareness on plastic waste, thus to hopefully initiate change.

One of the highlights is a series of thought-provoking images of local surfers with accumulated plastic trash in their hands, picked up from the beach in a five-minute period. Coming from the country's six leading surfing communities – Siargao in Surigao del Norte, La Union, Baler in Aurora, Mati in

Davao, Gubat in Sorsogon and Sabang Daguitan in Leyte – each of the surfers in the photographs hold proof of the extensive presence of trash from plastic packaged commodities in the country, may it be in Luzon, Visayas or Mindanao.

The eponymous *Alon!* documentary, written and directed by award-winning filmmaker Gabby Fernandez will premiere on 28 August, one day before the 29 August opening night of

the exhibition. The short film, also produced by the CCA, will feature interviews with 40 local surfers as they try to answer the question: Why is the Philippines the third worst plastic polluter in the world?

While the trash gathered by the surfers only represent what's within sight, a mini photography exhibit featuring pictures by award-winning photographer Noel Guevara for Greenpeace Philippines will highlight the amount of non-biodegradables that have found its home in the depths of the seas. The photos were taken during a three-day dive and exploration at the Verde Island Passage, known as the "center of the center" of global marine biodiversity located in Batangas.

Also on view will be the dead baby whale sculpture by artist Biboy Royong, first seen as part of the famous 78-by-10-foot whale-like statue *Cry of the Dead Whale* recently installed in front of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Made from plastic bags, bottles and various waste products found in the bodies of water, the dead baby whale, now separated from its mother, depicts the horrifying effects of plastic trash on sea creatures.

"Alon!" will also bring back a series of Benilde projects that illustrated both cause and effect of the issue: the 2016 TrashLation



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Showing the impact of plastic waste

project in partnership with the Spanish Embassy Manila and RM de Leon's 2018 class project *Mga Plastik Kayo*, a series of charcoal and pastel sketches of sea creatures trapped in various plastic packaging.

The exhibit hopes to promote the reduction of single-use plastics, press multinationals to rethink their plastic packaging, ask the government to implement existing laws on waste management.

"*Alon!* the surfers' call when the waves come also pertains to the waves of plastic trash that threatens to engulf our oceans. This is not the first time, nor the last that Benilde will be raising this issue. We are here to remind people that this is a continuous battle," CCA director and curator Architect Gerry Torres noted. "The exhibit hopes to promote the reduction of single-use plastics, press multinationals to rethink their plastic packaging, ask the government to implement existing laws on waste management, such as the Republic Act 9003 or approve new ones specific to plastic like Senator Francis Pangilinan's Senate Bill 40 or the Single-Use Plastics Regulation and Management Act of 2019.

It will likewise showcase solutions by social and community leaders who try to start the change. Young student-designers from DLS-CSB also contributed their works, including the innovative end-product of accumulated plastic trash transformed into plastic tiles by Architecture Program student Prince Koo and a number of stylish and sustainable ensembles made from unconventional and upcycled materials, to include plastic by the College's Fashion Design and Merchandising students Kimble Adrienne Quinto, Allana Nicolas and Pamela Marie Casambros. "As a design laboratory, Benilde can offer explorations in the areas of non-plastic packaging, the upcycling of products and the development of new building materials from plastic trash," Torres stated.

"*Alon!*" was made possible in collaboration with World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines, Greenpeace South East Asia-Philippines, Break Free From Plastic Movement, The Plastic Solution and The Plastic Flamingo.

The show and exhibit will be on view until 14 December. The venue will be at the 12th floor Main Gallery, School of Design and Arts Campus, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde Pablo Ocampo (Vito Cruz) Street, Malate, Manila. "*Alon!*", the exhibit, is open free to the public.



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PERENNIAL EROSIONS

NEW LANDSLIDES PROMPT REVIEW OF KENNON ROAD REPAIR PLANS

BAGUIO CITY—New plans are being readied to convert the 34-kilometer Kennon Road into an all-weather road.

But an inspection on Friday of the 114-year-old road, one of three major routes to this city, found that new landslides had overtaken the repair of damages due to the fragile mountain terrain.

This could mean Baguio would need a new Kennon Road master plan, according to city officials.

Fissures along the rock cliffs, as well as recent erosions that

now serve as channels for water discharged from the mountains, were found by a team led by Mayor Benjamin Magalong, who wanted to find out why repairs to open the road had been slow.

Since last month, at least 10 landslides had been recorded, some of them triggered by monsoon rains. Two of the slides required examination by geologists because the mountain top appeared unstable and had prevented repair crews from clearing the debris. —VINCENT

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NEWS BRIEFS

Legalize pocket miners — Benguet Gov

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet — Benguet Gov. Melchor Diclas said that legalizing operations of small-scale miners will be considered by the provincial board with the aim to provide livelihood as long as operations are closely monitored against illegal activities.

Diclas hopes that the small-scale miners will be able to meet the requirements of joining the Minahang Bayan in Itogon, Benguet and more Minahang Bayan groups to be approved so that mining activities could be closely monitored and regulated.

He appeals to the concerned government agencies and law enforcement among others in helping these miners to have their licenses so that they can continue legally to avoid unlawful mining activities.

Aldwin Quitasol



Apec's new data privacy rules

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) has embarked on a journey to establish a region-wide data privacy framework. It's called the Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR), and the Philippines is about to enter this process. It's a set of privacy rules that will facilitate the sharing of data across borders within Apec, a region of 21 economies that make up more than half of the world's gross domestic product, trade and foreign direct investments.

While voluntary today, the system may become the de facto "rules of the game" for cross-border data sharing in Apec, in the same way that Europe's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has become the standard for companies doing business with European companies.

What exactly is CBPR? Apec defines CBPR as a voluntary certification scheme that allows companies to transfer personal data (inter- and intra-company) in a safe manner across Apec economies. Participation in CBPR allows businesses to demonstrate their organizational accountability and create more consumer trust in data privacy. It is a flexible system, since companies can adjust their privacy policies to suit their business requirements. But because there is some standardization taking place across borders, it can reduce compliance costs with respect to data transfers and sharing. For consumers, it enhances data protection and streamlines the customer complaint process. For the government, it can improve trade facilitation (important since we are a service-driven economy) and can lower enforcement cost since certification can be done by the private sector.

How do we join CBPR? There are basically two stages to joining, and the Philip-

BUSINESS MATTERS

GUILLERMO M. LUZ

...ippines has started that process. It's worth noting that the country passed a Data Privacy Act in 2012, which created the National Privacy Commission (NPC). It sets the rules and regulations for data-handling and privacy within the country and establishes the NPC as the lead agency for policy formulation and enforcement.

To join CBPR, the Philippines had to confirm its participation in the Cross-Border Privacy Enforcement Agreement (CPEA) and designate a Privacy Enforcement Authority (PEA). It did those in 2017 and assigned the NPC to be the authority. The next step is to submit its letter of intent at the next Apec Senior Officials Meeting in Chile. This letter is a collaborative effort between NPC, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The second stage requires the creation of an "Accountability Agent." This is the body that will certify that private corporations meet the standards for data privacy and sharing across borders. This can be a government agency or a private corporation. For the Philippines, this will likely be a private corporation since the government is already the regulator. If an Accountability Agent does not exist in the Philippines, then companies would have to be certified by another agent overseas, facing similar inconvenience and expense that manufacturers currently face when they send their products abroad for testing.

Who else has joined CBPR? Eight out of 21 Apec members have joined CBPR: Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Singapore and the United States. The Philippines will be the ninth. Getting in relatively early gives us time to learn the process and refine our strategy.

Why joining is important. The global economy has become digital. Virtually every transaction can be boiled down to data, which can be shared within or across borders. Given the importance and size of the business process outsourcing industry, the Philippines is basically a "data-receiving" country. We receive, process and transmit data. It also applies to banking, health, e-commerce and a host of other industries. Data-intensive industries will want to work with companies (large or small) that follow basic privacy and security standards. The same will go for consumers.

So why haven't you heard anything about CBPR? Apec works on a wide range of policy topics, and this one is still in its early stages. But if you look at how quickly Europe's GDPR gained traction, you will appreciate how fast a practice becomes a standard. Which is why Abac (Apec Business Advisory Council) Philippines and the Makati Business Club will be hosting a forum on CBPR and its implications for businesses in the Philippines.

Guillermo M. Luz is an alternate member of the Apec Business Advisory Council Philippines and chief resilience officer of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Business Matters is a project of the Makati Business Club (makatibusinessclub@mbc.com.ph).

Local government leaders recognize climate emergency, seek strong climate action

TACLOBAN CITY, Leyte: "When will I die?" asked Mayor Alfred Romualdez as he recounted his horrifying near-death experience during the onslaught of super typhoon "Yolanda" (international name "Haiyan") in Nov. 8, 2013 in his inspirational message during the Enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plan (E-LCCAP) Training for Yolanda Corridor local government units held at the Hotel Alejandro in this city.

Yolanda was one of the most powerful tropical cyclones ever recorded. It devastated the Philippines, especially the Eastern Visayas. It was the deadliest Philippine typhoon on record killing at least 6,300 people and left a "destruction on a massive scale" amounting to over P95 billion.

"For the first wave of this year's resumption of the Communities for Resilience (CORE) Modular Training Rollout for Local Government, we only deem it fit to relaunch the CORE here in Tacloban, the ground zero of Yolanda. Tacloban, along with other cities and municipalities in the Yolanda Corridor, showed us that climate change is no longer a mere specter on the horizon. It is happening now and it will only get worse with business as usual. The Yolanda tragedy has made more pronounced the climate risk and vulnerabilities of the country," Climate Change Commission (CCC) Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman said in his keynote speech.

Government leaders recognize climate emergency, call for ambitious climate action

In the document "The Communities for Resilience: Resolve



ALL ABOUT CHOICES

LUDWIG O. FEDERIGAN

of the Local Governments in the Yolanda Corridor," signed by the local government leaders of the Yolanda Corridor — Romualdez of Tacloban City; Mayor Maria Ofelia Alcantara of Tolosa, Leyte; Mayor Midred Que of Dulag, Leyte; Mayor Lemuel Jin Traya of Abuyog, Leyte; and de Guzman — they committed to:

- Support the strengthening of cooperation between and among the national and local governments and the science and academic community on mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation in local development planning

- Promote community-led climate change adaptation practices through peer-to-peer learning exchanges to accelerate and scale up climate resilience-building efforts at the local community level throughout the country

- Enhance our local climate change action plans to become science-based and risk-informed, more responsive to the prevailing and emerging needs of our local communities for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and more relevant to the pursuit of climate-resilient and low carbon investments for our sustainable future.

At the same time, the local government leaders "recognize the prevailing climate emergency in the country and the imperative for an effective, collective response at all levels considering the best available scientific knowledge and

other specific needs and special circumstances of the country." The same document stipulated the climate rationale:

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius (C) (2018) found that human activities had caused approximately 1.0 C of global warming above pre-industrial levels, and projected that climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and infrastructure would increase with global warming of 1.5 C and further with 2 C

- The 5th IPCC Assessment Report concluded that climate change would create new poor between now and 2100 and will jeopardize sustainable development

- The Philippines ranked fifth among countries most affected by the impacts of extreme weather events from 1998 to 2017, according to the Global Climate Risk Index 2019

- The Philippines is an archipelago, with most of its communities located in coastal areas and are prone to rising sea levels, which is nearly double the global average rate during 1993 to 2015 and, therefore, are at higher risk of coastal flooding, sea salt contamination of ground water, beach erosion and storm surges, among other impacts of climate change

- The observed temperature in the Philippines, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), is rising at an average rate of 0.1 C per decade and is projected to increase by as much as 0.9 C to 2.3 C by 2050, and to cause drastic changes in weather patterns, increase in frequency, intensity and duration of



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Local government leaders recognize climate emergency, seek strong climate action

floods, and increase in frequency and intensity of droughts in the face of climate change

- The effects of slow onset events are particularly dire for vulnerable developing countries like the Philippines, where climate change worsens already difficult conditions in food security and the management of agriculture, fisheries and ecosystems

- Based on a study of the Asian Development Bank on the economics of climate change, the country stands to lose 6 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) annually by 2100. However, investing 0.5 percent of the country's GDP by 2020 in climate change adaptation would avert losses by as much as 4 percent.

- According to the *2019 Global Report on Internal Displacement*, the Philippines alone recorded 3.8 million new displacements associated with disasters in 2018, more than any other country worldwide.

- The Philippines has been the face of climate risk and vulnerability, even made more pronounced by the tragedy and devastation wrought by Yolanda in 2013

- There is a growing consensus that the entire planet is under a climate emergency, and that failure to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and to build the adaptive capacities of communities to climate change would lead to unprecedented loss to human society, environment and global economy.

Tolosa endorses the declaration of a climate emergency

Tolosa, under the leadership of Maria Ofelia Alcantara, endorses the declaration of a climate emergency and requests for a regional

collaboration for an immediate just transition.

In its Resolution 08-64-2019 titled "Resolution Endorsing the Declaration of a Climate Emergency and Requesting Regional Collaboration on an Immediate Just Transition and Emergency Mobilization Effort to Restore a Safe Climate," unanimously approved on Aug. 5, 2019, it "declares that a climate emergency threatens our municipality, state, civilization, humanity and the natural world."

"The Municipality of Tolosa commits to a municipal-wide just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming, which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from the municipal government and the national government, ends municipal-wide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and no later than 2030, immediately initiates an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere and accelerates adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts," the resolution further said.

The resolution was presented by Alcantara to de Guzman in a simple ceremony held at San Pedro Bay, Barangay Telegrafo, Tolosa.

Tolosa is a fifth-class municipality with a population of 20,978 (NSO 2015 Census) and located 24 kilometers south of Tacloban City.

About the Enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plan Training

The E-LCCAP Training is one of the CORE Capacity Building Program, a flagship program of the CCC. It is a five-day mentoring program, in

collaboration with the Department of the Interior and Local Government-Local Government Academy, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, Department of Science and Technology-Pagasa and various academic institutions, which presents and discusses a wide range of topics related to understanding vulnerabilities and climate risk information, both at the national and local levels.

The CORE Capacity Building Training Program incorporates the country's National Framework Strategy on Climate Change 2010 to 2022, National Climate Change Action Plan 2011 to 2028 and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Plan 2011 to 2028, as well as the post-2015 global frameworks for development.

Participants were trained on the components of E-LCCAP, namely climate and disaster risk assessment, ecosystem-based adaptation framework, community-level greenhouse gas inventory, climate change expenditure tagging, and accessing the people's survival fund.

The author is the executive director of the Young Environmental Forum. He completed his climate change and development course at the University of East Anglia and executive program on sustainability leadership at Yale University. The author delivered on Friday, August 16, a 60-minute talk about the environment and climate change during the Youth Sustainability Convergence in Teacher's Camp, Baguio City. He may be emailed at ludwig.federigan@gmail.com.

LEYTE HOSTS NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM

HUNDREDS of conservationists, scientists, independent researchers, government representatives and students gathered for the 28th annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium held from August 13 to 16 at the Visayas State University, Baybay, Leyte.

With theme "Conservation Without Borders," this year's symposium highlighted the interconnection among various conservation efforts such as species protection, the ridge-to-reef approach and biodiversity management.

"The goal of maintaining the health of our fragile ecosystem depends on our pragmatic approach to conservation," said Rainier Manalo, president of the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines.

Manalo emphasized the importance of ensuring the sustainability of all conservation actions and the vital role of the public and the business sector in upholding environmental and sociocultural development.

During the four-day event, high school and undergraduate research reports, presentations of scientific papers, and simultaneous talks and workshops were held.

Biodiversity conservation topics were tackled at the symposium, including taxonomy, flora and fauna, threats to biodiversity and issues, and conservation management.



■ The 28th annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium held from August 13 to 16 at the Visayas State University, Baybay, Leyte attracted hundreds of conservationists, scientists, independent researchers, government representatives and students. HARIBON PHOTO

Anson Tagtag, chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Biodiversity Management Bureau-Wildlife Management section, and Juan Carlos Gonzales, zoology professor and director of the University of the Philippines Los

Baños (UPLB)-Museum of Natural History, presented the updated Philippine Red List for terrestrial fauna or the list of threatened land-based wildlife species in the country.

During the plenary talk, Tagtag and Gonzales also explained the criteria used

for the categories assigned, the basis of the threats, and the challenges and issues arising from its implementation across the Philippine archipelago.

Local conservation group Haribon Foundation also gathered conservation

experts in a workshop that assessed current issues and identified new priority areas for conservation in the country, also known as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), using the updated global guidelines set by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Unlike the previous versions, the new IUCN criteria for KBA includes the identification of threatened ecosystems, preservation of ecological integrity and preservation of biological processes.

Aside from the overall KBAs, the workshop also identified sites under the Alliance for Zero Extinctions (AZE) framework, which are said to be the most important site among all KBAs.

According to Haribon, AZE sites are critical to the sustenance of global biodiversity as they provide homes to threatened wildlife that are found nowhere else in the planet.

On the third day, participants also joined an exposure trip to the Leyte Sab-a Peatland, one of the two major peatland sites in the country that covers four barangay (villages) in the municipality of Sta. Fe and Alangalang, Leyte that are considered vital to climate regulation and wildlife conservation.

Other activities also included an institutional exhibit of groups involved in

biodiversity research and conservation, including the Asian Species Action Partnership; Buhay-Ilang Research, Education and Conservation Inc.; Center for Conservation Innovations Philippines Inc.; Center for Centered Conservation; Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Inc.; Energy Development Corp.; Forest Foundation Philippines; GIZ Ecosystem-based Adaption in River Basins Project; Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources Inc.; International Institute of Rural Reconstruction; Isla Biodiversity Conservation; Katala Foundation; Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.; Talarak Foundation; TeAM Energy Foundation Inc.; Traffic Southeast Asia; United State Agency for International Development Protect Wildlife Project; UP Diliman Institute of Biology Biodiversity Research Laboratory; UPLB Museum of Natural History; Wetlands International; Wild Bird Club of the Philippines; and Zoological Society of London.]

The event was organized by the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines, a professional organization of wildlife researchers, scientists and conservationists, in partnership with the Leyte Sab-a Peatland Forest Restoration Initiative and Visayas State University.

KITTY AMANTE-GAMBRO



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Gov't officials told: No junkets, no business-class travels

By GENALYN D. KABILING

Malacañang has reminded Cabinet members to strictly comply with a recent presidential directive prohibiting travel junkets, and limiting the use of business class airfares.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo made the appeal after the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) has reportedly started to look

into cases of alleged excessive foreign travels of some government officials.

"That is a policy. Members of the Cabinet are expected to follow," Panelo said at a news conference at the Palace Thursday.

He said the order issued by the President barring government officials and employees from going on junkets still stands.

PACC commissioner Greco ► 8

Gov't officials told...

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Belgica recently said the commission has launched investigations on the alleged excessive foreign trips of three government officials.

Belgica, in a recent Palace news conference, said President Duterte has voiced his opposition to excessive travels abroad especially if public funds are used.

"There are cases of too many travels. The President does not like that. Who paid for the trip? What's the purpose of the travel? Public funds might be used for personal travels. Using public funds for personal trips is not good," he said in Filipino.

"Some have justified their travels. The probe on others is not yet done," he added.

Belgica, for his part, said he seldom traveled abroad. "Personally, I don't go out of the country unless very, very important. If I take one this year, I won't repeat it unless it's really important," he said.

Last March, the President issued Executive Order No. 77 providing the rules and regulations for official local and foreign travels of government personnel.

"All forms of travel junkets shall be

strictly prohibited," the order read. "The conduct of strategic planning workshops or team building activities abroad shall not be allowed," it added.

The official local or foreign travels must only cover those essential to the effective performance of an official or employee's mandates or functions; required to meet the needs of the concerned department or office or "there is a substantial benefit derived by the State;" the presence of the government personnel is critical to the outcome of the meeting, conference or consultation; and the projected expenses are not excessive or involve minimum expenditure.

Travel costs must be minimized "as far as practicable," according to EO 77. Government personnel must take economy class in foreign air travels. Business class airfares are only allowed for long-haul trips of department secretaries, undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, and those of equivalent ranks.

President Duterte has dismissed a number of government officials, including Maritime Industry Authority administrator Marcial Amaro III and former Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor chair Terry Ridon, for supposedly taking excessive foreign trips.



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CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
Constitution Hills, Dilliman, Quezon City

**TRAINING/LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT
REQUIREMENTS FOR DIVISION CHIEF AND
EXECUTIVE/MANAGERIAL POSITIONS IN
THE SECOND LEVEL.**

Number : 1900773

Re: Amendment on Sections 66 to 70 of the
2017 Omnibus Rules on Appointments and
Other Human Resource Actions, as amended

Promulgated : 11 JULY 2019

X-----X

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 3, Article IX-B of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the Civil Service Commission, as the central personnel agency of the Government, to "establish a career service and adopt measures to promote morale, efficiency, integrity, responsiveness, progressiveness, and courtesy in the civil service. It shall strengthen the merit and rewards system, integrate all human resources development programs for all levels and ranks, and institutionalize a management climate conducive to public accountability. x x x"

WHEREAS, Section 12 (2), Chapter 3, Title I (A), Book V of the Administrative Code of 1987 provides that the Commission shall prescribe, amend and enforce rules and regulations for carrying into effect the provisions of the Civil Service Law and other pertinent laws;

WHEREAS, Section 12 (14), Chapter 3, Title I (A), Book V of the same Code provides that the Commission shall take appropriate action on all appointments and other personnel matters in the Civil Service;

WHEREAS, Section 26, Chapter 5, Title I (A), Book V of the same Code provides, among other things, that "all personnel actions shall be in accordance with such rules, standards and regulations as may be promulgated by the Commission";

WHEREAS, the Commission, in its Resolution No. 1100472 dated April 9, 2011 published in The Philippine Star on May 4, 2011 and circularized through CSC Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 13, s. 2011, set the minimum qualification requirements for appointment to executive/managerial positions in the second level. Specifically, the training requirement is 120 hours of managerial training;

WHEREAS, in CSC Resolution No. 1400486 promulgated on March 27, 2014 and circularized through CSC MC No. 14, s. 2014, the Commission amended CSC Resolution No. 1100472 specifically providing the recency requirement of five (5) years on the required trainings/learning and development (L&D) interventions for division chief and executive/managerial positions in the second level. It also provided the ratio of management to technical training/L&D interventions for executive/managerial positions with duties involving the practice of profession or which belong to the same occupational group where practice of profession is required/preferred or those considered highly technical or specialized. Moreover, agencies are required to submit to the Commission for approval their proposed amendments to the training/L&D requirements for aforementioned executive/managerial positions;

WHEREAS, in CSC Resolution No. 1501478¹ which was circularized through CSC MC No. 5, s. 2016, the Commission reiterated the recency in training/L&D requirements for division chief and executive/managerial positions in the second level which is within 5 years reckoned from the date of assessment;

WHEREAS, in CSC Resolution No. 1701009 or the 2017 Omnibus Rules on Appointments and Other Human Resource Actions (ORAOHRA), the Commission required the recency in training/L&D requirements for division chief and executive/managerial positions in the second level which is within 5 years reckoned from the date of issuance of appointment;

WHEREAS, various references on human resource development provide that the guiding principles on people, work and resource management as covered by supervisory and managerial L&D interventions undertaken more than five (5) years ago may be considered still relevant and applicable in the current work setting. Hence, such supervisory and managerial training/L&D interventions should be considered for purposes of recruitment, promotion or other human resource actions for division chief and executive/managerial positions in the second level;

WHEREAS, executive/managerial positions with duties involving practice of profession or those considered highly technical or specialized require technical training/L&D interventions pursuant to the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)/Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program and industry practices, respectively. Hence, there is no need for agencies to submit for the Commission's approval their proposed amendments to the training requirements should they adopt Sections 68 and 69 of the 2017 ORAOHRA, as amended;

WHEREFORE, the Commission **RESOLVES** to dispense with the 5-year recency in the training requirement for division chief and executive/managerial positions in the second level thereby amending Sections 66 to 70 of the 2017 Omnibus Rules on Appointments and Other Human Resource Actions, as amended, as follows:

"Sec. 66. The learning and development/training required for Division Chief and comparable positions shall be 40 hours of supervisory/management training/learning and development intervention.



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"Sec. 67. Generally, the training required for executive/managerial positions in the second level shall be 120 hours of supervisory/management training/learning and development intervention.

"Management training/learning and development intervention includes courses, workshops, seminars and other interventions that develop and/or enhance knowledge, skills and attitude to enable successful performance of management functions such as planning, organizing, directing, controlling, coordinating and overseeing the activities of an organization, a unit thereof or a group. It is intended to develop/enhance leadership competencies to prepare managers in managing people and work.

"Sec. 68. For executive/managerial positions in the second level with duties and responsibilities involving practice of profession, the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) for Bar passers, the Continuing Professional Education/Development (CPE/CPD) for licensed professionals or trainings/learning and development interventions relevant to practice of profession may constitute for a maximum of 40 hours of technical training and the remaining 80 hours shall be management trainings/learning and development interventions.

Illustrative Examples:

- a) Director IV (SG-28) of Office for Legal Affairs
Training Requirement: 40 hours of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education and 80 hours of management training
- b) Director III (SG-27) of Accounting Department
Training Requirement: 40 hours of Continuing Professional Education for Accountants or technical training on Accountancy and 80 hours of management training/learning and development interventions

"Sec. 69. Executive/managerial positions in the second level with duties and responsibilities which are highly-specialized in nature as shown in their PDF/JD may require trainings/learning and development interventions which are highly technical and/or highly-specialized. These highly technical/highly-specialized trainings/learning and development interventions shall make up for the 120 hours of management and technical training/learning and development interventions where a maximum of 80 hours shall be for technical training and the minimum of 40 hours shall be management trainings/learning and development interventions.

Illustrative Examples:

- a. Chief Information Officer (SG-27)
Training Requirement: 120 hours training; 40 hours of which should involve management trainings/learning and development interventions and 80 hours training in systems development life cycles, i.e. CMMI and ITIL standards, IT Resources Management Administration and other related information and telecommunications training
- b. Department Manager III for Media Affairs Department
Training Requirement: 60 hours of technical training relevant to mass communication and 60 hours of relevant supervisory/managerial training/learning and development intervention

"Sec. 70. Agencies shall adopt the provisions in Sections 68 and 69 to executive/managerial positions in the second level with duties and responsibilities involving practice of profession or which belong to the same occupational group where practice of profession is required/preferred or those considered highly-specialized in nature, without the need for approval by the CSC."

All other existing policies which are inconsistent with these Rules are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

This Resolution shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in a newspaper of general circulation or the Official Gazette.

Quezon City.

(Sgd.) ALICIA dela ROSA-BALA
Chairperson

(Sgd.) LEOPOLDO ROBERTO W. VALDEROSA JR.
Commissioner

(Sgd.) AILEEN LOURDES A. LIZADA
Commissioner

Attested by:

(Sgd.) DOLORES B. BONIFACIO
Director IV
Commission Secretariat and Liaison Office

Revised Qualification Standards for Division Chief and Executive/Managerial Positions in the Second level
Building Collaborative, Inclusive Working Relationships; Managing Performance and Coaching for Results; Leading Change, Thinking Strategically and Creatively, and Creating and Nurturing a High Performing Organization.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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₱700 B lost to corruption – Deputy Ombudsman

By VANNE ELAINE P. TERRAZOLA

A “benevolent dictator” is what the Philippines needs to finally end corruption in the government, Senate President Vicente Sotto III said yesterday.

The Senate chief aired this belief after Deputy Ombudsman Cyril Ramos said Thursday that the country loses about ₱700 billion from the annual national budget due to cor-

ruption.

Ramos, in an anti-crime prevention summit, said the amount equates to millions of poor Filipinos being deprived of access to housing and medical assistance, as well as food.

Asked for his recommendation on how to limit, if not put an end to the prevailing problem, Sotto admitted that there might not have a quick fix for it.

“I cannot think of an outright solution ex-

cept to have a benevolent dictator. Remove everyone with a whiff of corruption,” Sotto said in a text message.

In the meantime, he said measures for “moral regeneration of the entire bureaucracy” can at least address it.

Senator Joel Villanueva, for his part, said the passage of the freedom of information law could be a key to help stop corruption of government funds.

“A significant reform that we can do would be to pass freedom of information (FOI) law. This will improve public accountability,” Villanueva said.

The proposed People’s Freedom of Information Act failed to hurdle the Senate in the 17th Congress. Senate records showed it only went as far as the committee on public information’s endorsement for plenary discussion in October 2016. It has not advanced since then.

In the current 18th Congress, senators are pushing for the passage of the FOI law. Six bills have so far been filed on the matter by Senators Grace Poe, Francis Pangilinan, Sonny Angara, Pia Cayetano, Risa Hontiveros and Villanueva, according to the Senate website.

Villanueva appealed to his colleagues to pass the bill. “I really hope we can prioritize this,” he said.