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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Bangkulasi River's clean-up kicked off

By **EDD REYES**

THE Navotas City Government, together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other national agencies, kicked off the clean-up drive for Bangkulasi River which was found to contain a high level of fecal coliform.

Mayor Toby Tiangco vowed that the city government will do its best to clean the river and improve its water quality. The fecal

coliform is a bacteria that comes from human or animal waste.

"Last week, we conducted a dialogue with the fisherfolk families who will be affected by the clean-up drive. We explained to them why we need to transfer their boats from the river to the Navotas Fish Port," he said.

Tiangco also instructed concerned city government offices and barangays to ensure continuous clean-up operations and monitor success of the river rehabilitation program.

Earlier, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said cleaning the Bangkulasi segment is crucial to the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program, setting a December deadline to produce drastic improvements in the river.

Present during the kick off were representatives from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Fisheries Development Authority, Philippine National Police-Navotas, and PNP-Maritime.



Sec. Cimatu

Also present were officials of Barangays North Bay Boulevard South (NBBS) Kaunlaran, NBBS Dagat-dagatan and Bangkulasi as well as employees of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office, City Agriculture Office and City Engineering Office.



MMDA, gamit na gamit ni Etak sa tong collection

ON THE BEAT



NI EDD REYES

HINDI pa nakaupo bilang pinuno ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) si Chairman Danny Lim ay matunog nasa mga vendors sa area ng Blumentritt sa lungsod ng Maynila ang isang alyas "Etak".

Sa pigura pa lang daw kasi, masisindak na ang mga illegal vendor kay Etak dahil kung baga sa pelikula, pang-kontrabida ang kanyang dating dahil sa taglay na matitipunong pangangatawan.

Si Etak daw kasi ang kolektor ng tongpats sa mga sidewalk vendor sa area ng Blumentritt na ang ginagamit ay ang tanggapan ng MMDA.

Gayunman, nanglinisin ni Mayor Isko Moreno ang kahabaan ng Blumentritt at inilagay sa ayos ang vendors na sumasakop sa mismong lansangan, hindi na napagkikita si Etak lalo na nang ipadakip ng alkalde ang ilang mga tong collector na patuloy na naniningil ng tara sa mga vendor.

Pero nitong mga nagdaang araw, muling naging matunog ang pangalan ni Etak dahil isa pala siya sa mga umano'y nangongolekta ng mula P30 hanggang P100 sa mga vendor sa Antipolo Street sa likurang bahagi ng Obbero Market sa Blumentritt.

Maging ang mga malilit na manininda sa bangketa ng Blumentritt ay hindi rin daw nakakaligtas sa paniningil ni Etak na ang ginagasgas na ahensiya ng pamahalaan ay ang MMDA pero wala namang inisyung resibo.

Mabuti pa nga raw ang isa pang grupo na nagpakilalang "Maninindang may Sistema at Kalinisan ng Blumentritt" na naniningil ng P20 sa umaga at P20 sa gabi sa bawat vendors ay may resibo kahit batid nilang peke naman ito at paiba-iba ang pirma ng namamahala.

Ang ipinagtataka nila, kitang-kita naman na mga tauhan ng Department of Public Service (DPS) ng Manila City Hall ang naglilinis sa lugar pero bakit

daw may isang grupo na naniningil ng para sa kalinisan?

Mula kasi nanglinisin ni Mayor Isko ang mga lansangan sa Maynila, nabawasan ang ibinabayad na tong sa puwesto ng mga vendor dahil ang sinisingil lang ng lungsod ay ang P20 na bayad bilang hawkers fee pero ngayon ay palaki na nang palaki ang gastos nila dahil nagbalik na raw muliang pangongolekta ng tong.

Hindi naman si Mayor ang dapat na sisihin dito dahil ginagawa naman talaga ng alkalde ang lahat upang malinis ang lungsod kaya siguro, dapat ay tumulong din ang kapulisan na madakip kung sino man ang nasa likod ng mga nagbabalik na tong collectors.

Tulal, may detachment naman ng Manila police na bantay-sarado sa lugar at kung tutuusin ay madali nilang matutnton kung sino ang mga nangongolekta ng tong, maliban na nga lang kung may basbas din sila sa mga ito.

✓ Bangkulasi River clean up

Bagama't hindi naman malaki ang problema ng Navotas City sa paglilinis ng mga lansangan dahil noon pa man ay ginagawa na ito ng lokal na pamahalaan, ang problema naman sa paglilinis ng ilog ang kanila ngayong tinututukan.

Natuklasan kasi ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na may mataas na antas ng fecal coliform, isang uri ng bacteria na nagmumula sa dumi ng tao o hayop, ang Bangkulasi River sa Navotas at ito ay napupunta sa Manila Bay.

Dahil dito, nangako si Mayor Toby Tiangco na gagawin nila ang kanilang makakaya upang malinis ang ilog at mapaunlad ang kalidad ng tubig.

Unang kinausap ng alkalde noong nakaraang linggo ang mga mangingisdang maaapektuhan ng clean-up drive at ipinaliwanag sa kanila kung bakit kailangan nilang ilipat ang kanilang bangka sa Navotas Fish Port.

Bukod kasi sa pag-angkla ng kanilang mga fishing boat sa ilog, ginagawa na ng ilang mangingisda bilang tirahan ang gilid ng Bangkulasi River at dito na rin sila nagtatapon ng iba't ibang uri ng dumi.

Noong nakaraang araw, sinimulan na ni Mayor Toby, katuwang si Asec

Rico Salazar ng DENR at mga kinatawan ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Fisheries Development Authority, Philippine National Police-Navotas, PNP-Maritime, opisyal ng barangay sa NBBS Kaunlaran, Dagat-Dagatan at Bangkulasi at mga kawani ng City Environment and Natural Resources Office, City Agriculture Office at City Engineering Office ang puspasang paglilinis sa Bangkulasi River.

Inatasan na rin ni Tiangco ang ilang mga tanggapan ng pamahalaan lungsod at mga barangay na siguruhing tuloy-tuloy ang paglilinis ng ilog at i-monitor ang tagumpay nito.

Kamakailan kasi ay sinabi ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na napakahalaga ng paglilinis ng Bangkulasi segment sa Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program kaya't nagtakda siya ng palugit hanggang Disyembre upang magkaroon ng malaking pagbago ang ilog.

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DENR AT DOH IINSPEKSIYUNIN ANG PINAGLIBINGAN NG MGA BABOY SA ANTIPOLO

NAKATAKDANG inspeksiyunin ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Department of Health (DOH) ang pinaglibingan nang nasa 500 pinatay na baboy sa Antipolo, Rizal.

Ayon kay Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) Director Ronnie Domingo, kinailangan kasing mailibing nang mabilisan ang mga baboy.

Sa pahayag naman ni DOH-Calabarzon Director,

Dr. Ed Janairo, dapat lagpas sa 25 metro ang layo ng hukay sa daluyan o pinagkukunan ng tubig para hindi makaapekto sa kalusugan ng mga tao ang pag-agnas ng mga baboy.

Para naman kay Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda, pag-aaralan nila ang lalim ng hukay at distansiya nito hindi lang sa ilog kundi maging sa kabahayan.



Water supply sa MM lalakas sa Setyembre

SA susunod na buwan ay makararanas na ng mas maayos na suplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay National Water Resources Board executive director Seville David Jr., mula sa 36 cubic meter per second ay itataas ang suplay sa 40 cubic meter per second simula sa Setyembre 1.

"It's still below the regular allocation [that the] MWSS [receives]. Our regular release is 46 cubic meters per second," aniya.

Umakyat na sa 180 metrong minimum operating level ang Angat dam noong Lunes. Kahapon ito ay nasa 181.77 metro. Inaasahan na lalo pa itong tataas dahil sa pag-ulan.

Pero hindi pa umano masasabi na ligtas na ang Metro Manila sa problema sa suplay ng tubig ngayon.

"Doon po sa tanong na kung 'we're off the hook,' sasabihin po natin, hindi pa ho kasi nasa minimum operating level pa lang ho tayo. Hindi pa ho ganun ka-comfortable ang level," ani David.

Sinabi niya na hindi maaaring aksayahan ang tubig sa dam upang maiwasan na maulit ang water crisis.

"Kailangan nating i-manage 'yung supply in such a way na hanggang next year po ma-secure natin 'yung supply ng tubig na nanggagaling sa Angat," saad pa ni David.

—Leifbilly Begas



Gov't pushing through with Kaliwa Dam project – MWSS

By EDU PUNAY

The government is pushing through with the Kaliwa Dam project despite objections from some quarters over questions on the \$211-million contract with China and its repercussions on the

indigenous peoples community.

Newly appointed Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) administrator Emmanuel Salamat revealed this yesterday at a briefing with the House committee on Metro Manila development on the water situation in the metropolis.

Salamat informed the House panel chaired by Manila 1st district Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez that the construction of the project, officially known as New Centennial Water Supply, will kick off once it secures environmental compliance

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certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"We will implement this project as approved by our board of trustees. We are currently complying with the requirements for the project. Right now, we're waiting for the ECC," the retired military general told lawmakers.

An ECC is a requirement for any project that has potential risk to the environment.

The MWSS chief also assured lawmakers that concerns raised against the project would be properly addressed.

He cited for instance the issue involving the IP community in Infanta, Quezon that would reportedly be displaced by the project.

"We are conducting public hearings with affected communities and we are addressing their concerns. We want to make sure there will be sustainable plans for communities to ensure their support," Salamat pointed out.

As to reports that the project did not undergo bidding, Salamat said he has yet to check on all pertinent documents as he assumed the top MWSS post less than a month ago.

"I'm looking at the project itself, but I have yet to see all documentations," he explained as he appealed for "more time to review" the validity of the contract.

COA clears project

But Commission on Audit representatives in the hearing clarified that the project underwent public bidding – contrary to media reports – and that what they found were only possible irregularities in the compliance to bidding requirements.

The project has also been questioned before the Supreme Court for alleged violations of the 1987 Constitution, in a petition filed by militant lawmakers from the Makabayan bloc last May.

Last year, the MWSS already released an initial P565 million as payment to the Department of Public Works and Highways for road construction.

Of the P12.2-billion construction cost, 85 percent would be funded from official development assistance from China amounting to P10.2 billion, while 15 percent or P2 billion would be shouldered by MWSS.

After 34 years, Kaliwa Dam is set to fully take off following the formal signing of the contract between President Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping last November.

The project, which aims to supply additional 600 million liters of water per day to Metro Manila, will be undertaken by China Energy Engineering Corp.

The construction of the multibillion-peso water project was first approved by NEDA in 2014.

PPP to ODA

The financing scheme for the project was changed in 2017 from a public-private partnership to official development assistance.

At the hearing, Lopez expressed support for the project and cited the need for MWSS to address the water shortage problem in Metro Manila and work on alternative sources of water so as not to depend on Angat Dam alone.

"The water crisis is real and we must fund solutions that are tangible... We have to prevent this recurrence and work hand in hand to build more dam, waste water facilities and water collectors," he told MWSS officials.

On the other hand, Muntinlupa Rep. Ruffy Biazon suggested to the MWSS that it consider Laguna de Bay as a possible alternative source of water.

"If we can just clean Laguna Lake up and develop it, it could be not just a source of water supply but also an alternative transportation means between Metro Manila and Rizal," he said.

At the same hearing, Salamat confirmed that water supply in Metro Manila is now back to normal after the crisis during the second quarter of the year.

He said the water crisis in Metro Manila had affected 5.3 million consumers in 783,153 households in 45 barangays.



Karagdagang pagkukunan ng suplay ng tubig **KALIWA DAM PROJECT TULOY**

SA KABILA ng mahigpit na pagtutol ng ilang sektor, kabilang na ang mga katutubong Dumagat, tuloy ang konstruksiyon ng P18.724-billion Kaliwa Dam Project na naglalayong maging karagdagang pagkukunan ng suplay ng tubig para sa mga residente ng Metro Manila.

Ayon kay Maynilad Water Services Inc. (MWSI) Administrator Emmanuel Salamat, tanging ang pagpapalabas ng Environmental Compliance Certificate mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang kanilang hinihintay para ganap nang masimulan ang pagpapatayo ng nasabing dam.

“The MWSI will implement ‘yung approved by the MWSS Board of Trustees na Kaliwa Dam under a Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) scheme. The project ay handled by China Energy Engineering Corporation Limited, and ongoing ‘yung compliances sa other requirements in order to proceed with the project...hinihintay natin ang ECC,” ang pahayag ng MWSI official sa pagdinig ng House Committee on Metro Manila Development kahapon.

Binigyan-diin ni Salamat na hindi nila basta isinasaisantabi ang panig ng mga tutol sa proyekto, katunayan ay patuloy ang kanilang diyalogo sa mga ito.

“We are addressing

the concerns ng ating IPs, we are improving our plans na dapat sustainable, mayroong sustainable programs para ma-ensure ‘yung support natin sa mga maaapektuhan ng project,” pagtiyak pa niya.

Nilinaw naman ng COA na mayroon na lamang ilang requirements na hinihintay mula sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) na may kinalaman naman sa isinagawang bidding para sa multi-billion dam project.

Sa pagtaya, ang Kaliwa Dam ay makapag-susuplay ng karagdagang 600 million cubic meters ng tubig kada araw.

ROMER BUTUYAN



Hydropolitics and good governance

They might seem like disparate matters, yet the recent audit report on Kaliwa Dam and the water crisis that has been afflicting Metro Manila are facets of the same issue: hydropolitics.

From recent news reports, the Commission on Audit has raised questions on the bidding process for the China-funded Kaliwa Dam project, which is seen as the long-term infrastructure solution to ease water woes in the capital, whose residents have been experiencing the worst supply crisis in nearly a decade since March.

Hydropolitics straddles both issues, and demands adroit action from the government. Water supply is literally a matter of life and death for the citizenry; there must be sustainable and robust long-term solutions to manage the delivery of quality water services amid fast-growing demand.

The Kaliwa Dam project demands nothing but total transparency to ensure that the interests of the Filipino people prevail. The urgency of the project must be balanced with public interest, and the entire process should be able to withstand public scrutiny.

In the case of the metro water crisis, which has seen households having to endure daily interruptions owing to the shortage of bulk water from the La Mesa and Angat dams, the onus is again on the government to mobilize and engage different sectors in society, including the private sector, for solutions.

Despite criticisms against privatization, engaging the private sector in the provision of quality public services offers three basic ad-

COMMENTARY

DINDO MANHIT

vantages: better generation and utilization of resources, diminution of political interference and bureaucracy, and economic democracy.

The privatization and subsequent reorganization in 1997 of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) yielded gains that only became possible with the government partnering with conglomerates Maynilad and Manila Water, as well as other private entities. By way of example, 98 percent of West Zone residents—those who live in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Pasay, Valenzuela, most of Manila and portions of Quezon City and Makati—now have 24/7 supply at the ideal water pressure, where before only a third of residents enjoyed such.

The same is true for 99 percent of East Zone residents, those living in most areas of Quezon City, Marikina, Pasig, Pateros, Taguig, San Juan and some areas of Manila and Rizal—a clear improvement from only 26 percent back in 1997.

The privatization of MWSS has been a successful case of public-private partnership (PPP) and of good governance, but challenges to such a scheme remain to be addressed. Raul Fabella raised the problem succinctly in his 2018 book “Capitalism and Inclusion Under Weak Institutions”: “How does a govern-

ment with a reputation for nondelivery and wastage improve its prospects as a partner in development moving forward?”

A number of examples illustrate where the bottlenecks lie, such as the urgent call to address the pollution leaking into the tributaries of Manila Bay. The building of sewage treatment plants (STP), seen to be integral in cleaning up Manila Bay, is a complex deliverable that can only be done in carefully planned phases because of physical constraints on the ground. As should be obvious to regulators and planners, the simultaneous construction of STPs will cause heavy inconvenience to the public, with road excavations all over, causing a metrowide standstill. And more time is needed for sewer lines, as these require deeper excavations.

On top of these concerns are even more complications: the availability of lots for STPs, the delay of permits from LGUs, and also the problem of relocating informal settlers.

Still, “The fact alone that conglomerates compete in the same market improves welfare, no matter that their entry into these markets is profit-motivated,” said Fabella in his book. “The government’s only role is to safeguard free entry and prevent collusion... Conglomeratic competition is especially proconsumer welfare.”

The instances of success brought about by privatization are indeed very encouraging, and deserve serious consideration by the government.

Dindo Manhit is founder and managing director of the Stratbase Group.



Saving Sierra Madre

THE tree-planting activity in Sierra Madre has been completed in a bid to save what remains of the mountain range's dwindling forest cover.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), it spent four days (July 14, 26 and August 3 and 16), to finish the activity, along with the municipal government of General Tinio, Nueva Ecija and other stakeholders.

The annual activity held at the Upper Tabuating Small Reservoir Irrigation Project was pursuant to the 21-year-old "Adopt-A-Mountain Program" under DENR Administrative Order 98-62.

Other stakeholders were the National Irrigation Administration, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police and the Rotary Clubs of Makati Rockwell, Makati EDSA

and San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City.

It was also in accordance with the DENR's ISO 14001:2015 certification, which requires the continuous rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded forest areas.

The tree planting will help to reforest Sierra Madre that supplies water to Angat Dam, the main source of water of Metro Manila. **Joel dela Torre**



War on plastic continues

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

A report by a nongovernment organization opposed to single-use plastics (SUPs) said that every day, the country produces around "164 million pieces of sachets."

The Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternative (GAIA) report "Plastics Exposed" also revealed that each day, 48 million shopping bags and 45.2 million pieces of so-called plastic *labo* bags are produced.

An ally of GAIA, the EcoWaste Coalition, said, "We are drowning in plastics and dying inch by inch from their toxic releases."

Jovito Benosa, Zero Waste Program officer of EcoWaste Coalition, said, "Single-use plastics which are designed for the dump (or for the fire), clearly have no place in an environment designed for perpetual recycling of resources that will truly promote and sustain life and health of this planet's inhabitants."

"In view of this, the only way to deal with SUPs is to phase them all out," he added.

Benosa pointed out that the country has an existing law, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 or Republic Act 9003, which gives clear mandate to the National Solid Waste Management Commission to schedule a phaseout of non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging.

"The law clearly singles out SUPs and similar products in its definition of non-environmentally acceptable in Section 3 (m): 're-usable, biodegradable or compostable, recyclable and not toxic or hazardous to the environment,'" he stressed.

Citing another report, "Plastic & Health: The Hidden Cost of a Plastic Planet," EcoWaste Coalition said "roughly two-thirds of all plastic ever produced has been released into the environment and remains there in some form – as debris in the oceans, as micro- or nanoparticles in air and agricultural soils, as microfibers in water supplies, or as microparticles in the human body."

The report explains that once in the environment, plastic "slowly fragments into smaller particles" where they contaminate the air, water and soil, "accumulate in food chains, and release toxic additives or concentrate additional toxic chemicals in the environment, making them bioavailable again..."

To date, two related bills have been filed before the Senate to deal with these issues on SUPs: "An Act Regulating the Use of Plastic Bags, and for Other Purposes," filed by Sen. Nancy Binay and "An Act Regulating the Manufacturing, Importation and Use of Single-Use Plastic Products, and Providing Penalties, Levies and An Incentives System for Industries, Business Enterprises and Consumers Thereof," filed by Sen. Francis Pangilinan.



Laguna Medical Center pabaya sa toxic waste

Kinalampag ng Commission on Audit (COA) ang tanggapan ni Governor Ramil Hernandez hinggil sa mga paglabag ng Laguna Medical Center sa batas dahil sa kawalan ng maayos na waste management na nagdudulot ng panganib sa kalusugan ng mga tao at kapaligiran.

Batay sa 2018 Annual Audit Report ng COA sa Laguna, nagsagawa ng ocular inspection ang kanilang audit team kasama ang Waste Management Officer ng Laguna Medical Center at nalaman na hindi sumusunod sa ipinag-uutos ng batas ang nasabing ospital sa pagtatapon ng kanilang mga basura.

Natuklasan umano ng mga

state auditor na nabigo ang pamunuan ng ospital na magpatupad ng waste management practices alinsunod sa itinatakda ng Republic Act No. 9003 o Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 gayundin sa Health Care Waste Management Manual.

Sa kanilang ocular inspection, nakita ng audit team ang mga walang takip na basurahan, "unsorted radioactive, sharp and pressurized waste", at mga "unmarked infectious waste container."

Dahil walang takip, nakatiwang-wang umano ang mga basura na puwedeng kalkalin ng mga hayop at pamugaran ng insekto.

Kulang din umano ng signage kung kaya't may panganib ng in-

fection at kontaminasyon, partikular ang sewage treatment plant at waste storage area ng ospital.

Batay sa RA 9003, ipinag-uutos na ang segregation o paghihiwalay ng mga basurang natutunaw at hindi natutunaw. Nakasaad din sa manual na kailangang idispatsa ng mga ospital ang mga hazardous waste sa loob ng dalawang araw o lagyan ng chemical disinfectant.

Ayon sa COA, nangako naman ang mga opisyal ng lalawigan na aaksyunan ang mga rekomendasyon ng ahensya at magpapatupad ng periodic compliance monitoring. **(Allan Yves Briones)**



Mining industry in limbo



Val A. Villanueva

BUSINESSWISE

IN February 2017, the government shut down the operations of 27 mining companies in various areas of the country because they were presumed to be nestling on “functional” watersheds.

The decision was based on an initial audit done in September 2016 which alleged that the mining operations were violating environmental and other government regulations. The government revealed then that some of the miners, most especially those in Surigao del Norte, had been causing siltation in coastal waters, which endangered marine biodiversity.

Heavily invested in the business, the industry assailed the decision and appealed its case before the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Together with the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC), the DENR conducted a thorough audit of the firms affected by the

closure. The interagency MICC is chaired by the DENR and the Department of Finance (DOF). Its other members are the Department of Justice, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines. From the first batch of miners audited, 24 were given the green light to operate after they were found to be in compliance with environmental and other government regulations. Only three did not make the grade. They were recommended for closure, but were nonetheless allowed to appeal the decision with the Office of the President.

DOF Undersecretary Bayani Agabin said in published reports that the miners were assessed

based on the criteria and the benchmarks on social, technical, legal and environmental aspects of their operations. Agabin said: “The system was such that three is the highest score; two is minor reforms needed, [and] one is for major reforms. Zero is not acceptable,...the passing score is 1.5.”

For unknown reasons, the government to date has neither released the names nor has allowed the operations of the first batch of miners that passed the audit. BusinessWise was able to obtain the full list and the companies’ respective scores from highly reliable government insiders.

The 24 miners that passed the audit were: Oceana Gold Philippines—2.92; Hinatuan Mining Corp.—2.74; CTP Construction and Mining Corp.—2.46; Emir Minerals Corp.—2.44; Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp.—2.30; Marcventures Mining and Development Corp.—2.30; AAMPFIL Nat. Res. Exploration 2B—2.28; Adnama Mining Resources Inc.—2.24; Citinickel Mines and Development—2.24; Berong Nickel Corp.—2.20; Strongbuilt Mining Dev. Corp.—2.16; Wellex Mining Corp. Mine 2—2.16; Carrascal Nickel Corp.—2.14; Eramen Minerals—1.90; Wellex Mining

Corp. Mine 1—1.90; Libjo Mining Corp.—1.84; LNL Archipelago Minerals, Inc.—1.78; Benguet Corp.—1.74; Krominco Inc.—1.68; Mt. Sinai Mining Exploration and Development—1.68; Zambales Diversified Metals Corp.—1.68; Benguet Corp Nickel Mines Inc.—1.64; Oriental Vision Mining Phil. Corp.—1.64; and Sinosteel Phil., NY, Mining Corp.—1.62.

The three miners that failed the audit were: Oriental Synergy Mining Corp.—1.10; Ore Asia Mining and Dev. Corp.—0.96; and Claver Mineral Development Corp.—0.78.

Sought for an interview, a representative of one of the mining firms that passed the audit lamented that nothing has been done to lift their respective suspension orders. “It’s been almost two years since we’ve been cleared,” he said, “but we remain inactive, all the while paying our creditors, employees and contractors. The hemorrhage is so severe that we don’t know any more what to do to stop the bleeding. The government should at least tell us what’s our next step is, whether we stay or not. We could not remain in limbo forever.”

SEE “VILLANUEVA,” A7



Villanueva . . .

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Note that the shutdown of mining companies was not precipitated by a mine accident of life-and-death proportion, but a zealous campaign by environmental extremists that pressured the then newly inaugurated government of President Duterte.

Mining has been the most demonized industry in the Philippines. And yet, it cannot be denied that the world could not live without it. Its haters should be reminded that they would be practically naked, without nourishment and tools to survive should mining be halted completely. Almost everything we do to sustain life is aided by the things we mine and harness from under the Earth.

I've always supported responsible mining, which hypocritical environmental extremists claim does not exist. One only has to press a button on their computer keyboard to access information about how smoking cigarette and drinking alcohol kill more people than mining does, or that multitudes die of smoke and other pollutants they inhale than the rehabilitation of mine sites after they have been excavated for minerals.

Smoking and drinking could kill, but the companies that make them also sustain the livelihood of people dependent on the industry they represent. It's just a matter of skillful governance on the part of state regulators to minimize the risks associated in consuming these products. In the same breath, mining provides livelihood to townsfolk where mining companies operate. Mining is the only industry that is highly regulated, and the only business mandated by law to uplift the lives of people within the scope of its operations.

Environmental extremists should understand that modern mining methods employed by licensed mining companies greatly

Mining has been the most demonized industry in the Philippines. And yet, it cannot be denied that the world could not live without it. Its haters should be reminded that they would be practically naked, without nourishment and tools to survive should mining be halted completely. Almost everything we do to sustain life is aided by the things we mine and harness from under the Earth.

lessen the mining catastrophes of yesteryears. What they should rile about is the harmful practices used by illegal miners coddled by corrupt officials of the local government units—those irresponsible and illegal Chinese miners that buy their way to destroy the countryside.

Striking the right balance is what the government should skillfully aim for. It could allow responsible mining, while remaining vigilant to its possible abuses. Also, it has to be extra sensitive to the social impact of shutting down or restricting the operations of industries where thousands of people's livelihood are at stake. At the moment, the mining industry only provides 0.85 percent, or P134.5 billion to the country's total gross domestic product, even as it could do more by tapping the country's mineral resources, which has an estimated value of around \$1.4 trillion.

It was announced that the mining audit for the second batch will start this month and is expected to be completed next year. And then, there is still the tax audit that the industry has to go through (but that is an entirely different story). Does this mean that those mining firms deemed fit for business by the first audit have to wait for all these audits to be completed before they could finally operate? The question is: how much longer will these responsible miners have to wait before they can even gasp for breath?

For comments/suggestions e-mail me at mvala.v@gmail.com



QUARRYING GINAGAWANG GATASAN NI APO PONSING

GUD am, idol, i-report ko lang ang ginagawa ng bayaw ng Mayor sa Magalang, Pampanga.

Ang pangalan ng bayaw ni Mayor Romy F. Pecson ay Apo Ponsing. Nakatalaga siya sa Quarry Checkpoint sa Dolores, Magalang, Pampanga.

Ganito po 'yun, idol. 'Yung trak na may kargang buhangin na galing sa Concepcion, Tarlac ay idadaan sa Dolores, Magalang, Pampanga kung saan naroroon 'yung Quarry C-Point ng Municipality of Magalang na ang supervisor ay 'yung bayaw ni Mayor Romy Pecson.

Ang ginagawa nila. 'pag hindi nila resesibuhan ang trak, ang bayad ay 30 to 40 pesos at pagreresibuhan nila ay 60 pesos. 'Yun ang ligal.

Pagkatapos, doon sa weighing scale ay bumabawi ang grupo ni Apo Ponsing. Sa official receipt ay 30 pesos pero ibinebenta nila ng 40 to 50 pesos sa mga trak na may kargang buhangin.

Kaya po "no choice" ang mga truck driver na nagkakarga ng mga buhangin.

Kaya kahit mataas ang presyo ay kinakagat na lang nila ito dahil naghahabol sila ng oras baka ma-truck ban o kaya ay 'di sila papasukin sa mga bayan-bayan.



JUAN DE SABOG

ni JOHNNY MAGALONA

Nakaaawa po 'yung mga driver ng nagdedeliber ng buhangin dahil sa pagod na pagod na sila na sumusunod sa mga patakaran ng quarrying pero patuloy naman silang ginagatasan ng ilang tiwali sa nasabing bayan.

Sana, idol Johnny, umaasa kami na maiparating ninyo ito sa kaalaman ni Mayor Pecson sa pamamagitan ng kolum ninyo dahil walang kaalam-alam si meyor na niloloko siya ng kanyang bayaw. Salamat po.



Future of Philippine biodiversity takes flight

The Philippine Eagle, our country's national bird, is critically endangered due to the threat of habitat loss. The good news is that efforts to save and protect them are strong and relentless.

Today, an estimated 400 pairs of Philippine Eagles remain in the wild. In November last year, forest guards found the seventh nesting site for Philippine Eagles in Mount Apo, a sign that the critically endangered bird continues to make its home and produce offspring in one of its natural habitats. This is considered a key development in the protection and preservation of the bird.

In May this year, the quest to continue ensuring its survival reached new heights when a pair of Philippine Eagles bred in captivity at the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City — the 15-year-old male Geothermica and 17-year-old female Sambisig — was sent to Singapore's Jurong Bird Park.

Loaning the birds is part of an agreement between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS), a leading wildlife conservation group. It is also symbolic of the valuable ties that the Philippines and Singapore have especially in common advocacies such as environmental conservation and biodiversity protection.

Geothermica is the adopted eagle of geothermal company Energy Development Corporation (EDC), while Sambisig is the adopted eagle of a chemical com-

pany. Both are considered at the prime age of breeding. During their two-year stay at Jurong Bird Park, it is hoped that they will mate and produce eaglets which can be released in suitable, vacant habitats back in the Philippines. The pair and their future offspring can provide a gene pool that may be used in case natural calamities or health epidemics like avian flu threaten the eagles' population in the Philippines.


The Philippine Eagle's role on top of the food chain is considered crucial in keeping the balance of nature's eco-

system. An abundant Philippine Eagle population also indicates a healthy state of forests.

Aside from being the natural habitat of the Philippine Eagle, the country's highest peak Mount Apo also offers an abundance of geothermal energy — a form of clean and renewable energy that relies on heat coming from the earth. Like the Philippine Eagle, geothermal energy is dependent on a healthy vast forest



Geothermica and Sambisig, the future of survival of the Philippine Eagle (Photo by PEF)

cover for sustained production.

For this reason, central to EDC's corporate social responsibility initiatives is environmental conservation.

At its 106-megawatt Mount Apo Geothermal Project (MAGP), watersheds are well-maintained and forests are lush. The 701-hectare protected geothermal reservation surround-

ing MAGP alone is home to 39 species of mammals and 165 species of birds, including the Philippine Eagle.

For EDC, the fight to protect Philippine Eagles must be waged in both captivity and the wild. According to the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), eagles bred in captivity can live up to 40 years and are considered more resilient to human handling and living in breeding facilities than their wildlife counterparts. This is why, in 2012, EDC adopted Geothermica under PEF's Adopt-an-Eagle Program.

"Sending Geothermica to the WRS is an important step in our collective efforts to protect the Philippine Eagle, the survival of which is inseparable from the protection of our biodiversity. Since Philippine Eagles are threatened by the loss of forest cover and shooting activities, we hope to exhaust all efforts to protect one of the most precious treasures of our biological heritage," said EDC CSR head Atty. Allan Barcena.

At present, PEF has located 37 pairs of wild eagles with breeding nests in Mindanao. July marks the start of breeding season on the island, both for captive and those in the wild. Monitoring breeding adults and securing their health and safety as they produce and care for new eaglets help keep their bloodline alive.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
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NATURE TRAIL

Text and photos by **KARA SANTOS**

Masungi Georeserve, a conservation area and karst rock garden hidden in the rainforests of Baras in Rizal, is one of the most popular and rewarding hiking destinations near Metro Manila. No doubt, you've seen the photos of the giant rope hammocks, rope bridge courses and spiderweb-like view decks of their Discovery Trail on your online feed.

But not many people know that the geopark also offers a new area where visitors can delve deeper into the forest and plant trees when they hike. The Legacy Trail, launched last year, offers an immersion to the greater Masungi Geopark Project where guests can get a glimpse of the daily work and struggles of conservation.

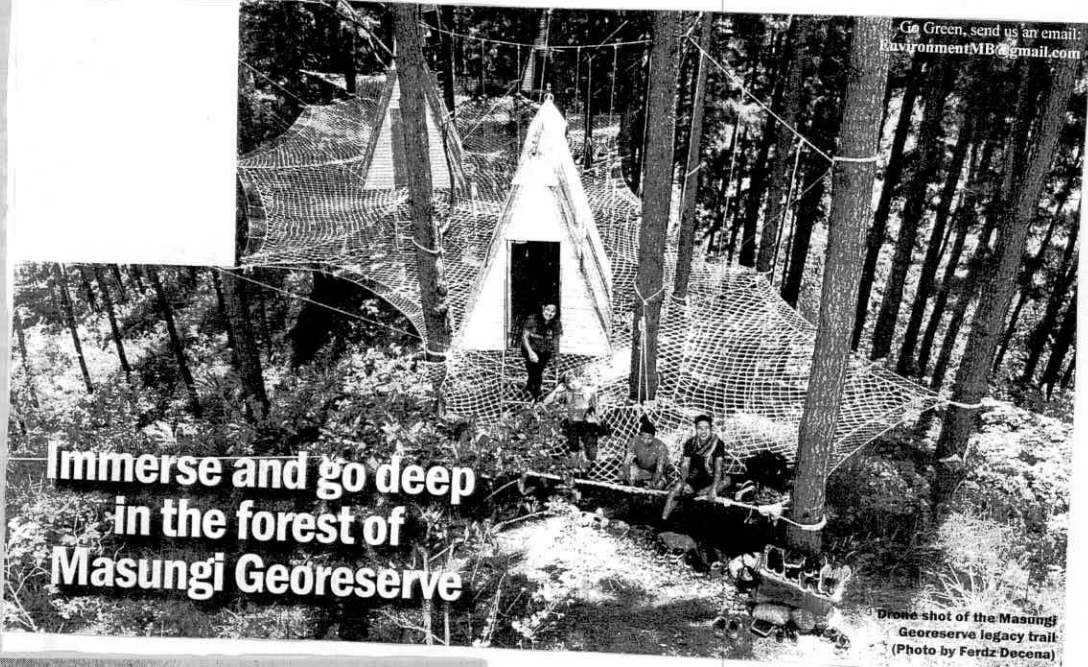
Here are five reasons you'll want to pack your bags and go there.

Beginner-friendly hike

You don't need to be a hardcore hiker or camp out in the wilderness to complete the Legacy Trail. Average hikers can complete the whole course in just three to four hours (with a one-hour climb going up, 45 minutes of restoration activities, one hour of food and rest, 30 minutes going down).

The route is a combination of natural dirt trails and some paths with concrete/ stone steps in the steeper portions to make it safer and more accessible to visitors of varying fitness levels and in different weather conditions. This makes it ideal for beginner hikers, families with kids and regular people who just want a quick break from city life to connect with nature. You can even hike here during the rainy season!

Based on experience, it's usually better to hike during overcast days or light rain showers than in summer months when it's blazing hot. Mountain scenery is usually greener and you won't have to contend with the heat while hiking. There's also something romantic about the mountain scenery veiled in fog and mist. While the trail may be muddier and more challenging, that only adds to the adventure factor.



Eco-consciousness is instilled on the trek participants



Feel the embrace of nature at the bamboo grove



Scenic trail and rest stops

When it comes to climbing mountains, the best views are usually found on the summit. But at the Legacy Trail, most of the route going up is rewarding in itself. The early part of the trail takes visitors through a grove of bamboo trees that form a canopy lining the trail and various viewpoints where they can learn more about the native fauna and flora that thrive in the area.

Throughout the trail, there are designated rest areas such as natural benches

and swings made with natural materials and designs inspired by the environment like leaves and pine cones. Unlike natural hiking trails out in the mountains, the Legacy Trail offers some basic amenities, including clean and decent restrooms at the jump-off point and lunch stop area.

Studies have shown that just spending quality time outdoors can be very



Tree planting in Masungi

therapeutic. Who wouldn't want to relax in floating treehouses over nets after a hike? The trail's lunch stop and rest area known as Amihan features a series of ropeways and floating huts suspended in the last pine forests in the area. The treehouses are made with light, temporary and low-impact materials suitable for the area.

The lovely floating treehouses are the highlight for those who just want to hang out and catch up with friends in an outdoor setting instead of just chatting online or meeting up in a restaurant or mall in the city.

Focus on conservation

The main draw of the Legacy Trail is that visitors can contribute to the conservation efforts of the area through tree planting or tree nurturing activities alongside park rangers.

The experience focuses on educating the general public and raising awareness on the role of forests and trees to the larger ecosystem. This makes the activity a fun, yet meaningful one, for companies looking for teambuilding or CSR activities.

Tree nurturing is often overlooked by typical tree-planting programs. Visitors are guided by locals who serve as park rangers, most of whom are former kaingero who now serve as a forest ranger on how to plant seedlings properly.

Many tree-planting activities I've attended in the past don't go beyond the surface after the photo

ops have been taken. Here, each visitor gets a certificate of the tree they planted and can actually check back on the tree's progress in years to come.

Sustainable hiking practices

In many mountains around the country, it's common to find candy wrappers, mineral water bottles, plastic packaging

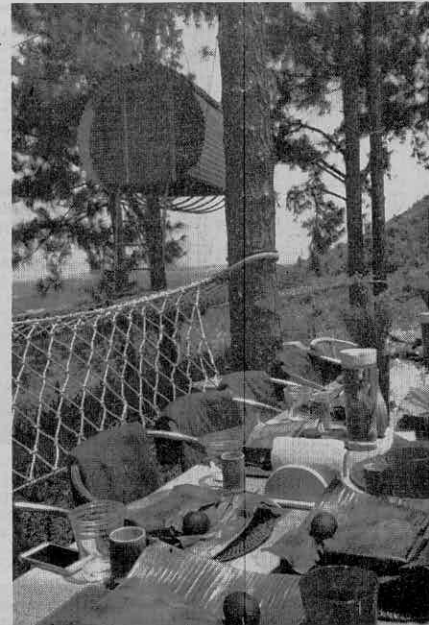
and other garbage littering the trails, left behind by irresponsible hikers.

To limit the amount of waste generated in the area, packaged meals from fast-food are not allowed inside the park. Guests may bring light trail food and snacks such as peanuts, chocolate, trail mix and biscuits, as long as they take back all their trash.

The park employs a strict "Leave No Trace" principle. All biodegradable (banana peels, etc.) and non-biodegradable (plastic packaging, candy wrappers, etc.) trash must be brought out and disposed of properly afterwards.

'Studies have shown that just spending quality time outdoors can be very therapeutic. Who wouldn't want to relax in floating treehouses over nets after a hike? The trail's lunch stop and rest area known as Amihan features a series of ropeways and floating huts suspended in the last pine forests in the area.'

The Legacy Trail includes a complimentary lunch of minalot, a traditional meal of rice, viands and vegetables wrapped in banana leaves and drinks like gumamela juice which are served upon finishing the forest restoration activities. The meals are prepared by the local community and can be enjoyed in an outdoor



Outdoor lunch stop at legacy trail

picnic setting. In the event of rain, there is a covered dome-style shed nearby that can be used as the dining area and shelter.

Giving back to the community

While the Legacy Trail provides a great bonding experience for friends and families, the best thing about it is that it harnesses community participation and aims to change people's behavior towards the destruction of the environment.

Many forests and mountains around the country are threatened due to destructive activities such as illegal logging, quarrying, kaingin and treasure hunting. The park employs guides and park staff who are locals from the indigenous Dumagat communities who live in nearby barangays like Cuyambay, some of whom used to be engaged in destructive activities and practices.

The conservation fees give locals an alternative source of income while ensuring their role in protecting the environment.



SC ruling gives Ati tribe right to Boracay lands

By Rey E. Requejo

THE Supreme Court has upheld the “primary jurisdiction” of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples in resolving ancestral domain cases.

With this ruling, the Ati ethnic group would get to keep a 2.5-hectare parcel of land in Boracay Island, where the cancellation of the original certificate of title of the property was sought by a couple before the Regional Trial Court, Branch 5, of Kalibo, Aklan instead of the NCIP.

In a resolution, the SC’s First Division sustained the Court of Appeals decision dismissed the appeal of husband and wife Gregorio Sanson and Ma. Lourdes Tirol-Sanson in 2011 to have the title awarded to the Ati Indigenous Cultural Community for a 25,313-square meter property in

Barangay Manoc-Manoc on Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan canceled.

In 2011, the Sanson couple asked the lower court to cancel the original certificate of title that was granted to the Ati group in 2010.

However, when the lower court took cognizance of the case, the Ati indigenous peoples’ group brought the case before the Court of Appeals.

In 2015, the appellate court ruled that the Sansons should have filed their complaint for cancellation before the NCIP and not with regular courts, prompting the couple to run to the SC.

In ruling against the couple, the SC held that the trial court committed grave abuse of discretion when it exceeded its jurisdiction by taking cognizance of the original case.

The high court said that the NCIP has “primary jurisdiction,” not “exclusive and original jurisdiction” as ruled by the CA, over the cancellation of certificates of ancestral domain title in accordance with the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act.

“This jurisdiction is applicable whether the parties are non-ICCs/IPs [Indigenous Peoples] or members of different ICCs/IPs groups,” the SC declared.

The SC said the Sansons could have filed an appeal before the NCIP but records show that they did not.

“It would then appear that the complaint subsequently filed was an attempt to revive a lost appeal, which cannot be countenanced,” the high court held.



Ati community wins title to 2.5-hectare Boracay ancestral land

BY VINCE NONATO

THE Ati indigenous cultural community has won its claim to 2.531 hectares of land in the world-famous Boracay Island, as the Supreme Court (SC) threw out a local businessman's petition for the cancellation of their ancestral domain title.

Businessman Gregorio Sanson and his wife Ma. Lourdes Tirol-Sanson did not avail of proper legal remedies to resolve the ownership issue, the SC First Division said in a seven-page notice of resolution dated June 10 and made public only yesterday.

The high court said the Sanson couple should have gone to the Court of Appeals (CA) instead of

going to the Kalibo Regional Trial Court to appeal a decision of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) granting the Ati community ownership of the property.

The case arose from the Ati petition for delineation and recognition of its ancestral domain claim near Station 1 of Barangay Manoc-Manoc. The NCIP granted the request in an Aug. 3, 2010 resolution.

The SC acknowledged NCIP's "primary jurisdiction" over claims to ancestral domain, as settled in the April 2017 ruling on *Unduran v. Aberasturi*.

To counter the Commission's decision, the High Court said the Sansons should have elevated the case before the CA, as provided

by Rule X, Sec. 27 of the Revised Rules of Procedure instead of initiating a separate complaint before the Kalibo, Aklan RTC seeking the cancellation of the certification of ancestral domain title and reconveyance of the property.

The SC saw through the ruse.

"The records show that no such appeal was taken. It would then appear that the complaint subsequently filed was an attempt to revive a lost appeal, which cannot be countenanced," read the notice signed by Division Clerk of Court Librada Buena.

The Ati and the NCIP had already questioned the RTC's jurisdiction over the Sansons' complaint, but the court rejected this in a May 22, 2012 order and decided

to entertain the lawsuit.

This prompted the Ati and the NCIP to go to the appellate court, which on Oct. 1, 2015 ordered the lower court to throw out the Sansons' legal challenge. It was the CA decision that led the Sansons to go to the SC.

The Ati people's fight for their government-recognized ancestral domain had been marred by threats and violence from at least three families seeking to exploit the land for themselves.

During the height of President Duterte's controversial six-month shutdown of the 1,032-hectare island for rehabilitation, he claimed he wanted to place the island paradise under the land reform program for the Ati natives.



SC: Tribal group to keep Boracay land

By **EVELYN MACAIRAN**

The Ati indigenous community has won its claim over a 25,310-square-meter land in Boracay.

In a seven-page resolution issued on June 10 and released on Tuesday, the Supreme Court's (SC) First Division denied the petition for review of the award of the land to the Ati tribal community.

The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) awarded the land

under Resolution 154-2010 AD dated Aug. 3, 2010.

Gregorio Sanson and his wife Ma. Lourdes filed a petition before the Kalibo regional trial court (RTC) for the cancellation of the original certificate of title and certificate of ancestral domain title as well as reconveyance and damages.

The couple claimed the NCIP has no jurisdiction over the case.

In denying the petition, the high tribunal affirmed a ruling of the Court of Appeals

(CA) that the NCIP and not a regular court has exclusive and original jurisdiction over the case.

The high court said the RTC committed grave abuse of discretion when it took cognizance of the case "absent any showing that it had been ruled upon by the NCIP or that the circumstances were present to justify its exception of the doctrine of primary jurisdiction."

The SC said the Sanson couple should have appealed the NCIP ruling before the CA.



#nationataglance

WESTERN VISAYAS: BORACAY, MALAY

SC junks complaint over ancestral land in Boracay

THE SUPREME Court (SC) affirmed the dismissal of the petition challenging the 2.5-hectare ancestral land awarded to the Ati indigenous community in Boracay, Malay. In a seven-page resolution, the SC's first division upheld the 2015 decision of the Court of Appeals (CA), which dismissed the petition of two private complainants based on wrong venue. The case stemmed from the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) awarded by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to the Ati community in Barangay Manoc-manoc. The private complainants questioned the award before a Regional Trial Court in Kalibo, which maintained that it has jurisdiction over the case despite the contention of the community. The NCIP and the community elevated the case to the CA, which dismissed it for lack of jurisdiction. The CA said the private complainants should have filed for the cancellation of the award to the NCIP. While the SC upheld that the regional trial court committed grave abuse of discretion in taking up the case, it said that the NCIP has primary jurisdiction to resolve claims over ancestral lands. The high court also said the petitioners should have appealed the NCIP Resolution straight to the CA. "The records show that no such appeal was taken. It would then appear that what the complaint subsequently filed was an attempt to revive a lost appeal, which cannot be countenanced," the resolution read. — **Vann Marlo M. Villegas**



MinDA to push fruit tree farming

By **ALI G. MACABALANG**

COTABATO CITY – Buoyed by the success of its recent fruit festival in Baguio City, the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) is pushing fruit tree farming drive to boost farmers' income and promote reforestation.

The campaign aims to achieve the state of a "Richer and Greener Mindanao," according to Secretary Manny F. Piñol, the new MinDA chair.

In a meeting in Davao City on Tuesday, Piñol said group leaders and representatives of fruit producers from various areas in Mindanao agreed with his concept of "hitting two birds with one stone."

"May income na ang farmer, may effective National Greening Program pa," Piñol quoted a leading fruit producer as saying at the meeting.

The MinDA fruit festival Aug. 24 to 25 in Baguio, which Piñol organized in collaboration with Baguio Mayor Benjamin Magalong, sold close to 30 tons of durian, mangosteen, lanzones, rambutan, pomelo and other fruits.

Hundreds of consumers reportedly swarmed the two festival venues, and bought out all the fruits in less than two days. News about the festival prompted local government units in Pangasinan, Laguna and Metro Manila to express interest in hosting subsequent events.

At the Tuesday meeting, Piñol ordered MinDA workers to gather data on the

actual state of the fruit industry in the island region.

"Statistics on the total number of fruit trees and the projected volume of harvest will have to be gathered and infused in a database so that well-planned marketing programs can happen," he said.

Under the program fruit farmers will be clustered by commodity so that they could share effective farming practices and modern technology.

With the support of the Department of Agriculture's (DA) regional offices, periodic workshops will be held so that the industry will be "elevated from just producing fresh fruits to processing and value adding," Piñol said.

"A profitable fruit industry could have a profound contribution to the efforts of government to plant more trees," he pointed out.

He recalled that during his stint as governor of North Cotabato, he espoused "the planting of fruit trees, instead of industrial tree species, for the government's National Greening Program."

"Instead of spending billions to pay for reforestation contractors to plant industrial tree species in the deforested areas of the country, a program marked by failures rather than successes because of corruption, government only needs to distribute fruit tree seedlings to farmers for free," he said.

Under the program, the government provides free fruit tree seedlings to farmers.



CARP 'aberration': Last of Luisita lands given to farmers

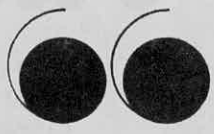
The last plots of land in Hacienda Luisita were given away to farmers on Tuesday, more than 30 years after the sugar plantation owned by the Cojuangco family was supposed to have been broken up and distributed to peasants after one of its own, President Corazon Aquino, placed all agricultural land in the country under agrarian reform.

On the 31st anniversary of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) launched by Aquino as the centerpiece of her administration, President Duterte bewailed the exclusion of the hacienda from land reform as "the greatest anomaly" in the government's pursuit of social justice.

"I'd like to state very clearly that I have nothing against the Aquino family, the two Presidents and the family. I would like to put it [on] record that for the first two Aquino presidents, we supported them, our family in Davao," Mr. Duterte said in a speech during a ceremony for the distribution of 87,648 hectares of land to farmers from Central Luzon, Calabarzon and Mimaropa regions at the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Quezon City.

Close to the powers that be

"But the greatest aberration ... [was that] the Philippines was



I would like to put it [on] record that for the first two Aquino presidents, we supported them, our family in Davao ... But the greatest aberration ... [was that] the Philippines was declared ... a land reform area, but they excluded (Hacienda) Luisita

Rodrigo Duterte
President

declared ... a land reform area, but they excluded (Hacienda) Luisita," he said.

"That is the greatest anomaly of our country. They were given that because they were close to the powers [that be] at the time," he added, referring to the Cojuangcos.

The 6,452-hectare sugar estate in Tarlac province avoided getting broken up through a stock distribution option provided for in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law that Aquino signed in 1988.

The provision allowed the Cojuangco-controlled company that owned the estate to give its

tenants shares of stock instead of land.

In 2005, however, the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) scrapped the stock option and ordered the estate distributed to the farmers.

A challenge to the decision was defeated in the Supreme Court in April 2012. Besides upholding the PARC order, the court also ordered the DAR to give away 4,500 hectares of the hacienda to the more than 6,000 farmers who accepted the stock option in 1989.

By June 2014, more than 5,000 of the farmers had received certificates of ownership



FROM WORKERS TO OWNERS Farmworkers and tillers at Hacienda Luisita are now owners of agricultural land in the 6,452-hectare sugar estate formerly controlled by the Cojuangco family in Tarlac province, thanks to the government's agrarian reform program. —LYN RILLON

to land on the estate.

But in 2017, the DAR found that most of them had either leased or sold their plots to support ailing family members or to buy seeds and tools.

Last 112 hectares

The farmers said they were unaware of the prohibition in the agrarian reform law on leas-

ing or selling land that had been given to them.

The last 112 hectares of Hacienda Luisita were given away during Tuesday's ceremony at the DAR.

Agrarian Reform Secretary John Castriciones told the Inquirer on Wednesday that some beneficiaries received a maximum of 3 hectares each. "The average is

about 1.6 hectares," he said.

The rest of the agricultural land distributed on Tuesday were "newly acquired land" and property that had been turned over to the agrarian reform program by Land Bank of the Philippines, Castriciones said.

—REPORTS FROM JULIE M. AURELIO, PATRICIA DENISE M. CHIU AND INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ

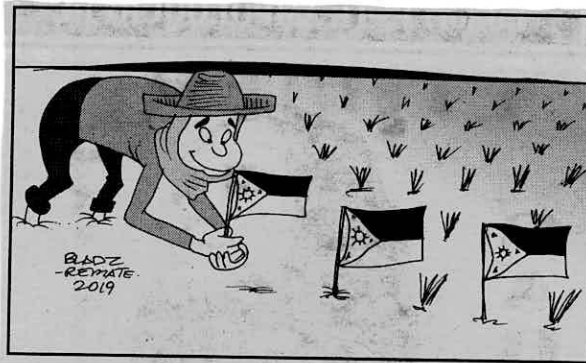


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EDITORIAL

KUMPLETONG PAMAMAHAGI NG LUPA SA HACIENDA LUISITA

SINASABING kumpleto na ang pamamahagi ng lupa para sa mga magsasaka sa Hacienda Luisita.

Mismong si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang namahagi sa mga magsasaka ng kabuuang 112 ektarya na natitira mula sa 4,300 ektaryang dine-sisyunan ng Supreme Court noong 2012 pabor sa mga magsasaka.

Matatandaang binuo ang Hacienda Luisita ng mahigit 6,000 ektarya at karamihan dito ang ibinenta na ng management ng asyenda sa mga negosyante bilang sentro ng industriya o komersyo.

Noong kasagsagan ng pakikibaka ng mga magsasaka para magkaroon sila ng lupa sa asyenda, marami ang namatay, kasama ang mga biktima ng Luisita Hacienda massacre at dalawang pari ng Iglesia Filipina Independiente, kasama ang Obispo Maximo nito.

Ayon mismo sa Pangulo, dinilig ng dugo ang pakikibaka ng mga magsasaka para magkaroon ng sariling lupa sa asyenda.

Pinuna rin nito ang administrasyong Corazon Aquino na naglatag ng pambansang repormang agraryo subalit hindi isinama ang Hacienda Luisita rito kundi ginawang kasosyo ang mga magsasaka na wala namang napakinabangang tubo.

Nahaluan din ito ng pulitika at marami ang naniniwalang nasibak bilang Chief Justice si Renato Corona dahil sa panahon nito nagkaroon ng desisyon para ipamahagi sa mga magsasaka ang 4,300 ektarya.

Sana, huhupa na nang lubusan ang giyera para sa lupa ng mga magsasaka sa asyenda at maging katuwang ang mga ito sa mga pagbabago at pag-unlad na ninanais ng pamahalaan para sa kanila.



29 AUG 2019

FEATURE

LNG: The power to rise to a brighter future

By DENNIS A. UY

NEVER has energy security been a more pressing issue than now, given our increasing energy demand to meet the upward trajectory of our developing economy. Sustainability, environmental impact, operational economics, and a clearer appreciation of the role of each energy source are what we need to take into consideration in the planning of our energy mix.

Liquefied natural gas or LNG is one such energy source that promises to play a large and important role in evolving the energy landscape of the Philippines for a number of key reasons.

A Matter of Sustainability

Based on DOE statistics, more than 50% of power generated in the country is made through coal and oil-based resources. Natural gas, however, is far from being maximized, accounting for only about 15% of our energy mix. This dependence on conventional resources

posts a risk in sustaining our increasing energy demands amid volatile markets. Meanwhile, an opportunity to diversify our energy mix remains under-utilized.

There are several probable circumstances in the industry that could pull the carpet from under our feet. For instance, current geopolitical developments have created an unpredictable oil market, which urgently illustrates the dangers of being too dependent on conventional fuels. These are traditionally sourced from the Middle East, and in instances when the supply chain is cut off or made difficult due to geopolitical or other reasons, we are left with inadequate supply and at the mercy of skyrocketing prices.

Natural gas, meanwhile, is abundant in many countries and regions around the globe—in the United States, Russia, Africa, Oceania, and Southeast Asia. Having multiple sources allows us the security of enjoying a steady supply, even if one or some should become unavailable. Such sustainability has drawn many nations to the appeal of LNG.

Locally, our very own pioneering

Malampaya gas field in Palawan has been powering our country for more than two decades now, and has brought in billions of revenue for our government. However, supply from the Malampaya gas field is projected to start declining by 2022. Plans have been made to extend the current consortium's contract until around 2026 to 2029, but as of now, it is slated to end by 2024. Hence, it is time to set our sights on the future and prepare for generations of Filipinos to continue enjoying the benefits of using LNG as a fuel source.

✓ A Cleaner Alternative

Climate change is another important development that is inspiring the global pivot toward cleaner sources of energy. In the Philippines, coal currently comprises over half of the country's energy mix. As we incorporate renewable sources such as solar and wind in the equation, LNG power plants that are relatively more efficient, flexible, and quick-starting provide much-needed stability and responsiveness in our power grid.

LNG is even versatile enough to serve



many needs. Its cleaner-burning nature is useful not only for power plants but even for vehicles. Many countries abroad are now reaping the benefits of natural gas-fed cars, which contribute up to 34% less emissions compared to diesel. When brought back to its gaseous state, natural gas can be used as fuel for household cooking and even air conditioning. In temperate countries, natural gas is also widely used for home heating.

An Enabler of Healthy Economics

Finally, efficiency in terms of costs and operations is another attractive proposition that LNG presents. It is a game-changer in terms of efficiency of transport. It is odorless and colorless, as well as non-toxic and non-corrosive. The liquefaction process reduces natural gas to as much as 1/600th of its original volume, and almost half the density of water. Just imagine the possibilities of being able to provide reliable and continuous power supply to the whole archipelago.

Natural gas is also the prevalent fuel used in the manufacturing sector responsible in producing the items we depend on in our daily lives—from metal and paper to glass and clothing. It is even used as raw material in everything from paints and dyes to plastics. Across continents, LNG has proven to be a viable energy source in varying industries.

A Step Forward

The message is clear that we need to recalibrate the energy mix of our country. The goal is for a more balanced energy mix; one that could address our demands, while taking into account the capacity of the global supply chain. We are far from achieving such balance, but we could definitely make substantial changes now to move us closer to a more sustainable energy future.

It is heartening that more and more Filipinos are sharing in this vision of a more secure energy future for the Philippines by expanding and fortifying LNG operations in the country. A number of consortia and enterprises have taken concrete steps in supporting the call of the Department of Energy to ensure the place of natural gas in diversifying the country's energy mix.

We at Phoenix Petroleum are one of those who are especially optimistic and excited to bring the full benefits of LNG to our countrymen. We see nothing but immense potential in making LNG an inextricable part of the economic activity in the country.

From imagining a nation with a secure, cleaner, and economically sound energy source, we are taking steps to turn this vision into reality. Just like a phoenix, a brighter energy future is rising with LNG.

The author is president and chief executive of publicly listed Phoenix Petroleum.



New law provides lands for dorms, housing of colleges, universities

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has signed into law an act, which requires state universities and colleges (SUCs) to prepare and implement a land use development infrastructure plan that includes the construction of dormitories for

students and housing sites for employees.

Duterte signed the "SUCs Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan (LUDIP) Act" or Republic Act No. 11396 on August 22, 2019 and a copy of the document was released to the media yesterday.

In signing the law, Duterte recognizes "it is the policy of the state to provide for rational, holistic, efficient, and just allocation, utilization, development, and management of the country's land and water resources that is consistent with the principles of equity, social justice, environmental integrity and sustainable development for the common good".

"All state universities and colleges (SUCs), through their governing boards, shall be required to prepare and implement a LUDIP designed to improve and optimally utilize their resources. All land use or infrastructure projects of the SUCs shall also be required to follow the LUDIP, which shall be linked with the land use plan and practice of the local government units to ensure complementation of activities across geographical boundaries," the law read.

According to the law, SUCs will have to submit their LUDIP to the Commissioner on Higher Education (CHED) within two years.

The preparation and im-

plementation of the LUDIP will be made a requirement for the approval of infrastructure projects implemented in any SUC unless the LUDIP has been implemented and submitted to the CHED, it added.

Among others, the LUDIP should include a detailed description of the research core, academic core, residential areas covering both housing for faculty and staff, dormitories for students, and detailed geographical description and survey of the site intended for dormitories for students and housing sites for employees of the SUCs including the architectural design and estimated cost of construction.

PNA



Airborne campaign targets weather, climate science

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

To help improve weather and climate forecasts, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s P-3B science aircraft soared into the skies over the Philippines on Sunday to begin an extensive two-month investigation on the impact that smoke particles from fires and pollution have on clouds.

The Cloud, Aerosol, and Monsoon Processes Philippines Experiment (CAMP2Ex) is the most comprehensive field campaign to date in maritime Southeast Asia to study the relationship between aerosol particles as they interact with surrounding monsoon meteorology, cloud microphysics and the sun's radiation.

Led by NASA, the United States Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) and the Manila Observatory in conjunction with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration and the Department of Science and Technology, CAMP2Ex comprises an

interdisciplinary, international team of field researchers, modelers and remote sensing developers.

The study seeks to tackle some of the most difficult weather and climate phenomena to understand, monitor and forecast. The maritime continent—comprising Sumatra, the Malay peninsula, Borneo, Sulawesi, the Philippines and numerous other islands and surrounding seas—has been long sought out as an area of scientific inquiry.

"We know aerosol particles can affect clouds and precipitation, but we don't yet have a quantitative understanding of those processes," said Hal Maring, radiation sciences

program manager at NASA headquarters in Washington. "Our goal is to improve satellite products and numerical models to help scientists better predict weather and climate."

"Numerous studies have linked the presence of pollution and smoke from agricultural fires and fires from deforestation to changes in cloud and storm properties, but we lack the observations of the actual mechanisms taking place," said NRL research meteorologist Jeffrey Reid. "CAMP2Ex provides a much-needed crucible for satellite observing systems and model predictions to monitor and understand how atmospheric composition and weather interact."

Reid said aerosol-cloud dynamics have a profound impact on weather and climate but there are large uncertainties in how those dynamics affect climate. Aerosol particles include sea salt, dust, air pollutants and biomass-burning smoke particles, and nearly

all can act as cloud condensation nuclei (also known as cloud seeds).

Depending on the size and composition of these aerosol particles, water vapor can coalesce around them to form water droplets that may later become rain. But if there is a high concentration of aerosol particles, the clouds may be populated with a larger number of smaller drops, which are less likely to coalesce into rain in smaller clouds.

"Yet recent research shows that these smaller drops may strengthen and increase the longevity of severe storms," Reid said. "It's an intricate science."

Maring said aerosol-cloud interactions are notoriously difficult to observe in the field.

"Some clouds have very short lifetimes while others have very long ones, and they're all located in radically different parts of the skies. Getting a quantitative look at these processes is always a tall order," Maring said.



Group to study impact of smoke on clouds to improve weather forecasts

By **ROY C. MABASA**

An international team of field researchers, modelers, scientists, and remote sensing developers from NASA, the United States Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), the Manila Observatory in conjunction with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) jointly launched a two-month-long investigation on the impact that smoke from fires and pollution have on clouds, a

climate forecasts.

On Sunday, a NASA P-3B science aircraft flew into Philippine skies to begin the Cloud, Aerosol, and Monsoon Processes Philippines Experiment (CAMP2Ex), the most comprehensive field campaign to date in Maritime Southeast Asia to study the relationship between aerosol particles as they interact with surrounding monsoon meteorology, cloud microphysics, and the sun's radiation.

The focus of the CAMP2Ex is the maritime continent comprising Sumatra, Malay Peninsula, Borneo,

Group to study impact...

numerous other islands and surrounding seas, which has been long sought out as an area of scientific inquiry. It seeks to tackle some of the most difficult weather and climate phenomena to understand, monitor and forecast.

Agricultural and deforestation fires from the region along with air pollution from cities provide a ready supply of aerosol particles that influence major weather processes. Besides the torrential monsoons over the Asian archipelago, the region also produces moisture that provides rainfall over the Pacific Ocean and can even influence weather in the continental United States.

NASA Radiation Sciences Program Manager Hal Maring said that while they know that aerosol particles can affect clouds and precipitation, "we don't yet have a quantitative understanding of those processes."

"Our goal is to improve satellite products and numerical models to help scientists better predict weather and climate," Maring said.

NRL research meteorologist Jeffrey Reid explained that CAMP2Ex provides a much-needed crucible for satellite observing systems and model predictions to monitor and understand how atmospheric composition and weather interact.

Colorado State University professor and P-3B flight scientist Susan van den Heever pointed out that feedbacks are important to determine storm severity and the formation of new storms, adding that CAMP2Ex will provide them with unprecedented observations that will allow them to better represent these feedbacks in current research and weather forecasting models.

To observe cloud and aerosol interactions, along with the associated weather systems, CAMP2Ex is leveraging instruments on multiple

airborne and ground platforms to record wide-scale meteorology, composition, cloud microphysics, and solar and long-wave radiation.

NASA's P-3B science aircraft is equipped with remote-sensing instruments to measure a number of variables within and near clouds, including those related to precipitation and cloud droplets as well as aerosol size and composition.

A Stratton Park Engineering Company (SPEC), Inc. Learjet, fitted with a water quality and testing instrument called in situ, will fly in and around the same clouds at nearly the same time as the P-3B aircraft to verify the data.

It will likewise survey the atmospheric conditions above the clouds. Out in the Pacific Ocean, the US Navy research vessel Sally Ride is providing nearly continuous radar and lidar observations as well as measurements of energy fluxes from the ocean surface and profiles of temperature, moisture and pressure from radiosondes.

"The synergy between air and shipborne observations is key," said research scientist Derek Possel from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

Possel said the "ship's radars will tell them how clouds are evolving in time, while the aircraft will give us detailed measurements of the cloud interior and environment."

Understanding the weather

The world's most intense super typhoons form just east of the Philippines and are an integral part of the regional weather and climate. "CAMP2Ex is being conducted in the lion's den of tropical meteorology," Reid said while noting that the Philippines is still recovering from Super Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, which reached a world record one minute of sustained 195 mile-per-hour (315

kilometer-per-hour) maximum wind speed before making landfall.

The region is of particular interest to weather and climate researchers because many studies have shown it to be highly vulnerable to climate change.

For Philippine collaborators, the data from CAMP2Ex will help to inform some of the biggest weather and climate questions in the Southeast Asia region.

Gemma Narisma, climate scientist and executive director of the Manila Observatory, said rainfall is the most difficult variable to understand in their models, and has an enormous impact on Filipinos, Manila Observatory is a nonprofit Jesuit research institution focused on atmospheric and Earth science in Southeast Asia.

Narisma, who is also an associate professor at the Ateneo de Manila University, noted that recent monsoonal activity in Metro Manila led to cancelled classes, and prior to that, water shortage due to drought.

"Our research is showing that more of these weather extremes, alternating dryness and heavy rainfall, are expected in the future," she said. "Improving our models for climate projections would allow us to better prepare for these swings in water availability and flooding," she added.

For his part, James Simpas, an atmospheric scientist and professor of physics at the Ateneo de Manila University said: "The Southeast Asia region is experiencing significant industrial growth. We're emitting more and more particulates into the atmosphere, which means that a lot of the aerosol interactions we're studying now will be most likely further enhanced in the region in the future."

Simpas expressed confidence that the wealth of data from CAMP2Ex will be analyzed for years to come and will shine more light on how our ways of life affect not only us but also the rest of the planet.

The 'new thinking' and dealing with climate change

First of two parts

WHENEVER the subject of the gravest challenges agriculture is currently facing is discussed, globalization and climate change usually come out as the top two.

Globalization is already evident in farm and food imports entering the country, posing challenges to the country's farmers, fisherfolk, agribusiness enterprises and agripreneurs. But globalization also presents a huge opportunity, as there are many export markets that could be supplied with agricultural-based products from the Philippines.

As for climate change, every actor and stakeholder in the agriculture sector treating it as a "new normal" is an absolute necessity. For the Department of Agriculture (DA), this means being pro-active in dealing with the effects of expected climate events, like the El Niño and La Niña. In Vietnam, it is already a practice among agricultural units to assist rice farmers in adjusting their planting schedules based on the expected effects of droughts.

So, DA should also be quick to act on the effects of unexpected or sudden climate events. It is for this reason that promoting crop insurance also as a tool to make smallholder farmers more resilient to the effects of climate change is among the measures I



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DR. WILLIAM
DAR

am pushing as your servant-leader in agriculture at the DA.

Stronger ties with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) will also help the DA in coming up with measures to assist smallholder farmers and fisherfolk in dealing with extreme weather events.

While it is completely impossible for farmers and fisherfolk to avoid or even minimize losses from extreme weather events, we could put in place measures to make them recover and eventually become resilient. As for those who are hardly affected by extreme weather events, we can make them more resilient so they could serve as models and knowledge generators on how to deal more effectively with the effects of climate change.

Local government units should also be part of the collective action to help farmers deal with the effects of climate change, with the DA taking the lead or providing the broad strokes.

Just this Tuesday, the DA through its Regional Field Office 1 (Ilocos Region) turned over rice, corn and vegetable seeds worth P18.1 million to farmers in the region,

in the presence of Senators Imee Marcos and Bong Go. This is on top of the DA's Sure Loan Assistance of P25,000 per farmer provided at zero interest payable in three years. When she was the governor of Ilocos Norte Marcos was very active when it comes to assisting smallholder farmers. She and Go support pro-farmer legislation.

Also, it was reported from Laoag, Ilocos Norte that on August 26, the rainfall in the area reached about 500 millimeters in just three hours, which is almost the monthly average locally. Upon hearing this, I told senators Go and Marcos and other local officials present there that this was proof that climate change is already making its impact, and that we should all prepare for that.

Bad news from IPCC

It looks like the bad news on climate change will never come to an end, which is a good way to remind all actors and stakeholders in the agriculture sector to really take collective action. Failure to do so could endanger locally-produced food supplies, and with almost every country in the world already affected by extreme weather events, we just cannot rely solely on imports to feed our growing population.

Just recently, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Climate



Change and Land made alarming conclusions that governments and the general public should take into account. The report was commissioned in 2016 and was prepared by three working groups composed of 107 scientists from more than 50 countries. Half of the authors who contributed to the report were from developing nations, which are expected to bear more of the brunt of the effects of climate change.

Among the excerpts from the latest IPCC report that alarmed me were the effects of extreme climactic events on the agriculture sector.

"Climate change has already affected food security due to warming, changing precipitation patterns, and greater frequency of some extreme events. In many lower-latitude regions, yields of some crops (e.g., maize and wheat) have declined, while in many higher-latitude regions, yields of some crops (e.g., maize, wheat and sugar beets) have increased over recent decades," the report said.

"Climate change has resulted in lower animal growth rates and productivity in pastoral systems in Africa. There is robust evidence that agricultural pests and diseases have already responded to climate change resulting in both increases and decreases of infestations. Based on indigenous and local knowledge, climate change is affecting food security in drylands, particularly those

in Africa, and high mountain regions of Asia and South America," it added.

Importance of land

Also, a press release issued on August 8 by IPCC also underscored the importance of land remaining productive, but stated that cultivation of crops for renewable energy and planting of trees in empty lands, called afforestation, may also have shortcomings in addressing the effects of climate change.

"Land must remain productive to maintain food security as the population increases and the negative impacts of climate change on vegetation increase. This means there are limits to the contribution of land to addressing climate change, for instance through the cultivation of energy crops and afforestation. It also takes time for trees and soils to store carbon effectively. Bioenergy needs to be carefully managed to avoid risks to food security, biodiversity and land degradation. Desirable outcomes will depend on locally appropriate policies and governance systems," the IPCC statement added.

The IPCC report also said that about a third of world food production is lost or wasted, varying among regions. Addressing that issue would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve food security.

When it comes to solutions, the IPCC, in the press statement, recommended measures to address issues from the social and economic dimensions, like increasing incomes.

"Reducing inequalities, improving incomes and ensuring equitable access to food so that some regions [where land cannot provide adequate food] are not disadvantaged, are other ways to adapt to the negative effects of climate change. There are also methods to manage and share risks, some of which are already available, such as early warning systems," it added.

This is where resiliency comes in as a solution to help smallholder farmers and fisherfolk, agripreneurs and agribusiness enterprises cope with the effects of climate change, which forms part of the "New Thinking for Agriculture." Alongside resiliency, the New Thinking for Agriculture seeks to make agriculture smallholders and enterprises productive, competitive and sustainable, while making agriculture growth truly inclusive.

I also believe a modernized and industrialized agriculture sector could help smallholders, agripreneurs and agribusiness enterprises deal effectively with the extreme weather events. I will discuss more of those in the second installment of this series.

To be concluded next week.



LUMILIYAB ang kasong twin murder ni ex-Calaan, Laguna Mayor Antonio Sanchez.

Napakaraming pangyayaring hindi masikmura ng taumbayan simula nang reypin ni Sanchez si Eileen Sarmanta, isang University of the Philippines-Los Baños student, at iparep sa anim na badigard nito saka ipinapatay, kasama ang boy-pren ng biktima na si Allan Gomez noong 1993.

Pero ang lahat ng ito ay nagiging mahalaga para sa kapakanan ng mga biktima ng krimen at mamamayan at pagkilos nang tama ng mga kinauukulan.

SANCHEZ VS DIGONG

Pinakahuling pangyayari ang desisyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na huwag na huwag pakawalan si Sanchez sa kulungan dahil napapaloob ito sa mga

kondisyon ng bawal na pagpapalaya sa mga napatunayang nagkasala sa bintang sa kanila na krimen.

Mariing sinabi ni Pang. Digong na nagkasala si Sanchez ng karumal-dumal o heinous na krimen kaya hindi ito pupwedeng bigyan ng maagang kalayaan kundi bunuin nito ang pinakamahabang panahon ng parusa sa kanya na 40 taong pagkabilanggo.

Nakaka-26 taon palang si Sanchez sa kulungan simula nang maa-resto siya noong 1993 rin.

Binalewala ng Pangulo ang claim ni Sanchez na pirmado na ang papales para sa kanyang release at inutusan ng una ang Bureau of Corrections at Department of Justice na huwag na huwag palayain si Sanchez.

Nakadagdag sa ngiting ng Pangulo ang pagkakadiskubre na P1.6 milyong shabu sa pag-iingat

LUMILIYAB ANG KASO NI SANCHEZ

ni Sanchez at ginawa pang pantakip nito sa shabu ng rebulto ni Mama Mary.

Itinatwa rin nina Bucor chief Faeldon at Justice Sec. Menardo Guevarra na may pinirmahan silang release pabor kay Sanchez.

P30M SUHOL KAY JUDGE DEMETRIOU

Sa kasagsagan ng kontrobersya ng sinasabing nalalapit nang pagpapalaya kay Sanchez, lumitaw naman si ex-Pasig City Regional Trial Court Judge Harriet Demetriou na noong nililitis niya ang kaso, may nagalok sa kanya ng P30 milyon para lang i-dismiss ang kaso ni Sanchez at pawalang-sala ito.

Magkagayunman, hindi nagbanggit si Demetriou ng pangalan ng nagalok ngunit naging malinaw umano sa kanya na galing iyon sa kampo ni Sanchez.

Ang isa pang nakatatokot na isipin ay ang babala ni Demetriou na maaaring balikan o ganthian ni Sanchez ang mga pamilya ng mga biktima at ang naging mga testi-

go laban sa kanya kung lalaya ito.

Lumalabas na makapangyarihan pa rin si Sanchez at kitang-kita ito maging sa kanyang mga kilos sa loob ng kulungan sa Bilibid.

Kaya naman, may basehan ang babala ni Demetriou.

BATAS NI NOYNOY

Nagsimula ang kontrobersya sa pagpapalaya sa nasa 11,000 bilanggo sa bisa ng batas na pinirmahan noong 2013 ni dating Pangulong Benigno Aquino III, ang Republic Act No. 10592.

Nagbibigay ang RA 10592 ng malaking pabor sa mga bilanggo gaya ng malalaking diskwento sa kaparusahang iginawad sa mga convict o nahatulang nagkasala na nakakulong.

Ang nasabing batas ay lalong naging pabor sa mga bilanggo nang sabihin ng Supreme Court nitong nakaraang buwan na makikinabang ang lahat ng mga bilanggo kahit pa ang mga nakulong bago pa magkabisa ang nasabing batas.

Reflective effect ang

tawag dito.

At may nagpalitaw sa kwenta sa diskwento na kung tutuusin ay naka-49 taon na sa kulungan si Sanchez kaya pupwede na siyang lumaya anong araw.

Sa batas, gaano man karami ang iyong nagawang krimen, gaya ng seven counts o pitong krimen na panggagahasa na may pagpatay ni Sanchez, hanggang 40-anyos lang ang iyong bubunuin bilang pinakamahabang parusa sa ilalim ng tinatawag na inclusion perpetua na iginawad kay Sanchez.

Para sa ordinaryong tao, 280 taong pagkabilanggo ang parusang katumbas ng kwenta sa 7 counts na krimen subalit hindi ganoon ang batas.

BATAS IREBYU

Ngayon nga ay isinulong na ang pagrebyu o muling pag-aaral sa RA 10592 para ituwid ang dapat na ituwid.

Maaari kasing labis-labis ang pabor na ibinibigay nito sa mga bilanggo hanggang sa maramdamang binababoy na nito ang diwa ng kataru-

ngan.

Maaari ring may pang-aabuso sa hanay ng mga opisyal ng Bucor at DoJ at maaari ring pagmumulan ito ng matinding korapsyon.

Kung tutuusin, sisiw lang sa mga druglord na gustong lumaya, halimbawa, ang P30-milyong suhol para masama sila sa biyayang bigay ng nasabing batas.

Maaaring may BUCOR at DOJ officials na magpapalaya sa mga handang magbigay ng dambuhalang salapi kapalit ng kanilang kalayaan.

Kaya naman, kung may butas ang batas, dapat itong takpan at kung butas-butas ito, pupwede namang pawalambisa nang tuluyan.

Hindi pupwedeng gamitin ng mga halang ang kaluluwa ang ating mga batas para lang maabot nila ang kata-rungan, buhay at dignidad ng Filipino.

Anomang reaksiyon o reklamo, maaaring iparingating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.



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DATE _____



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP)** of the proposed Amendment of **METRO MANILA SUBWAY PROJECT (MSSP)** of the **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTr)** to include realignment from C5 to Bonifacio South Main Boulevard Near Lawton Ave., Extension of The Alignment to NAlA Terminal 3, and Extension of the Alignment to Bicutan.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the proposed Amendment of **METRO MANILA SUBWAY PROJECT (MMSP)** to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Date	Time	Venue
3 September 2019 (Tuesday)	9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:00 AM)	TESDA, Tandang Sora Function Hall, Taguig City

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

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

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

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 920-2240 to 41 through the project casehandlers Engr. Regina Paula Eugenio and Mr. Gemini Candelario.