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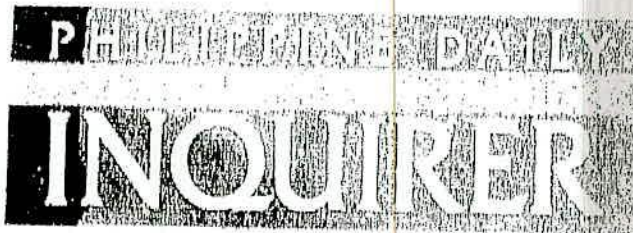
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IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



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DENR sees better year for mining in 2019

Lifting of moratorium on issuance of new mining permits seen

By **Karl R. Ocampo**
@kocampoINQ

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is positive that the mining industry will have a better year next year as the moratorium on the issuance of new mining permits is expected to be lifted once the second package of the new tax reform is passed into law.

Environment Undersecretary Analiza Teh told the Inquirer that the passage of the Tax Reform for Attracting Better and High-quality Opportunities (Trabaho) bill, which will craft a new fiscal regime for the mining industry, would benefit

both the government and the private sector since it would be the basis to lift the suspension on new mining operations.

"I think we are seeing a positive outlook for the mining industry. I think that the sooner the moratorium will be lifted, about 15 projects are in line to be issued mining permits, depending on our review," she said.

"There are two views. If you ask the private sector, we already have the highest tax package among mineral-producing countries. If you ask the government, the objective is not just to earn new revenues but also to weed out those who are technically and financially incapable

to go into mining," she added.

Under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law, excise taxes imposed on mining firms were doubled to 4 percent from 2 percent, while the second package of the new tax reforms dubbed as the Trabaho bill is set to impose a profit-based royalty between 1 to 5 percent on all mining operations.

But for Chamber of Mines of the Philippines vice president for communications Rocky Dimaculangan, the doubling of mining excise taxes "has by itself satisfied the provision" included in the executive order suspending the issuance of new mining permits. The chamber represents some of

the biggest mines in the country.

However, he added that "given the pressure for further tax increases, we believe that a structure based on a profit-based royalty and a windfall profit tax as passed by the House Ways and Means Committee, with the rates thereon tied to operating margins, is the most equitable and progressive tax regime."

The support from lawmakers to pass the Trabaho bill has been lackluster. Budget Secretary Benajmin Diokno said it was likely that it would be passed after the elections and not by yearend as originally expected. INQ



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PCSO, NAVY, DENR

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GIVING BACK TO MOTHER EARTH

PCSO partners with Navy, DENR for coastal cleanup

BY SHELLY BUSQUE

MARINE pollution — as people know but do not really pay attention to — is any human-made material that is thrown, abandoned or amassed on the coast, bay, beach, waterways that lead to the ocean, or in the ocean itself.

Regardless of whether the disposal act is intentional, unintentional, direct or indirect, marine pollution is one of the global concerns that many non-government organizations (NGOs) and

government agencies address to bring back the pristine nature of this wonderful natural resource.

Marine mammals and fish can mistake floating trash for food; and if ingested, it can choke them or block their digestive systems. Trash-congested bays make seawater dirty.

Large debris, such as old fishing nets and gears, can harm or even kill marine creatures by strangulation or prevent them from

performing vital activities such as swimming or diving. Plastic trash smaller than five millimeters (microplastic) pose an additional threat because it absorbs toxic chemicals, including DDT and PCBs, which can cause cancer, weaken the immune system and make animals more susceptible to diseases and other infections.

A very good initiative to be part of the solution of this pressing global issue was led by Philip-



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■ (From left) PCSO GM Alexander Balutan, Philippine Navy Group Commander Col. Nestor Marcelino and PCSO OGM Chief of Staff Col. Raymondo Liwag with their bags of marine wastes collected from Manila Bay. PHOTOS BY DARCY GERONIMO AND KOBI EDUARDO JANAIRO

pine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) together with the Philippine Navy (PN) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on December 17 at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA), a nature reserve situated south of Manila Bay.

More than 100 volunteers from PCSO, PN and DENR worked together in collecting trash on the Freedom Trail at LPPCHEA led by PCSO general manager Alexander Balutan and his Chief of Staff Col. Raymondo Liwag; PN Group Commander Col. Nestor Marcelino (MNSA); CO CMOU-NCR Lcdn Ronald Lim PN; and DENR representative Ruben Navales.

The garbage included plastic bottles, plastic residues and other non-biodegradable waste materials.

GM Balutan noted in his speech that it's the citizens that will benefit from the cleanup drive.

"Maraming salamat sa lahat ng nandito na gumising nang napakaaga para makiisa. This is a very nice endeavor and very impactful. This activity will benefit our citizens in the long term. We

start small, little by little we will get there together," Balutan noted.

"When everybody's sitting, you should be standing. When everybody's standing, you should stand out. When everybody's outstanding you should be the standard," he concluded, talking about doing something for the community, no matter who you are.

As PCSO's corporate social responsibility (CSR), the coastal cleanup is conducted every year to show that more than helping millions of Filipinos needing medical assistance, PCSO also helps in cleaning and preserving Mother Earth.

According to Navales, there are currently 82 species of birds in the coastal bay area and they are preserving and hoping that the number would increase as the coastal clears of marine pollution.

"Nagpapasalamat kami sa PCSO para sa mga ganitong inisyatibo enjoining Philippine Navy. Kung hindi natin sama-samang puprotektahan ang kalikasan ngayon, the next generation will suffer," Philippine Navy's Col. Marcelino, meanwhile, said.

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'P17 BILLION'

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Dahil sa environmental hazards - NEDA

P17 BILLION NAWAWALA SA PINAS

UMAABOT sa P17 billion kada taon ang nawawala sa Filipinas dahil sa environmental hazards na pinalubha ng climate change, ayon sa National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

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' P17 BILLION "

Dahil sa environmental hazards – NEDA

P17 BILLION NAWAWALA SA PINAS

Mula sa pahina 1

Sa isang talumpati kamakailan, sinabi ni Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia na ang yearly losses sa pagitan ng 2000 at 2016, kabilang ang production losses at pinsala sa farm equipment at irrigation at road facilities, ay naitala sa P17.37 billion.

“Environmental hazards aggravated by climate change continue to pose significant risks to agricultural output and growth,” wika ni Pernia sa book launch ng “The Future of Philippine Agriculture Under a Changing Climate: Policies, Investments and Scenarios”.

“Climate change is only about to get worse with recent rapid increases in temperature. If we do nothing, this will impede our target of increasing agricultural productivity and ensuring food security,” paliwanag pa niya.

Ang sektor ng agrikultura ay lumikha ng trabaho para sa 31.5 percent ng labor force ng bansa, at isa sa tatlong sektor ng production na sinuskat para sa paglago ng ekonomiya.

Dahil dito, sinabi ni Pernia na inaprubahan kamakailan ng mga opisyal ng NEDA ang isang policy framework

sa climate change.

“NEDA officials— Undersecretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and regional and staff Directors—unanimously approved and adopted the NEDA Declaration on Climate Change, which provides a concrete policy framework that will guide and enable NEDA to implement our Climate Change Strategy,” aniya.

Inaprubahan noong Disyembre 6, ang NEDA Climate Change Strategy ay isang four-part initiative na ipatutupad simula 2018 hanggang 2021 upang mapabilis ang ‘behavioral change’ ng mga empleyado ng NEDA.