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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Pasig River body donates trash bins

The Pasig River Task Force (PRTF) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) distributed trash bins to barangay chairmen from six districts in the City of Manila last week in line with the continuing estero cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

One set of rolling trash bins were donated to each of the 243 barangays from Districts I to VI of Manila in line with the Pasig River Task Force Operational Plan. The barangays are located along the esteros that drain to Pasig River.

The donation is the initial activity to increase awareness on waste segregation in line with the Materials Recovery System, Information Education and Communication and Barangay Solid Waste Management programs of the barangays.

In his message, DENR Undersecretary and Manila Bay Task Force ground commander Juan Miguel Cuna called on the barangay chairmen to continuously support the DENR's ongoing program for Manila Bay.

For his part, DENR Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda said the success of the trash bin project will need the cooperation of the barangay chairs.

"Your genuine concern to help clean the environment should come from your inner desire to be part of the success of this project, and not from the fear of getting sanctions because you have not performed your mandate," said Antiporda.

DENR Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign-Assisted Projects Corazon Davis led the six-day event held from 27 to 31 January and 3 February with DENR National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) and the Department of Public Services of Manila.

In addition, Atty. Alvin Constantino of the DENR-NCR West Field Office emphasized that the use of the color-coded bins adheres to Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.



ASSISTANT Secretary Corazon C. Davis, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Pasig River Task Force (PRTF) head (eighth from left, front row), raises the No. 1 sign to show that solid waste management is the department's priority to help clean *esteros* that drain to Manila Bay. The PRTF recently distributed color-coded trash bins to 243 barangays in six districts in the City of Manila. Also in photo are Atty. Alvin G. Constantino, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division chief and concurrent DENR West Field Office head, Manila Department of Public Services officials led by Regin Carlos F. Tambo-ong (fourth from left, second row) and barangay officials from Barangay 435, District IV.

DENR PIO



DENR namigay ng basurahan sa Maynila

Namahagi kahapon ng trash bins ang Pasig River Task Force (PRTF) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa mga kapitan ng barangay sa anim na distrito ng Lungsod ng Manila bilang bahagi ng patuloy na paglilinis sa mga estero at patuloy na rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

May 243 barangay mula sa Distrito I, II, III, IV, V at VI ng Manila ang nabahaginan ng isang set ng rolling trash bins bilang bahagi ng PRTF Operational Plan. Ang mga naturang barangay ay nakasasakop sa mga estero na dumadaloy sa Pasig River.

Ang pamamahagi ng basurahan ay isa sa mga aktibidad upang madagdagan ang kaalaman ng mga residente tung-

kol sa waste segregation partikular na sa Materials Recovery System, Information, Education and Communication at Barangay Solid Waste Management programs sa mga barangay. Sinusuportahan din nito ang direktiba ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na hikayatin ang taumbayan na tumulong para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Ang bawat set ng rolling trash bins ay may iba't ibang kulay para sa tamang paghihiwalay ng basura kung saan ang kulay pula ay para sa bakal, berde para sa papel at dilaw naman para sa plastic na siyang magiging palantandaan ng mga residente sa tuwing magtatapon sila ng kanilang basura. (**Riz Dominguez**)



DENR Bataan, villages build river trash traps

By Butch Gunio

BALANGA CITY, Bataan--The Department of Environment and Natural Resources office in Bataan and barangays in the province recently signed an agreement to install trash traps in rivers here in support of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project.

"We just signed the MOA (on Jan. 30) with Barangays San Vicente and Bilolo, Orion. Mayor Tonyep Raymundo was there as witness," Provincial Environment Officer Raul Mamac said.

"We will execute MOA with the barangays we have already installed the trash traps," he added.

During the recent celebration of the 1st Anniversary of the launching of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation at Balanga Wetland and Nature Park, DENR Bataan and the barangay governments of Sisiman and Mariveles executed agreement for trash traps installation in Aguawan River.

Mamac and Barangay Sisiman Captain Honesto Cabanillas signed the documents, with Mariveles Mayor Jocelyn Castaneda as witness.

Mamac said 12 trash traps were already installed in the rivers in the province last year.

"The number of trash traps will be increased this year," he said.

Based on the agreement, DENR Bataan will provide technical assistance for the maintenance and protection of the trash traps and hire estero rangers to monitor the traps.



PLASTIC BAN SA BAYAN NG PANGASINAN SIMULA SA MARSO 1

MAGSISIMULA nang magpatupad ang bayan ng Bani sa Pangasinan sa pagba-ban ng single-use plastic simula sa Marso 1.

Ang implementasyon ng selective plastic ban ay ayon sa Municipal Ordinance No. 05 series ng 2018 na magbabawal, nagre-regulate, nagpapagamit ng ilang klase ng plastic para sa mga binibiling gamit at mga pagkain na nagiging basura, at nagtataguyod sa paggamit ng eco-bags at ibang environmental friendly practices bilang alternatibo.

Sa isang panayam kamakailan, sinabi ng information officer na si



Krissy Jesy Pison na sakop ng ordinansa ang lahat ng tao, at mga establisimiyento ng negosyo sa bayan.

Pabayag ni Pison na may multa at kabayaran na P100 sa unang paglabag, P300 sa pangalawang paglabag, at

P500; at pagkakulong ng isang buwan depende sa diskresyon ng korte ang ipatutupad sa individual violators.

Ang mga establisimiyento naman na lalabag sa ordinansa ay papatawan ng P1,000 sa unang paglabag, P2,000 sa pangalawang paglabag, at P2,500 at kanselasyon ng business permit para sa ikatlong paglabag, dagdag niya.

Ang ordinansa ay ipinasa noong 2018 pero hindi pa handa ang bayan para sa buong pagpapatupad noong panahon na iyon.

"But now, there is the immediate need to reduce wastes in the town, especially plastics," dagdag niya.

Hinimok na ng gobyerno ng bayan ang paggamit ng reusable o eco-bags.

"We are tapping organizations, mostly farmers' organizations, to make 'bayong' (bags made of coconut leaves) and other alternatives to plastic," sabi

ni Pison.

Dagdag pa niya na ang ilan sa mga organisasyon ng mga magsasaka ay recipients ng Department of Social Welfare and Development's Sustainable Livelihood Program.

"We plan to have them trained so there would be more their members who will make 'bayong' or other alternatives to plastic," aniya.

PNA



Ayon sa SWS survey 7 SA 10 PINOY PABOR SA RECYCLABLE CONTAINER KAYSA SA SACHET

PITO sa sampung Filipino ang pabor na bumili ng mga recyclable container kaysa sa sachet.

Base sa Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey - 68 percent ng Filipino ang nais bumili ng food condiments tu-

lad ng mantika, toyo at iba pa na nakalagay sa recyclable, o refillable containers.

Nasa 42 percent naman ang pabor na bumili ng personal care products tulad na shampoo at conditioner at mga liquid household

cleaning products na nakalagay sa recyclable containers.

Habang 29 percent ang gustong bumili ng mga powdered drinks tulad ng juice at coffee na nakalagay sa containers at 27 porsiyento ang nagsabing bibili ng pow-

dered cleaning products sa recyclable na lalagyan.

Ang nasabing survey ay isinagawa noong Setyembre 27 hanggang 30 sa pamamagitan ng face-to-face interviews sa 1,800 adults nationwide.





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GROUND WATER MONITORING NETWORK SYSTEM, IKINABIT SA ILOILO

KAMAKAILAN ay pinangunahan nina Department of Science and Technology (DOST) secretary Fortunato dela Peña at National Water Resources Board (NWRB) executive director Seville David, Jr., ang paglalagay ng apat na Telemetry Sensor Network Systems sa Pagsanga-an Elementary School sa bayan ng Pavia, at sa mga Barangay ng Consolacion at San Jose sa bayan ng San Miguel, sa lalawigan ng Iloilo.

Paliwanag sa inyong lingkod ni ED David, sa pamamagitan ng mga sensor na ito, makakukuha ng mga real-time information ukol sa water parameters maging ang dami at

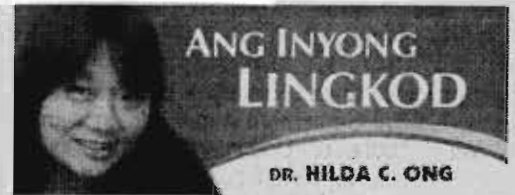
kalidad ng tubig sa kalupaan ng dalawang bayang nabanggit. Aktuwal na makukuha ang water level para malaman ang quantity habang masusukat din ang power of hydrogen, temperature at electrical conductivity para sa quality.

Ang proyekto sa Iloilo ay pinangungunahan ng Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU) katuwang ang NWRB at ang DOST partikular ang Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD) mula sa Climate Change Infrastructure Initiative Program nito. Layon na matugunan ang mga hamon sa water resources ng mga lugar na kinikilala bilang water critical areas.

Sa isang pag-aaral noong 1998 ng Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) kasama ang NWRB, napag-alaman na ang Iloilo City, Metro Manila, Bukidnon at Cagayan de Oro City ay mga water critical areas. Dala ito ng patuloy na lumalaking populasyon sa mga nabanggit na lugar, ibig sabihin, mas marami ang gumagamit ng tubig, at idagdag pa ang epekto ng climate change. Nagmumula sa ground water ang 50% na pangangailangan natin para sa potable water habang 85% naman sa pipe water supply.

LUPUS ADVOCACY WEEK

Alam n'yo ba na alinsunod sa Presidential Proclama-



tion No. 1435 (2007, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo) ang unang Linggo ng bawat buwan ng Pebrero ay kinikilala bilang 'Lupus Advocacy Week' para higit na maintindihan nating mga Pilipino ang karamdamang ito.

Sa pinakahuling datus ng Project Navarra ng Lupus Inspired Advocacy (LUISA), may 2,273 kaso ng systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) sa Pilipinas mula taong 1995 hanggang 2010 at patuloy ang pagtaas ng bilang na ito dulot na rin ng climate change.

Ang SLE ay isang sakit kung saan ang pansariling immune system ng katawan ay inaatake ang mismong mga tissues and organs na nagdudulot ng pamamaga partikular ang joints, balat, bato, utak, blood cells, puso at ang baga. Mahirap itong agad na malaman dahil ang sintomas nito ay halos kapareho lamang ng ibang sakit ang tanging pagkakaiba ay ang pagkakaroon ng facial rash sa mukha na animo ay isang malaking paru-parong nakadapo sa mukha, pero hindi lahat ng may lupus ay may ganitong

sintomas.

Mas marami ang mga babaeng tinatamaan ng lupus lalong-lalo na ang buhat sa Africa-American, Hispanic at Asian-Americans na nasa edad na 15 hanggang 45.

Ilan sa mga sintomas ng SLE ay ang dagliang pagkapagod (fatigue); pamamaga ng mga joints; skin lesions; pamumuti o pagkula-asul ng mga kuko kapag naaarawan; habol na paghinga; pananakit ng dibdib; pagkatuyo ng mga mata; pananakit ng ulo; at madalas na kawalan ng memorya sa mga bagay-bagay.

Wala pang gamot na direktang pantaban sa lupus pero kasalukuyang ginagamit ang mga gamot na nagbabawas ng aktibidad ng immune system katulad ng steroids.



(Photo credit to PhilHealth)



(Photo credit to DOST-PCIEERD Facebook page)



Bacoor mayor sticks to Manila Bay reclamation plans despite oyster, mussel farmers' opposition

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jonlmayuga

BACOOR Mayor Lani Mercado-Revilla has assured various stakeholders that the city's oyster and mussel industry will not perish under her watch.

This as Revilla, wife of Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla, said environmental protection and sustainable development are the paramount considerations in pursuing two development projects that will involve the massive land reclamation of coastal and marine areas in Manila Bay.

The mayor is pushing for the implementation of the Bacoor Reclamation and Development Project (BRDP), consisting of a total of 320-hectare island, and the Diamond Reclamation and Development Project (DRDP), consisting of one 100-hectare island via public-private partnership under the PPP Code of Bacoor.

Residents of coastal barangays in Bacoor City, however, strongly oppose the development projects, saying it will affect around 100 hectares of existing oyster and mussel farms in Manila Bay.

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas-Cavite Chapter, through its spokesman Joel Falcis, said the twin land-reclamation projects will surely cause the death of the already threatened industry which suffered a severe blow with the construction of the Cavite R-1 Extension Road Project several years back.

The local government of Bacoor earlier boasted that these two projects are the only projects along Manila Bay that carry with it a program for relocation and resettlement of squatters.

Bacoor City, considered as the birthplace of mussel farming in the

Philippines, produces around 6,000 gallons of mussels daily.

She assured that the city's oyster and mussel industry would continue to thrive along with the promised economic benefits of the land-reclamation projects.

"It is not true that the oyster and mussel industry in Bacoor will die," she said, explaining that Bacoor has 750 hectares of offshore municipal waters and only 330 hectares of these will be reclaimed. She said 90 hectares of the foreshore, or coastal areas, will be reserved for mangrove plantation, while the remaining 330 hectares will be set aside for growing oysters and mussels.

Revilla said the preservation of the city's mangrove plantation is important not only in reducing the pollution in the Manila Bay area, but also in ensuring sustainable fisheries in the area.

Sustainable fisheries are another priority measure the National Economic and Development Authority pinpointed under its Manila Bay cleanup master plan, she noted.

According to Revilla, mangroves, specifically the underwater habitat their roots provide, offer critical nursing environments for juveniles of thousands of fish species. She added that mangroves also help prevent erosion by stabilizing sediments and maintaining water quality and clarity as they filter pollutants and trap sediments originating from land.

According to Revilla, water pollution had triggered episodes of algal blooms known as "red tide," that threatened the mussel and oyster industry in the country.

From January to May 2019 alone, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has issued eight bulletins indicating shellfish in the covered areas are contaminated with organisms carrying paralytic poison, making them unsafe for

human consumption.

Facing this challenge, Revilla assured the mussel and oyster farmers of continued support through the City Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (CFARMC) of Bacoor.

Moreover, she said, the reclamation plans designed with the help of leading European engineering firms and scientific consultants, pose no significant adverse impact on the ecology of the adjacent areas, including the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA).

Scientific studies note the nearest project site of the proposed reclamation is about 500 meters away from the protected area.

The development projects, which integrate environmental protection measures, are expected to provide Bacoor with an additional P1.8 billion annual revenues from tourism activities alone and create about 700,000 jobs for its residents and the entire province of Cavite, according to Revilla.

Aside from creating new jobs, the proposed projects incorporate in-city relocation, assuring the directly impacted informal settler families (ISFs) and fishermen against dislocation of job or livelihood.

Under the proposed projects, affected squatter residents would be relocated at Ciudad Kaunlaran in Molino II where a livelihood center will also be established. On the other hand, Fisherman's Village would be built in Barangay Alima for the affected fisherfolks. A wharf will be developed along the coast for their fishing activities.

Moreover, Revilla said the city government would bring to the resettlement sites its institutionalized "Alagang Ate Lani" program, which includes various forms of social services, including job fairs and free livelihood skills training.



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ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ASSURED

Bacoor gains from coastal projects

Mercado cited the city being a consistent recipient of the Seal of Good Local Governance from the Department of the Interior and Local Government, bagging its fifth consecutive SGLG in November last year as an inspiration to continue with the streak of people-centered projects



NEW City Hall of Bacoor attests to the progress of the city achieved through good governance and adherence to the principles of sustainable development.

CITY OF BACOOR PHOTO

Bacoor Mayor Lani Mercado expects the economic impact of the proposed 420-hectare reclamation project along the city's coastal area to usher economic growth and uplift the lives of the city's residents while she ensures environment protection and sustainable development will remain paramount in the city-initiated

ventures.

Mercado cited the city being a consistent recipient of the Seal of Good Local Governance from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), bagging its fifth consecutive SGLG in November last year, as an inspiration to continue with the streak of people-centered

projects.

"The SGLG award symbolizes the locality's integrity and good performance through continuing governance reform and sustained local development, a progressive assessment system adopted by the DILG to give distinction to remarkable local government

performance across several areas," the Interior department said.

Environmental management, along with financial administration, disaster preparedness, social protection, peace and order, business-friendliness, competitiveness, tourism promotion and development, as well as cultural heritage promotion and conservation,



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were among the key criteria for the SGLG.

Last month, Bacoor also received the 2019 Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) Gold Award for its performance in accordance with the directive of President Rodrigo Duterte for the cleanup of Manila Bay.

Revilla said the development projects, which integrate environmental protection measures, are expected to provide Bacoor with an additional P1.8 billion annual revenue from tourism activities alone and create about 700,000 jobs for its residents and the entire province of Cavite as well.

The city mayor announced during the public hearing held last month that aside from creating new jobs the proposed projects incorporate in-city relocation, assuring the directly impacted informal settler families (ISF) and fishermen against dislocation of job or livelihood.

"They will not lose their jobs even if the reclamation project affects their usual activities initially," she said.

The in-city relocation and job generation component of the project adhere to key strategies the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) identified under its Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan, which includes "upgrading informal settlement through access to safe, affordable and formal housing with access to basic services and

economic opportunities."

Under the proposed projects, affected ISF would be relocated in "Ciudad Kaunlaran" in Molino II, where a livelihood center will be established. On the other hand, Fisherman's Village would be built in Barangay Alima for the affected fisherfolks. A wharf will be developed along the coast for their fishing activities.

Revilla said the city government would bring to the resettlement sites its "Institutionalized Alagang Ate Lani" program, which includes various forms of social services, including job fairs and free livelihood skills training.

Bacoor's Public Employment Service Office (PESO) continuously provides the city's residents with available job opportunities for both local and overseas employment. For instance, it scheduled this month a local recruitment activity for the staffing of a popular appliance center. Earlier, it held a Special Recruitment Activity for job opportunities in Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

According to the NEDA, availability of jobs and economic opportunities would go a long way in "reducing the motivation of people to live in informal settlements."

Likewise, Revilla gave her commitment that the city's famous mussel and oyster industry which produces around 6,000 gallons of mussels daily, would continue to thrive along with the reclamation project.



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DENR speeds up EV land dispute resolution

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Eastern Visayas is speeding-up the resolutions of land disputes in the region with the use of a dispute resolution procedure minus the tedious process of court litigation.

Lawyer Mel Juan Diasanta, head of DENR legal division, said most of the land cases filed are now handled by the DENR Alternative Dispute Resolution Officers (ADRO) who were accredited after a rigorous training and examination.

Records from the DENR regional office show that in 2019 alone, 116 land cases were resolved, 82 of them through field offices and 34 at the regional office.

"Without going through the tedious process of litigation, land disputes may now be settled through arbitration, mediation or negotiation. The procedure is faster and entails lesser cost,"

Diasanta said.

He added that mediation through the ADR has rebuilt relationships that were destroyed by land disputes, especially involving family and friends.

The ADR became operational in December 2016 with the issuance of DENR Administrative Order 2016-30 calling for the establishment of mechanisms and tools for ADR in the disposition of land claims and conflicts, the organization of a pool of ADRO, and the creation of a committee and secretariat tasked to implement the ADR process.

To further beef-up enforcement of environmental laws, DENR 8 also hired lawyers to handle legal concerns in the field offices. The lawyers are hired on contractual basis for the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office and the implementing PENRO pursuant to DENR Memorandum 2019-385.

Elmer Recuerdo



Ibaloy's land titles in Baguio in limbo

By Vincent Cabreza
@vincentcabrezaINQ

BAGUIO CITY—The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and other groups have filed separate petitions for reconsideration of a Supreme Court ruling in 2019 that said certificates of ancestral land title (CALTs) could not be issued in Baguio as prescribed by the indigenous rights law.

One of the petitioners was a company which described itself as a “buyer in good faith,” lawyer Marlon Bosantog, NCIP director for legal affairs, said on Thursday during an ancestral land summit attended by Ibaloy whose titles and ancestral land applications are “currently in limbo.”

The Supreme Court decision nullified the CALTs issued to the heirs of Josephine Abanag and Cosen Piraso that encroached into a portion of the presidential Mansion, Wright Park and the city's oldest hotel, citing Baguio's exemption from the ancestral land provisions of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1987 (Republic Act No. 8371).

The tribunal concluded that Section 78 of the law grants Baguio full authority to govern all lands under the city's townsites reservation, and the “NCIP cannot transgress this clear legislative intent.”

The summit was convened by the city council, which is drafting a policy that would protect Ibaloy, following complaints of discrimination when CALT holders were refused building and business permits.

Various city offices and regulators treat CALT and the city's only Ibaloy domain title as inferior to conventional land patents.

Demolition orders

At the summit, Ibaloy landholders complained that they were issued demolition orders by the city government for not having secured building permits for houses or buildings they put up on titled ancestral lands.

Bosantog cited a previous Supreme Court decision which said an ancestral land title was the same as a TCT (transfer cer-



**Unless the court
reverses itself
... I think we
are in a state
of paralysis**

Marlon Bosantog
NCIP director for legal affairs

tificate of title or the common land title).

If a TCT is a valid basis for the issuance of a building permit, there is no reason a CALT or a certificate of ancestral domain title (CADT) should not be given the same privilege, the court said.

But the national building code is silent on indigenous people's land instruments. The city government recognizes a CALT, according to a 2014 administrative order, provided this does not encroach into watersheds and titled properties, according to planning officer Evelyn Cayat.

Transparency

For transparency, Ibaloy families are asked what they intend to do with their ancestral lands, “particularly when these are within forests,” said Councilor Isabelo Cosalan, an Ibaloy who convened the summit.

He said the “sustainable development, protection and management plans” for Ibaloy lands could be included in the city's land use plan now being reviewed by the council.

“Unless the court reverses itself ... I think we are in a state of paralysis,” Bosantog said.

The city government sought the invalidation of the CALTs issued in 2010 to Abanag, Piraso and the heirs of Mercedes Tabon and Lauro Carantes because they had been selling land to non-Ibaloy which, it noted, was against the spirit of the law. INQ



OceanaGold undergoes major leadership transition; FTAA hangs

By MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR

The local unit of Australian-Canadian miner OceanaGold underwent a major leadership transition while its gold mining operation in Nueva Vizcaya still hangs by a thread sans President Rodrigo Duterte's final approval on its extended Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA).

On Thursday, OceanaGold Corporate Communications Manager Melissa Bowerman confirmed that long-time OceanaGold Philippines Inc. (OGPI) Chairman Joey Leviste already retired from his post and that Mick Wilkes, the group's president and chief executive officer, will be the one that's overseeing the company's Philippine operations from now on.

Leviste's retirement came amid the suspension of the company's sole operation in the Philippines – the Didipio underground gold and copper mine project.

Right now, the company is still waiting for the Office of the President's (OP) approval for the

renewal of its FTAA.

FTAA is a contract that allows a foreign-owned mining firm to operate in the Philippines as well as explore and utilize the country's mineral resources. The deal also gives the government a pre-determined share in the mining project.

OceanaGold's 25-year FTAA with the Philippine government expired in 2019, a year after it lodged its application for renewal for the deal.

While it initially secured endorsement from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), its application was questioned by OP for lacking the free, prior informed consent (FPIC) from the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP).

This was eventually addressed by the company and its application for FTAA renewal is now back with OP.

The problem is that OceanaGold remains uncertain as to when it will get OP's approval, according to OGPI Community

Superintendent Marjorie Idio.

"OP has its own timeline and we just have to work with the national government and their timelines," Idio said.

Aside from the delay in its FTAA renewal, the company is also facing opposition from the local government unit of Nueva Vizcaya. In June, Nueva Vizcaya Governor Carlos Padilla released an order to stop the company's operation as soon as its FTAA expired. At that time, a barricade has been established surrounding the Didipio mine site.

"The barricade is still there," Idio said.

Aside from the Philippines, OceanaGold has assets in New Zealand (Waihi Gold Mine, Macraes Goldfield and Frasers) and the United States (Haile Gold Mine).

When asked if OceanaGold already began imagining a scenario without Didipio, Bowerman only said that "everything is possible" but "we will do everything we can to work with the national government to secure the FTAA renewal."



Mining community backing OceanaGold registers with SEC as dispute continues

A COMMUNITY coalition supporting the Australian firm OceanaGold is registering at the Securities and Exchange Commission while disputes on the mining company's local operations continue.

"Just recently, last year, we organized and formed a group. We call that coalition of communities for sustainable development," OceanaGold Communications Supervisor Jury D. Baguilat told reporters at a press briefing on Thursday.

"We just realized that we really need to form a group when we are meeting with government officials."

OceanaGold's Didipio-based gold and copper mine in Nueva Vizcaya ceased operations in Oct. 2019 as its dispute with the local government continues. Anti-mining protesters and local government want the mine shut due to environmental concerns.

Protesters have been barricading routes to the mine after the company's financial and/or technical assistance agreement (FTAA) expired in June 2019 after 25 years.

Ms. Baguilat said the newly formed coalition supporting the mine represents 90% of indigenous peoples in the community surrounding the mine. Members of Didipio and neighboring communities are represented.

"We want the project to continue because we want our barangay to get developed because for the longest time people there were suffering from lack of good roads," Ms. Baguilat said.

OceanaGold has been implementing development initiatives in the area, investing in infrastructure, health, and education.

The company's application to renew its FTAA is being processed by the Office of the President.

OceanaGold said that the company may cut staff numbers if the agreement is not renewed by the end of the month.

"If we can't get the FTAA approved by the end of February, then we have to start looking at different scenarios and there will be some impacts potentially on staff numbers on that," OceanaGold Global Corporate Communication Manager Melissa Bowerman said.

But the company has no estimate on the percentage of employees — which currently stands at around 1500 — that may lose their jobs starting next month. The local staff is comprised mostly of Filipinos.

The Dipidio mine produced 83,913 ounces of gold and 10,255 MT of copper until October last year. For full-year 2018, Dipidio produced around 115,000 ounces of gold and 15,00 MT of copper. —

Jenina P. Ibañez



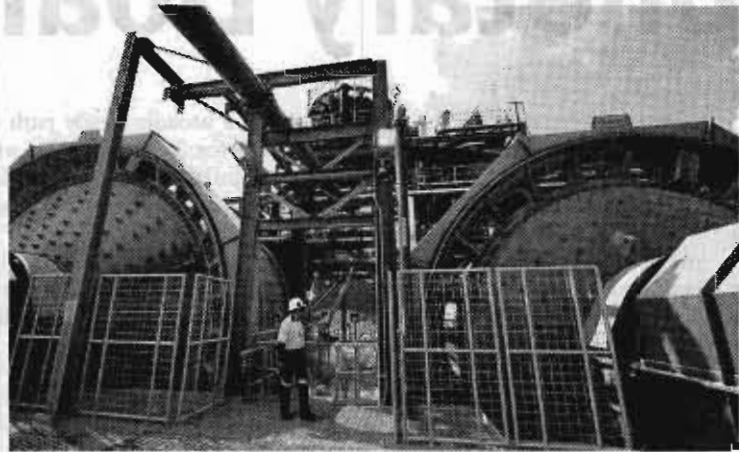
OceanaGold hopeful about FTAA renewal

OCEANAGOLD Philippines Inc. remains optimistic it can still renew its financial or technical assistance agreement (FTAA) with the national government for its Didipio gold and copper mining operations despite being on a standstill due to opposition from the local government of Nueva Vizcaya.

However, the company also warned it may start cutting its workforce by the end of the month.

"The Office of the President (OP) is still reviewing things and we understand that they have their own timeline. We are very positive that we will get it because they are very responsive and we conduct regular meetings with the national government," Marjorie Idio, OceanaGold PH communications and external affairs superintendent, said in a briefing yesterday in Makati City.

Idio added the company's optimism is also rooted in the fact it got the support of the regulators, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which expressed that Oceana Gold PH can continue its operations in the country even



The ball mill at OceanaGold's Didipio open-pit gold mine in the Philippines.

if it is still in the process of renewing the FTAA.

Despite the assurance from the MGB and DENR, the local government of Nueva Vizcaya is barring the company's access to and from the mine site since OceanaGold's FTAA expired in June 2019.

"We are confident we can get the FTAA renewed so we do not want to let go of our employees. However, if we can't get the FTAA by the end of February, impact would be on staff

numbers. We haven't decided yet on how to do it," Melissa Bowerman, OceanaGold corporate communications manager, said.

At present, the company directly employs over 1,500 in the Didipio mine site, of which 97 percent are Philippine nationals and 59 percent are from local communities.

The OP initially declined OceanaGold PH's appeal to renew its FTAA due to questions flagged by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).



AFP, DENR seek strong starts in UNTV semis

FULLY-RESTED Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

are looking for hot starts in Game 1 of their best-of-three semis battles against upstart rivals in the 8th UNTV Cup on Sunday at the Paco Arena in Manila.

The top-seeded AFP Cavaliers collide with the Judiciary Magis at 5 p.m. while the second-ranked DENR Warriors take on the National Housing Authority Builders at 3:30 p.m. in the event organized by UNTV President and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon annually for public servants.

GAMES SUNDAY

(Paco Arena)

3:30 p.m. - DENR vs. NHA

5 p.m. - AFP vs. Judiciary

AFP and DENR waited for almost three weeks to find out their semis rivals after advancing outright to the semis

for finishing 1-2 in the two-stage eliminations.

Despite the long break, the Cavaliers and Warriors expressed readiness for what they expect a tight and exciting series, knowing full well their rivals are playing at their best of late.

Though the Cavaliers have slight edge in the frontline, the Magis have a solid backcourt crew in former PBA players Warren Ybanez and Chester Tolomia and veteran Frederick Salamat.

'Multiple eco-crises could trigger global collapse'

PARIS: Overlapping environmental crises could tip the planet into "global systemic collapse," more than 200 top scientists warned Wednesday (Thursday in Manila).

Climate change, extreme weather events from hurricanes to heat waves, the decline of life-sustaining ecosystems, food security and dwindling stores of fresh water — each poses a monumental challenge to humanity in the 21st century.

Out of 30 global-scale risks, these five topped the list both in terms of likelihood and impact, according to scientists surveyed by Future Earth, an international research organization.

In combination, they "have the potential to impact and amplify one another in ways that might cascade to create global systemic collapse," a team led by Maria Ivanova, a professor at the Center for Governance and Sustainability at the University of Massachusetts, said in a 50-page report.

Extreme heat waves, for example, speed global warming by releasing planet-warming gases from natural sources, even as they intensify water crises and food scarcity.

Biodiversity loss, meanwhile, weakens the capacity of natural and agricultural systems to cope with

climate extremes, also putting food supplies at risk.

Scientists worry, especially, that rising temperatures could tip the planet's climate system into a self-perpetuating spiral of global warming.

As it is, humanity is struggling — so far unsuccessfully — to cap carbon dioxide and methane emissions, mostly from burning fossil fuels.

If, at the same time, a warming Earth also begins to emit large amounts of these gases from, say, thawing permafrost, such efforts could be overwhelmed.

"Many scientists and policymakers are embedded in institutions that are used to thinking and acting on isolated risks, one at a time," the report said.

"We call on the world's academics, business leaders and policy makers to pay attention to these five global risks and ensure they are treated as interacting systems."

Nearly 1,000 decision makers and top chief executive officers highlighted the same threats in a similar survey last month ahead of the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

"2020 is a critical time to look at these issues," said Amy Luers, executive director of Future Earth.

"Our actions in the next decade will determine our collective future."

Far West free-for-all

In October, the world's nations are set to gather for a major United Nations meeting in Kunming, China to try to stanch the destruction of ecosystems and the decline of biodiversity.

Scientists agree that Earth is at the outset of a mass extinction event — only the 6th in half-a-billion years — which could drive a million species, or one-in-eight, into oblivion over the coming decades or centuries.

The following month, a critical United Nations climate summit in Glasgow will reveal whether the world's major economies are willing to ramp up carbon cutting pledges that fall far short of what is needed to keep the planet hospitable for our species.

2020 is also a critical year in ongoing negotiations over the high seas, where a Far West free-for-all has led to overfishing and unrestrained resource extraction.

Some scientists have begun to look at the likelihood and impacts of cascading environmental crises.

Recent research has shown, for ex-

ample, that some parts of the world may soon be coping with up to six extreme weather events at once, ranging from heat waves and wildfires, to diluvian rains and deadly storm surges.

"Human society will be faced with the devastating combined impacts of multiple interacting climate hazards," Erik Franklin, a researcher at the University of Hawaii's Institute of Marine Biology and co-author of a key study in late 2018, said.

"They are happening now and will continue to get worse."

That is true even in optimistic emissions reduction scenarios.

If, for example, humanity caps global warming at 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels, New York City will likely face one major climate hazard every year, on average, by 2100.

The 2015 Paris climate treaty calls for holding the rise in temperature to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius.

If, however, carbon pollution continues unabated, the Big Apple could be hit by up to four such calamities at once, including extreme rain, sea level rise and storm surges.

In all such scenarios, tropical coastal areas suffer the most.

AFP



An intergenerational response to climate change



Sonny M. Angara

BETTER DAYS

THE issue of our changing climate can be a matter of a few degrees—specifically, about 1.5 degrees Celsius. A report from the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) said that at only 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer across the world, about 14 percent of the global population will experience severe heatwaves once every five years, with the hottest days going 3 degrees warmer than previous records. Even worse, megacities like Metro Manila will most likely become stressed by the elevated temperatures. This will have a serious impact on the population, particularly those who are more vulnerable to extreme weather.

Climate change, however, is not something that goes away with the seasons, or can be avoided with lip service. In his presentation during the 2nd Sen. Edgardo J. Angara Public Lecture on Public Policy at San Beda University, Senior Fellow on Climate Change at the Manila Observatory and Professor of Law Antonio Gabriel La Vina stressed that our country would be significantly hit by climate change, and that we should emphasize climate-change adaptation and mitigation measures for our own country. In so doing, we would also be able to encourage other countries to act. Though the larger, more well-developed countries must still take the lead, La Vina said that other countries should also do their part to reduce

pollution emissions and work on their own climate-change agenda.

Thankfully, in the Philippines, we have already started with some pieces of legislation that will move the country forward when it comes to addressing climate change.

In 2017, Congress raised taxes on coal—from P10 per metric ton at the time, to P150 by this year. This tax increase was meant to help reduce the emissions that coal as an energy source causes. Yes, the issue triggered a heated debate, but in the end, the increase pushed through.

In 2016, Republic Act 10771, otherwise known as the Philippine Green Jobs Act, which we sponsored, was signed. This Act affects most establishments engaged in production, manufacture, and sales of goods and services, including service-oriented

enterprises. The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Department of Finance (DOF) will have their roles in fulfilling the guidelines for the Act, with the CCC certifying which businesses have jobs that are "green," and with the DOF administering incentives for these jobs.

This law also mandates that the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) coordinate with other agencies to come up with a National Green Jobs Human Resource Development Plan, which will enhance and utilize the labor force with sustainability in mind. The main goal will be to move toward a green economy, complete with the education, training, and creation of opportunities required for a green economy.

Finally, just as we have "Build, Build, Build," we also have "Green, Green, Green," a program launched in 2018 by the Department of Budget and Management, under then-Secretary Ben Diokno. The DBM Program aimed to develop public open space projects that will make cities become more sustainable and livable through the expansion and rehabilitation of institutional open spaces, public squares, plazas, parks, streetscapes, waterfronts, and even mangrove parks. The program was envisioned as a complement to Build, Build, Build, to improve the quality of life in cities, and at the same time balancing the Build programs with corresponding "green" ones.

Climate change may move in terms of degrees on a thermometer,

but the actions we need to address it comprise the work of generations. My father saw how important such issues would become and in 2008 authored the Renewable Energy Act, which, if properly implemented, would have encouraged the then-fledgling renewable-energy projects to develop as a way to face the issues of climate change and fuel scarcity.

The time for action on climate change is now. After all, it is in our culture to try and make sure that our children will have a brighter future. We shouldn't wait for them to find the solutions to the issues of our rapidly heating planet, especially when it was those who came before them that caused the problem in the first place. We should address it now, as much as possible with stakeholders and industry leaders—all for the sake of intergenerational justice.

Greta Thunberg, the famous teenage climate-change activist and *Time Magazine's* Person of the Year for 2019, sums up what we should be doing. "Humans are very adaptable: we can still fix this. But the opportunity to do so will not last for long. We must start today. We have no more excuses."

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Sen. Sonny Angara has been in public service for 15 years—nine years as Representative of the Lone District of Aurora, and six as senator. He has authored and sponsored more than 200 laws. He recently won another term in the Senate.



FILE:

ISANG malaking pagkakamali ang paniniwalang mapigilan natin ang pagkakasakit at paglaganap ng novel corona virus sa ating bansa sa pamamagitan ng face mask.

Pruweba rito ang pagkakaroon ng face masks ng halos lahat ng mga tao sa China, Chinese man o dayuhan doon, pero natatamaan pa rin.

Hindi napipigilan ang pagkakaroon ng mga namamatay araw-araw at libo-libo araw-araw na nadaragdag sa mga nagpopositibo at persons under investigation.

Gawin din nating sampol ang dalawang overseas Filipino worker na nagpositibo na sa Hong Kong.

FACE MASK SA BASURA

Milyon na marahil ang naitatapon ng face mask, lalo na ang mga surgical mask kung tawagin.

Kasi hanggang 6-8 oras lang ang gamit ng mga ito at itinatapon na natin para palitan ng bagong.

Sa ganitong kalagayan, makauubos ang isang tao ng 2 face mask sa loob ng isang araw.

Tanong: gaano na karami ang nagsuot o nagsusuot hanggang ngayon ng face mask?

Sa Metro Manila lang na tirahan ng 15 milyon mamamayan ngunit lumolobo sa 20 milyon sa araw dahil sa pagpasok ng iba pa mula sa mga karatig na lalawigan, natitiyak kong milyones na ang nagamit at naitapon sa basurahan.

NCOV SA IBASURA

Isang mahalagang tanong: paano ang mga face mask na itinatapon ng tatlong nagpositibo sa NCOV AIRD?

Sa worst case scenario kung tawagin, ipagpalagay na nating tuloy-tuloy ang pagsusuot ng face ang tatlong nagpositibo na isa na ang namatay, paano ang mga itinatapon nilang face mask sa basurahan ng mga eroplano, ng mga terminal, ng mga hotel, ng mga ospital at iba pang pinuntahan nila?

Paano ang mga humawak at nagtapon ng mga basura ng mga ito sa nasabing mga eroplano, hotel at iba pang lugar na pinuntahan nila?

Sa mga eroplano lang na sinakyan nila, daan-daang ang mga nakasakay nila.

Paano ang mga face mask na ginamit at itinatapon din ng mga nakasakay at nakasalamuha



ULTIMATUM

NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

SA BASURANG FACE MASKS, KAKALAT DIN ANG NCOV

nila?

133 PERSONS UNDER INVESTIGATION

Worst case scenario pa rin.

Paano ang mga itinatapon sa basurahan at kung saan-saan na face masks ng 133 PUI?

Ipagpalagay na nating maayos ang pagtatapon ng basura ng mga ospital na roon sila naka-confine.

Pero paano ang mga face mask na itinatapon nila kung saan-saan?

Paano ang mga itinatapon na face mask ng mga nakaugnayan nilang mga miyembro ng pamilya, kaibigan, taxi driver, taga-hotel at marami pang iba?

Tatandaan na nakakalat ang mga PUI gaya ng ulat ng Department of Health at maaaring may nagpositibo sa kanila.

May 3 PUI sa Ilocos, 2 sa Cagayan Valley, 1 sa Cordillera Autonomous Region, 16 sa Central Luzon, 42 sa Metro Manila, 13 sa Calabarzon, 4 sa Mimaropa, 5 sa Eastern Visayas, 14 sa Western Visayas, 16 sa Central Visayas, 1 sa Caraga, 7 sa Northern Mindanao at 9 sa Davao.

BASURERO ISAMA SA PUI

Dahil nga sa kanilang trabahong magkolekta at magtapon ng basura, anak ng tokwa, hindi masamang isama sa mga Person Under Investigation o anomang uri ng pagbabantay ang mga basurero.

Isama na ririg lista ang mga "nangangalakal" ng basura at mga batang namumulot ng mga face mask saka isinusuot.

Meron nga ring sumbong sa atin na maging ang mga may topak ay namumulot ng mga face mask sa mga kalsada o dinaraan nila saka nila isinusuot para maging "in" sa "uso."

Paano rin ang mga face mask na niginangaragat at kinalakal ng mga asong gala saka ipapasok sa iyong sariling bahay?

Paano ang mga ito, huh?

Ibig nating sabihin, baka isang araw, eh, magingis na lang tayo na dapat isama talaga sa contact tracing ang mga basurero, nangangalakal,

namumulot ng face mask, mag-aaral at mga hayop.

MAGTAPON NANG TAMA, MAINGAT

Sa ibang salita, mga Bro, delikado ang milyonang face mask na itinatapon.

Kaya magtapon tayo nang tama upang hindi pagmulan ang mga ito ng sakit at hindi maging dagdag na solid waste na magbabara sa mga daluyan ng tubig at katubigan.

Para sa mga lugar na lingguhan lang kung mangolekta ng basura ang gobyerno gaya sa mga barangay at nabubulkan o naiipunan ang mga bahay-bahay ng face mask bilang basura, magpa-advise kayo sa mga kinauukulan.

Kung may pagbabautanan na lupa, magbaon tayo.

Kung nangongolekta naman tayo ng basura, dapat tayong may proteksyon sa sarili.

Uulitin natin, nakakalat ang mga PUI na maaaring magiging positibo sa NCOV at maaaring nagtapon ng face mask na kontaminado.

Ang mga basurero ng Pinoy ay dapat na mag-ingat lalo't hindi gaanong gumagamit ng mga gwantes o protective gear at nakikiagaw pa sila sa mga mangangalakal sa mga basurang pupwedeng ibenta.

Isa pa, ipagpalagay na ring walang kontaminasyon ang higit na nakararaming basura na face mask, malaking problema ito dahil gumundok kung maipon ang mga ito.

Alalaharing trak-trak o konte-container yan ang dinedeliber na face mask at nangangahulugang ganito rin ang bulo na itinatapon.

Sa ganitong kalagayan, nakikita nating matatag na basura ang face mask.

Hinihiling natin kung gayon na magtulungan tayo lahat na itapon nang tama na may maigting na pag-iingat ang mga face mask.

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