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DAY : Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service

DENR 11 and 13 DONATE CONFISCATED LUMBERS TO DAVSUR'S EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

A total of 31,892.54 board feet of confiscated forest products were donated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Regions 11 and 13 to the province of Davao del Sur last January 30, 2020.

It can be recalled that DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu issued a directive to its Mindanao offices last year to release confiscated lumbers to help Mindanao earthquake victims rebuild their homes.

During the signing of the Deed of Donations, DENR Undersecretary for Enforcement and Muslim Affairs Jim O. Sampulna said that the donation of forest products to Davao del Sur is one way of telling the people that DENR's mission is not only to have a cleaner and greener environment, but it also includes looking at the welfare of the people.

Moreover, Assistant Secretary for Field Operations Eastern Mindanao and DENR 11's Regional Executive Director Ruth M. Tawantawan assured the people of Davao del Sur that helping them rebuild their homes is one of the important things that Secretary Cimatu would want to attend to.

"As Secretary Cimatu is committed to have a DENR that gives high quality of service to the people, we are extending whatever assistance we can give especially to those communities who were affected by the earthquake incident.

Davao del Sur Governor Douglas RA. Cagas expressed his gratitude to DENR for the help they have extended in rebuilding the homes and lives of the earthquake victims.

"It's painful to see the destruction caused by the earthquake that's why I am very thankful to the DENR for donating these confiscated forest products. I know this will not be the last for I know they are really committed to help," he said.

Cagas revealed that there were 9,000 homes in Davao del Sur that were totally damaged and 30,000 homes that were partially damaged. Mayors from the different municipalities of Davao del Sur also expressed their appreciation to the DENR for donating the confiscated lumbers to their province. They said they are hopeful that they could immediately start constructing temporary homes for the victims.

Also present during the event is Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) Chairman Emmanuel "Manny" Piñol who said that Secretary Cimatu immediately responded to LGU's request for donations of lumbers which they could use for the construction of temporary shelters.

"DENR's move to donate confiscated forest products to earthquake victims is actually showing to the people that this is a responsive government. We respond to the situation and we adjust our governance," he said.

On the other hand, DENR 13's Regional Executive Director Atty. Felix Alicer said that there are no political boundaries when it comes to extending help to the people. "We really want to help rebuild the lives of these earthquake victims in Region XI especially in the province of Davao del Sur. And to extend our help, we have to expand our jurisdiction."

DENR Undersecretary for Enforcement and Muslim Affiars Jim O. Sampulna emphasizes that DENR's mission is not only to have a cleaner and greener environment but to also look at the welfare of the people.

During the signing of the Deed of Donations, Davao del Sur Governor Douglas RA. Cagas expresses his gratitude to DENR for the help they have extended in rebuilding the homes and lives of the earthquake victims.

In an interview, DENR Assistant Secretary for Field Operations Eastern Mindanao and DENR 11's Regional Executive Director Ruth M. Tawantawan said that giving assistance to the earthquake victims is one of the important things that Secretary Cimatu would want to attend to.

DENR Regions 11 and 13, in collaboration with MinDA, donate confiscated forest products to the Provincial Government of Davao del Sur.

Through the signing of the Deed of Donations, a total of 31,892.54 bd. ft. of confiscated forest products were donated to the Province of Davao del Sur.

Safer environment, better health

A thick fog covering Manila's horizon

By Paul David L. Gelario

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Health are optimistic that the Health and Pollution Action Plan will build a safer and healthier environment as it compliments the National Environmental Health Action Plan of 2017-2022.

HPAP is supported by a triad of worldwide organizations, such as United Nations Industrial Development Organization, European Commission, and the World Health Organization. Its aim is to outline the specific situational analysis and action plans of NEHAP.

NEHAP focuses on seven thematic areas primarily water supply, air quality, solid waste management, chemical safety, food safety, occupational health, and climate change. The complementary HPAP focuses on sector areas such as outdoor air pollution, wastewater and sanitation, occupational exposure, indoor air pollution, and soil pollution.

MITIGATING OUTDOOR AIR POLLUTION

Data released by the National Air Quality Status Report for 2008-2015, showed outdoor pollution has caused about 2,000 premature deaths, with 9,000 suffering from chronic bronchitis.

In 2009, it was reported that a million people were greatly affected with about 15,000 prematurely dying, due to outdoor air pollution in the country.

It was reported that 55 percent of Filipinos use traditional cooking fuels and technologies that were proven to be detrimental to health. Smoke from solid fuels such as wood, dung, crop, waste, or coal in poorly ventilated homes contains harmful compounds such as particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, and sulfur oxide. The burning of solid fuels contributed to 4.3 million premature deaths globally.

To address outdoor air pollution, DENR has set up 51 real-time ambient air quality monitoring systems nationwide. Hazardous gas compounds such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide, and lead will then be monitored.

All new vehicles will be evaluated for compliance on emission standards in order to obtain a Certificate of Conformity before being introduced to the market.

DENR also plans to designate a responsible agency assigned solely for indoor pollution. Government agencies such as the Department of Health and the Department of Interior and Local Government also develop household standards for indoor pollution.

With half of the population using traditional cooking fuels, a massive information campaign is planned to inform the community about the hazards of biomass burning regarding indoor air quality. This campaign will include the media or electronic display boards of the Manila Metropolitan Development Authority.

ADDRESSING WASTEWATER AND SANITATION

DENR stated that a significant portion of the country's surface waters and groundwaters are contaminated due to low levels of wastewater treatment and improper sewage management. Rural areas were most vulnerable with tropical diseases such as Schistosomiasis and Lymphatic Filariasis becoming

Turn to E7

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Safer...

From E6

widespread in many of the poorest provinces.

The country now has two frameworks, namely the National Sustainable Sanitation Plan and the Philippine Sustainable Sanitation Roadmap, which aim to solve sanitation challenges from ending open defecation, treating sewage markets, agriculture, industry, and other water pollutants.

About 50 percent of the national government cost-share is allocated for sewage projects for all cities and first-class municipalities.

PROTECTING WORKERS FROM WORK-RELATED ILLNESSES

Occupational exposure is focused on the protection of workers from work-related illnesses, where blue-collar workers are most vulnerable.

In a study in the industrial sector, workers in nine cement plants were exposed to heat, noise and dust. The semiconductor manufacturing industry, based on DENR's study, reported 399 female workers of having abnormal health effects such as abortion and ectopic pregnancy.

The Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) is mandated to prevent and reduce work-related injuries, deaths, and effectively implement occupational health.

OSHC has provided training for the private and public sectors, while also providing technical assistance and services on occupational safety and health. Programs regarding chemical safety management such as fundamentals of industrial hygiene, work environment measurement, ventilation, chemical safety, and globally harmonized system of labeling chemicals were offered to the workers.

NEHAP was first published in 2005 under the watchful eye of the Inter-Agency Committee on Environmental Health. Since then it underwent revisions until its latest in 2018.

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PASIG RIVER TF NG DENR NAMIGAY NG BASURAHAN

NAMAHAGI ng trash bins o basurahan ang Pasig River Task Force ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa mga kapitan ng barangay sa 6 na distrito ng Maynila bilang bahagi ng patuloy na paglilinis sa mga estero at rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Isang set ng rolling trash bins ang ibinigay sa 243 barangay 6 na distrito bilang bahagi ng Pasig River Task Force Operational Plan. Ang naturang mga barangay ang nakasasakop sa mga estero na dumadaloy sa Pasig River.

Sinusuportahan din nito ang direktiba ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na hikayatin ang taumbayan na tumulong sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Sa panig naman ni DENR Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda, aniya, ang pakikipagtulungan ng mga barangay official ang magiging susi upang magkaroon ng katuparan ang programang ito. "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."

Partnership ng PCUP at TESDA, wagi ang urban poor

Pormal na nakipagpulong si Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor Chairman at CEO Alvin S. Feliciano kay TESDA Director-General Isidro Lapeña at tinalakay ang mga programa at proyekto na kanilang ilulunsad para sa mga maralitang Filipino.

Isa sa napagtuunan ng pansin ang mas maigting na pakikipagtulungan ng TESDA sa isinasagawang serbisyo caravan ng PCUP sa iba't ibang panig ng bansa, gayundin sa isa pa nitong programa na Privilege Card na tiyak pakikinabangan ng mga mahihirap.

Tiyak panalo na naman ang mahihirap na Pinoy sa partnership ng PCUP at TESDA na nauna nang pinamunuan ni Chairman/CEO Feliciano.

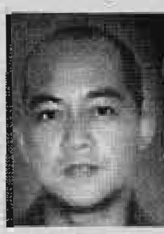
Babala ni Mayor Rex sa mga negosyanteng switik

Inatasan ni Valenzuela City Mayor Rex Gatchalian ang City Health Office at ang Local Economic and Investment Promotions Office na manguna sa pag-monitor at pagbibigay ng kaukulang penalty sa ilang mapagsamantalang negosyante na walang habas sa pagtataas ng presyo ng mga bilihin, lalo na ang surgical o face masks na gamit ng marami laban sa 2019 nCoV.

"I have instructed the CHO and LEIPO to conduct inspections and closely monitor all business establishments and retail outlets in the city to ensure that price regulation on masks is strictly implemented," ani Mayor Rex.

"During the city-wide monitoring conducted recently, it's confirmed that the average cost of surgical masks is still P5 to P6 while the lowest cost of N95 masks is P45. However, these masks are currently out of stock."

Biglang nagmahal ang face masks sa Taal Volcano eruption at nCoV outbreak nitong Enero.



GOOD RIDDANCE

ni ARLIE CALALO

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

PEOPLE'S JOURNAL

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UNTV cagefest

AFP, DENR a win away from finals

Games Sunday
(Paco Arena)
3:30 p.m. – Judiciary vs AFP
5 p.m. – NHA vs DENR

DEFENDING champion Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources showed no sign of rust from a two-week break as they took Game 1 of their respective best-of-three semis series in the 8th UNTV Cup held over the weekend Paco Arena in Manila.

The AFP Cavaliers, bidding to become the first back-to-back champions of the annual tournament for public servants, outlasted the Judiciary Magis, 79-74, while the DENR Warriors clobbered the National Housing Authority Builders, 79-63.

AFP and DENR, which advanced outright to the semis after finishing 1-2 in the two-phase elimination round of the event organized by UNTV President and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon, can forge a title duel starting next week if they prevail anew on Sunday.

In getting back at the team that handed them their only defeat in the elims, the Cavaliers leaned on a well-balanced attack to inch closer to earning another trip to the finals.

In a show of force, five AFP players scored in double figures with Jerry Lumungsod leading the way with 13, Darwin Cordero and Ezer Rosopa adding 12 each, Romeo Almerol 11 and Wilfredo Casulla 10.

Former PH team members Eugene Tan had only three points but produced seven assists, four steals and three rebounds for the Cavaliers who also gunning for their fourth title in the event offering P4 million to the chosen charity of the champion team.

The Warriors, on the other hand, banked on the troika of Ralph Lansang, Melvin Bangal and Ed Rivera to turn what was expected to be a tight contest into a rout.

Bangal and Lansang fired 19 points each while Rivera turned in a double-double of 12 points and 13 boards apart from issuing six assists.

First Game

DENR (79) - Bangal 19, Lansang 19, Rivera 12, Abanes 9, Gamboa 8, Atablanco 7, Ayson 5, Parreno 0.

NHA (63) - Mercado 14, Dizon 10, W. Tibay 9, Vitug 6, R. Tibay 5, Alastoy 4, Prado 4, Lustestica 4, Sumayang 2, M. Dizon 0, A. Adolfo 0.

Quarterscores: 19-17, 38-26, 60-46, 79-63.

Second Game

AFP (79) - Lumongsod 13, Rosopa 12, Cordero 12, Almerol 11, Casulla 10, Quiambao 8, Bautista 6, Tan 3, Fernandez 2, Sergio 2, Araneta 0

Judiciary (74_ – Dela Cruz 18, Salamat 13, Ybanez 10, Litonjua 6, Bergonio 5, Tolomia 5, Dionisio 3, Marquez 3, Puno 2, Serrano 1, Roma 0

Quarterscores: 16-22, 40-41, 60-56, 79-74.

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8TH UNTV CUP

Cavs, Warriors near title duel

Games Sunday
(Paco Arena)
3:30 p.m. – Judiciary vs AFP
5 p.m. – NHA vs DENR

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First Game

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NHA 63 – Mercado 14, Dizon 10, W. Tibay 9, Vitug 6, R. Tibay 5, Alastoy 4, Prado 4, Lustestica 4, Sumayang 2, M. Dizon 0, A. Adolfo 0.

Quarters: 19-17, 38-26, 60-46, 79-63.

Second Game

AFP 79 – Lumongsod 13, Rosopa 12, Cordero 12, Almerol 11, Casulla 10, Quiambao 8, Bautista 6, Tan 3, Fernandez 2, Sergio 2, Araneta 0

JUDICIARY 74 – Dela Cruz 18, Salamat 13, Ybanez 10, Litonjua 6, Bergonio 5, Tolomia 5, Dionisio 3, Marquez 3, Puno 2, Serrano 1, Roma 0

Quarters: 16-22, 40-41, 60-56, 79-74.

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AFP, DENR surge ahead in UNTV semis

DEFENDING champion Armed Forces of the Philippines and Department of Environment and Natural Resources showed no sign of rust from a two-week break and won Game 1 of their respective best-of-three semis series in the 8th UNTV Cup over the weekend at the Paco Arena in Manila.

The AFP Cavaliers, bidding to become the first back-to-back champions of the annual tournament for public servants, outlasted the Judiciary Magis 79-74 while the DENR Warriors clobbered the National Housing Authority Builders 79-63.

AFP and DENR, which advanced outright to the semis after finishing 1-2 in the two-phase elimination round of the event organized by UNTV President and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon, can forge a title duel starting next week if they prevail anew on Sunday.

GAMES SUNDAY
(Paco Arena)
3:30 p.m. – Judiciary vs. AFP
5 p.m. – NHA vs. DENR

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In a show of force, five AFP players scored in double figures, with Jerry Lumungsod leading the way with 13, Darwin Cordero and Ezer Rosopa adding 12 each, Romeo Almerol 11 and Wilfredo Casulla 10.

Former national team members Eugene Tan only had three points but came up with seven assists, four steals and three rebounds for the Cavaliers, who are gunning for their fourth title in the event offering P4 million to the chosen charity of the champion team.

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EXTRA INNING

UNTV: AFP, DENR take Game 1 of semis series

Defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines and Department of Environment and Natural Resources showed no sign of rust from a two-week break as they took Game 1 of their Best-of-three semis series in the 8th UNTV Cup over the weekend Paco Arena in Manila.

The AFP Cavaliers, bidding to become the first back-to-back champions of the annual tournament for public servants, outlasted the Judiciary Magis 79-74 while the DENR Warriors clobbered the National Housing Authority Builders 79-63.

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@STACRUZDAVSUR

DAVAO: STA. CRUZ, DAVAO DEL SUR

Mt. Apo trails from Digos, Sta. Cruz closed during Holy Week; adventure events set in late April

THE Mt. Apo trails from Digos City and Sta. Cruz in Davao del Sur will be closed from April 6 to 12 for campsite and trail assessment to be conducted by a multi-agency monitoring team. These dates are marked as Holy Monday to Easter Sunday in the Catholic calendar, which is usually a peak period for travelers. Julius R. Paner, tourism officer of Sta. Cruz, said the evaluation is necessary as the trails have been on full carrying capacity since late last year while the four other trails have been closed. "*Ngayon* (Nowadays), every weekend *puno ang aming* trail (the trail is full)," said Mr. Paner, referring to the one in Sta. Cruz, where a maximum of 50 climbers are allowed per day. The four other Mt. Apo trails are in Bansalan, also in Davao del Sur, and Magpet, Makilala, and Kidapawan City in Cotabato. The Kidapawan trail was affected by the series of earthquakes in Mindanao last year, particularly those with epicenter in Cotabato. Mr. Paner said despite the "no camping at the summit" policy imposed since the major forest fire in 2016, many still want to climb the country's highest peak. "Very stringent ang policy, but despite that, Mt. Apo is Mt. Apo, a bucket list for mountaineers, *kaya marami pa rin ang umaakyat* (that's why many still come)," he said. "In tourism we have this 'the more the merrier' thing, but we have to consider the impact of Mt. Apo to the environment in general," he added. The monitoring team will be composed of representatives from the barangay and municipal government, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, and Bureau of Fire Protection. — **Maya M. Padillo**

>> See full story on https://qrgo.page.link/RSd3Q

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The Philippine STAR
Truth Shall Prevail

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AboitizPower proposes P34-B wind, solar plants

By EVA VISPERAS

Aboitiz Power Corp is investing close to P34 billion for the generation of almost 1,000 megawatts(MW) of electricity from wind and solar energy in Pangasinan.

Cris Faelnar, senior vice president for operations and maintenance of Aboitiz Power Corp. for business and community relations, presented yesterday to the provincial board of Pangasinan the proposed project initially in the towns of Bugallon, Aguilar and San Manuel.

About 650 MW of solar electricity is being eyed to be produced in the areas of San Manuel, Labrador, Bugallon, Aguilar and Mangatarem, Infanta, Mabini, and 325 MW of wind energy in Aguilar, Bugallon, Mangatarem or a total of 975 MW.

He said they have to study the potential of the wind capacity in the eyed sites for one year and if everything is satisfactory, then they could push through with the project.

Faelnar is seeking the endorsement of the provincial board for the project.

He said they have entered into an agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as the areas that would be traversed by the project are mostly public and forest land.

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TWG ng MWSS dapat magpaliwanag- COA

BIDDING SA KALIWA DAM MORO-MORO

PAGE 2

TWG ng MWSS dapat magpaliwanag- COA

BIDDING SA KALIWA DAM MORO-MORO

NABUKING ng Commission on Audit ang ilang Iregularidad sa paggawad ng kontrata para sa konstruksyon ng P12.2-billion Kaliwa Dam project sa Infanta, Quezon sa isang Chinese firm.

Sa 8-pahinang audit observation memorandum na may petsang June 10, 2019, sinabi ng COA na nabigo ang technical working group ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System na makapagsagawa ng nararapat na bidding at vetting procedures bago nito iginawad ang proyekto sa China Energy Engineering Corp. noong December 2018.

"We recommend that MWSS Management demand explanation from the members of the TWG for acceptance of the two bidders/contractors in spite of non-compliance with vetting/pre-qualification requirements," laman ng memo na ginawa nina officer-in-charge audit team leader Rency Meryl Marquez at officer-in-charge supervising auditor Ma. Nancy Uy at naka-address kay MWSS administrator Reynaldo Velasco.

Sinabi pa ng COA na dapat ding papanagutin ang mga opisyal ng TWG sa kabiguang magsagawa ng pagsusuri sa proyekto at humiling ng kapalit ng dalawang hindi kuwalipikadong bidders, na pumigil sa MWSS na makapili ng pinakaqualified na contractor.

Ayon sa audit team, lumabas na nagsagawa ng shortlist ang TWG ng MWSS at tinanggap sa kalaunan ang bid applications ng tatlong Chinese firms – CEEC, Consortium of Guangdong Foreign Construction at Power China Ltd. – bagama't dalawa sa mga ito ay hindi nakatugon sa pre-qualification requirements na naunang itinakda ng MWSS para sa proyekto.

Ayon sa COA, nabigo ang CEEC at ang Consortium of Guangdong na ipakita na nakasunod sila sa years of experience sa design at engineering works, gayundin sa construction works tulad ng itinatakda para sa proyekto.

Sa panuntunan ng MWSS, ang mga kompanya lang na matagumpay na nakakumpleto sa nakalipas na 20 taon ng design, engineering at construction works para sa isang dam at conveyance structure na katulad ang complexity ng panukalang Kaliwa Dam project ang maaaring magkwalipika sa bidding.

Sinabi ng COA na ang bid documents na isinumite ng CEEC at Consortium of Guangdong ay hindi nagsasaad ng petsa ng completion ng ipinalalagay na hydro stations at dam projects na sinasabi nilang isinagawa.

"The TWG should have been more circumspect to verify whether the reported projects were actually completed to establish the validity and existence thereof and to attain the purpose of vetting which is to evaluate whether the nominated Chinese contractors meet the minimum technical qualifications," nakasaad pa sa audit memorandum.

Ang mas masama, ayon sa COA, tila moro-moro lang ang competitive bidding na isinagawa ng TWG.

Ayon pa sa COA, ang Consortium of Guangdong ay nadisqualify sa first stage ng bidding procedure dahil sa kawalan ng kinakailangang mga dokumento tulad ng business permit, Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license, Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) certificate at valid Single Largest Completed Contract o SLCC.

Na-disqualify naman ang Power China Ltd. sa second stage ng bidding nang mag-alok ito ng mas mataas ng 6.91 percent sa Approved Budget for Contract.

Nagtataka ang COA kung bakit nag-bid ang Power China ng mataas gayong ang lahat ng nominated bidders ay nauna nang inabisuhan na ang anomang bid na mas mataas sa ABC ay awtomatikong mababasura sa bid opening.

"As a result, only the China Energy Engineering Corp. Ltd. qualified, which is questionable considering that the two bidders were disqualified in the 1st and 2nd stages of the procurement process due to seemingly intentional purpose of the bidders not to comply with the TWG requirements and qualify as among those responsive bidders," dagdag ng COA.

Suma tutal, maaaring isinama lang umano ang dalawang bidder upang matugunan ang patakaran na dapat tatlong bidder ang pinakamaliit na bilang ng sasali sa pasubasta at masasabing isang negotiated contract talaga ang naganap mula sa simula.

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Bidding moro-moro lang

ANOMALYA SA KALIWA DAM PROJECT BUKING NG COA

NABUKING ng Commission on Audit (COA) ang ilang iregularidad sa paggagawad ng kontrata para sa konstruksiyon ng P12.2-billion Kaliwa Dam project sa Infanta, Quezon sa isang Chinese firm.

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Sa imbestigasyon ng audit team ay lumabas na nagsagawa ng shortlist ang TWG ng MWSS at kalaunan ay tinanggap ang bid applications ng tatlong Chinese firms – CEEC, Consortium of Guangdong Foreign Construction at Power China Ltd. – bagama't dalawa sa mga ito ay hindi nakatugon sa pre-qualification requirements na naunang itinakda ng MWSS para sa proyekto.

Ayon sa COA, nabigo ang CEEC at ang Consortium of Guangdong na ipakita na nakasunod sila sa years of experience sa design at engineering works, gayundin sa construction works tulad ng itinatakda para sa proyekto.

Sa ilalim ng panuntunan ng MWSS, ang mga kompanya lamang na matagumpay na nakakumpleto sa nakalipas na 20 taon ng design, engineering at construction works para sa isang dam at conveyance structure na katulad ang complexity ng panukalang Kaliwa Dam project ang maaaring magkuwalipika sa bidding.

Sinabi ng state audit body na ang bid documents na isinumite ng CEEC at Consortium of Guangdong ay hindi nagsasaad ng petsa ng completion ng ipinalalagay na hydro stations at dam projects na sinasabi nilang isinagawa.

Ang mas masama, ayon sa COA, ay ang sinasabing competitive bidding na isinagawa ng TWG ay tila moro-moro lamang.

Anang audit body, ang Consortium of Guangdong ay na-disqualify sa first stage ng bidding procedure dahil sa kawalan ng kinakailangang mga dokumento tulad ng business permit, Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license, Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) certificate at valid Single Largest Completed Contract o SLCC.

Na-disqualify naman ang Power China Ltd. sa second stage ng bidding nang mag-alok ito ng mas mataas ng 6.91 percent sa Approved Budget for Contract (ABC).

Nagtataka ang COA kung bakit nag-bid ang Power China ng mataas gayong ang lahat ng nominated bidders ay nauna nang inabisuhan na ang anumang bid na mas mataas sa ABC ay awtomatikong mababasura sa bid opening.

"As a result, only the China Energy Engineering Corp. Ltd. qualified, which is questionable considering that the two bidders were disqualified in the 1st and 2nd stages of the procurement process due to seemingly intentional purpose of the bidders not to comply with the TWG requirements and qualify as among those responsive bidders," dagdag ng COA.

"In summary, it can be deduced that the two bidders/contractors were included merely to comply with the 'at least three bidders' requirement as stated under the Procurement Law. Likewise, the procurement of the project is with the semblance of a competitive bidding when in reality, it is a negotiated contract from the inception of the bidding process."

Bidding sa Kaliwa Dam nasilip ng COA

Kinuwestyon ng Commission on Audit (COA) ang paggagawad ng kontrata para sa konstruksiyon ng P12.2-billion Kaliwa Dam project sa Infanta, Quezon sa isang Chinese firm.

Sa 8-pahinang audit observation memo, sinabi ng COA na nabigo ang technical working group (TWG) ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) na makapagsagawa ng nararapat na bidding at vetting procedures bago nito iginawad ang proyekto sa China Energy Engineering Corp. (CEEC) noong December 2018.

Ayon kina officer-in-charge audit team leader Rency Meryl Marquez at officer-in-charge supervising auditor Ma. Nancy Uy sa kanilang memo kay MWSS administrator Reynaldo Velasco, lumabas na nagsagawa ng shortlist ang TWG ng MWSS at kalaunan ay tinanggap ang bid applications ng tatlong Chinese firms – CEEC, Consortium of Guangdong Foreign Construction at Power China Ltd. – bagama't dalawa sa mga ito ay hindi nakatugon sa pre-qualification requirements ng MWSS para sa proyekto.

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Na-disqualify naman ang Power China Ltd. sa second stage ng bidding nang mag-alok ito ng mas mataas ng 6.91 percent sa Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) gayung nauna nang inabisuhan na ang anumang bid na mas mataas sa ABC ay awtomatikong mababasura sa bid opening.

COA nasilip ang iregularidad sa Kaliwa Dam bidding

Ilan umanong iregularidad ang nasilip ng Commission on Audit (COA) sa paggagawad ng kontrata para sa konstruksiyon ng P12.2-bilyon na Kaliwa Dam project sa Infanta, Quezon sa isang Chinese firm.

Sa 8-pahinang audit observation memorandum na may petsang June 10, 2019, sinabi ng COA na nabigo ang technical working group (TWG) ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) na makapagsagawa ng nararapat na bidding at vetting procedures bago nito iginawad ang proyekto sa China Energy Engineering Corp. (CEEC) noong December 2018.

Sinabi pa ng state audit body na dapat ding papanagutin ang mga opisyal ng TWG sa kabiguang magsagawa ng pagsusuri sa proyekto at humiling ng kapalit ng dalawang hindi kuwalipikadong bidders, na pumigil sa MWSS na makapili ng pinaka-qualified na contractor.

Sa imbestigasyon ng audit team ay lumabas na nagsagawa ng shortlist ang TWG ng MWSS at kalaunan ay tinanggap ang bid applications ng tatlong Chinese firms – CEEC, Consortium of Guangdong Foreign Construction at Power China Ltd. – bagama't dalawa sa mga ito ay hindi nakatugon sa pre-qualification requirements na naunang itinakda ng MWSS para sa proyekto.

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COA sinita ang iregularidad sa Kaliwa Dam project

NABUKING ng Commission on Audit (COA) ang ilang iregularidad sa paggagawad ng kontrata para sa konstruksiyon ng P12.2 billion Kaliwa Dam project sa Infanta, Quezon sa isang Chinese firm.

Sa 8 pahinang audit observation memorandum na may petsang Hunyo 10, 2019, sinabi ng COA na nabigo ang technical working group (TWG) ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) na magsagawa ng mga bidding at vetting procedure bago iginawad ang proyekto sa China Energy Engineering Corp. (CEEC) noong Disyembre 2018.

"We recommend that (MWSS) Management demand explanation from the members of the TWG for acceptance of the two bidders/contractors in spite of non-compliance with vetting/pre-qualification requirements," nakasaad sa memo nina officer-in-charge audit team leader Rency Meryl Marquez at officer-in-charge supervising auditor Ma. Nancy Uy at naka-address kay MWSS administrator Reynaldo Velasco.

Sinabi pa ng state audit body na dapat ding papanagutin ang mga opisyal ng TWG sa kabiguang magsagawa ng pagsusuri sa proyekto at humiling ng kapalit ng dalawang hindi kuwalipikadong bidder, na pumigil sa MWSS na makapili ng pinaka-qualified na contractor.

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RAZON IN MWC

'A boost to investor confidence'

BY RUELLE CASTRO

THE entry of one of the country's billionaires into Metro Manila east zone water concessionaire signals a "more positive outcome" on the terms of the new contract to be sealed by the latter with the government.

Online stockbrokerage firm Colfinancial.com said the entry of Enrique Razon in Manila Water Co. Inc. also increases investors' confidence on Manila Water given that his Prime Metroline Infrastructure Holdings, Inc. is also the proponent of the Wawa Dam project.

"Recall that the Wawa Dam project will augment the water source of Metro Manila, which will in turn alleviate water supply issues for water firms," Colfinancial said.

"Moreover, management is optimistic that Mr. Razon's extensive global experience through port operations would open more opportunities for the company outside the country and his experience in dealing with regulated businesses would be beneficial to Manila Water," it added.

Last week, Razon's Prime Metroline Holdings Inc. bought 820 million primary shares of Manila Water, equivalent to a 25 percent stake in the company, worth P10.7 billion.

Razon will be hold a 51 percent voting rights in Manila Water after previous majority owner Ayala Corp. ceded parts of its voting rights.

Razon's acquisition has diluted the Ayala Group's stake in Manila Water to 38.5 percent from the previous 43 percent. The transfer of proxy rights to Razon meanwhile reduced the Ayala Group's voting power to just 31.65 percent "effectively giving up control over Manila Water," noted Colfinancial.com.

Colfinancial.com said the capital

See 'A BOOST ➤ Page A7

New water source. Razon's water company is a partner in the Wawa bulk water project.

'A BOOST

infusion of Razon will strengthen Manila Water's balance sheet and will "allow it to pursue strategic initiatives."

"This will also ease funding pressure on the company. Recall that given the uncertainties currently surrounding water firms, concerns were raised that Manila Water might have difficulty in rolling over its debt or obtaining new loans," it said.

"Note that Manila Water currently has P50.4 billion in total debt, P10.6. billion of which is maturing this year, with capex that is expected to reach P16.0 billion in 2020," it added.

Coflnancial.com said the capital infusion will also improve Manila Water's debt-to-equity ratio 0.70x from from 0.90x.

Mytrade, the online stockbrokerage arm of Abacus Securities Corp., meanwhile said the additional capital will dilute earnings per share (EPS) by 28 percent.

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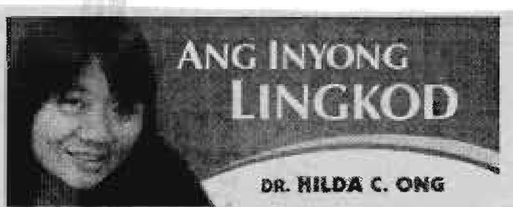
NWRB IKINABIT ANG APAT NA TELEMETRY SENSOR NETWORK SYSTEMS SA BAGONG MONITORING SITE

PINAPURIHAN ni Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Fortunato dela Peña si National Water Resources Board (NWRB) executive director Sevillo David, Jr., ang paglalagay ng apat na Telemetry Sensor Network Systems sa Pavia National High School at 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 dahil akma at napapanahon ang paglulunsad ng proyekto lalo pa't kinakaharap na natin ang napipintong pagkaubos ng malinis na tubig sa ating bansa, kaya mabuti na noon pa mang 2013 ay sinimulan na ng NWRB ang pagsasagawa ng assessment and development sa mga ground water at maging sa pangangalaga at konserbasyon ng mga ito lalong higit sa mga water critical cities. Hinangaan din ng Kalihim ang inisyatibo ng ahensiya.

Paliwanag ni Ed David, hindi na isinama ang Iloilo City sa mga monitoring site dahil matagal nang napag-aralan na saturated na ang ground water ng lungsod at ito ay maalat din naman. Ang Pavia naman ay napakarami pang imbak na tubig sa kailaliman ng lupa nito na dapat responsableng pakinabangan.

Masusi pang pag-aaralan ng DOST at NWRB na mapasimple ang kasalukuyang ginagamit na teknolohiya na sobra pang malaki ang presyo nang sa gayun ay para mapaglaanan din ng pondo ng ibang local government unit at pansariling ma-monitor ang kani-kanilang ground water. Makatutulong ito sa paglalabas ng mga akmang polisiya sa bawat munisipalidad.

Kaya paaalala ng NWRB, huwag labis-labis sa paggamit ng tubig, dapat ay maging responsable, dahil ika nga ni ED David, 'water is not finite but a limited resource' na talagang mauubos sa walang habas na paggamit at pag-aaksaya lalo na ngayong papalapit na ang panahon ng tag-init.



DR. HILDA C. ONG

-ooOoo-

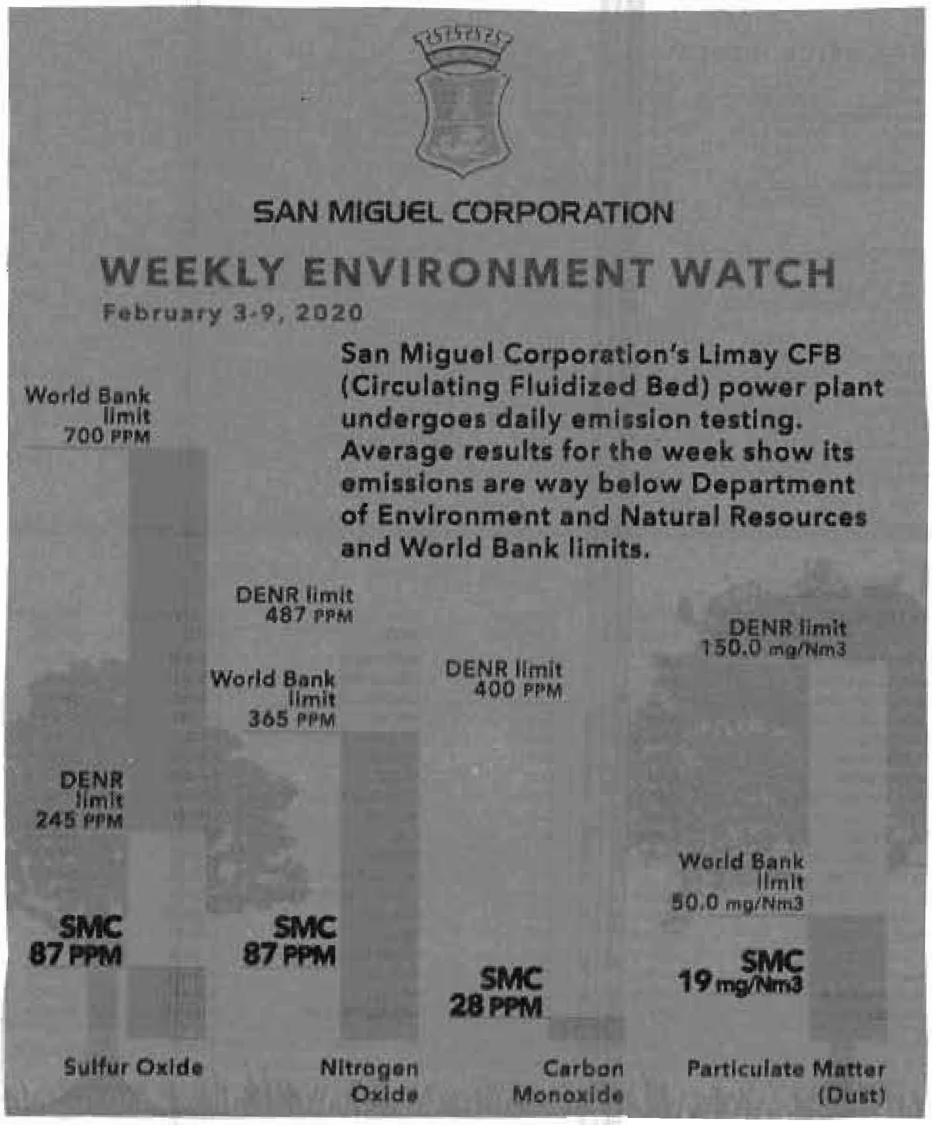
PROTECT YOUR LIVER!

Pahabol lamang na selebrasyon. Nitong nagdaang buwan ng Enero ay ginunita natin ang Liver Cancer and Viral Hepatitis Awareness and Prevention Month sa ating bansa alinsunod sa Republic Act No. 10526 (2012). Batay sa datus ng World Health Organization (WHO), nasa 11 katao sa bawat 100,000 ang may liver cancer sa Pilipinas habang isa bawat walong Pilipino ang tinatamaan ng Hepatitis B virus (HBV).

Pinagsama ang paggunita sa liver cancer at viral hepatitis dahil ang nagkakaroon ng huli ay namamatay sanhi ng liver cancer o liver failure from cirrhosis. Sabi nga ng mga eksperto, isang daan beses na mas nakakahawa ang HBV kaysa sa HIV.

Nakukuha ang HBV at liver cancer sa cirrhosis from alcohol abuse, namamana ito, obesity, pagkakaroon ng Aflatoxin na maaaring makontamina sa mga pananim, paggamit ng maruming injection needles, at hindi protektadong pagtatalik sa taong mayroon nito. Para maiwasan ang mga sakit na nabanggit kinakailangan ang ibayong ehersisyo, pagbabawas ng alcohol sa katawan, tama at balanseng pagkain, pagpapabakuna, pag-iwas sa dugo at laway ng iba, siguraduhin na malinis ang gagamiting injection needle at pagiging malinis sa katawan.

Napakahalaga ng ating atay, ito ang sumasala ng dumi sa ating katawan na napupunta sa dumi at ihi, may clotting factor ito na pumipigil sa lubhang pagdurugo kapag nasusugatan, at siyang nagpoproseso ng iba't ibang nutrients sa ating bituka patungo sa mga nangangailangang organo ng ating katawan. Kaya naman kailangang pakaingatan at alagaan ang ating mga atay.


SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION
WEEKLY ENVIRONMENT WATCH
February 3-9, 2020
San Miguel Corporation's Limay CFB (Circulating Fluidized Bed) power plant undergoes daily emission testing. Average results for the week show its emissions are way below Department of Environment and Natural Resources and World Bank limits.
World Bank limit 700 PPM
DENR limit 245 PPM
SMC 87 PPM
Sulfur Oxide
DENR limit 487 PPM
World Bank limit 365 PPM
SMC 87 PPM
Nitrogen Oxide
DENR limit 400 PPM
SMC 28 PPM
Carbon Monoxide
DENR limit 150.0 mg/Nm3
World Bank limit 50.0 mg/Nm3
SMC 19 mg/Nm3
Particulate Matter (Dust)

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Ni BENNY ANTIPORDA

MERSCOV, SARS, TALO NA SA NOVEL CORONA VIRUS

PAREHO nang tinalo sa bangis ng Novel Corona Virus ang Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome o SARS at Middle East Respiratory Syndrome.

Nitong nagdaang araw lang, inoberteyk sa bangis ng NCOV ang SARS at kahapon, ganito rin ang nangyari sa MERSCOV.

Kahapon, iniulat na may 911 nang patay sa NCOV mula sa mahigit 41,000 nagpositibo habang hinihintay pa ang mangyayari sa may 4,000 seryoso ang kalagayan.

Ang SARS, pumatay ng 722 sa ilang buwang pananalasa nito mula sa mahigit 8,000 nagpositibo rito noong 2002-2003 sa 26 bansa.

Ang MERSCOV, pumatay ng 861 mula sa nagpositibo na 2,499 sa nasa 27 bansa.

Ang SARS ay nagmula sa China-Hong Kong samantalang nagmula ang MERSCOV sa Saudi Arabia noong 2012 at pangunahing tinamaang bansang ito at ang United Arab Emirates at South Korea.

Tumitira pa ang MERSCOV hanggang sa mga araw na ito na pumatay rin ng mahigit limang overseas Filipino worker sa Saudi Arabia.

KAMELYO, PANIKI, PANGOLIN

Ayon sa mga siyentista at doktor, ang MERSCOV ay galing sa kamelyo na talaga namang napatunayang lungga ng MERSCOV ang katawan at maraming kamelyo sa mga Arabong bansa.

Pero sa iba pang mga pag-aaral, galing umano sa paniki ang virus nito na kumapit sa mga kamelyo.

Ang SARS naman, galing umano sa civet cats o musang sa atin, mga pusang gubat naunang lumitaw ang sakit sa Guangdong, China.

Ang NCOV naman ay galing umano sa paniki.

Ang nakatatakot na natagpuan ng mga siyentista at doktor, galing din sa pangolin o balintong sa Pilipinas ang NCOV.

Kung lungga ng MERSCOV ang katawan ng mga kamelyo, parang ganito rin umano ang NCOV sa balintong.

At ang balintong ay marami sa Palawan.

Pare-parehong kinakatay at inuulam ang mga paniki, kamelyo, musang at balintong o pangolin.

NAKAHAHAWA

Halos pare-pareho ang MERSCOV, SARS at NCOV na nakahahawa.

Halos pareho ang mga ito na may sintomas na ubo, lagnat, hirap sa paghinga, pamamalat at iba pa.

Nahahawa ang mga tao mula sa nabanggit na mga hayop at kalaunan nagkakahawaan ang mga may sakit na tao.

At kung nahawa ang isang tao, magdasal-dasal na siya, lalo na kung may nadatnang sakit sa baga gaya ng hika at tuberculosis.

Dapat siyang magpaospital, magpagamot na may kasamang dasal.

Pero marami sa mga kaso ang hindi nadaraan sa dasal at tanging ang virus ang nagbibigay ng sentensyang kamatayan.

Hindi nakaririnig ng dasal ang mga virus.

Kaya ang dasal ay dapat sa Diyos na sa maraming pagkakataon ay nagbibigay ng second chance sa buhay.

PAANO MAHAWA

Ito ang isa sa mga dapat na malaman nating lahat.

Hindi tayo dapat na huminto sa pag-aaral dito upang matulungan natin ang isa't isa na lumaban at pumigil sa pagdapo sa ating ng mga virus sa nasabing mga sakit.

Isa sa pinakahuling nadiskubre ng mga doktor at siyentista sa hawaan sa NCOV ang papel ng hangin.

Nauna nang nalamang kung bumahing o umubo ang isang tao, nahahawaan ang malapit sa kanya.

Ngayon naman, posibleng mahawaan ang isang tao kahit malayo siya dahil pagkaubo o pagkabahing ng maysakit, tinatangay ng hangin ang patak o droplet mula rito na may lamang NCOV hanggang sa dadapo ito sa iba.

Noong una, ang mga nakokontak nang pisikal ng tao na kapwa tao ang paraan at nakikita ito sa mga patak mula sa dura, bahing at ubo na napapahid sa mata, ilong at bunganga.

Napag-alaman din sa kalaunan na nahahawa rin ang tao mula sa mga dumi at ihi kaya naman nagaganap ito sa mga ihian at kubeta.

MGA GAGAWIN

Alam na ng lahat ang mga pangunahing ginagawa ng mga bansa upang hindi lumaganap nang todo ang NCOV na siyang problema natin ngayon.

Pangunahin dito ang mga lockdown para hindi makabiyahe ang mga tao sa pamamagitan ng mga pagsasara ng mga kalsada, pagpapahinto ng biyahe ng mga pribado at pampublikong sasakyan gaya ng mga bus, tren at taxi.

Nagsara rin ng border sa China ang mga katulad ng Hong Kong, Russia, Tibet at North Korea.

Lahat ng bansa ay nagpahinto rin ng biyahe ng mga eroplano lalo na ang mga patungo at mula sa China, Hong Kong at Macau.

Mismong mga kompanyang eroplano ang huminto sa pagpapabiyahe ng mga eroplano nila.

IBA PANG GAWA

Gaya ng pinaiiral sa ibang bansa, dapat na magsuot ang mga Filipino ng face mask na iba't iba ang uri gaya ng N95 at surgical mask.

Gamit ito upang hindi mahawa sa mga virus mula sa pagbahing, pag-ubo at tinatangay ng hangin.

Dapat ding laging maglinis ng katawan, kasama na ang paghuhugas ng kamay.

Sinasabihan na rin ang lahat na huwag dumalo sa mga pagtitipon, mag-holding hands at magbeso-beso kahit sa mga simbahan.

Pero balik sa face mask, maging ang World Health Organization ay nagrereklamo na sa kakulangan nito.

Halos wala na ring mabili sa mga parmasya at tindahan ng mga medical suplly.

Minamaliit naman ng mga doktor ang bisa ng mga panyo at iba pang pupwedeng isuot ng mamamayan.

Pwede ba, kumilos ang pamahalaan, utusan ang mga pabrika sa Pinas na madaliin ang paggawa ng face mask nang hindi mag-overprice.

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