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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Tieza-funded sewerage plant to boost Puerto Galera rehabilitation and tourism, DENR says

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

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OFFICIALS of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Thursday announced that a second and bigger sewerage treatment plant (STP) that will soon be constructed near the famous White Beach in Puerto Galera.

The STP plan came following a donation of a prime property that will house the facility that will also ensure proper treatment of wastewater from business establishments and households near the famous beach resorts in Puerto Galera town, Province of Oriental Mindoro, before being released to the environment.

The 1.14-hectare property located at Barangay San Isidro was donated to the DENR by the heirs of the late National Artist for Architecture Leandro Locsin.

Around 2,000 square meters of the donated property will be used for the STP while a suboffice of the DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (PENRO) will be built in the remaining 9,444 sq m.

With the donation, the government could start next month the construction of the P194-million project. It is expected to be operational by the last quarter of 2020.

To legalize the donation, Locsin signed the deed of donation last week.

Puerto Galera's second STP has a capacity of 3,000 cubic meters, and will service residents and businesses establishments in Barangay San Isidro.

DENR Mimaropa Regional Executive Director Henry Adornado said the construction of a second STP in Puerto Galera, a famous beach resort and tourist magnet, will boost the government's effort to protect and conserve the coastal and marine environment in the island paradise.

He told the BUSINESSMIRROR that the project is funded by the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (Tieza), and will be implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). Upon construction, the facility will be ran

and managed by the local government of Puerto Galera.

"All water wastes in the locality shall pass through the STP before discharging. It must pass the water quality standard. In that case, the pollution of water bodies there can be avoided," Adornado said.

He added that the facility will not only cater to business establishments but households in the area, as well.

Meanwhile, in a news statement, the DENR chief said having a second STP and a DENR satellite office within Puerto Galera's White Beach area would enhance efforts to preserve it and help avoid another Boracay, or the temporary closure of a tourist destination because of environmental problems.

"Puerto Galera was ahead of Boracay in terms of gaining international attention as a major tourist destination, and I commend its local executives and stakeholders for taking a proactive stance to prevent a Boracay-like scenario in Puerto Galera," Cimatu said.

Cimatu commended in particular the Locsin family and Puerto Galera Mayor Rocky Ilagan, who has exhibited serious commitment to protect and conserve Mindoro's prime ecotourism destination.

Since embarking on a program to preserve the country's top tourist destinations two years ago, Cimatu said it was his first time to witness "such a partnership between a mayor and a landowner coming together for a common environmental cause."

Cimatu even told Ilagan that he would always set him as "an example for other mayors" due to his efforts to install STPs in his town.

Calling it "a dream come true," Ilagan said the donated land was "at a very strategic place for an STP" with around 70 percent of Puerto Galera's annual tourist arrivals going to the White Beach area.

Puerto Galera's first STP, a P100-million facility located in Barangay Sabang, became fully operational last December. It has since been treating 1,750 cubic meters of uncontrolled wastewater per day.



DENR to construct second sewage treatment facility in Puerto Galera

PUERTO Galera will have its second and bigger wastewater treatment facility soon.

According to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, the heirs of the late National Artist for Architecture Leandro Locsin donated a prime property to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Cimatu said the 1.14-hectare located in Bgy. San Isidro, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro will be a major boost in the efforts to preserve the water and marine resources in the famous White Beach.

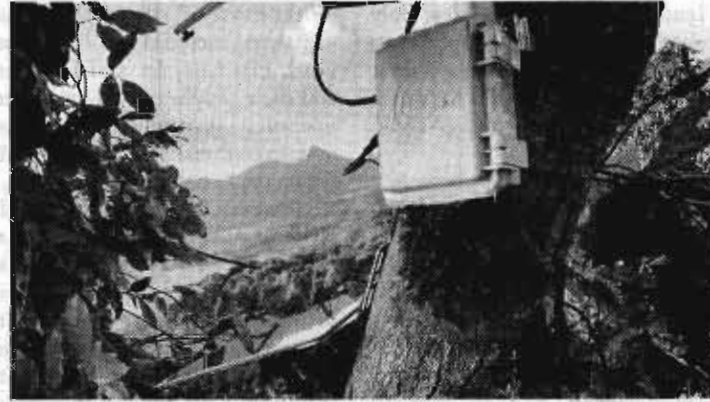
He said that the construction of the P194-million Sewage Treatment Plant

(STP) will immediately start next month and expected to be operational by the last quarter of 2020.

Of the donated property, around 2,000 square meters will be used for the STP while a sub-office of the DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (PENRO) will be built in the remaining 9,444 sq.m. area.

Cimatu said that having a second STP and a DENR satellite office within Puerto Galera's White Beach area would enhance efforts to preserve it and help avoid another Boracay or the temporary closure of a tourist destination because of environmental problems. **Joel dela Torre**

Huawei helps protect Palawan rainforest



Alert vs deforestation. A bio-acoustic monitoring device records sounds from the forests and uploads them to Huawei Cloud for analysis.

ENVIRONMENTAL advocates and forest rangers in the Philippines have partnered to protect Philippine rainforest.

“Huawei Rainforest Connection Phase 1” was recently launched by Huawei Technologies Philippines Institute (HTPI) as a pilot project in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Smart Communications.

Phase 2 will be in Bukidnon in partnership with Globe Telecom.

“The Huawei Rainforest Connection hopes to help curb the rate of deforestation in the country, which is the largest contributor to green gas emissions, and cause of major calamities like flooding and landslides. This is one of the projects wherein industry relco players and Government join hands to protect our environment,” said Daniel Guo Zhi, Huawei Philippines vice president and chief operating officer.

The project was formally presented to DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu last January 21 during a meeting with Tophier White, Rainforest Connection (RFCx) chief executive officer and founder; Darwin Flores, vice president of Smart Communications; Nilo Tamorina, DENR executive director; Jim Sampulina, DENR undersecretary; and Karris Buenafe and

Sally Zhou from Huawei Public Affairs.

Through Huawei’s collaboration with Rainforest Connection, a US-Based non-profit organization, used Huawei cellphones are upcycled to help protect the rainforest from illegal logging by repurposing them as “Rainforest Guardians.”

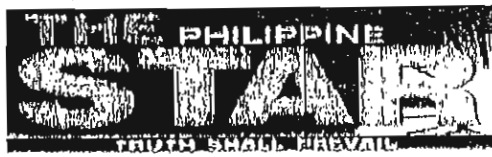
Technically known as bio-acoustic monitoring devices, sounds from the forests are recorded, uploaded to Huawei Cloud via data connection, analyzed by Huawei AI and alerts are sent to forest rangers in real time.

DENR and the forest rangers in Palawan now use Huawei’s mobile phones as their “listening posts” in the forest areas and are quickly alerted when sounds of threats like chainsaws are identified.

By using Huawei Cloud, Internet of Things and AI-assisted servers, Palawan and the Philippines will be better protected from illegal logging.

Since the project was launched, three alerts of illegal logging in the area were verified and foiled by the Forest rangers.

Rainforest Connection is one of the key programs under Huawei Tech4all that applies technology, applications and skills to help conserve nature and mitigate the effects of climate change and protect our planet more efficiently.



Q2 14 23

TITLE:

PAGE: 17

DATE:

Remaining SoKor garbage shipped back this month

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

At least 100 shipping containers of plastic waste illegally shipped to Northern Mindanao in 2018 will finally be returned to South Korea.

Quoting John Simon of the Bureau of Customs-Northern Mindanao, EcoWaste Coalition said 50 shipping containers would be shipped back on Sunday and the other 50 on Feb. 23.

Simon said 50 shipping containers were re-exported on Jan. 19 and 51 others on Jan. 13.

"The re-exportation of the remaining wastes from South Korea... signifies our nation's steadfastness to protect public health and the environment from the deceptive trade in hazardous waste disguised as plastic waste for recycling,"

Simon told EcoWaste in a text message.

Cargo ships *Vivaldi* and *Nordmarsh* will bring the plastic waste to its point of origin.

EcoWaste national coordinator Aileen Lucero welcomed Simon's announcement, saying it would "help bring the dumping controversy to a close."

"To deter illegal traffic of waste in the future, all those responsible for this mess should be fully held accountable in accordance with the rule of law," Lucero said.

Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp. imported the shipments that were misdeclared as synthetic plastic flakes.

The shipments arrived at the Mindanao International Container Port on July 21 and Oct. 20 in 2018.

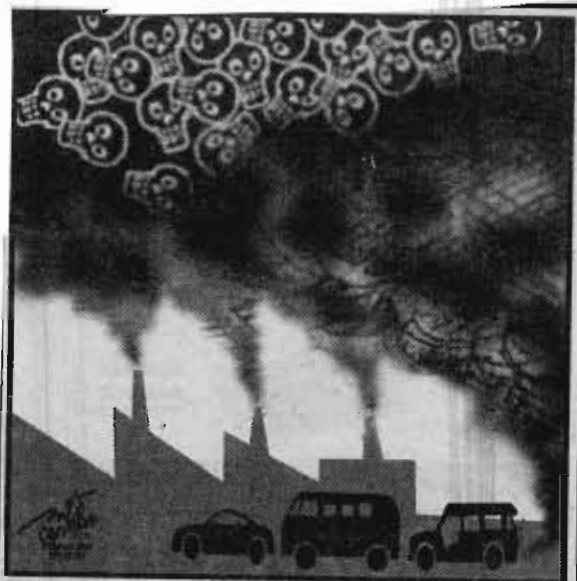


02 14 20

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE



Editorial

**Air pollution,
daming pinapatay**

MISTULANG COVID-19 (bagong tawag sa nCoV) mang air pollution sa bansa sapagkat 27,000 katao ang pinapatay bawat taon. Sa pag-aaral ng Greenpeace Southeast Asia at ng Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air, ang usok mula sa mga sasakyan gamit ang gasolina at krudo at maging ang mga sinusunog na coal ay nagiging sanhi ng kamatayan ng mga Pilipino. Dahilan din ang air pollution sa pagkawala o pagkasayang ng P304 bilyon sa ekonomiya ng bansa.

Noong nakaraang Hulyo 2019, sa isang report, mas mataas ang bilang ng mga namamatay dahil sa air pollution – 120,000 -- dahil sa pagkalanghap ng hangin na may lason. Ayon pa sa report, number 3 ang Pilipinas sa mga bansa sa Asia na marami ang namamatay sa air pollution Nangungunin ang China at Ikalawa ang Mongolia.

Karaniwang pinagmumulan ng hangin na may lason ang ibinubugang usok ng mga sasakyan partikular na ang mga dyipni na karaniwang yumayaot sa mga kalsada. Tinatayang 80 porsiyento na pinangagalingan ng air pollution ay mula sa mga hindi namimintinang sasakyan. Pinakamalala ang air pollution sa Metro Manila.

Ayon sa Department of Health (DOH), ang maruming hangin ay nagdudulot ng noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). Kabilang sa mga sakit na nakukuha dahil sa pagkalanghap nang maruming hangin ay allergies, acute respiratory infections, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, cancer at cardiovascular diseases. Unang tinatamaan ng sakit ang mga pasahero at pedestrians dahil sila ang nakalantad sa maruming hangin. Araw-araw nilang nalalanghap ang maruming hangin na dulot ng mga sasakyan. Bukod sa usok ng mga sasakyan, nalalanghap din ang usok ng mga sinusunog na basura, goma, plastic at iba pang harmful wastes na delikado sa kalusugan.

Sabi ng isang health official, hindi nabibigyang pansin ng gobyerno ang isyu ukol sa air pollution. Hindi ito binibigyang halaga gayung dapat ay unahin ito sapagkat nakasalalay ang buhay ng mamamayan.

Tungkulin ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na mapangalagaan at mapadalisay ang hangin. Sila ang nararapat magpatupad at gumawa ng hakbang para mapigilan ang mga nagpaparumi sa hangin sa Metro Manila.

Kailan kikilos ang DENR?



COVID-19 to further slow processing of China ODA

By CZERIZA VALENCIA

The coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) outbreak may further slow down the processing of official development assistance (ODA) from China as there will be fewer meetings due to travel restrictions, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and NEDA chief Ernesto Pernia said there is recognition on both sides that more meetings must be held about projects proposed for financing, but current travel limitations in relation to the spread of the virus may prevent these from pushing through.

"We admitted that we need to meet, to have regular meetings, but it would be difficult right now because we cannot

go to China," he told reporters in a recent interview.

He also noted that China's dollar shortage may contribute to the lag in the processing of ODA for infrastructure projects in the Philippines.

Last month, Pernia commented on the slowness of the provision of ODA from China compared with Japan, which is currently the country's top ODA provider.

Pernia attributed this to the lack of regular meetings with their Chinese counterparts as well as the languid pace in the screening process for Chinese companies on the Philippine side.

So far, only two projects under the government's Build Build program have obtained funding from China: the Chico River Dam irrigation project and the Kaliwa Dam project.

The Philippines is stepping up negotiations for ODA to fund its ambitious infrastructure program within the grace period allotted for countries graduating to upper middle income status.

The country is currently classified as a lower middle income economy having a gross national income (GNI) per capita of \$3,830 as of 2018. This year, it is expected to become an upper middle income country with a GNI per capita income range of \$3,996 to \$12,375.

A three-year grace period will be in effect before the country becomes ineligible for concessional loans or borrowings with interest rates that fall below market rates.

Alongside this are efforts to attain an "A" credit rating so commercial funding sources can be tapped in the absence of concessional financing.



TITLE:

DATE

NANGMAMASAKER na ang Corona Virus Disease-19 sa bansang China.

Habang tinitipa natin ito, mga Bro, nasa 242 ang pinatay ng COVID-19 kahapon sa iba't ibang bahagi ng China ngunit pinakamarami pa rin ang biktima sa lalawigan ng Hubei at capital nitong Wuhan City na pinagmulan ng sakit.

Kaya naman, mayroon nang 1,355 na patay bunga ng sakit.

Lumundag na rin ang bilang ng mga nahahawaan mula sa nasa 46,000 sa mahigit 60,000 sa buong mundo sa kabila ng mga pinawawalan ng mga ospital na napatunayang hindi nahawaan o gumaling sa gamot.

PINAKAISTRIK-TONG PATAKARAN

Bunga ng pangyayaring nabanggit sa itaas, kahilingan ng ULTIMATUM sa lahat, awtoridad at mamamayan, kasama ang mga dayuhan, na sumunod sa mga ipinag-uutos ng mga kaukulang awtoridad.

Isa sa pinakamahalaga na patakaran ang pag-quarantine sa lahat ng mga dumarating sa bansa, Filipino man o dayuhan, mula lalo na sa bansang China, Hong Kong, Macau at Taiwan.

Hindi dapat hayaang makalusot ang mga ito sa pamamagitan ng pagbiyahe muna sa ibang bansa saka lalapag o papasok sa mahal kong Pinas ngunit ang totoo, galing sila sa China, Hong Kong, Macau at Taiwan.

Mahalaga ring mabilis na mabigyan ang mga regional hospital ng pamahalaan at mga pribadong ospital na handa laban sa COVID-19 ng mga test kit na meron na ngayon upang mabilis na matukoy ang pagdapo ng sakit.

Magandang malaman na kaya na ring magbigay ang Research Institute for Tropical Medicine at ang Philippine Genome Center ng pinal na pagsusuri sa nasa-bing sakit dahil nanga-ngahulugang mabilis nang makakilos ang pamahalaan laban sa sakit.

Ang mga pag-iingat laban sa sakit ay dapat ding subaybayan at ipatupad ng mga mamamayan gaya ng pagsusuot ng face mask at paglilinis ng katawan, partikular ang mga kamay para maiwasan ang mga kontak na nakahahawa.

Kung may suspetsa



COVID-19 MASSACRE, 242 PATAY; LOVERS DEDMA

naman ang mga mamamayan na may dalang COVID-19 ang kanilang kapamilya o kapitbahay, dapat din agad silang kumontak ng mga kinauukulan, gaya ng mga opisyal ng barangay, na inaasahang madaling kumilos sa pagdadala ng suspek sa ospital.

FACE MASK SA MGA TSUPER

Napatunayan nang may mga tsuper ng mga pampublikong sasakyan na nahawa sa naturang sakit.

Ito'y dahil silang mga tsuper karaniwan ang kabilang sa mga direktang kontak ng mga may dala ng sakit na bumibiyahe kung saan-saan.

Kaya naman, tama lang na inoobliga ng Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board ang lahat ng mga tsuper ng pampublikong sasakyan na magsuot lagi ng face mask sa biyahe.

Protektado na ang mga tsuper, protektado rin ang mga pasahero sa ganitong kalagayan dahil maliwasan ang hawaan.

Pero nahahirapan ang mga tsuper sa paghahanap at pagbili ng face mask dahil halos wala nang mabili sa mga parmasya at maging sa mga tindahan ng medical supply.

Isa pa, may mga nag-aalok ngunit mula sa P50-P75 na presyo para sa N95, pero, anak ng tokwa, nasa P130 na pataas bawat isa kung libo-libo ang iyong bibilhin.

Ang surgical mask naman, dati ay P1 ang isa.

Pero ngayon, nasa P12 kung paisa-isa ang iyong bilhin at P150-P200 na rin ang bawat karton na naglalaman ng 50 piraso.

Ang masama sa surgical mask, 8 oras lang mo pupwedeng magamit at itatapon mo na pagkatapos.. Dahil dito, hirap ang mga tsuper na makabili at mag-ipon ng pambili.

Ngayon, pagmumultahin ng LTFRB ng P5,000 ang mahuhuli nilang walang face mask.

Hindi kaya malaking pabigat ang patakaran ito ng LTFRB?

Paano kaya kung tutulong ang LTFRB sa paghahanap ng suplay at pagbebenta nito sa abot-ka-

yang halaga kaysa magpataw ng napakabigat na parusa sa hindi pagsusuot ng face mask?

Dapat maghunosdili ang LTFRB sa pagpapamulta nito lalo na kung iisipin na posibleng magtagal ang COVID-19 ng walong buwan, gaya ng naganap sa Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome noong 2002-2003.

Mahirap isipin ng mga tsuper at iba na gusto lang magkapera ang LTFRB at itinaon pa sa oras ng kagipitan.

FACE MASK SA MOTEL?

Walang sinasanto o kinatatakutan ang mga mag-asawa at iba pang magdyodyowa kung dumarating ang araw ni Kupido o Valentine's Day.

Kahit pa ang COVID-19.

Kaya naman, dumarating sa atin ang mga ulat na punuan na, 24 oras, ang mga motel, hotel, apartelle at iba pang pupwedeng pagtaguan ng mga naglilabing-labing.

Kung may higit man silang kinatatakutan, lalo na ang mga walang sariling sasakyan, walang iba kundi ang tsis-mis...kung wala sa hulog ang kanilang relasyon.

Sangatutak na kasi ang mga motorcycle taxi gaya ng Angkas, Moveit, Joy Ride, taxi, Grab, Sky-lab at iba pa na naghahatid at sumusundo sa sumisimpleng lovers.

Anong malay nga naman nilang mga kabahay, kamag-anak, kapitbahay, kumare at kumpare nila ang mga maghahatid o susundo sa kanila sa mga hide-out nila?

Isang tanong: may susunod kaya sa patakaranang pagsusuot ng face mask sa mga tagong lugar ng love birds kahit na ang mga lugar na ito ay dinarayo at punuan ng tao na maaaring doon dadapo ang COVID-19?

oOo

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