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DAY : Saturday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



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Manila Water Lab Services gets DOH accreditation

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

East zone concessionaire Manila Water Co. Inc. said its laboratory services unit recently received accreditation until 2022 from the Department of Health (DOH) Metro Manila Center for Health Development.

In a statement, Manila Water said the DOH's accreditation aims to maintain the quality of drinking water fit for public consumption in compliance with the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water (PNSDW).

"The accreditation also allows MWLS to perform chemical, physical and microbiological analysis even on samples taken outside of Metro Manila's east zone, and results of which will be recognized and accepted by DOH," Manila Water said.

Meanwhile, the company also announced that its laboratory services unit also registered zero non-

conformity on the recently concluded assessment of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as part of its recognition and certification of MWLS as an environmental laboratory.

"The recognition, valid until 2021, is a result of an inspection and assessment done by a team comprised of the Board of Chemistry, the academe and industry experts as commissioned by the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)," the company said.

Manila Water Laboratory Services said it has complied with the documentation, analytical performance and other requirements for reinstatement with zero non-conformity and only two recommendations for improvement.

"The assessors also cited MWLS as a model laboratory having consistently performed outstanding proficiency testing while maintaining a world-class facility," it added.

Environmental laboratories, as defined by the DENR, are those authorized to generate environmental data for environmental impact assessment, environmental monitoring and research activities to support the formulation and implementation of government policies, criteria and rules and regulations on the protection of the environment.

To ensure that the water delivered to the customers satisfies regulatory standards on quality, MWLS processes an average of around 900 water samples from the distribution network per month, the company said on its website.

The samples are collected on a regular basis from strategically located sampling points all over the east zone.

"This number of sampling points surpasses the regulatory requirement and all results of the sampling have been consistently 100 percent compliant with the PNSDW, five percent above the requirement," the company said.



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Cavaliers, Warriors eye finals

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

Defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and newcomer Department of Environment Natural Resources (DENR) look to seal a title duel as they go for series-clinching wins against semis rivals Judiciary and National Housing Authority tomorrow in the eighth UNTV Cup at Paco Arena.

Determined to become the first back-to-back champions of the annual tournament for public servants, the AFP Cavaliers try to put away the Judiciary Magis in Game 2 of their best-of-three series at 3:30 p.m.

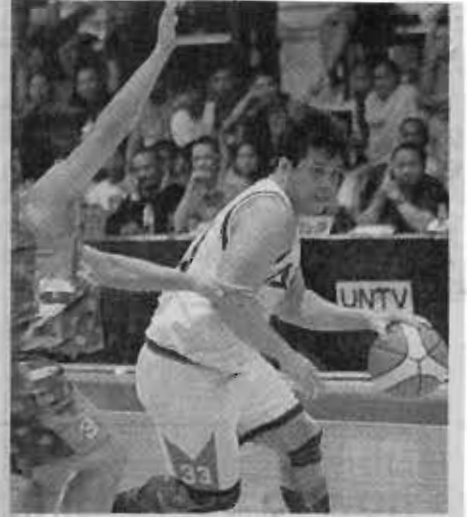
The Cavaliers took the opener, 79-74,

last Sunday to move on the threshold of a fourth finals appearance in the event organized by UNTV president and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

Backstopped by former national players Eugene Tan and Boyet Bautista, the Cavaliers are the winningest team in the league with three titles.

The DENR Warriors, on the other hand, are likewise favored to prevail over the National Housing Authority Builders in their 5 p.m. showdown.

With Ralph Lansang, Melvin Bangal and Ed Rivera combining for 50 points, the Warriors beat the Builders of coach Benneth Palad, 79-63, in their previous match.



Veteran Eugene Tan hopes to lead AFP to a series clinching win over Judiciary.



UNTV caging

AFP, DENR eye clinchers

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(Paco Arena)

3:30 p.m. - Judiciary vs
AFP

5 p.m. - NHA vs DENR

DEFENDING champion Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and newcomer Department of Environment Natural Resources (DENR) look to seal a title duel as they go for series-clinching wins against semis rivals tomorrow in the 8th UNTV Cup at Paco Arena in Manila.

Determined to become the first back-to-back champions of the annual tournament for public servants, the AFP Cavaliers try to put away the Judiciary Magis in Game 2 of their best-of-three series at 3:30 p.m.

Thanks to a well-balanced attack, the Cavaliers took the opener, 79-74, last Sunday to move within the threshold of securing their fourth finals appearance in the event organized by UNTV President and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

Backstopped by former PH team members Eugene Tan and Boyet Bautista, the Cavaliers own the distinction as the winningest team in the league with three titles.

The DENR Warriors, on the other hand, are likewise favored to prevail over the National Housing Authority Builders in their 5 p.m. showdown.

With Ralph Lansang, Melvin Bangal and Ed Rivera combining for 50

points, the Warriors easily beat the Builders of coach Benneth Palad, 79-63.

The chosen charity of the champion team will earn a tax-free P4 million top prize while the runner up's own foundation will get P2 million. The third and fourth placers shall receive P1 million and P500,000, respectively.

Players of the four semifinalists will not go home empty-handed as they will also receive something from the league.

Apart from Tan and Bautista, also expected to deliver for the Cavaliers are Jerry Lumungsod, Darwin Cordero and Ezer Rosopa who all finished in double figures the last time.



AFP, DENR wawalisin ang mga karibal sa UNTV semis

Mga laro bukas:
(Paco Arena, Maynila)
3:30 pm - Judiciary vs AFP
5 pm - NHA vs DENR

Asam ng defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines at bagong saltang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ma-sweep ang magkahiwalay



Isa si veteran Eugene Tan hopes na gagatilyo sa AFP para mawalis ang Judiciary bukas sa 8th UNTV Cup 2019-2020 best of three semifinals sa Paco Arena sa Manila. (FD)

na mga karibal upang makapalaot na sa Finals ng 8th UNTV Cup 2019-2020 bukas, Linggo sa Paco Arena sa Maynila.

Sasamantalahin ng AFP Cavaliers ang mabuting kondisyon nina former PH team members Eugene Tan at Boyet Bautista upang tabunan ang Judiciary sa Game 2 ng semis sa alas-3:30 ng hapon at makaderetso sa finals.

Aararuhin ding muli nina Ralph Lansang, Melvin Bangal at Ed Rivera ang NHA Builders para makaakyat sa next round ang DENR Warriors

Kung magtagumpay man ang AFP at DENR aangat sa finals, pero kung parehong matalo ay may do-or-die match-up pa sa ligang inorganisa ni UNTV president at CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

Ang magkakampeon sa liga ay makakakuha ng P4M tax-free papremyo na mapupunta sa mapipiling charity ng winning team, at P2 million para sa runner-up.

Tiniyak naman ng management na uwing may dala ang mga manlalaro na nakapasok sa final four. (Aivan Episcopo)



Cavs, Warriors seek UNTV title clash

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VETERAN Eugene Tan (center) hopes to lead AFP to a series clinching win over Judiciary on Sunday in the UNTV Cup at Paco Arena in Manila.

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AFP, DENR parehong asam ang finals

LARO BUKAS

(Paco Arena)

SEMIFINALS (best-of-3)

3:30 p.m. - Judiciary vs AFP

5 p.m. - NHA vs DENR

Pipilitin ng nagdedepensang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at bagitong Department of Environment Natural Resources (DENR) na plantsahin ang title duel.

Pakay ng dalawa na tapusin ang kani-kanilang semifinals series papasok sa 8th UNTV Cup Finals.

Hangad maging unang back-to-back champions ng annual tournament para sa mga public servants, lalabanan ng AFP Cavaliers ang Judiciary Magis sa Game Two ng kanilang best-of-three series ngayong alas-3:30 ng hapon sa Paco Arena sa Manila City.

Inangkin ng Cavaliers ang 79-74 panalo sa Game One para lumapit sa ikaapat na finals appearance sa event na inorganisa ni UNTV President at CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

Sa likod nina dating national team members Eugene Tan at Boyet Bautista, ang Cavaliers ang 'winningest team' sa liga sa kanilang hawak na tatlong korona.

Haharapin naman ng DENR Warriors ang National Housing Authority Builders ngayong alas-5 ng hapon.

Nagtiwang sina Ralph Lansang, Melvin Bangal at Ed Rivera sa iniskor na 50 points para igiya ang Warriors sa 79-63 paggupo sa Builders.



'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' government program a failure—Gatchalian

SENATOR Win Gatchalian on Friday declared that the government's 3R of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" as a dismal failure.

Gatchalian made the declaration on reading a report by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that only 30 percent of barangays nationwide, or an estimated 12,614 out of 42,045, are practicing segregation.

"The 3Rs is a failure, *yung* reuse, reduce, recycle because only 30 percent

of the barangays conduct 3Rs, 70 percent *ay tinatapon lang sa kung saan-saan*," he said.

As chairman of the Committee on Energy at the Senate, Gatchalian has called out the DENR for its failure to fully implement the Solid Waste Management Act with 331 as illegal dumpsites remain operational in the country. Part of the DENR's mandate is to close illegal dumpsites.

Gatchalian said that it is now the

time for the government to consider the adoption of Waste-to-Energy facilities in the treatment and disposal of solid waste.

Under his Senate Bill No. 363 or the Waste-to-Energy Act, Gatchalian seeks to provide a framework for the entire value chain of WTE facilities, and, in turn, ensure the uninterrupted supply of waste as feedstock.

Gatchalian said the immediate passage of the WTE Act will not only encourage the development of new

technologies in the treatment and disposal of solid waste, it also supports the expansion of bioenergy to attain sustainable energy.

Gatchalian has also pressed the DENR, DOE, and the Department of Science and Technology to come up with a study to look at the capacity, potential for energy and environmental concerns for them to have some preliminary idea on how energy can solve the country's solid waste issues in the country.



Van in hot lumber mess cleared

By Aldwin Quitasol

BAGUIO CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) denied yesterday the alleged involvement of its personnel in the transportation of illegal lumber.

The DENR's Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Baguio clarified that it is not the DENR that transported the tree. "Rather, the DENR came into possession of the van after it was impounded when police apprehended it," CENRO said in a letter as response to a public post of the Inter-Agency Council for Traffic (IACT).

IACT last Tuesday posted on its social media page that DENR is using a government vehicle for illegal activities. The post claimed that DENR's vehicle was flagged down in Bokod, Benguet for carrying illegally sourced 61 pieces of narra lumber in November 2017.

Despite the van being unregistered, CENRO Officer Leandro de Jesus said that the DENR uses it for other purposes.

De Jesus said the post is contrary to the fact that it was the Philippine National Police-Bokod who apprehended the van. "On 28 November 2017, inventory and scaling of the confiscated lumber were then conducted by our forest rangers where it revealed that sixty-one pieces of narra lumber in different sizes having a total volume of 737.66 board feet, on the same date the said lumber and vehicle were turned over to our office for safekeeping pending the formal conduct of administrative adjudication proceedings," he said.

"On 28 December 2018, an order issued by the Regional Executive Director was served, received and duly acknowledged by the respondents on 25 January 2019 and with full compliance with the provisions of Department Administrative Order 97-32 and there being no appeal filed within the reglementary period, the said order has become final and executory issued on 25 March 2019 in Baguio City," he stressed.



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MPIC's Shore It Up! helps protect Marinduque's coastal community

Metro Pacific Investments Foundation (MPIF), the corporate social responsibility arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC), signed an agreement with the local government unit (LGU) of Marinduque to elevate environmental awareness and protect the marine biodiversity of the province.

Shore It Up! (SIU) is a program created for coastal communities with a purpose of

raising environmental awareness, providing livelihood assistance, protecting and propagating mangroves, and conserving the country's marine resources. It is an award-winning environmental sustainability movement commemorating its 12th year of providing initiatives and support to coastal communities. It chose Marinduque as its new SIU community partner due to

Turn to B5

the province's geographic location as a center of marine biodiversity.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Marinduque through its congressman, Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco and MPIC, through its chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan, jumpstarts the adoption of SIU, MPIC's flagship environmental program. This includes the formation of the Marine Protection, Inspection and Conservation Guardians and the implementation of underwater and coastal clean-ups. SIU will also develop a program that protects over 2,000 hectares of mangroves, purposefully raising awareness on conservation efforts within the province.

Under the MOU, SIU plans to earmark specific efforts as well as sustainable programs that will benefit not only the environment, but also the local community of Marinduque as well.

Similar to other SIU projects all over the country, MPIF aims to conduct a provincial-wide coastal and underwater clean-up, as well as set up a cadre of Marine Protection, Inspection, and Conservation (MPIC) Guardians in the island. SIU also plans to make a significant impact in the coastal areas by increasing community involvement through developing environmental awareness and providing programs for sustainable ecotourism.

Also present were Marinduque Vice Gov. Romulo Aguinaldo Bacorro Jr., MPIC president and CEO Jose Ma. Lim, MPIF president Melody del Rosario, MVP Media Bureau managing director Mike Toledo, PLDT-Smart Foundation president Esther Santos, One Meralco Foundation president Jeffrey Tarayao, Maynilad AVP for government relations Marie Antonette de Ocampo, MPTC vice president and group controller Rizza Latorre and Makati Medical Center Foundation executive director Marge Barro.



Angono mayor wants quarry operations to end

By Nell Alcober

If she had her way, she would no longer allow companies to continue their mining and quarrying operations in her town.

This was according to Angono, Rizal Mayor Jeri Mae Calderon, who boldly said she will move heaven and earth to prevent mining companies from further destroying their mountains and rivers.

Calderon, the town's first female and youngest mayor, said she will stick by her decision not to allow mining firms to continue their operations even if they contribute big revenue to the local government.

"My stand on quarries will not change. I will endure losing that big amount so long as mining leaves our place," the 29-year-old daughter of former mayor and now Vice Mayor Gerry Calderon said in an interview.

However, she admitted not knowing the exact amount of money that goes to the local government from the mining industry.

"The permission to mine doesn't come from the local government, but from the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources). But if they will ask for my recommendation, it will be a negative from me," she added.

Calderon said Lafarge Aggregates and Concrete Aggregates Corporation only have until 2021 to operate their quarries in her town.

Located on 212-hectares of land covering the Barangays of San Roque and San Isidro, mining operation have been in operation since 1969.

My stand on quarries will not change. I will endure losing that big amount so long as mining leaves our place.

"We will no longer allow them. They can start on a rehab of the area. They have not committed any violations, but I personally think it's enough," she explained.

"The water at Wawa River has turned brown because that's where the sediment goes during the rainy season. I want mining to stop, so that I can see again our mountains in good condition," she added.

Asked what will she do with workers who will be displaced if mining operations will be stopped, she replied, "They have a big company. Maybe they can be absorbed to do other work."

She said 90 percent of the workers in the mining firms are from Angono.

Though she will be going against giant companies, the neophyte local chief executive said she is not being pressured and wouldn't be threatened as she vowed to permanently stop mining operations in her town.

The town's quarry operations were issued with two Mining Production Sharing Agreements, which was signed by the DENR Secretary on 15 June 1995 and 23 October 1996. These are valid only for 25 years, with their terms lapsing this year and in 2021.

From 2001 to 2019, then mayor Gerry Calderon consistently expressed his opposition for the renewal of quarry permits.

In response, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau sent a letter to the mayor indicating the financial assistance for people affected by the quarry.

Data from the local government showed residents of Barangay San Isidro, who live within the 1,500-meter radius from the quarry, mostly have lung problems.



Bacoor City's progress cited

BACOOR City — Environment protection and sustainable development are paramount considerations in the efforts of the local government to usher in economic growth and uplift the lives of the city's residents. This holds true with the proposed 420-hectare reclamation projects along the city's coast according to Bacoor City Mayor Lani Revilla.

The city is a consistent recipient of the Seal of Good Local Governance from the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) bagging its fifth consecutive SGLG in November last year.

"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, 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 revenues 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 (ISFs) and fishermen against dislocation of job or livelihood.

"Una sa lahat, marami sa mga maaapektuhan ng reklamasyon ay nagtatrabaho sa Bacoor din lang. Sila ay ililikas sa Bacoor din naman, kaya hindi sila mawawala sa kung anong trabaho o hanapbuhay na mayroon silang ayon," Revilla 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 ISFs would be relocated in "Ciudad Kaunlaran" in Molino II, where a livelihood center will be established. On the other hand, Fisherman's Village will 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 for 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 mussels and oyster industry which produces around 6,000 gallons of mussels daily, would continue to thrive along with the reclamation project.

"Hindi totoong mamamatay ang industriya ng tahong at talaba ng Bacoor. Ang Bacoor ay mayroong 750 hectares na offshore municipal waters; 330 hectares lamang nito ang sasakupin ng reklamasyon. May nakalaang 90 hectares pa para sa mangrove plantation. Samakatuwid, mayroon pang 330 hectares pa para sa ating tahong at talaba farmers," she pointed out.

The preservation of the city's mangroves plantation is important not only in reducing the pollution in the Manila Bay area and ensuring sustainable fisheries in the area. Sustainable fisheries are another priority measure NEDA pinpointed under its Manila Bay cleanup master plan.

Mangroves, specifically the underwater habitat their roots provide, offer critical nursing environments for juveniles of thousands of fish species. Mangroves also help prevent erosion by stabilizing sed-

iments and maintaining water quality and clarity as they filter pollutants and trap sediments originating from land.

Water pollution had triggered episodes of algal blooms known as "red tide," that threatened the mussel and oyster industry. From January to May 2019 alone, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has issued eight bulletins indicating shellfish in the covered area are contaminated with organisms carrying paralytic poison, making them unsafe for human consumption.

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

Designed with the help of leading European engineering firms and scientific consultants, the proposed projects would likewise pose no significant adverse impact on the ecology of the adjacent areas, including the Las Pinas-Paranaque 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.

Revilla also said that the additional revenues from the reclamation



The new City Hall of Bacoor attests to the progress of the city achieved through good governance and adherence to the principles of sustainable development. Along with its continuing push for development, Bacoor implements stringent measures to protect its environment, as shown by posters reminding residents to comply with solid waste segregation policy.

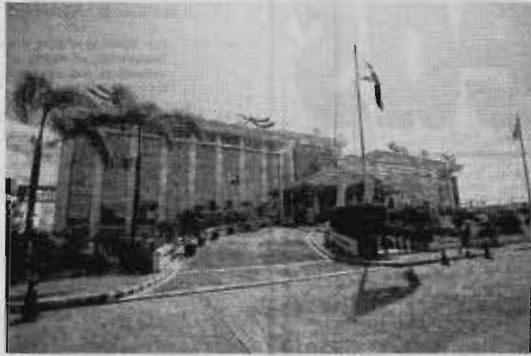
projects would bolster the city's capability to provide services, including its aggressive waste management efforts which earned recognition in 2018 from the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau-Calabarzon Region.

The EMB-Calabarzon had cited Bacoor for being

'an active partner in the protection of our fragile natural resources through the implementation of RA 9003, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, and for its sustainable practices using Best Environmental Technology and Best Environmental Practices.'



Revilla: Economic strides in step with environment preservation



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The EMB-Calabarzon had cited Bacoor for being 'an active partner in the protection of our fragile natural resources through the implementation of RA 9003, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, and for its sustainable practices using Best Environmental Technology and Best Environmental Practices.'

Aside from prudent solid waste management practices, the city government has been conducting continuous cleaning of its main water ways, such as the Bacoor and Zapote Rivers, to help reduce pollutants in Manila Bay.



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MARAMI na ang excited sa pagsisimula ng reclamation project sa Bacoor, Cavite dahil magpapabilis ito sa pag-unlad ng buong lalawigan.

Magiging sentro ito ng negosyo at industriya!

□□□

TULOY ang reclamation sa mahigit 300 ektaryang dalampasigan sa Bacoor, Cavite.

Maiiwan pa rin bilang habitat ang mahigit 400 ektarya!

□□□

ANG nalalabing 400 ektarya ang magiging sentrong pangisdaan kung saan inaani ang mga de-kalidad na tahong at talaba ng Bacoor.

Mananatiling masigla ang mga mangi-

ngisda at uusbong ang kaunlaran dahil sa reclamation area!

□□□

NATUTUWA ang mga city dwellers na maaapektuhan dahil bibigyan sila ng "in-city relocation — taga-Bacoor pa rin sila.

Ibig sabihin, hindi gaanong apektado ang kanilang hanapbuhay at maging ang pag-aaral ng kanilang mga anak!

□□□

NOONG Nobyembre, tumanggap ng Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) si Mayor Lani Revilla dahil sa maayos na pangangasiwa sa lungsod.

Kasama sa ebalwasyon ang environment at financial administration, peace



P1.8 BILYON DAGDAG-KITA SA BACOOOR DAHIL SA RECLAMATION AREA SA CAVITE

and order, business, disaster preparedness at tourism!

□□□

IGINAWAD din noong Enero, 2020 sa Bacoor ang gold medal para sa 2019 Environmental Compliance Audit kaugnay sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay na iniutos ni P-Duterte.

Kaya ipatutupad ang reclamation batay sa Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan ng

NEDA!

□□□

ILILIPAT ang mga informal settlers sa Ciudad Kaunlaran sa Bgy. Molino II.

Ang mga mangingisda naman ay sa "Fishermen's Village" sa Bgy. Alima kung saan maaaring dumaong ang kanilang mga bangkang pangisda!

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AYON kay Revilla, madaragdagan ng P1.8

bilyon ang kita ng lungsod kada taon.

Mabibigyan din ng trabaho ang may 700,000 obrero bukod pa sa sigla nang todo ang ekonomiya ng lalawigan dahil sa reclamation project!

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TALIWAS sa paniniwala ng ilan, hindi apektado ng naturang reclamation ang kalapit na Las Piñas at Parañaque.

Sa totoo lang, mada-damay na rin ang dalawang siyudad sa inaasahang pagsigla ng negosyo at industriya.

Mahalagang magkaroon ng ganitong inobasyon at pambihirang proyekto sa gitna ng modernisasyon at pag-unlad ng teknolohiya sa bansa!



Kalikasan protektado sa Bacoor reclamation

Kasama ng anumang isinusulong na plano sa pag-unlad ay ang proteksyon ng kalikasan.

Ito ang tiniyak ni Mayor Lani M. Revilla kaugnay sa panukalang 420-hectare reclamation project sa lungsod.

Nitong nakaraang Nobyembre, muling nasungkit ng Bacoor para sa ika-limang sunod na taon ang Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) mula sa Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) bilang pagkilala sa integridad at maayos na pamamahala ng mga

pinuno ng lungsod, kung saan environmental management ang isa sa pangunahing batayan.

Nitong Enero 2020 ay nakatanggap din ang Bacoor ng gold award para sa 2019 Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) kaugnay ng direktiba ni Pangulong Duterte para sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay.

Nagbigay naman ng garantiya si Revilla na mayroong nakalaang in-city relocation para sa mga appektadong informal settler families (ISFs) at mga mangingisda sa lungsod.

Ang in-city relocation at

mga karagdagang trabaho kaugnay sa reclamation project ay alinsunod sa inihandang Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan ng National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), partikular dito ang pagbibigay ng maayos at abot kayang pabahay na may kasamang basic services at oportunidad na pangkabuhayan.

Sinigurado rin ni Revilla na kahit may reclamation, hindi madedehado ang industriya ng tahong at talaba ng Bacoor, na umaani ng aabot sa 6,000 galon ng tahong araw-araw.



Last cargo of toxic waste re-exported this month

THE remaining 100 container vans of contaminated plastic waste illegally shipped to Northern Mindanao from South Korea will finally be returned to their source this month.

Environment-advocacy group EcoWaste Coalition said that the third batch will be shipped back tomorrow, while the fourth and last batch will be returned on February 23.

The group's national coordinator, Aileen Lucero, said the information was relayed to them through text message by Bureau of Customs-Region X (BOC-10) Port Collector John Si-

mon.

Based on Simon's info, the container ships "Vivaldi" and "Nordmarsh" will take back, respectively, the 50 container vans to South Korea on February 16 and the last 50 containers on February 23.

"This will bring the total number of re-exported containers to 201," Simon informed Lucero.

Fifty containers were shipped back on Jan. 19, 2020 and another 51 containers on Jan. 13, 2019.

"The re-exportation of the remaining wastes from South Korea this month 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," said Simon to the group.

"As guardians of our ports, we are committed to curb illegal trade and halt all forms of customs fraud, including the practice of falsely declaring hazardous waste and other wastes as recyclables," he added.

The group, which has been monitoring compliance with the bilateral agreement by the governments of the Philippines and South Korea for the re-export of the illegal waste consignments, welcomed

Simon's announcement.

"The re-exportation of the remaining wastes and the cleanup of the storage site in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, which factually became an open dumpsite for South Korean rubbish, will help in bringing this dumping controversy to a close," said Lucero.

"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," said Lucero, who also emphasized the need for the national government to impose a total ban on waste importation and to ratify

the Basel Ban Amendment, an international law banning transfer of hazardous waste from developed to developing countries.

Lucero stressed that these environmental justice measures will protect the country and its people from the negative consequences of global waste trade.

Imported by Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corporation, the South Korean waste shipments wrongly declared as "plastic synthetic flakes" and weighing about 6,500 tons arrived in Northern Mindanao in July and October 2018.

Cory Martinez