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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



House panel okays bill declaring 13 sites as protected areas

BY WENDELL VIGILIA

THE House committee on natural resources has approved six bills declaring additional 13 sites in eight provinces as protected areas that are closed to commercial and large-scale exploitation.

The 13 will be added to a long list of watersheds, hills, mountains, parks, forest lands, and natural landscapes declared protected under Republic Act No. 11038, or the Expanded National Integrated Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018,

“We have to protect, regrow and preserve them for the benefit, enjoyment and appreciation of future generations of Filipinos. For instance, watersheds, hills and mountains are among our primary

sources of water,” said Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr., panel chair.

Barzaga said most of these areas, which cover a combined area of 332,456 hectares, have been subjected to commercial use for decades and are now overexploited.

The new areas proposed to be added to the ENIPAS list include Mt. Arayat in the town of Arayat in Pampanga.

Deputy speaker and Rep. Aurelio “Dong” Gonzales Jr. of Pampanga’s third district, which covers Arayat, said the mountain “is currently facing environmental challenges like illegal logging.”

“If no action is taken, it is only a matter of time before Arayat degrades into an unrecoverable husk of landmass devoid of life.

It could also become a natural hazard to people living within its periphery,” he said.

The 12 other additional protected areas are nine watersheds in Mindoro Occidental and Mindoro Oriental, a group of small islands in the town of Carles in Iloilo, the Tugbo watershed in the city of Masbate and the town of Mobo in Masbate, the Hinakpan mystical hills in Guihulangan, Negros Oriental; and the Tirad Pass landscape in Gregorio del Pilar in Quirino and the towns of Sigay, Cervantes and Suyu in Ilocos Sur.

The six bills have common provisions. If declared protected, the areas will be under the supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



House panel approves 6 measures declaring 13 sites as protected areas

BY JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ

✉ @joveemarie

THE House Committee on Natural Resources has approved six bills declaring 13 sites in eight provinces as protected areas that are closed to commercial and large-scale exploitation.

Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. of Dasmarinas City in Cavite, committee chairman, said the 13 sites would be added to a long list of watersheds, hills, mountains, parks, forest lands, and natural landscapes declared protected under Republic Act 11038, or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (Enipas) Act of 2018.

According to Barzaga, the new protected sites cover a combined area of 332,456 hectares. The lawmaker said most of these areas have been subjected to commercial use for decades, and are now overexploited.

"We have to protect, regrow and preserve them for the benefit, enjoyment and appreciation of future generations of Filipinos. For instance, watersheds, hills and mountains are among our primary sources of water," he said in a news statement.

The new areas proposed to be added to the Enipas list include Mount Arayat in the town of Arayat in Pampanga.

For his part, Deputy Speaker and Rep. Aurelio Gonzales Jr. of Pam-

panga's third district, which covers Arayat, said the mountain "is currently facing environmental challenges, like illegal logging."

"If no action is taken, it is only a matter of time before Mount Arayat degrades into an unrecoverable husk of landmass devoid of life. It could also become a natural hazard to people living within its periphery," he said.

The 12 other additional protected areas are nine watersheds in Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro; a group of small islands in the town of Carles in Iloilo; the Tugbo watershed in the City of Masbate and the town of Mobo in Masbate; the Hinakpan Mystical Hills in Guihulngan, Negros Oriental; and the Tirad Pass landscape in Gregorio del Pilar, Quirino and the towns of Sigay, Cervantes and Suyo in Ilocos Sur.

The six bills have common provisions. If declared as protected areas, these specific areas will be placed under the supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). A protected area management office headed by a protected area superintendent would be created to see to it that the sites would no longer be subjected to destructive human practices.

Under the measures, funding for the management and protection of these areas would be included in the annual DENR budget.



'PROTECTED AREAS' SA

PH DINAGDAGAN

UPANG masiguro ang ibayong biyaya, kaligtasan at iba pang kapakinabangan, lalo na para sa mga susunod na henerasyon, inaprubahan ng House Committee on Natural Resources ang pagdedeklara sa karagdagang 13 protected areas sa bansa.

"We have to protect, re-grow and preserve them for the

benefit, enjoyment and appreciation of future generations of Filipinos. For instance, watersheds, hills and mountains are among our primary sources of water," ang pahayag ni Cavite 4th Dist. Rep. Elpidio Barzaga, chairman ng nasabing komite, matapos ang pagpapaloob sa Republic Act No. 11038 o ang Expanded National Integrated Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of

2018 ng 13 lugar, mula sa walong lalawigan.

Kabilang sa mga bagong protected area ang Mt. Arayat sa Pampanga; walong watersheds sa bahagi ng Occidental Mindoro at Oriental Mindoro; isang grupo ng mga maliliit na isla sa Carles, Iloilo; Tugbo watersheds na nasa Masbate City at Mobo, Masbate; ang Hinakpan Mysti-

cal Hills sa Guihulangan, Negros Oriental at ang Tirad Pass landscape sa Gregorio del Pilar, Quirino hanggang sa mga bayan ng Sigay, Cervantes at Suyo sa Ilocos Sur.

Ayon kay Barzaga, karamihan sa nasabing mga lugar ay labis na nagamit sa komersiyo, at pagkalipas ng ilang taon ay hindi maitatagong grabeng naabuso at halos mapabayaan.

Sinabi ng ranking House official na marapat lamang na agad kumilos ang pamahalaan, kabilang silang nasa Kongreso, para tuldukan ang nangyayaring "environment and natural resources exploitation" at magpatupad ng mga hakbang para mapangalagaan ang nabanggit na mga lugar bago pa tuluyang masira ang mga ito at hindi na mapakinabangan.

Dahil idineklarang 'protected areas', ang naturang mga lugar ay isasailalim sa pamamahala at pagbantay ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kung saan paglalaanan din ito ng kinakailangang pondo hindi lamang para sa proteksiyon nito kundi maging sa layuning mapagyaman pa ang mga ito.

ROMER R. BUTUYAN

Researchers find fewer pangolins in Palawan forests

NEWS



Researchers find fewer pangolins in Palawan

In the dead of the night, members of the wildlife group Katala Foundation scoured 2,400 hectares of forests in the Victoria-Anepahan Mountain Range in Palawan province in search of Philippine pangolins. In 12 expeditions from 2018 to 2019, they managed to find only 17. While the pangolins were fewer in number, it was complicated to exactly determine whether there was a significant decline over the years. —STORY BY JHESSET O. ENANO

ENDANGERED A Philippine pangolin, one of the world's most trafficked mammals, and her baby are sighted by census takers in the Victoria-Anepahan Mountain Range in Palawan province. A researcher (below) studies another pangolin. In areas with more threats to biodiversity, such as illegal logging and slash-and-burn farming, few to no pangolins or any other animals were found. —PHOTOS COURTESY OF USAID PROTECT WILDLIFE AND KATALA FOUNDATION

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

Only 17 Philippine pangolins (*Manis culionensis*) were found in a survey of 2,400 hectares of forests in the Victoria-Anepahan Mountain Range in Palawan province, according to a recent study that sought to determine the presence of one of the world's most trafficked mammals and the threats to their survival.

Led by the wildlife group Katala Foundation and funded by USAID Protect Wildlife, the study ran from 2018 to 2019 in an attempt to update the limited information available about the Philippine pangolin, locally known as "balintong."

One of eight species around the world, it was only recently described as distinct from the Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*), which is found in several countries in Southeast Asia.

The situation of this shy, scaly mammal was reflected in its recent reclassification as a critically endangered species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List, with loss of habitat and poaching among the main drivers for its shrinking numbers.

12 expeditions

Together with local guides and dogs, researchers from Katala went on 12 expeditions in thick forests, looking for clues that could lead to the elusive pangolin, such as ant and termite trails, tree scratches, ground diggings and scent marks.

After a dozen painstaking trips, however, researchers found only a handful of pango-

lins, including a nursing baby, juveniles and pregnant ones.

In half of those expeditions—which were done in the dead of night since these animals are nocturnal—not a single pangolin was found.

Dr. Sabine Schoppe, who led the survey, said this count was much smaller than the number from similar ground surveys done in other areas of Palawan in the previous years.

"This is less than half the number of individuals, which reached 36, compared to the surveys in six sites done by the Katala Foundation between 2013 and November 2014," Schoppe told the Inquirer.

Complicated

While the pangolins were fewer in number, she said it was still complicated to exactly determine whether there was a significant decline over the years, since various research methods and sites were used in the studies.

"There are anecdotal records that pangolins are or were generally more abundant in the north compared to the south of Palawan," she noted.

What is clear in the recent study, however, was that forest conditions translated to whether pangolins would be present in particular sites.

Aside from ground survey, the expeditions used camera traps with motion sensors. More than 30 cameras were positioned on each plot stretching 3,300 ha.

After more than 7,300 days, the cameras recorded around one to four pangolins on each plot.



While this rate was low, photos showed that diverse wildlife still thrive in Victoria-Anepahan, including species endemic to Palawan such as the porcupine, peacock-pheasant, bearded pig, leopard cat and stink badger.

But in areas where there were more threats to biodiversity, such as illegal logging and slash-and-burn farming, few to

no pangolins or any other animals were found.

USAID Protect Wildlife said that in one expedition, the researchers surveyed a heavily logged area, describing it as an "empty forest." They also came across illegal loggers with chainsaws intimidating the research team in one incident.

No legal protection

While it was declared a key biodiversity area, the 165,000-ha mountain range has no existing legal protection, and thus, no conservation measures are in place to safeguard the forests and their inhabitants.

"Using the findings of the study, specific priority areas for pangolin conservation in Victoria-Anepahan can now be drawn from sites with the most

number of pangolin sightings and with fewer threats to forests and wildlife," said USAID Protect Wildlife.

Stronger enforcement, meanwhile, can also help reduce the pressure on the already fragile pangolin population, which is threatened by illegal wildlife trade.

Poaching continues

Part of the study, led this time by Palawan State University, showed that pangolin poaching and trafficking continue because of demand from buyers. Both buyers and hunters can come from as far as Puerto Princesa City and other northern towns in Palawan.

Fresh scales, which are heavily used in traditional Asian medicine despite having no proven medicinal value, can sell for up to P4,500 per kilo. Dried ones can fetch up to P7,000 per kilo. Pangolin meat, a delicacy in some Asian countries, can command up to P300 per kilo.

Community members interviewed for the study cited poverty and lack of livelihood as among their reasons for entering the illegal trade.

Following the conclusion of the study, USAID said it would continue to work with local partners, including the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, to develop a conservation plan for the Philippine pangolin.

"The survival of the Philippine pangolin does not solely depend on research and resources but, to a large extent, on demand reduction, law enforcement and political will," Schoppe said. **INQ**



Suwag o suko: Endangered tamaraw on focus



'Suwag o Suko' features footages of the expedition to Mts. Iglit-Baco National Park in Mindoro.

IN A bid to protect the life and livelihood linked to tamaraws, Canon Philippines produced a 60-minute documentary scheduled for nationwide release in March.

Entitled "Suwag o Suko," the documentary features footages of the expedition to Mts. Iglit-Baco National Park in Mindoro, the last frontier of tamaraws. Canon teamed up with the United Nations Development Programme and Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Biodiversity Finance Initiative.

Considered one of the world's critically endangered animals, the water buffalos are closely watched by a band of 23 rangers from the Tamaraw Conservation Program. The joint initiative sheds light on the program's conservation efforts and the many realities the rangers face in the call of duty.

Though from sight, the challenge of

conservation becomes all the more difficult. That's why Canon Philippines and our partners are pooling our resources together to share the cause of the rangers to a wider audience," said vice president Anuj Aggarwal.

The docu-film follows the trail of rangers, from when they leave camp to when they overcome external threats of weather, tensions arising from cultural practices, and come home to choose to strike or surrender their cause for another day.

The documentary premiered at the National Museum of the Philippines in Octo-

ber 2019, in celebration of the National Tamaraw Month.

With full intent to reach as many local viewers as possible, "Suwag o Suko's" narrative is told in the language of the rangers (Filipino) and is intended to be translated for native speakers of Cebuano, Hiligaynon,

Turn to C2



Suwag...

From C1

Visayan, Chavacano, and Bicolano.

"We do not want to simply raise funds for tamaraw conservation through this film. We also want to spread awareness of the plight of the largest land mammal in the Philippines, similar to our very own Philippine Eagle, which is well known by Filipinos and people around the world," said Ricardo Calderon, assistant secretary for climate change and concurrent director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau of DENR.

The DENR is currently reviewing the Tamaraw Conservation Program in order to strengthen the conservation of the critically endangered tamaraw.

"Found nowhere else in the world, the tamaraws are a source of pride for Filipinos. As the film's viewers will discover, the survival of these animals is closely linked to the lives of rangers and communities surrounding the conserved area," said Aggarwal.

Aggarwal added, "Suwag o Suko is a call for solidarity, for us to collectively stand with the rangers and show our support for the Tamaraw's and country's biodiversity conservation efforts."



The docu-film follows the trail of rangers from the Tamaraw Conservation Program.



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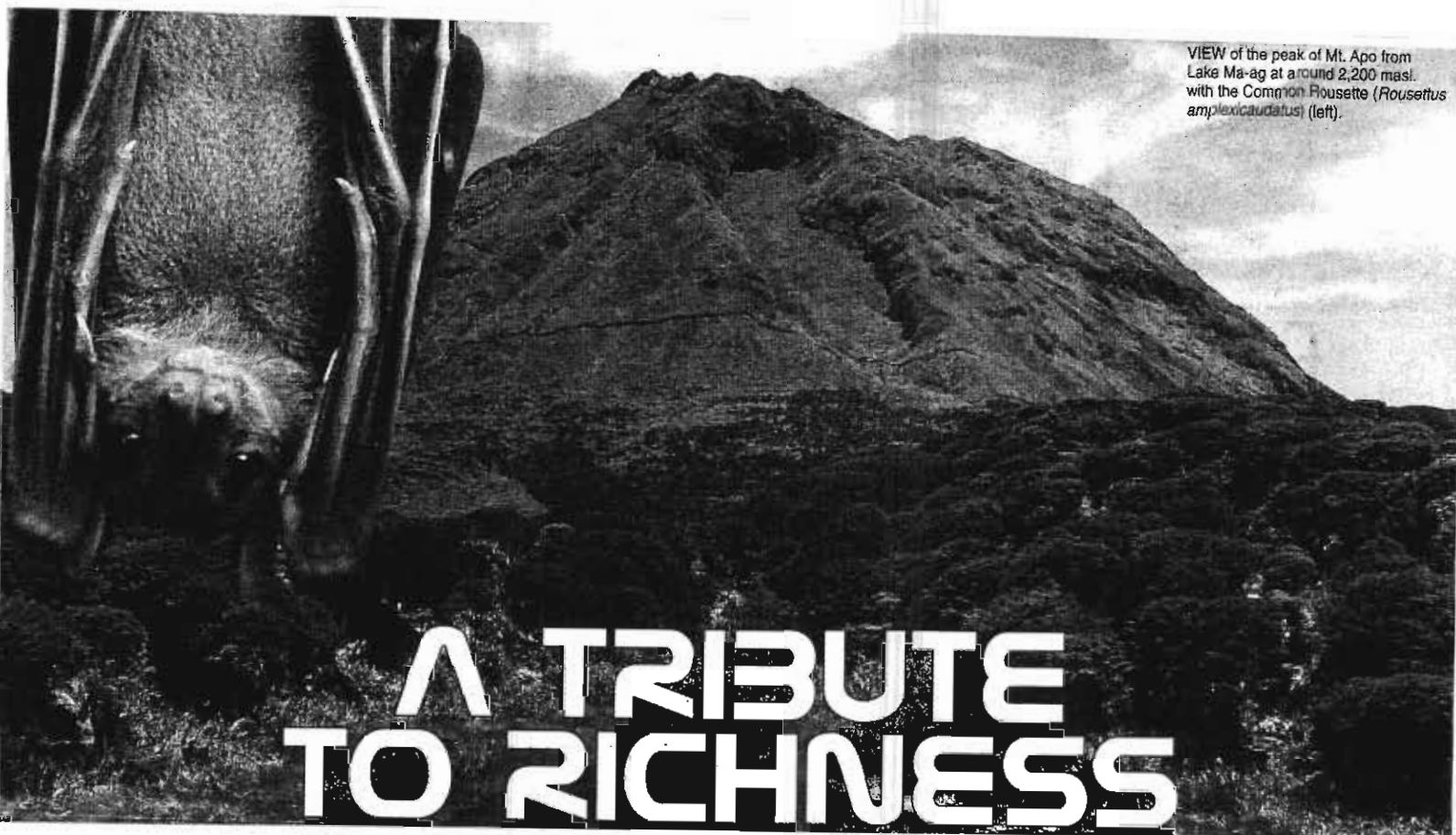
BRIEF
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VIEW of the peak of Mt. Apo from Lake Ma-ag at around 2,200 masl. with the Common Rousette (*Rousettus amplexicaudatus*) (left).

A TRIBUTE TO RICHNESS

Wildlife Treasures is the result of a well-established and productive partnership between the two institutions in biodiversity conservation and monitoring program

BY EDGAR ALLAN M. SEMBRANO
Contributing Writer

The auditorium of the University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD) Institute of Biology (IB) was almost full and the mood was both celebratory and emotional as the veil was lifted to reveal a book on the interesting and rich fauna thriving in the various Energy Development Corporation

"legacy includes spreading awareness on the importance of caring for nature that has been taking care of us, his students, and to various partners" like the aforementioned company.

The book is EDC's tribute to him, it said. EDC president Richard Tantoco said in his speech that Dr. Ong's dedication to the conservation of nature inspired them to further champion biodiversity



PHOTOGRAPH BY EDGAR ALLAN M. SEMBRANO

FAMILY of Dr. Perry Ong during the launch of the book.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JASON B. FERNANDEZ

PHILIPPINE cinnamon frog in Leyte.

conservation in the country particularly in its various geothermal plants such as in Leyte and Davao.

The book, he said, is a clear proof that development does not always come at the expense of our environment, as evidenced by how the diverse wildlife have thrived within EDC's geothermal reservations.

(EDC) geothermal plant locations in the country.

The late Dr. Perry Ong, wildlife biologist and former dean of the UPD College of Science, would definitely be elated to see the product he helped conceptualize in 2017 realized.

Published by the EDC with the UPD-IB, *Wildlife Treasures* is the result of a well-established and productive partnership between the two institutions in biodiversity conservation and monitoring program in which Dr. Ong played an important role.

EDC in a statement said Dr. Ong's

He said the commitment





PHOTOGRAPH BY MARIANO ROY M. DUYA

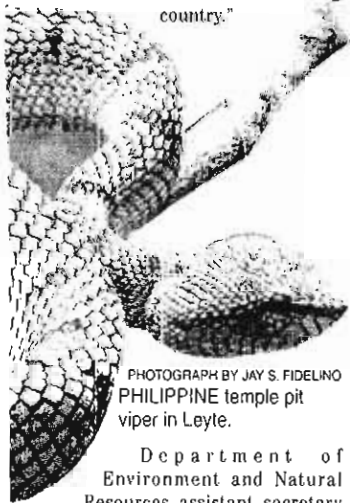
YELLOW-BREASTED fruit dove in BacMan.

to conserve wildlife in their geothermal sites gave birth to the book.

Close to 300 birds, 43 bats, 25 mammals and 46 amphibians were documented in EDC power plant areas and many of these are endemic to the country.

He said they conducted biodiversity surveys to have a baseline data as basis for their conservation efforts and in improving what needs to be improved and repeatedly thanked Dr. Ong for his unwavering support and dedication in wildlife conservation.

"We owe whatever positive impact that we have had on the planet to Doc Perry and really we must take things much further," he said, adding that "may we continue to respond to the call of Perry to work with compassion, patriotism, and service to the country."



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAY S. FIDELINO
PHILIPPINE temple pit viper in Leyte.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources assistant secretary Ricardo Calderon meanwhile stressed the importance of wildlife documentation since it strengthens people's understanding in the crafting of strategic policies and programs on biodiversity conservation.

The book, he said, "is a clear proof that development does not always come at the expense of our environment, as evidenced by how the diverse wildlife has thrived within EDC's geothermal reservations."

Close to 300 birds, 43 bats, 25 mammals and 46 amphibians were



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARIANO ROY M. DUYA

PHILIPPINE flying dragon (*Draco spillopterus*) in BacMan.

documented in EDC power plant areas and many of these are endemic to the country.

Some of these are featured in the book such as the Philippine flying lemur (*Cynocephalus volans*), Philippine tube-nosed fruit bat (*Nyctimene rabori*), Mindanao wood shrew (*Podogymnura truei*), Philippine flying dragon (*Draco spillopterus*), Philippine

duck (*Anas luzonica*) and the Philippine hawk eagle (*Nisactes philippensis*).

Wildlife Treasures, an informative guide on Philippine biodiversity and biodiversity conservation and a visual treat with engrossing color photographs, is edited by Ong, Jay Fidelino, Mariano Roy Duya, Melizar Duya and Edwino Fernando.



PHOTOGRAPH BY LEMUELA PABICO

MINDANAO wood shrew on Mt. Apo.



PHOTOGRAPH BY NEUM TOMAS B. ROSELLA III

THE rufous hornbill or kalaw locally, is the largest species of hornbill in the Philippines



Bacoor reclamation projects seen to yield P1.8 B annually

Development projects in Bacoor are being carried out in full consideration of environment preservation, said Bacoor City Mayor Lani Revilla.

These projects, which include the proposed 420-hectare reclamation projects along the city's coast, are expected to provide the city of Bacoor in Cavite with additional P1.8 billion annual revenue from tourism activities alone and create about 700,000 jobs for its residents and the entire province, the mayor said.

These include the proposed reclamation projects covering 420-hectare along the city's coast, Revilla said.

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

The city government of Bacoor is the proponent of twin reclamation projects, namely Bacoor Reclamation and Development Project (BRDP) and the Diamond Reclamation and Development Project (DRDP).

BRDP has a total size of 320 hectares, while the DRDP consist of a 100-hectare island.

Revilla also said the in-city relocation and job generation component of the project adhere to key strategies identified by the the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) 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."

Likewise, Revilla said 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.

The local government has tapped leading European engineering firms and scientific consultants for the reclamation projects.

Revilla claimed that the designers said the projects pose no significant adverse impact on the ecology of the adjacent areas, including the Las Pinas-Paranaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA). — Iris Gonzales



Reclamation project sa Manila Bay permanenteng ibawal na

Duterte ang kanyang pagtutol sa napakaraming reclamation project sa Manila Bay.

Ayon sa Pangulo, ang alin mang reclamation project ng pribadong sektor ay hindi niya payagan habang siya ay nasa puwesto. Maliban na lamang kung ang reclamation project ay isinulong ng gobyerno na siyang pakikina-bangan ng publiko.

Sa mga nakaambang reclamation project ay pawang pakikinaba-

ngan at pagkakakitaan lang ng pribadong sektor tulad ng mga condominium, mall at casino hotel.

Sana naman ay hindi lang sa panahon ng administrasyong Duterte pagbawalan ang reclamation project ng pribadong sector bagkus ay gawin na itong permanente.

Pinagpipiyestahan lang ito ng mga malalaking kompanya na pagkakakitaan ng malaki.

Malaking pondo ang inilaan ng gobyerno sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay na kung magiging malinis na ito ay saka naman eentra ang reclamation project.

Ayon din sa usap-usapan ay malaking halaga umano ang pinakawalang pera ng mga negosyante upang makuha ang pag-aapruba ng mga lokal na pamahalaan sa reclamation project.

Dahil sa hindi

na matutuloy ang proyekto at kung totoo ang ulat na lagayan at katiwalian ay magsisilbi itong leksiyon sa mga negosyante dahil tiyak na malaking halaga ang nawala sa kanila.

Dapat ay ipreserba na lang ang Manila Bay at itakwil na ang anumang reclamation project dahil may masamang epekto ito tulad ng mga pagbaha sa lugar na nakapaligid sa Manila Bay.



Boracay, Bohol eyed in Duterte's tourism promo

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte will visit popular tourist destinations in the Visayas either by the end of the month or early March as part of government's efforts to promote domestic tourism amid health concerns from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Tourism Undersecretary Art Boncato said yesterday.

The Department of Tourism is coordinating with the Office of the President as to exactly when and where the visits will be, he said.

Boncato said among the places being considered are Boracay in Aklan, Cebu, and Bohol but "the intention really is to visit as many destinations as possible."

"We are mapping something either end of February, early March. So, that is the timing that we are looking at, coordinating with the Office of the President," he said.

He said the aim is to showcase the sites and attractions that are very popular with both domestic and foreign travelers.

Asked if the President will go swimming while in Boracay - which he once described as a

cesspool before he ordered its temporary closure to undergo rehabilitation -- Boncato said he can recommend it but "I cannot answer that question; it's below my pay grade."

Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo, concurrent presidential spokesman, said the President will just visit the tourist destinations, "make his presence felt, to say hello," and encourage people to visit.

He said the President "is always a magnet" and attracts people wherever he goes.

Boncato said local carriers, tour operators, and hotels owners and operators have agreed to help boost domestic tourism by offering lower rates and travel packages.

The President last week met with tourism industry stakeholders and discussed with them the impact of the coronavirus in the country.

The Department of Tourism estimated some P42.9 billion in foregone revenue up to April this year due to COVID-19 scare.

Duterte came out with a video message over the weekend, in which he urged Filipinos to travel with him around the country and assured tourists of their safety despite the COVID-19 scare.

Boncato assured the public that big gatherings and events may still proceed despite the COVID-19 scare, "for as long as long precautionary measures are in place and all protocols that are needed to be in place are in place."

Reports circulating on social media said the Department of Health has issued a statement against the holding of big events and gatherings. The DOH has denied issuing such statement.



Marikina River project could include basin to store excess floodwater — World Bank

THE PROPOSED \$700-million Pasig-Marikina River Basin Flood Management Project for Metro Manila's flood control system could feature a retention basin to boost its climate resilience, the World Bank said, citing preliminary design studies.

The World Bank, which will partially finance the project, said completion of the design is targeted for the end of June, along with other feasibility studies for the flood control project such as a flood forecasting and early warning system for Metro Manila and its surrounding areas, as well as the design of the institutional arrangements for sustainable flood management.

It said the retention basin with a capacity to impound about 12 million cubic meters of floodwater will "boost climate resilience" as the proposed Marikina Dam alone is deemed insufficient to rule out flooding in the event of a 100-year rainfall event.

It said the proposed Marikina Dam to be constructed across the Marikina River will be an 81-meter high concrete gravity dam with a 350-meter crest and a 90 million cubic-meter gross storage capacity.

"The primary function of the proposed dam should be flood management, which is a public good, and public resources should be used for this. The dam is designed to reduce

the maximum river discharge of a 100-year rainfall event in the catchment by about 85% from an inflow of 3,460 cubic meters per second to an outflow of about 600 cubic meters per second by temporarily storing flood waters for regulated discharge after the storm event. This will require the reservoir to be almost empty during the rainy season to capture floods," the bank said.

The proposed Pasig-Marikina River Basin Flood Management Project will be implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The World Bank will provide \$400 million of the total project cost of \$700 million by next year, while the \$35 million will come from other sources, leaving a funding gap of \$265 million.

"Although Metro Manila constantly has issues related to urban flooding, it also began to experience water scarcity since March 2019. Inadequate and intermittent water supply affects customers in many parts of Metro Manila. Delays in developing additional water sources and increasing demand for water due to population growth have contributed to the water supply crisis, which needs to be addressed along with flood reduction measures," it said. — **Beatrice M. Laforga**



JOE'S TAKE

NI Joe Zaldivar

ISANG taon na ang nakaraang nang maglabas ng kautusan si Pangulong Duterte para sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pakikipagtulungan ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), na magsagawa ng malawakang paglilinis sa Manila Bay. Ang Manila Bay ay itinuturing na isa sa mga pinakamagandang daungan sa buong mundo.

Sa aking column noong ika-2 ng Pebrero ng nakaraang taon na pinamagatang "Restoring the Luster of Manila Bay", sinabi ng DENR na sa pagtatapos ng taong 2019, maaari na ulit lumangoy ang mga Filipino sa Manila Bay. Lubos akong umasa noon na matutupad nila ang kanilang ipinangako at ito ay hindi isang kaso lamang ng 'iingas

kugon'.

Bagama't hindi pa rin maaaring langyan ang Manila Bay sa kasalukuyan, sinabi naman ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na nananatiling pinakamataas na prayoridad ng kanilang opisina ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay sa susunod na dalawang taon.

Kailangan nating maintindihang hindi talaga magiging madali at mabilis ang paglilinis ng Manila Bay isinasagawa ito ng DENR na may tatlong yugto na inaasahan nilang matatapos sa loob ng tatlo hanggang pitong taon.

Kasalukuyang nasa unang yugto ng rehabilitasyon ang Manila Bay. Ang unang yugto ay nakatuon sa paglilinis at sa paghabantay ng kalidad ng tubig nito. Ang susunod na dalawang yugto naman ay ang paglilipat sa mga apektadong pamilya na naninirahan

sa paligid ng Manila Bay, edukasyon, proteksiyon, at programa para sa pangmatagalang pagpapanatili ng kalinisan sa lugar.

Mula nang ilunsad ang kampanyang ito noong Enero ng taong 2019, umaabot na sa mahigit 2.3 milyong kilogram ng basura ang nakuha sa Metro Manila, Gitnang Luzon, at Tinog Katagalugan sa pamamagitan ng manomanong paglilinis, paggamit ng mga garbage trap at mga trash boat.

Ang cleanup drive na isinasagawa ng DENR at MMDA ay pareho sa ginagawa ng Metro Pacific Investments Foundation (MPIF), ang sangay ng Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC) na nangangasiwa sa mga programa nitong may kinalaman sa corporate social responsibility. Ang programa ng MPIF ay 12 taon nang tumatakbo sa pamamagitan ng kanilang Shore It Up!, isang programa para sa kamalayan at kaalaman ukol sa kapaligiran. Na-

katuon ang prayoridad nito sa paglilinis ng baybayin at maging sa ita-ling ng tubig. Ang SIU ay itinuturing na pinakamatagal na aktibong programang inilunsad ng isang korporasyon na nakatuon sa pangangalaga ng kapaligiran at nakikipagtulungan sa mga lokal na pamahalaan para sa pangmatagalang resulta ng programang ito.

Noong nakaraang Huwebes, nagdagdag ng isa pang lugar ang MPIF sa kanilang programang SIU at pumirma sa isang Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) kasama ang lokal na pamahalaan ng Marinduque. Ang Marinduque ang ika-9 na probinsyang pinaglunsaran ng SIU.

Ang walong iba pang probinsya kung saan naunang inilunsad ang programang SIU mula noong 2009 ay ang Batangas, Oriental Mindoro, Pangasinan, Zamboales, Bohol, Surigao del Norte, Cebu, at Misamis Oriental.

Ginawang pormal ang nasabing kasunduan sa pamamagitan ni Mari-

nduque Representative Lord Allan Jay Velasco at ni MPIC Chairman Manny V. Pangilinan. Ang nasabing kasunduan ang magsisilbing umpisa ng paglulunsad ng nasabing programa.

Kabilang sa programa ang mga inspection and conservation guardian (marine guardians), mga aktibidad ukol sa paglilinis sa ita-ling ng tubig partikular na sa mga bahagi na may coral reef, paglulunsad ng information, education and communication (IEC) campaign upang maproteksiyonan ang mga bahagi na may bakawan, at pagpapalad ng eco-tourism sa Marinduque.

Ang Marinduque ay isang sikat na destinasyon para sa pag-sisid. Hindi lamang mga lokal na maninisd ang dumadayo rito kundi pati mga turista mula sa ibang bansa. Tahimik at maganda rin kasi ang nasabing probinsiya.

Dahil nga sa naging sikat ang probinsya ng Marinduque sa mga turista, hindi maiwasang

nagkaroon na rin ng polusyon sa lugar bunsod ng pang-aabuso ng mga turista na nakaapekto sa kalinisan at kalidad ng anyong tubig at baybayin nito.

Sa ita-ling ng nasabing MOU, layunin ng programang SIU ang maglagay ng marka sa lugar sa pamamagitan ng mga aktibidad nito at mga programang hindi lamang makatutulong sa kapaligiran kundi pati na rin sa lokal na komunidad ng Marinduque.

Ayon kay MPIF President Melody del Rosario, hinaharap ng programang SIU ang mga isyu na may kinalaman sa kapaligiran sa pamamagitan ng pagsusuri sa lahat ng aspeto nito. Naniniwala ang MPIF na kailangan ng mga programang pangkabuhayan at maayos na edukasyon ukol sa kamalayan sa kapaligiran upang maging maayos at epektibo ang ecosystem sa isang lugar.

Sa kasalukuyan, umaabot na sa 5,324 na ektarya ng bakawan ang naproteksiyonan sa

tulong ng programang SIU. Nakapagtayo rin ng tatlong information center ukol sa bakawan. Nakapagsanay rin ng 1,034 na mga maninisd, 36 na marine guard, at 2,800 na junior environmental scout. Nakapagbigay rin ng tulong sa 180 na pamilya at nakikipagtulungan sa 464 na pribado at pampublikong organisasyon sa pamamagitan ng halos 100,000 na volunteer sa buong bansa.

Kailangan ang pagtutulungan sa pagitan ng pribado at publikong sektor upang maproteksiyonan ang mga likas na yaman ng ating bansa. Kung kaya nating magtagumpay sa pagbabalik ng linis at ganda ng Manila Bay at ng iba pang anyong tubig sa bansa, lahat ng mga ito ay maaaring maging pook-pasyalan para sa ating lahat at sa mga turista na tiyak na makatutulong sa pag-unlad ng ating ekonomiya.

Gawin na natin ang ating tungkulin para sa kapakanan ng susunod na henerasyon.



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Smile me a river

A view of the Manila Post Office from the Pasig River.

Photos by JOANNE RAE RAMIREZ

The now-famous Jones Bridge leads to a bustling Chinatown.



Images depicting Intramuros in its heyday are projected at the United Philippine Lines Building in Fort Santiago.

Photo by JOSE PAOLO DELA CRUZ

Manila Mayor Isko Moreno and Tourism Secretary Berna Romulo-Puyat.

A tranvia takes us on a tour of Chinatown and Intramuros.



people
**JOANNE RAE
M. RAMIREZ**

Malacañang Palace was once my place of work, and on my way to the office, whether via Nagtahan or Ayala Bridge, I would catch glimpses of a river that was virtually a floating trash bin, I kid thee not. This was in the late '80s.

Cruising down the Pasig River with Tourism Secretary **Berna Romulo-Puyat** recently was like cruising down a new river. I have never seen the Pasig River this clean in my life, it reminded me of Venice's Grand

Canal in Italy. Not crystal clear, but not murky either. Flowing, flowing.

Berna credits the present rebirth of the Pasig River to the political will of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary **Roy Cimatu**, who, without much fanfare, has transformed the waterway into a living thing once more. No more informal settlers on the banks (except a couple *pasaways*), or colonies of plastic bottles floating on the river that has tributaries through most cities of the metropolis. **Scarlet Snow Belo**, who was with her parents Doctors **Vicki Belo** and **Hayden Kho** during the hour-long cruise, saw a green plastic bottle bobbing up and down the river and she was furious.

The Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) have joined forces not only to ease traffic flow in the metropolis but also to offer a new way of exploring the Metro.

At some point during the cruise, which sailed from the Guadalupe Ferry Station, I even thought I was in Singapore, with high-rises flanking the river. On one side was Rockwell and on the other side was a cluster of skyscrapers built by Century Properties.

When we neared the historic Sta. Ana area, we saw stately old homes. Then we passed Malacañang Palace, at which point we were asked not to take photos for security reasons.

We saw the jetty where both the Marcoses and Estradas boarded their barge for the minute-long-ride across the river to the Presidential Security Group compound across when they left Malacañang.

Soon, we beheld the neo-classical Manila Post Office, which could easily be turned into another Fullerton Hotel, as Singapore did to its old post office.

By the time we got to the graceful Jones Bridge, with lamplights reminiscent of the bridges of Paris, we had traveled down the riverway of time to Old Manila.

Oh, but it was a youthful Manila Mayor **Isko Moreno** awaiting us at the ferry station in Escolta, where snacks of *hopia* beckoned. From the station, we climbed a few steps to Jones Bridge, where a tranvia was waiting for us. The tranvia took us on a tour of a well-lit and clean Chinatown, before passing Manila City Hall and the National Museum, all alit but still needing more illumination. Our first stop in Intramuros was the gallery of Presidents, whose portraits were carved in stone.

Before dinner at the palatial Ayuntamiento de Manila, we beheld a now shimmering Fort Santiago. You will be transfixed by the United Philippine Lines Building inside Fort Santiago, which glowed with magical projections of imagery depicting Intramuros in its heyday.

Intramuros Administration head lawyer **Guiller Asido** has truly made Intramuros a must-see destination in the city's capital.

MMDA, in collaboration with the DOT, has agreed to exclusively allocate one 150-seater air-conditioned ferry to service the needs of tourists, both domestic and international, who may want to explore Manila, Pasig, Mandaluyong and Makati, using the river transport and its 11 ferry stations. For the entire month of February, trips on the ferry will be free of charge.

There will also be the Pasig River Hop On Hop Off Ferry Tour for tourists wanting to explore Manila, with a heritage tour of Intramuros, a heritage walking tour of Sta. Ana and the famous culinary tour of Binondo, with a photo

opportunity at the elegant Jones Bridge.

For Makati City, tourists may disembark at the Guadalupe and Valenzuela Stations with a waiting guide to help them explore the country's financial district either through a Poblacion Heritage tour, Makati Skyline tour, the famous Poblacion Bar Crawl and even a tour of the nearby cities of San Juan and Mandaluyong through the Hulo Station.

Guide to the Philippines, DOT's official online tour partner, will initially offer an exclusive Poblacion Chocolate Bar Crawl highlighting Makati City's nightlife with an interesting twist on both drinks and food using a local Filipino chocolate brand.

It was magical taking a historical trip to illumined Intramuros, knowing that just like the Pasig River, it need not languish in the worst of its past, only thrive in the best of its past, present and future. *

(Commercial run will commence in March 2020 pending logistical operations and booking facilities. Interested parties may inquire directly with PHILTOA via 8812-4513 or e-mail info@philtera.com and Guide to the Philippines via guidetothephilippines.ph.)

(You may e-mail me at joanneraeracruz@yahoo.com. Follow me on Instagram @joanneraeracruz.)



Bombshells



FORMATION
GARY
OLIVAR

EXPECTEDLY for someone with his famously unpredictable reputation, the President threw a number of pretty remarkable bombshells throughout the week that was.

Early last week, Solicitor General Calida started the fireworks by going to the Supreme Court with a quo warranto petition to nullify the broadcast franchise of ABS-CBN. Among the accusations raised by Calida: the Lopez-owned network violated its franchise by selling for-pay services to its viewership; violated the Constitution by issuing depository receipts to foreigners; and violated securities laws by not issuing public shares on time.

Concurrently, the franchise is now also being reviewed by Congress for possible renewal beyond its March expiry. A lot of hair-pulling has been indulged in by various politicians who're only too aware of the popular network's hold on public sympathies, which was only confirmed when something like 80 percent of respondents told a survey that, yes, they favored renewal of the franchise.

However, if push comes to shove, less than 50 of the congressmen have actually signed on to the cause of renewal, well short of the 200-plus

needed to overturn a Presidential veto. The Supreme Court continues to be dominated by Duterte appointees. As for the public, these are the same folks who still support the President by overwhelming margins. Regardless of how they feel about his treatment of the network, they will always viscerally trust the plain-spoken former mayor as someone who genuinely has their back.

The Lopezes face an uphill battle which may last until 2022. To start with, though, they might wish to explain why they pulled Duterte's ads during the 2016 campaign, and on top of that, refused to return his money. It's a simple explanation we're still waiting to hear amidst all their breast-beating about press freedom. It would be so easy to mollify the President with that explanation—unless, of course, they can't explain it after all.

In the middle of the week, Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin was instructed by the Executive Secretary, on the President's behalf, to formally notify the US Embassy that the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) would expire after a mandatory six-month notice period.

Again, more breast-beating by sundry parties. The US defense secretary called it a "wrong move." The Australians warned of a "disastrous weakening" of the region's defenses.

Turn to A5

“More breast-beating by sundry parties”



Bombshells

From AA

Local armchair pundits predicted gloom and doom. Some of them even went so far as to insinuate that Duterte was treasonously coordinating with the Chinese to weaken the US strategy of encircling China from the seas.

But the people who know better have been saying otherwise. No less than the AFP chief of staff is confident that the Philippines can build its own self-reliant defenses, thank you. Future military alliances have been bruited about—with Russia, Japan, the UK, even China itself—the possibilities are turning out to be so many. As for US President Trump, he said he wasn't bothered, and even thanked Duterte for helping him to save a lot of money—the same message he's bringing to other US allies whom he now wants to share in the cost of US military presence on their soil.

I was still living abroad when the US bases here were closed down in the early nineties, but I understand that the experience was pretty traumatic for a country whose loyalties—even today—run so much more to the United States than to anybody else. But that trauma has subsided, and now the former bases have become growth poles. The lesson here is simple: Growing up also means growing away, and that's never easy to do.

By the end of the week, since he was already smashing so many sacred cows, Duterte went after a smaller but no less important one: the idea that development and expansion can go on without limit. In its place, he's raising a new totem: that of environmental sustainability, which is fast becoming the mantra for the new age.

Speaking, ironically enough, at the inauguration of the Sangley Airport development project, Duterte said he will reject all future Manila Bay reclamation projects "because they will just choke the entire city of Manila." Only government projects—including Sangley—will be entertained. Off the table are up to 25 privately sponsored

projects covering 10,000 hectares, spread out from Navotas to Cavite—including four that in fact were already issued notices to proceed.

After the initial euphoria of project launches, the environmentalists are making themselves heard again. What will be the implications of dumping all that sand into Manila Bay—on animal and fish habitats, bird sanctuaries, vegetation cover, the Pasig and other waterways that empty into the bay, on sewerage and drainage system capacities? Duterte advised the affected developers they might have to wait till 2022 and a new president, which gives them enough time to beef up the sustainability side of their project proposals.

Meanwhile, down in Boracay, a whale shark was spotted last year, a nest of turtle eggs hatched, and two other egg nesteries are being monitored. All this so soon after DENR's Cimatú completed the herculean job of cleaning up that long-abused resort. Are those whale sharks, those baby turtles worth the effort he put in? Yes indeed, and by a mile.

Today's readings reflect on the mystery of God's generosity. In the first one (Jas 1: 12-18), the writer—traditionally held to be James, the "brother of Jesus" and head of the Jewish Christian community—reminds us that God is incapable of tempting us to sin. The origin of sin is actually our own desires. What we may expect instead from the "Father of lights" is "all good giving and every perfect gift", a Divine generosity that is unchanging.

In the Gospel (Mk 8: 14-21), right after Jesus performed the miracle of the seven loaves of bread, the Pharisees started pestering Him for a sign from heaven, to test Him. Even His disciples worried they might not have enough bread in the boat they had taken. Jesus had to rebuke their lack of misunderstanding of the miracle so recently shown them: That God's generosity, manifested through Him, is boundless. All that is asked from us is faith in Him.

Readers can write me at gbolivar1952@yahoo.com.



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16 AWARDEES

ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA PRESENTS TOURISM AWARDS

The Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) has selected 16 individuals who will receive the prestigious Tourism Awards Feb. 27 at the New World Hotel Makati.

RCM president Bobby Joseph and chair of Tourism Awards committee said, "This prestigious award is given to persons who gave their utmost services to promote and develop tourism industry here and abroad."

Awardees are: Ariel Abriam (Ariel's Point), Bernd Schneider (Fairmont Makati), Han-ky Lee III (Henry Hotel), Salah Al Balushi (Oman Aviation),



Felipe Gozon

Radjie Caram Jr. (Island Living), Krizette Chu (Manila Bulletin), Felipe Enrique L. Gozon (GMA Network Inc.), Lala Ventura-Lazaro (Metro Channel), Laguna Rep. Marisol Ara-



Environment Secretary Roy Cinatu

gonces-Sampelo, Edgar Saavedra (Megawide Construction), Francisco Mauricio (Avis Rent A Car International-Guevent Transport Holdings), Justice Manuel Lazaro (Tiger Resort



Rep. Sol Aragon

Leisure Entertainment Inc.), Interior Secretary Eduardo M. Año, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Leo Rey Yanson (Ceres Liner), Ramon Ang (San Miguel Corp.), and Venus Q.



Interior Secretary Eduardo Año

Tan, former COO of Tourism Promotions Board.

Category: Government
Other members of the award committee are cochair and past president Francis Juico, past



Salah Al Balushi

district governor Vince Carlos, past vice president Chito Zal-darriaga, past president Frank Evaristo, director Amading Valdez and president Jackie Rodriguez.



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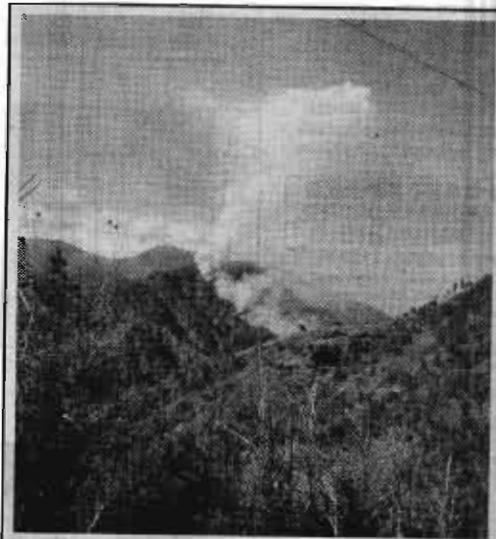
NEWSBITS

■ Baguio solon against plastics

BAGUIO CITY — All commercial establishments and manufacturing firm will be mandated to recover, collect, recycle, and dispose plastic waste and non-biodegradable materials in order to curb plastic pollution in the country. Baguio City representative Mark Go has filed House Bill 6180, and, once passed into law, all commercial establishments such as supermarkets, office buildings, malls, food chains and retail buildings are require to collect and recover used plastic from their customers, before surrendering these to the manufacturer for disposal or recycling. He said he would like to hold manufacturing companies and commercial establishments that use plastics and non-biodegradable materials accountable by including the collection and recovery of used plastic as part of their corporate social responsibility. He cited the figure from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' 10-year National Solid Waste Management Status Report, where plastics comprised 38 percent of the country's solid waste, with a continuous increase in commercial and industrial usage. (Zaldy Commanda)

■ Japan funding

ILOILO CITY—The Japanese government is funding a P17-million road project to connect two barangays (villages) in Janiuay town, Iloilo province. Iloilo Gov. Arthur Defensor Jr., Iloilo third district Rep. Lorenz Defensor, Mayor Ben Margarico, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-Iloilo) Director Raul Lorilla recently led the groundbreaking for the mountain road project funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The 2.74-kilometer road project that connects Quipot and Barasion barangays is part of the Forestland Management Project (FMP) undertaken by the DENR. While the FMP mainly aims to rehabilitate the denuded forestlands along the Jalaur River Basin, it also has a socio-economic component. There will also be agro-forestry support facilities such as hanging bridges, concrete bridges, concrete pathways, and irrigation pipeline systems. Defensor considers the project not only as an environmental endeavor, but also as a means of poverty alleviation program for communities in a far-flung area. (Tara Yap)



Umabot na sa limang ektarya ng mga puno ang nilamon ng apoy sa pitong araw na "forest fire" sa Kabayan, Benguet. Sinabi ni Sr. Fire Officer 4 Hilario Caniero, hepe ng Kabayan Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) na nagmula ang apoy sa kagubatan ng Sitio Bulok, Barangay Adaoay noong Peb. 11 at nagbabantang umabot sa pamosong Mt. Pulag makaraang mabilis na tumawid ang apoy sa kabilang bundok sa Barangay Anchokey. Isang fire truck ang walang humpay na ginagamit ng mga bumbero sa sunud-sunod na araw para maapula ang apoy sa lugar. (Ulat at kuha ni Raymund Catindig)



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DAR to distribute 12,438 hectares of idle gov't land

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is hoping to distribute 12,438.7874 hectares of idle government-owned lands that are still suitable for agriculture by the end of the first quarter of 2020.

DAR Undersecretary for Field Operations David Erro on Monday said the seven government-owned lands to be acquired and distributed to farmers is in compliance with President Duterte's Executive Order No. (EO) 75.

For the first quarter of 2020, the identified government-owned lands for acquisition and distribution were in the Davao National Agricultural School/Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in Davao del Oro (270.0551 hectares); Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) in Rizal (1,507.1451 hectares); Busuanga Pasture Reserve-Yulo King Ranch/Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Busuanga, Palawan (9,022 hectares); University of the Philippines (UP) land grant in Laguna (350.8874 hectares); UP land grant in Quezon province (1,142 hectares); Dumarao Stock Farm/Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Animal

Industry in Capiz (99.9998 hectares); and DA-Bureau of Soil Reservation in Isabela (46.7 hectares).

DA, DENR, TESDA, MWSS, and UP were asked to immediately provide the deeds of transfer to DAR to start the processing of distribution to the farmer-beneficiaries.

"I am appealing to these agencies of the government to immediately execute the deed of transfer to DAR so that we can begin the processing of these lands and eventually before the end of this quarter we can distribute that to the farmers as directed by the President," Erro said.

Based on the DAR's initial estimate, around 24,000 farmers will benefit from the first round of government-owned land distribution.

DAR is looking at the acquisition and distribution of 51,000 hectares of private agricultural (29,000 hectares) and government-owned lands (22,000 hectares) to farmers by the end of 2020.

Erro said the distribution of idle private agricultural and government-owned lands may benefit about 102,000 farmers nationwide by year-end.

DAR is named as the lead agency that will provide central direction and coordination for the implementation of EO 75.



AFP, DENR dispute UNTV crown

Games March 1 (Paco Arena, Manila)
3 p.m. - NHA vs Judiciary; 5 p.m. - AFP vs DENR

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) swept their respective semis series over the weekend and arranged what is expected to be an exciting title duel in the 8th UNTV Cup at the Paco Arena in Manila.

The top-seeded defending champions AFP Cavaliers outgunned the Judiciary Magis in the payoff period to pull off a tense 72-67 win in Game 2 of their best-of-three semis series.

The win pushed the Cavaliers within two wins of becoming the first back-to-back champions in the tournament for public servants that is being held annually courtesy of UNTV president and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

Standing in their way are the second-seeded DENR Warriors who bested the National Housing Authority Builders in their own series capped by an 82-75 win - thanks to another double-double

performance by MVP candidate Ralph Lansang.

AFP and DENR start their best-of-three finals series on March 1 also at the same venue with the chosen charity of the champion team getting a tax-free P4 million top prize.

The foundation selected by the runner-up gets P2 million while the charities picked by the third and fourth placers shall earn P1 million and P500,000, respectively.

Romeo Almerol, Lansang's chief rival for the coveted MVP plum, presided over AFP's onslaught with 17 points and 10 boards while Jerry Lumongsod and Darwin Cordero chipped in 12 and 10 points, respectively.

The Warriors got off to a slow start but rallied furiously in the second frame behind the red-hot shooting of Lansang and never looked back.

Lansang went on to finish with 25 points apart from grabbing 10 boards.



AFP Cavaliers, DENR Warriors set title duel

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First Game

AFP 72 – Almerol 17, Lumongsod 12, Cordero 10, Rosopa 10, Tan 6, Bautista 6, Quiambao 4, Sergio 3, Zuniga 2, Araneta 0.

JUDICIARY 67 – Salamat 14, Tolomia 14, Dela Cruz 12, Dionisio 11, Marquez 8, Ybanez 6, Mustre 2, Serrano 0, Bergonio 0, Litonjua 0, Malinao 0, Roma 0.

Quarters: 18-14, 33-33, 44-45, 72-67

Second game

DENR 82 – Lansang 25, Bangal 18, Gamboa 12, Ayson 11, Rivera 8, Atablanca 4, Abanes 4.

NHA 75 - Vitug 29, J. Dizon 14, W. Tibay 10, Lustestica 10, M. Dizon 4, Mercado 4, Alastoy 2, R. Tibay 2.

Quarters: 18-21, 39-39, 60-54, 82-75.



Archie Gamboa supplied the needed firepower for DENR by scattering 12 points in the team's 82-75 win over the NHA Builders in the 8th UNTV Cup at Paco Arena in Manila.



AFP, DENR arrange UNTV title showdown

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AFP and DENR start their best-of-three finals series on March 1 at the same venue, with the chosen charity of the champion team getting a tax-free P4 million top prize.



AFP, DENR fives blast foes, UNTV showdown

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JUDICIARY (67) - Salamat 14, Tolomia 14, Dela Cruz 12, Dionisio 11, Marquez 8, Ybanez 6, Mustre 2, Serano 0, Bergonio 0, Litonjua 0, Malinao 0, Roma 0.

Quarterscores: 18-14, 33-33, 44-45, 72-67

Second game

DENR (82) - Lansang 25, Bangal 18, Gamboa 12, Ayson 11, Rivera 8, Atablanca 4, Abanes 4.

NHA (75) - Vitug 29, J. Dizon 14, W. Tibay 10, Lustestica 10, M. Dizon 4, Mercado 4, Alastoy 2, R. Tibay 2. Quarterscores: 18-21, 39-39, 60-54, 82-75.



AFP, DENR forge UNTV title clash

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(Paco Arena, Manila)
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free ₱4 million top prize. The foundation selected by the runner-up gets ₱2 million while the charities picked by the third and fourth placers shall earn ₱1 million and ₱500,000, respectively.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) swept their respective semis series over the weekend and arranged what is expected to be an exciting title duel in the 8th UNTV Cup at Paco Arena in Manila.

Romeo Almerol, Lansang's chief rival for the coveted MVP plum, presided over AFP's onslaught with 17 points and 10 boards while Jerry Lumongsod and Darwin Cordero chipped in 12 and 10 points, respectively.

The top-seeded defending champions AFP Cavaliers out-gunned the Judiciary Magis in the playoff period to pull off a tense 72-67 win in Game 2 of their best-of-three semis series.

The Warriors got off to a slow start but rallied furiously in the second frame behind the red-hot shooting of Lansang and never looked back.

The win pushed the Cavaliers within two wins of becoming the first back-to-back champions in the tournament for public servants that is being held annually through UNTV President and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon

Lansang went on to finish with 25 points apart from grabbing 10 boards.

First Game

AFP 72 - Almerol 17, Lumongsod 12, Cordero 10, Rosopa 10, Tan 6, Bautista 6, Quiambao 4, Sergio 3, Zunlga 2, Aranela 0.

JUDICIARY 67 - Salamat 14, Tolomia 14, Dela Cruz 12, Dionisio 11, Marquez 8, Ybanez 6, Mustre 2, Serrano 0, Bergonio 0, Utonjua 0, Malinao 0, Rome 0.

Quarters: 18-14, 33-33, 44-45, 72-67.

Second game

DENR 82 - Lansang 25, Bangal 18, Gamboa 12, Ayson 11, Rivera 8, Atablanca 4, Abanes 4.

NHA 75 - Vitug 29, J. Dizon 14, W. Tibay 10, Lustetca 10, M. Dizon 4, Mercado 4, Astoy 2, R. Tibay 2. Quarters: 18-21, 39-39, 60-64, 82-75.

Standing in their way were the second-seeded DENR Warriors who bested the National Housing Authority Builders in their own series capped by an 82-75 win - thanks to another double-double performance by MVP candidate Ralph Lansang.

AFP and DENR start their best-of-three finals series on March 1 also at the same venue with the chosen charity of the champion team getting a tax-



AFP, DENR basagan sa UNTV Cup finale

Binasag ng top-seeded defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines at Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang kanilang mga kalaban sa semis upang makaangat sa final round ng 8th UNTV Cup 2019-2020 nitong Linggo sa Paco Arena sa Maynila.

Sa likod ng 17 point at 10 rebound ni Romeo Almerol, 12 marker ni Jerry Lumungsod at 10 puntos ni Darwin Cordero nilikida ng AFP Cavaliers ang Judiciary Magis, 72-67, sa pag-sweep sa best-of-three series.

Tumudla naman si MVP candidate Ralph Lansang ng 25 pt. at 10 reb. nang igupo ng DENR Warriors ang National Housing Authority Builders, 82-75, sa Game 2 rin sa ligang pam-public servant na inorganisa ni UNTV President at CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

Kaya pagtatagisanan ng defending champion Cavs at bagong saltang Warriors ang titulo sa race-to-two-win. Ang manalo ay makakakuha ng P4M tax-free na idodonasyon sa mapi-pili niyang charity institution habang P2M sa runner up.

First Game

AFP 72 - Almerol 17, Lumungsod 12, Cordero 10, Rosopa 10, Tan 6, Bautista 6, Quiambao 4, Sergio 3, Zuniga 2.

JUDICIARY 67 - Salamat 14, Tolomia 14, Dela Cruz 12, Dionisio 11, Marquez 8, Ybanez 6, Mustre 2.

Second game

DENR 82 - Lansang 25, Bangal 18, Gamboa 12, Ayson 11, Rivera 8, Atablanca 4, Abanes 4.

NHA 75 - Vitug 29, J. Dizon 14, W. Tibay 10, Lustestica 10, M. Dizon 4, Mercado 4, Alastoy 2, R. Tibay 2. **(Aivan Episcope)**



AFP vs DENR para sa korona ng UNTV Cup

Kapwa winalis ng Armed Forces of the Philippines at Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang kanilang mga semifinals series para itakda ang pagtutuos nila sa korona ng 8th UNTV Cup.

Pinatumba ng top-

seeded at nagdedepensang AFP Cavaliers ang Judiciary Magis, 72-67, sa Game Two para tapusin ang kanilang best-of-three semis series.

Umiskor naman si Archie Gamboa ng 12 points para tulungan ang No. 2 DENR Warriors sa 82-75 paggiba sa National Housing Authority Builders sa sarili nilang semifinals duel.

Hangad ng Cavaliers na maging unang back-to-back champions sa torneo para sa mga public servants na inorganisa ni UNTV President at CEO Dr. Daniel Razon

Sisimulan ng AFP at DENR ang kanilang best-of-three finals series sa Marso 1.

Ang mapipiling charity ng champion team ay tatanggap ng tax-free P4 milyon.



Taal blast alters land around lake

Batangas folk note water rising, receding in lakeshore communities in Agoncillo, San Nicolas

By Maricar Cinco
@maricarcincoINQ

AGONCILLO, BATANGAS—The steam-driven (phreatic) eruption of Taal Volcano last month had altered not only the iconic Volcano Island, but also the land features of its surrounding towns in Batangas province.

In the fishing village of Subic Ilaya here, residents said water from Taal Lake began to rise days after the eruption. They said the lake crept by about 20 meters inland, submerging a strip of shoreland at Sitio Manalao under 4 to 5 feet (1.21 to 1.52 m) of water.

"This has never happened before," said resident Loreto Sangalang, 61.

Ash-quake combination

Alice Williams, a store owner in Manalao, said their place used to be "elevated" and they had never experienced flooding. The earthquakes shook down smaller fish ports at Barangay Banyaga where caretakers of fish cages, a common livelihood in this part of the Taal Lake, scrambled to salvage wood and iron sheets buried in the ash pile.

"We come here during the day but return to evacuation [centers] at night because there's still no electricity," said Jake Arugay.

He said their employer, who owned the fish cages, had sent home some of his colleagues to Cagayan Valley and Bicol regions after the business "lost big" because of the eruption.



CLEANUP CONTINUES A man in Agoncillo town in Batangas province, whose village faces Volcano Island, cleans his rooftop of ash spewed by Taal Volcano. The government has allowed residents displaced by the steam-driven eruption last month to return to their homes around Taal Lake as the volcano started to quiet down in recent weeks. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

But in other lakeshore villages of Bilibinwang and Banyaga, still in this town, water receded by a few meters, said Agoncillo Mayor Daniel Reyes.

This also happened in the adjacent town of San Nicolas after the water pushed back by at least 5 m, according to Batangas provincial administrator Levi Dimaunahan.

"The land rose in one part but sank in another," Dimaunahan said in a separate phone interview.

He said the change in topography resulted from the "combination of the ash pile

and the [series of] tremors, as if defaced by a violent punch."

Permanently displaced

"It's permanently damaged," Dimaunahan said.

Reyes agreed to this, citing a similar explanation from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

Reyes said at least 30 to 40 houses along Subic Ilaya alone were destroyed, with its residents joining the rest of the 6,000 people from Volcano Island, known here as "Pulo," permanently displaced by the eruption.

The provincial government declared Volcano Island (covering about 2,475 hectares before the eruption) a permanent danger zone, prohibiting human settlement and activity on it.

Interim homes

Taal Lake covered about 234 square kilometers and was shared by 12 towns and cities in Batangas.

Dimaunahan said initial post-eruption assessments showed that the water, on the average, moved further inland by a meter.

"We still don't know. Some [affected residents] were planning to [reclaim the land] so they could rebuild their houses, but we're still not sure how [plausible] that would be," Reyes said.

"Even if they had land titles [for the properties], I don't think it would still be safe to live there," Dimaunahan said.

Agoncillo, one of the hardest hit by the eruption, has yet to fully recover even as the alert level was downgraded to 2 on Feb. 14.

Reyes said 80 percent of the town's power and water supply had been restored.

As of Monday, the Batangas government said 1,759 families remained in evacuation centers.

The provincial government had opened up an "interim" housing site in Ibaan town for the families displaced from Volcano Island, while they were looking for permanent resettlement areas in government properties in Balete and San Juan towns. INQ



Instead of Climate Change

ALLOW me to give my personal opinion on what's more important to put our attention to: "Climate Change" or "Public Health Challenges?"

I believe health must take center stage.

While we are told that Climate Change has gotten more attention at enormous expense with little success to show for decades that Climate Change (although we must be aware of it) is a unique problem we have to face as our planet ages; industrialization, environmental abuses, natural tragedies and calamities... much have not changed. As I once mentioned, since the time of Noah, we continued to experience never ending tragedies, natural calamities, floods, bush fires, low and high temperature.

Of course, we all desire to free our respective countries from untoward incidents each time calamities strike.

While the campaign to be aware of Climate Changes continues, not much have been achieved. With all the resources spent to combat atmospheric changes, industrialization and development on each community must also be done with restraint and control for turning our community into asphalt jungles which is contrary to a healthy environment.

The Laguna Lake Development Authority or LLDA is a very important office. Laguna Lake (or Laguna de Bay) is the principal source of water for Metro Manila and other areas. The lake must not be made the dumping of dirty sewage water, especially from highrise buildings, restaurants, malls and other business establishments.

With the rise of tall buildings for condominiums and offices, it is important for the LLDA to be vigilant for the entire Metro Manila area could someday be without potable water. The importance of Laguna Lake under the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) must be properly managed.

Dams are only an alternative to the important role the LLDA plays in seeing to it that the Laguna Lake is protected from dirty wastes dumped from sewages of Metro Manila and neighboring provinces.

Dams wait for rain. In time of drought, dams' rainwater reserves are diminished immeasurably. That is why former President Gloria Macapagal-

UNCENSORED



Manuel
L.
Morato

Arroyo during her term signed a contract with a Belgian company to dredge the Laguna Lake to keep it alive and well for it had silted so much; but it was cancelled by the administration that followed.

Just to prove how important the Laguna Lake Development Authority is, President Ferdinand Marcos created the LLDA and freed it from the clutches of local governments. Cases against violators do not go to the normal courts that are most often than not subjugated by the Local Government officials.

Cases lodged by LLDA against violators are immediately forwarded and filed and elevated to the Court of Appeals, to free it from pressure of local government officials who most often than not abuse their powers. President Marcos foresaw that dams are expensive projects. Laguna de Bay is the answer for the supply of water in Metro Manila and neighboring areas. It's source of supply is immeasurable. China Sea supplies the rivers and the lakes through the streams coming from the sea. Salt water is filtered by the Pasig River and salt sea water becomes fresh water entering the lake. *Pang believe it or not ito, pero* I will explain in my next column the natural process it goes through, based on my recollection and informations gathered.

To continue, what I am leading to is to cause awareness on which of the two most talked about issues now must come first: "Climate Change or "Coronavirus"?

Climate Change to me is an important problem to address. But let us agree that Public Health Challenges must come first. It must take center stage in every country for it is more

deadly when viruses infect a community/a country and the entire world. It immediately spreads far and wide, killing so many people.

I much rather invest on public health challenges than "Climate Change" organizations freaking out about it. I really cannot see how "Climate Change" could be controlled when the nature of our planet have had natural calamities since its creation. "*Es parte de la naturaleza,*" as the Spaniards would say. It's part of nature where the wind blows, when the volcanoes will erupt, when a cyclone would strike, etc... It's the atmospheric changes our lands are naturally subjected to.

On both issues regarding "Climate Change" and "Public Health Challenges," lack of sanitation is involved. On "Climate Change," it's the way our planet was designed or created. If and when the natural system of nature is disturbed or abused, there are consequences to pay. On the other hand, Public Health is a more important challenge to address as most of the time, it's the people that cause viruses to spread and can be referred to as "man-made." Eating wild animals, they say, had caused the health challenges we are facing now. It is said that eating bats (*Paniki*) caused the coronavirus. What the hell caused those people to eat "exotic" foods? That's venturing to dangerous territories. There are edible animals, but there are dirty animals that are poisonous or create dangerous viruses.

As I have mentioned in a column before, SARS, Mers-Cov, African Swine Fever, the plague, AIDS, and many diseases must be addressed. These are not beyond human intervention, unlike the "Climate Change" issue, it has outside intervention which we, humans, cannot easily fathom nor control.

Tight control must be exercised on our people as far as sanitation is concerned in our communities. Most often than not, our cities, towns and communities are dirty and unsanitary. These are man-made by bad habits. The National Government as well as Local Government Units down to the Barangays must see to it that every person is aware about cleanliness and hygiene to avoid diseases.

For comments and suggestions email at mimorato@yahoo.com



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HINDI natin bibitiwan ang problema sa Corona Virus Disease-19 dahil lumalabas na dumarami ang mga hamon nito sa mahal kong Pinas.

Heto ang mga lumalabas na balita.

Humuhupa na umano ang COVID-19 sa China sa nakalipas na tatlong araw.

Pero dumarami naman ang mga bansang nagdedeklara ng mga patay dahil sa sakit na ito.

Noong una, China, kasama ang Hong Kong at Macau lang ang may patay.

Sumunod ang Japan at Pinas.

Pero ngayon, halos magkasabay na may patay na isang Chinese sa France at isa naman sa Taiwan.

Ang inaantabayan ay ang pagpasok ng sakit sa mga bansang mahina ang sistemang pangkalusugan o mahihirap na bansa gaya ng mga nasa Africa.

MALAKING HAMON

Nahaharap sa malaking hamon ang Pilipinas mismo.

Pinakamalaking hamon ang posibleng paglaganap nang husto ng COVID-19 mula sa mga kapwa nating Filipino.

Bawal pumasok sa bansa ang lahat ng dayuhan mula sa China, Hong Kong at Macau.

Pero lahat ng mga Filipino ay hindi pupwedeng pigilan at ang mga naisyuhan natin ng permanent visa.

Ilang daan o libo na ang nakauwi sa Pilipinas sa bisa ng patakurang ito?

Totoo na kinu-quarantine natin sila, pero maaaring may makalusot na may sakit paglabas nila sa quarantine area.

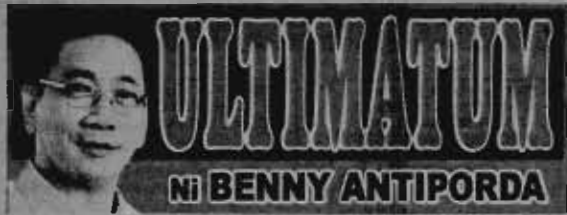
Diyan na maaaring dumami ang magka-COVID-19 dahil uuwi sila sa kanilang mga pamilya at magkakaawaan na hanggang sa tumama sa barangay at iba pa.

Hindi nga ba nagsimula ang sakit sa ilang tao sa Wuhan City hanggang sa lumaganap ang sakit na umepekto na sa mahigit 71,000 sa buong mundo na ikinatatay na ng 1,770, batay sa ulat kahapon?

UUWI MULA JAPAN

Heto ang isa pang kritikal.

Ang cruise ship na Diamond Princess ay may 500 Pinoy na crew at kabilang sila sa halos 4,000 pasahero na may 50 iba't ibang lahi o ban-



WORST CASE SCENARIO SA COVID-19, PAGHANDAAN NA

sa.

Mahigit 355 ang nagpositibo sa COVID-19 at 27 dito ang Pinoy.

Ngayon naman, matatapos na ang pag-quarantine sa mga ito at sa katunayan, iniuwi na ng ibang mga bansa ang kanilang mga mamamayan.

Gusto naman ng mga Pinoy crew ang uuwi.

Sa rami ng Pinoy crew, mga Bro, hinahanapan na sila ng ating gobyerno na pagku-quarantine sa mga ito.

Sa ngayon, sa Athletes Village sa Clark City nakuquarantine ang nasa 30 na Pinoy mula sa China, pwera pa ang mga crew ng eroplano at opisyal ng gobyerno na sumundo sa kanila.

Ang isang katanungan dito, kung ganyan karami ang uuwi na posibleng carrier ng sakit, hindi ba pwede ang rehabilitation building para sa mga sangkot sa droga sa Fort Magsaysay?

Ano ang gagawin sa mga kasalukuyang sumasailalim sa rehabilitasyon sa droga?

HIGIT NA SERYOSO

Ang higit na seryoso kaysa pagdadalhan na quarantine area ng lahat ng umuwi mula sa mga may COVID-19 na bansa ay ang posibilidad na may dala-dala ang ilan o marami sa mga ito na sakit.

Ang patakaran naman sa lahat ng mga pier at airport ay hindi palulusutin na makasakay ng bariko at eroplano ang may sintomas ng COVID-19.

Pero hindi naman lahat na may dala ng sakit ay siyento por siyentong nalalalaman kaya malaki ang posibilidad na may makalusot.

At maaaring makalusot din sila sa mga bantay natin dito sa Pilipinas.

Kung naganap ito, maghanda-handa at magdasal-dasal na tayo.

Ihanda na natin ang ating mga sarili sa pinakamasasamang pangyayari.

LOCKDOWN

Nang makitang tala-gang napakaseryoso na ang nagaganap sa China, gaya ng pagkakaroon ng daan-daan na namamatay at libo-libong nahahawa bawat araw, ni-lock-

down ng gobyernong China ang buong lalawigan ng Hubei, kasama ang Wuhan City na capital nito at pinanggalingan ng sakit.

Nasa 65 milyong pinagsarhan ng biyahe ng mga eroplano, tren, bus at pribadong sasakyan.

Binarikadahan ang lahat ng mga kalsada at nagbantay na ang mga pulis at military sa lahat ng checkpoint at pupwedeng lusutan ng mga gustong tumakas sa nasabing lugar.

Pero tinatayang nasa limang milyong nakalabas sa mga lugar na ito bago ang lockdown dahil sa pamamasyal nila sa loob at labas ng China kaugnay ng selebrasyon nila ng Bagong Taon para sa mga Tsino.

Kaya nahawaan na ang maraming lugar sa labas ng Wuhan City at Hubei at dito na pinairal ang lockdown sa halos buong China, Hong Kong at Macau.

Sumabay na ring nag-lockdown ang iba't ibang bansa, kasama ang Pilipinas, at inutos mismo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na lahat ng mga dayuhan, Tsino man o hindi, ay hindi pupwedeng pumasok sa Pinas basta manggaling ang mga ito sa China, Hong Kong at Macau.

SA PINAS?

Worst case scenario o pinakamasamang pangyayari ang isipin natin para sa Pinas.

Kung may lockdown paano?

Magsasara ang mga tindahan, walang bibiyahe, magkaubusan ng mga face mask, libo ang maospital at may mga mamamatay sa bawat rehiyon.

Kulang ang mga doktor at ospital at marami ang magugutom at mawawalan ng hanapbuhay at trabaho sa lockdown.

Ano-ano ba ang ating gagawin?

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



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU
Regional Office No. V
DENR Annex Bldg., Regional Center, Rawis, Legaspi City
E-mail Address: region5@mgb.gov.ph
Website: region5.gov.ph
Telefax No. (052) 482-1056 Tel No. (052) 482-1156



NOTICE OF APPLICATION
MT. LABO EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(Name of Company/Individual)

FOR

EXPLORATION PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 21 of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2010-21, Series of 2010, Providing for a consolidated Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order for the Implementing Rules and Regulation of Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the "Philippine Mining Act of 1995", **Mt. Labo Exploration and Development Corporation** with office address at 2nd Floor Corinthian Plaza Bldg., Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati City, 1227, Philippines, has filed an application for Exploration Permit for the exploration of Gold, Copper, Iron and other minerals and particularly described as follows :

I - Registration No. : **EXPA-000231-V**

II - Date of Registration :

III - Area Location :
Barangays : Benit, Mabilo-1 and Napaod
Municipality of : Labo
Province of : Camarines Norte
Island of : Luzon

IV - Technical Description of the Area:

LOT — 1

Corner	Latitude	Longitude
1	14° 08' 00.000"	122° 48' 00.000"
2	14° 08' 30.000"	122° 48' 00.000"
3	14° 08' 30.000"	122° 48' 30.000"
4	14° 08' 00.000"	122° 48' 30.000"

LOT — 2

Corner	Latitude	Longitude
1	14° 06' 00.000"	122° 46' 30.000"
2	14° 06' 30.000"	122° 46' 30.000"
3	14° 06' 30.000"	122° 47' 30.000"
4	14° 06' 00.000"	122° 47' 30.000"

*** Exceptions.**

The proposed Contract/Permit Area shall be subject to Section 19 of RA 7942 and Section 15 ("Areas Closed to Mining Locations") and Section 16 ("Ancestral Lands), of DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-21, Series of 2010. Among other things:

a.) The following shall be closed to mining locations: areas with valid and existing mining rights; mining applications and areas expressly prohibited by law;

b.) The following shall also be closed to mining locations except upon the written consent of the concerned government agency or private entity subject to the evaluation and validation by the Bureau; areas near or under public or private buildings, cemeteries, archeological and historical sites, bridges, highways, waterways, railroads, reservoirs, dams or other infrastructure projects, public or private works including plantations of valuable or valuable crops.

c.) Applications for mineral agreement or financial or technical assistance agreements covering: small scale mining areas; civil or military reservations; areas covered by Certificate of Ancestral Domain claims; or areas of ancestral land as may be defined by law shall require prior written consent of concerned individuals, groups or other government agencies having jurisdiction over the area/s applied for.

d.) Tourism development areas as identified in the national and local tourism development plans;

e.) Prime agricultural lands, in addition to lands covered by RA No. 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, as amended, including plantations and areas devoted to valuable crops, and strategic agriculture and fisheries development zones, and fish refuge and sanctuaries declared as such by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

Notes

1. The approval of an Environmental Clearance Certificate, with all the necessary public consultations, shall be required prior to any and all mining construction, development and production.

2. The notice must be accompanied by a map/sketch plan with index map showing the nearest municipality(ies) and any major environmental feature(s).

V - Size of the Area: **Two Hundred Forty-Eight and 8616/10,000 (248.8616) hectares**

VI - Duration of the Permit:

1. Exploration shall have a term of two (2) years renewable for like period but not to exceed a total term of six (6) years;

VII - Extent of Operation to be Undertaken:

Exploration of Gold, Copper, Iron and other minerals.

Any and all persons having adverse claims, protest and/or opposition to the above mentioned application(s) are hereby notified that their adverse claims should be filed within ten (10) days from the last date of publication/posting, directly with the Regional Office concerned or Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) or Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer of the DENR for filing in the Regional Office for purposes of its resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators and/or the concerned appellate body(ies). Adverse claims, protests or opposition should be accomplished in accordance with Sections 203 and 204 of DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-21, series of 2010 and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the applicant/contractor by the adverse claimant.

For further particulars, apply or course your inquiries to the OIC, Office of the Regional Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Regional Office No. V, DENR Annex Building, Regional Center, Rawis, Legaspi City

GUILBERTO A. MOLINA, JR. /
Regional Director

