

DATE : MAR 08 2020

DAY : Sunday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Private sector told to go 'greener'

BY EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu has called for increased private sector participation in the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP), a flagship reforestation initiative of the government aimed at increasing the country's forest cover.

"We hope to encourage more private companies to help us in restoring and protecting our forests as we seek to establish

new ENGP plantations," Cimatu recently said, following the signing of agreements between the Department of Environment and

Natural Resources (DENR) and private firms Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. (MMPC) and SteelAsia Foundation Inc. (SAFI). The two companies both agreed to collaborate with the DENR on the national greening efforts by planting and nurturing trees.

Cimatu said the government has made it easier for the private sector to join the ENGP with his issuance last year of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2019-03, allowing companies to enter into a public-private partnership scheme by establishing new ENGP planta-

tions, maintaining and protecting existing plantations and existing forests outside ENGP areas.

Pursuant to the AO, the DENR has entered into a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with MMPC for the reforestation activities within a 30-hectare forestland at Barangay Kapatalan in Siniloan, Laguna.

It also entered a MoA with SAFI covering 23 hectares of forestland at Barangay Dayawan in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental.

Under the two deals, MMPC and SAFI agreed to allocate funds to cover the five-year implemen-

tation of various activities, which include site preparation, seedling production or procurement, and maintenance and protection of the established plantations and their surroundings.

For its part, the DENR will identify and delineate the forestlands, and determine the indigenous tree species to be planted, mode of plantation establishment, and protection and maintenance of the areas covered by the MoAs.

The agency will also choose jointly with the companies the people's organizations or commu-

nities that will plant and nurture the seedlings in the next five years.

ENGP is the extension of the National Greening Program created by virtue of Executive Order (EO) 26 and implemented from 2011 to 2016. During its six-year implementation, the program posted an accomplishment of 1.3 billion seedlings planted in 1.7 million hectares.

Established in 2015 under EO 193, ENGP seeks to cover the remaining 7.1 million hectares of open, degraded and denuded forests in the country from 2016 to 2028.



Climate group studies policies to reduce impact of food production

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is working on the creation of national and local policies that will help reduce the impact of food production to global warming.

Climate Change Secretary Emmanuel De Guzman pointed out that around 25 to 30 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions are attributable to the food system,

including food waste.

"These calls for more efficient and sustainable use of natural resources in food production, promotion of less meat-intensive diets toward one that is plant-based, and reduction, if not elimination, of food waste," he said during the Sustainable Diner Summit 2020 last March 4.

With food security as one of the thematic areas of the National Climate Change Action Plan, De Guzman said that the CCC was committed to assist the food sector in transitioning into a low-carbon and sustainable industry.

"We are pursuing the development of national and local policies that will create an enabling environment for sustainable food value chains. We are finding pathways to combine supply-side actions such as efficient production, transport, and processing with demand-side interventions such as modification of food choices, and reduction of food loss and waste," De Guzman said.

He noted that the CCC was also developing green building standards as well as promoting the greening of hotels, resorts and hospitals. It was also advancing green jobs for a low

carbon and green economy, in parallel with its formulation of the country's first Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

The Philippines' NDC, a document that will communicate the country's ambition for reducing carbon emissions on the basis of equity and in the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction, is being prepared in close coordination with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Transportation (DoTR), and Department of Energy (DOE), along with the academe and civil society.

The Paris Agreement, which was adopted in 2015 by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, mandates that developed and developing nations boost ambitions of their national climate commitments--known as NDCs--every five years.

This year, nations are tasked to accelerate actions and strengthen their national commitments at a scale commensurate with the climate challenge.



CARITAS Fr. Anton Pascual

Green spaces

Authority (PSA), 33 na ang highly urbanized cities (HUCs) sa ating bansa at apat dito ay higit pa sa 1.5 million ang populasyon.

Maraming mga hamon ang kinahaharap ng mga HUCs. Kasama na rito ang kakulangan sa mga "green spaces," gaya ng mga parke, walkways, pathways, at bike lanes. Base sa datos ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), sa 55,922.22 hektaryang land area ng National Capital Region (NCR), 12,152.79 hektarya na lamang ang berde. Katumbas ito ng 21% na lamang. Kapanalig, pinapaglingkuran ng napakaliit na luntiang espasyo na ito ang 12.8 milyong tao ang nasa NCR. Gipit na gipit tayo sa parke't malinis na hangin. Ang pinakahapit sa green spaces

sa NCR ay ang syudad ng Maynila. 140 hektarya na lamang ang luntiang espasyo nito habang 3,800 hektarya ang kanyang total land area.

Kapanalig, huwag tayong masanay. Kailangang makita natin ito bilang isang public health issue. Ayon sa mga eksperto, ang mga luntiang espasyo ay integral sa ating mga urban ecosystems. Tumutulong ito sa kalusugan ng tao. Sinasala nito ang ingay at dumi ng urbanisasyon.

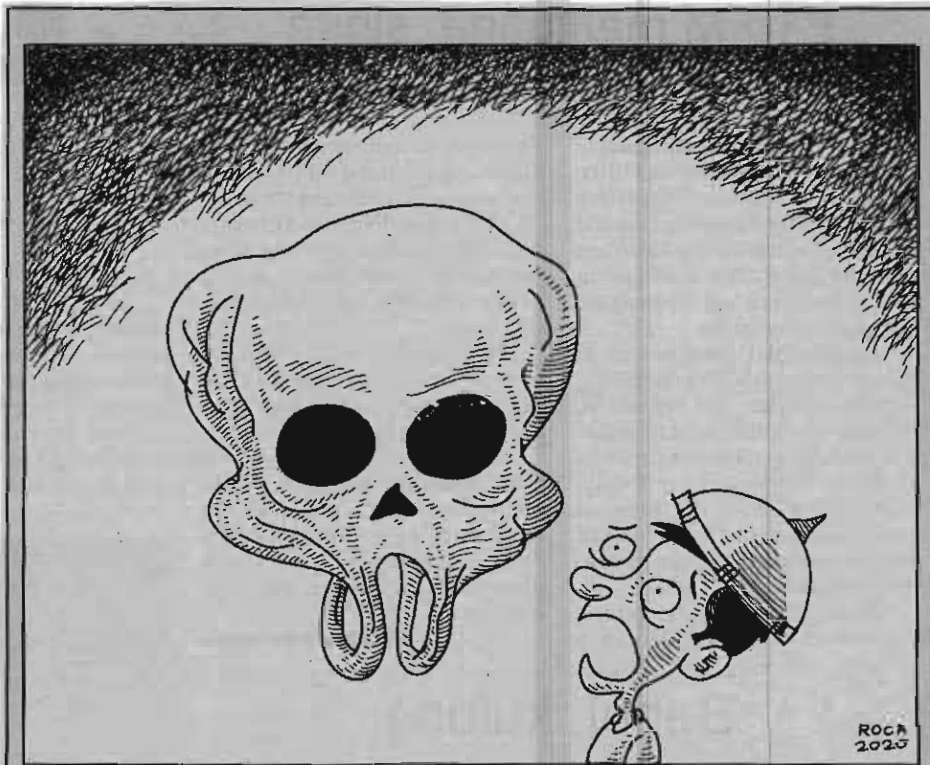
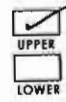
Ngayong panahon ng climate change, mas mahalaga ang mga luntiang espasyo sa ating mga syudad. Sila ay mga natural na paraan na pagpapababa ng temperatura. Sinisipsip din nila ang tubig upang mabawasan ang baha at mga landslides.

Ang greenspaces, kapanalig, ay sandigan din ng ating mental health. Inuudyukan tayo nitong gumalaw. Pinapakalma nito ng ating pakiramdam at tumutulong makabawas ng depresyon. Ayon sa WHO, ang physical inactivity na kaugnay ng kawalan ng access sa mga recreational areas ay nagdudulot ng 3.3% ng kamatayan sa buong mundo.

Kapanalig, ang mga luntiang espasyo din ay nagpapalapit sa atin sa Panginoon. Sabi nga sa Laborem Exercens, bahagi ng Catholic Social Teachings: Kung matututunan lamang natin ang kahulugan ng kapaligiran sa ating pang-araw-araw na buhay, tayo ay magiging mas banal. Mapupuno nito ang mundo ng Espiritu ni Kristo – ng kanyang katarungan, pag-ibig, at kapayapaan.

MARAMI sa mga kabataan ngayon, hindi alam ang nagdaang ganda ng ating mga syudad noon. Kulay kapeng kapaligiran ang kanilang kinalakihan, samantalang tayo na nagkaka-edad na, naalala pa natin ang nakaraang lumipas na puno ng mga luntiang espasyo ang kalakhang Maynila, habang umiihip ang napa-preskong hangin.

Ngayon, kakaunti na lamang ang mga puno sa ating mga syudad. At pihadong mababawasan pa ito dahil sa mabilis na urbanisasyon ng ating bansa. Ayon sa Philippine Statistics



EDITORIAL

Praktikal na solusyon para sa problema ng plastic

MAHIGIT 30 panukalang-batas na ang inihain sa Kongreso upang mafugunan ang pandaigdigang problema sa basurang plastic na natatambak sa mga landfills at mga karagatan, na nagdudulot ng polusyon sa kapaligiran, nadaragdag sa bulto ng basurang plastic na hindi naman mabubulok sa susunod na 450 taon, na nagbibigay ng banta sa buhay ng mga lamang-dagat at sa sangkatauhan.

Tinukoy ang Pilipinas bilang isa sa pangunahing pinagmumulan ng basurang plastic sa mga karagatan ng mundo – ang ikatlo kasunod ng China at Indonesia. Kabilang sa bulto ng basurang plastic ang candy wrappers, plastic bottles at takip, sachet na ginagamit sa pagbebenta mga tinging gamot, at panghalo at straws sa mga kainan.

Karamihan sa mga panukalang-batas na nakahain sa Kongreso ay nakatuon sa pagbabawal ng “single-use plastics” dahil sa malaking bilang nito, ngunit sa katunayan, ang lahat ng uri ng plastic, single-use man o hindi, ay napupunta lamang sa kapaligiran kapag itinatapon, na na dadagdagan sa paglipas ng panahon, dahil hindi naman ito nabubulok tulad ng papel, kahoy, tea, leather, abaca at iba pang materyales na ginagamit noon ng mundo bago pa ang imbensyon ng plastic.

Ang malawakang pagbabawal sa paggamit ng single-use plastic ay magbibigay wakas sa paggamit ng mga pakete na naglalaman ng mga pills at iba pang medisina na binibili ng mahihirap na hindi kayang bumili ng maramihan. Ang alternatibo sa plastic tulad ng glass at metal ay higit namang mas mahal. Hindi rin napoprotektahan ng supot o papel na lalagyan nang maayos ang laman nito. At ang pagtaas ng paggamit ng papel at kahoy at mangangahulugan raman ng pagputol sa ating mga kagubatan.

Sa halip na tumuon sa single-use plastics, iminumungkahi ng panukalang inihain ni Rep. Rufus Rodrigues ng Cagayan de Oro ang isang solusyon na ginagamit ng ilang bansa, ang tinatawag na “extended product responsibility.” Nananawagan ito para sa mga gumagawa at nag-aangkat ng plastic packaging at iba pang uri ng plastic na kolektahin ang kanilang basurang nalilikha matapos magamit ang kanilang produkto. Bawat manufacturer ay dapat kumolekta ng dami na katumbas ng kanilang plastic na nagamit sa mga produktong ibinebenta sa publiko. Habang ang mga producer na walang kakayahang magtayo ng kanilang sariling sistema ng koleksyon ay maaaring makipag-ugnayan sa isang “producer responsibility organization.” Dahil dito, ang mga kumpanya na nagnanais na maiwasan ang dagdag na gastos sa koleksyon ay mahihikayat na humanap ng murang alternatibo sa plastic packaging.


Sa pagpapatupad ng ganitong sistema, malaking bilang ng mga hilaw na materyales ang maaaring ma-recycle na magagamit naman sa paglikha ng bagong produkto o bagong pambalot. Nagagamit na ngayon ang mga plastic na basura, tulad sa paggawa ng mga upuan sa paaralan at sangkap sa paggawa ng kalsada.

Ikinalulugod nating mabatid ang ipinamalas na malaking interes ng ating mga kongresista sa pangangailangan na masolusyunan ang malaking problema ng mundo sa plastic. Lahat ng posibleng solusyon ay dapat na subukan at maisalin sa isang panukala sa Kongreso, lalo na ang mga panukala na tutuon sa recycling, tulad ng mungkahing sistema ng koleksyon na may prinsipyo ng “extended product responsibility” sa panukalang-batas ni Congressman Rodriguez.



TITLE:

PAGE 1/



ALIN ANG NAIBA
NI ALIN FERRER

**SA PILING MO...
SIERRA MADRE**

NAG-INGAY na naman po ang mga maka-kalikasang grupo nitong nakaraang linggo. Inireklamo ng Masungi Georeserve Foundation ang tatlong kompanya ng minahan na binakuran daw ang ilang daang hektarya na gubat sa Baras, Rizal, dahil merong quarrying na gagawin dito.

Ang masakit pa nga nito, ipinako pa mismo sa mga puno sa gubat ang mga steel wire at barbed wire na pambakod!

Pag nakita mo nga ang mga litrato nito, talaga namang magagalit ka!

Pagkatapos maibalita at maglunsad ng petisyon sa internet o social media para pigilan ang pagmimina, umaksyon naman agad si DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Pinangunahan nya ang pagbabakdas sa mga bakod at sinabing pag-aaralang mabuti ng ahen-sya ang mga kontrata at mga operasyon ng minahan sa lugar.

Dapat lang! sa panahon natin na nagbabago ang klima o climate change, ang mga gubat ay napakahalaga.

Ang Masungi Georeserve ay bahagi ng Upper Marikina Watershed Protected Landscape. At parte ito ng mas malawak na Sierra Madre Range mula Nueva Vizcaya hanggang sa mga probinsya ng Quezon at Rizal.

Malapit sa akin ang isyung ito, kasi sa Marikina ako lumaki. At sa Antipolo naman ako naninirahan ngayon.

Sa una, ang Sierra Madre ang humaharang sa mga malalakas na bagyo para hindi nito birahin ang Metro Manila at ang mga katabing lugar nito.

Kaya dapat alagaan ang buong Sierra Madre.

Bukod sa malinis na hangin na bigay ng mga puno, hinihigop ng mga gubat ng Sierra Madre ang polusyon sa ere na galing sa mga siyudad.

At ang maraming puno ang sisipsip naman ng tubig-ulan para mapunta sa mga sapa at ilog natin.

Dito galing ang malaking bahagi ng mga tubig sa mga dam ng Angat at Wawa kung saan naman galing ang tubig ng Metro Manila.

At ang gubat naman sa Marikina Watershed ang pumipigil sa mga landslides at flashfloods na pwedeng sumalanta sa mga lungsod ng Marikina, Cainta, Pasig, Taytay at iba pang lugar.

Kahit na nga sabihin natin na mahalaga ang mga miminahan sa Baras para sa semento at iba pang industriya, para yatang napakalaki naman ng banta sa kalusugan, buhay at kalikasan ang kapalit 'pag natuloy ang mga minahan.

May nagsabi pa sa akin na ika-25 na taong anibersaryo daw ng batas natin sa pagmimina ngayong Marso 2020.

Baka nga kailangan na rin natin ng bagong batas sa pagmimina, dahil masyado nang luma ito, at hindi na kayang sumabay sa mga realidad ng buhay natin ngayon.

Naalala ko tuloy ang isang pangako ni Pangulong Duterte noon na maglalabas siya ng batas na i-ban ang pagmimina sa Pilipinas.

Wait lang, nasaan ha nga pala ang pangakong 'yun ni Tatay Digong?



Oslob illegal structures up for demolition

BY RICO OSMEÑA
@tribunephil_rico

CEBU – Some 331 illegal structures around resorts, hotels and restaurants in Oslob, the whale watching capital in Asia, will have to be sacrificed and demolished to preserve the environment.

This was the agreement of more than 200 resort/hotel/restaurants operators in an assembly presided over by Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia on Thursday.

“Under the law, all coastal properties are classified as urbanized and agricultural with 3-meter and 20-meter easement zones, thus we

have to follow this and let's wait for the municipal ordinance to be passed to declare these as urbanized and implement the 3-meter easement zone,” Garcia explained.

While there were major reactions on the possible policy, the operators eventually relented after realizing the benefits of the long term preservation of the environment especially for the whale shark watching attraction.

Garcia insisted that the 3-meter easement zone will be the best intervention of the provincial government with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Tourism and the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS
INQUIRER

A10
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

MAR 08 2020

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

(PI)





NO OTTER LOVE: PALAWAN'S CUTE BUT OVERLOOKED RESIDENTS

(P2)

By Romar Miranda
@RVMirandaINQ

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Palawan, on top of being a global tourist destination, is a center of biodiversity that serves as a refuge for hundreds of threatened animal species.

One such creature is the Asian small-clawed otter, a cute and fuzzy semiaquatic mammal said to be the smallest otter in the world.

Endemic to the province, the Palawan otter (*Aonyx cinereus*) is often overlooked in environmental protection and conservation efforts. In fact, there are only scant scientific studies on its taxonomy, characteristics, distribution and habitat.

Jessa Garibay-Yayen, co-founder of Centre for Sustainability and a member of the otter specialist group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), said lobbying to strengthen protection for the Palawan otter has been “challenging because the data was very limited and they (otters) are understudied.”

Palawan otters live near coastal wetlands and mountain streams. Their fur is typically brown, sometimes cream-colored with a reddish tinge; their

undersides are paler brown, and the edge of their upper lips, chin, throat, and sides of neck and face are grayish-white.

Their claws are reduced to small rudiments that do not project beyond the tips of the digits, which makes their tracks distinguishable from those of other otters by the absence of claw marks.

First filmed in 2015

Females are known to be a little smaller than the males. An adult is about 33 centimeters long, excluding the tail, which is about two-thirds of the body length.

The Palawan otter was first filmed in the wild in Cleopatra’s Needle Forest Reserve, one of the oldest and most diverse forests in the country, in 2015 by a group of scientists. They were accidentally caught on camera traps during a rapid biodiversity assessment.

This species can also be found in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. It has also been introduced in the United Kingdom.

“Otter population is now declining rapidly due to habitat loss and the decrease of quality of the wetlands,” Yayen said.

The size of the small-clawed

otter population in the wilds of Palawan is yet to be determined, she said.

Deeply social

Known to be deeply social, otters that are separated from their family groups later become psychologically disturbed.

“The biggest impediment in otters is that they are super cute, fuzzy and soft that people want to have them as pets. In reality, it is not ideal because it affects their psychological behavior and they become aggres-

sive,” Yayen said.

Otter cafés that are popular in Japan do not tell the bloody story of how the otters have been poached and shipped to Japan.

The young otters called cubs are forcibly separated from their parents, which are often killed by poachers.

Poached for meat

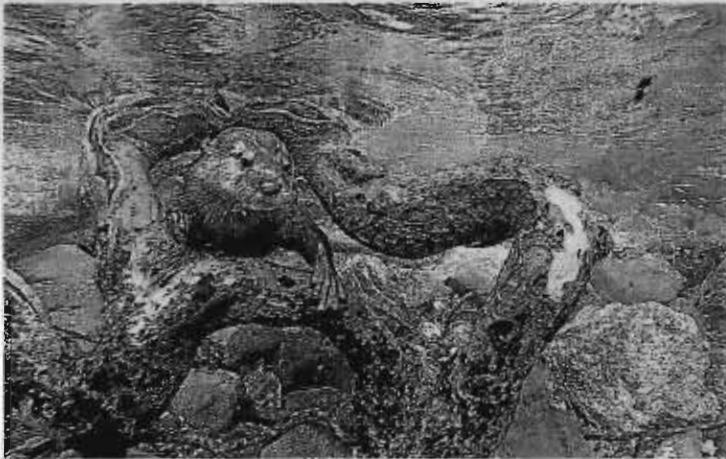
“People go to those cafés just to take a selfie and pet otters, not knowing that the reality is that you’re taking the whole family. The selfies come at a very high

MAR 08 2020

TITLE: NO OTTER LOVE: PALAWAN'S OVERLOOKED
RESIDENTS

PAGE 1/ (3)

DATE



UNDERSTUDIED Conservationists are lobbying to have the status of the Palawan otter (*Aonyx cinereus*) updated from Appendix II to Appendix I under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, to give the animal more protection against illegal wildlife trafficking.

—PHOTOS BY DIANA J. LIMJOCO / CONTRIBUTOR

for the local and international markets, and, more recently, for pets sold via the internet.

Scientific expeditions and conservation efforts have been established to protect and sustain the Palawan otter.

Updated status

Its supporters made a strategic move in June 2019 to push to update the Palawan otter's status from Appendix II to Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). An updated status would mean international trade of this species would be prohibited and that would strengthen protection against illegal wildlife trafficking.

"We had a very challenging task," Yayen said, recalling the politics of lobbying.

She pointed out that "the nomination process, the collating of supporting data and looking for other organizations from other countries to tag-team with was difficult because they mostly are unaware of the [Asian small-clawed] otters, so we had to lay the groundwork."

The CITES formally recognized and acknowledged the bid for an Appendix I status of the Asian small-clawed otters in August 2019. **INQ**

cost," Yayen added.

Otters are also being poached for meat as demand rises in the exotic animals market.

The Asian small-clawed otter was categorized as a "vulnerable" species by the IUCN in 2015 based on the more than 30-percent decline in its global numbers over the past 30 years.

This otter species was reported to have disappeared from the western Himalayan foothills, southern China, south-eastern India and some parts of Myanmar, due to poaching