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**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



# DENR studies Indonesia's ban on nickel exports

By **CHINO S. LEYCO**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the government's studying the impact on the local mining industry of Indonesia's ban on its nickel-ore exports.

Environment Undersecretary Analiza R. Teh said the inter-agency Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) is currently drafting a roadmap that should help nickel miners along with gold and copper mines in enhancing their operations in country.

Teh said the DENR already requested the Department of Trade and Industry (BTI) as well as its attached agency, Board of Investments (BOI), to present a mining industry roadmap.

"There's already a discussion which we have to pursue so we can take this opportunity for the mining industry," Teh

said at the mining conference yesterday in Pasay City when asked how the Philippines can take advantage of Indonesia's ban on nickel-ore exports.

The DENR, however, said that the Department of Finance (DOF) has "some questions" regarding the proposed roadmap that they hope to address in the next MICC meeting.

"Definitely, the government is pursuing the discussion and what we need to undertake is to sit-down with the chamber to revisit that roadmap and get their inputs to enhance that roadmap," she said.

Teh, meanwhile, said that the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has recommended lifting the suspension of a small-sized nickel miner, one of several ore producers ordered in 2016 to halt operations in an industry-wide crackdown.

The MGB recommended that Zambales Diversified Metals Corp – one of two nickel

subsidiaries of DMCI Mining Corp. – be allowed to resume mining operations, Teh said.

The DENR lifted the suspension order on DMCI Mining's other nickel subsidiary, Berong Nickel Corp., in November last year. The Philippines was the world's second-largest producer of nickel ore in 2018, selling most of its output to top buyer China. In 2020, when last year's top producer Indonesia is due to ban its ore exports, China is expected to rely mainly on nickel ore from the Philippines, according to analysts.

DMCI Mining, a unit of DMCI Holdings Inc, had said in March that it expected 2019 to be a tough year, with one of its two mines still suspended and its inventory almost depleted.

The Berong and Zambales mines, two of more than 30 nickel ore producers in the Philippines, in recent years accounted for less than 5% of the nation's output of the

material, which is used in stainless steel and electric vehicle batteries.

Teh said the DENR has also lifted the suspension order against Carrascal Nickel Corp, but five other suspended mines – mostly nickel ore producers – have yet to comply fully with the requirements that would allow them to operate.

Teh said the MGB has also recommended lifting a suspension order issued against iron ore miner Strong Built Mining Development Corp.

Philippine nickel ore production rose three percent in the first half of 2019, but output was capped as half of the country's nickel mines were closed for maintenance or environmental reasons.

In 2016, the DENR, then headed by a staunch anti-mining advocate, ordered several mines shut in a crackdown on miners as part of a push to ramp up environmental protection. (With Reuters)



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# Pushing for better mines through R&D

STORY & PHOTO

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](https://twitter.com/jonlmayuga)

**I**S there a way to put more science to boost mining in the Philippines? Through research and development, says science and technology experts.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), through the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD), has been funding various research and development under its mining and minerals program to make the industry more environment friendly and sustainable.

The DOST-Caraga Regional Office and PCIEERD recently held the Better Mines Forum as part of Luwas Pilipinas, Ligtas Pilipinas S&T Caravan in Butuan City to showcase its various programs to boost mining in the Philippines.

Discussing PCIEERD's initiatives, Engr. Raul C. Sabularse said research and development for metallic and nonmetallic minerals are being conducted by various institutions funded by the DOST.

The deputy director of PCIEERD, Sabularse said the programs include value-adding of metallic minerals—for gold, copper, nickel, iron and chromite, and rare Earth elements, such as scandium, yttrium and lanthanide series.

Sabularse, in his presentation, titled "DOST Solutions for the Mining Sector," identified the various programs of PCIEERD.

"I cannot claim that it will be the perfect solution; it's just an option. There are so many factors affecting mining operations. Social, cultural and political issues affect the mining industry," he said.

PCIEERD, he said, is not doing the research but only give grants to universities to do the research.

## CLINN-GEM

ONE such successful PCIEERD-funded research is the project dubbed CLINN-GEM, which stands for Community-led Integrated Non-Mercury Non-Cyanide Gold Extraction Method.

A project by the University of the Philippines (UP), CLINN-GEM is a product of a 10-year research in a gold mining processing technology developed, researched and tested in partnership with small-scale mining communities in four pilot areas in the Philippines.

Its implementing models are in Benguet in the Cordillera Administrative Region; Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte, in the Bicol region; Del Pilar, Agusan del Norte, in the Caraga region; and Compostela Valley in Davao region.

## Processing facility

DOST-PCIEERD, to test the technology, also funded the construction of processing facilities.

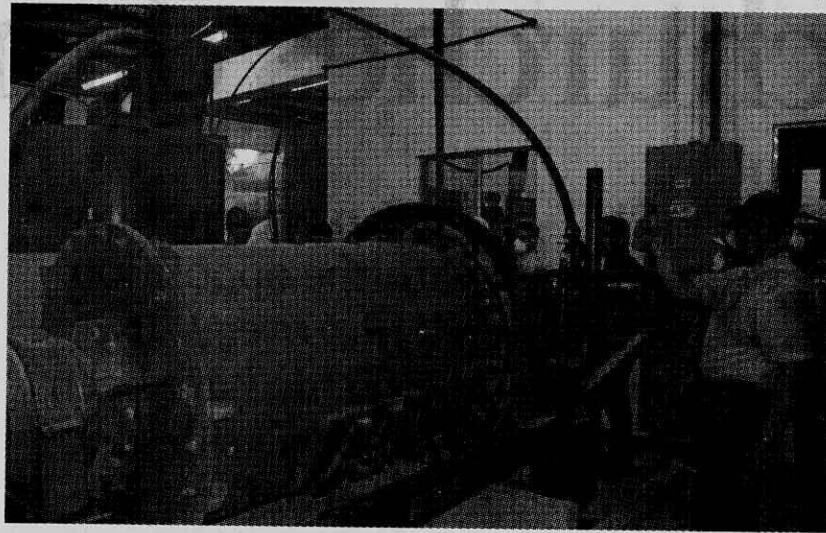
One such facility is in Barangay del Pilar, Cabadbaran City, Surigao del Norte, during the Luwas Pilipinas, Ligtas Pilipinas Caravan; that was toured by media. It can process 5 tons of ores a day.

Dr. Herman Mendoza, a professor at the Department of Mining, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering in UP Diliman, told reporters his team started to conduct research and development in 2008. The UP department developed the environment-friendly gold-processing technology, including the construction of the processing facilities.

The facilities, Mendoza said,



## Pushing for better mines through R&D



**DR. Herman Mendoza, a professor at the Department of Mining, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering in UP Diliman, gestures during a media tour of the CLINN-GEM gold-processing facility in Cabadbaran City, Surigao del Norte, as part of the Luwas Pilipinas, Ligtas Pilipinas science and technology caravan organized by DOST-PCIEERD.**

were designed to have mine wastes treated before they are disposed of.

### Flotation

FROM 2008 to 2012, Mendoza and his team worked on developing better alternatives to amalgamation and cyanidation.

Amalgamation is the process, which uses mercury to separate gold from other minerals, while cyanidation, the most common leaching process for gold extraction, uses hydrometallurgy to extract gold from low-grade ore by converting the gold to a water-soluble coordination complex.

Mendoza's team also developed better ways to collect gold from very fine ores, hence, resulting in a high rate of gold extraction. The CLINN-GEM technology makes use of both flotation and leaching.

### Decade of work

MENDOZA said the research and development compelled his team to learn from small-scale miners themselves. They conducted site visits in small-scale mining areas to identify the problems besetting the sector.

"We toured every small-scale mining area in the Philippines to learn more about the process and the problems posed by [the industry]," he said.

After developing the appropriate technology they had field testing.

"Initially, we thought of field testing in 10 pilot sites but we decided it will cost too much, so we identified four strategic areas where small-scale mining is robust," he said in a mix of English and Filipino.

### Game changer

THE establishment of the gold-processing facility using the CLINN-GEM technology will be a game-changer for the small-scale mining industry, said PCIEERD Executive Director Enrico Paringit, justifying the investment made by PCIEERD for the project.

In Cabadbaran City alone, the construction of the processing facility costs around P37 million. It can process mineral ores from 5 metric tons to 15 MT, with a 40-percent gold-recovery rate, higher than the small-scale industry standard.

He said the facility was designed to prove that there is a better way of mining gold by small-scale miners.

Paringit said the use of a common facility by small-scale miners run by a team trained by Mendoza and PCIEERD's team of experts will boost the government regulation of small-scale mining in the Philippines.





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Pushing for better mines through R&D

## Minahang Bayan

THE facilities were designed for small-scale mining stakeholders, like local government units (LGUs), people's organization or mining cooperatives, to boost small-scale mining and ensure environmental safeguard, Paringit and Mendoza said.

But such facilities, including the technology developed through extensive research and development, will all be for naught without a Minahang Bayan where small-scale miners can legally extract gold.

Mendoza is calling on concerned authorities to work with LGUs and small-scale miners to establish Minahang Bayan as mandated by law.

Minahang Bayan is established by the LGUs through the Provincial or City Mining Regulatory Board but needs the approval of the DENR through the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), the government's main mining regulatory body.

According to Paringit, the project's business design models are cutout wherein the technology and the facility will be run and operated by the community, people's organizations, small-scale mining cooperatives or LGUs themselves.

## Illegal mining

THERE is a direct link between illegal small-scale mining activities and lack of Minahang Bayan, where a processing facility should be built under government rules and regulations, particularly Executive Order 79.

In the Caraga region alone, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Caraga Regional Office, there are 465 illegal small-scale mining operations and 87 illegal mineral processing plants.

This is because there are only three Minahang Bayan and only one approved mineral processing plant in the region.

There are also 19 Minahang Bayan applications pending for approval, while 25 applications have been denied.

## Monitoring production, reducing health impacts

MORE important, Paringit said the establishment of processing plants in Minahang Bayan would also help the government monitor gold production. This will help increase the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas's gold purchases, which continue to experience steep drop as early as 2012 because small-scale gold miners opt to sell to the black market for a higher price and to avoid taxes.

Mendoza's team assessed that the small-scale mining industry in 30 provinces contributes about 70 percent to 80 percent of the country's gold production.

Worse, because of inefficient gold-processing technique mostly done in "backyard-processing plants" where wastes are dumped anywhere, the health risks to people and the environment are high.

Globally, the small-scale mining industry is responsible for approximately 37 percent of mercury-emission and the largest source of air and water pollution, Mendoza said.

Paringit said currently, the facility in Cabadbaran City is being operated by the Caraga State University. Hopefully, he said, they can finalize the transfer of "ownership" to its would-be user soon.

"The concept is for this facility to be a common facility where small-scale miners can bring their ores for processing. It can be run by local communities, or by LGUs," he said.

As such, he said the establishment of Minahang Bayan could be complemented by the environment-friendly gold extraction technology developed through funding by the DOST-PCIEERD.

According to Paringit, PCIEERD and its partners are willing to provide the training to LGUs and small-scale miners on how to operate such facility—which are all a result of putting more science to mining through research and development.



# DENR sets rules for small-scale miners

By Maria Romero

According to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, the country has an estimated \$840 billion worth of untapped mineral wealth comprised of gold, nickel, copper and chromite.

This makes the Philippines one of the most mineral-rich countries in the world.

In this regard, government and stakeholders in the mining industry have collectively been working to create measures that would help the country maximize the vast potential of its mineral resources. Drawing up such policies at this point in time has become more imperative as global demand for minerals escalates.

At the recently-held three-day Mining Philippines 2019 International Conference and Exhibition in Manila, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it remains committed to pursuing its

ongoing initiatives to reinforce stricter regulations for mining practices in the country.

DENR Undersecretary for Climate Change Service and Mining Concerns Atty. Analiza Rebueta-Teh said her agency is presently revising the mining regulatory process, development of the design and performance standards for open-pit mines, and the periodic review of the no-go zones for mining applications.

Currently, the country has mined only less than 2 percent of the 30 million hectares of land allocated for mining.

"That 2 percent can be further nourished but the miners should follow the environmental concerns," Teh said.

Likewise, DENR will further fast-track approval of applications for Minahang Bayan areas nationwide and address certain issues plaguing small-scale miners who have yet to be regulated by environmental rules.

Under the Republic Act 7076 or the

Act Creating People's Small Scale Mining Program, small-scale mining operations are overseen by the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board.

However, the Executive Order (EO) 79 prohibits the issuance of permits to small-scale mining applying for Minahang Bayan.

## Thousands of small-scale mining operations have not been compliant with environmental regulations.

Currently, Teh said the environment department, following the EO 79, will be requiring small-scale mining to be declared part of the Minahang Bayan before they be allowed to continue operations.

On top of this, he disclosed that small-scale mining firms will be required to get the consent of mining contractors.

The revised rule cites the DENR Secretary as having direct supervision

and control over programs and activities of small-scale miners within Minahang Bayan areas.

Mining operators with pending applications for Minahang Bayan that fail to comply with DENR's disclosure requirements—primarily the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC)—for the declaration of Minahang Bayan face suspension and won't be issued Ore Transport and Mineral Export Permits.

A study titled "Advancing Sound Resource Management as a Requisite for Sustainable Development" by Dr. CP David said small-scale mining activities in the country are "highly unregulated" both from an environmental and fiscal perspective.

This neglect needs to be approached as a separate challenge with its own set of eco-political complications, according to Dr. David.

He said thousands of small-scale mining operations have not been compliant with

environmental regulations. Aggravating the situation is the regulator's limited ability to enforce regulations and the environmental damage that results has reflected badly on the entire mining industry.

Minahang Bayan areas provide small-scale miners the opportunity to operate legally, and they allow the government to better monitor and regulate their extractive activities. The areas also promote safety and environmental protection, as well as generate revenues for the government.

According to Teh, more Minahang Bayan areas nationwide are increasing the opportunities for the government to track small-scale mining and provide them with proper technical assistance.

Teh added that the Philippines can fully reap the benefits of mining if the industry stakeholders strictly adhere to the responsible mining standards.



MINAHANG Bayan areas provide small-scale miners the opportunity to operate legally, and they allow the government to better monitor and regulate their extractive activities.

AFP



# Foreigners apprehended for urinating in Boracay

By **JENNIFER RENDON**

ILOILO CITY – Two Chinese and a Korean national were collared after they were seen urinating at the beachfront of Boracay Island.

Chinese nationals Zhang Zhi, 30, and Hao Yueran, 35, both billeted at the Fairways and Blue Waters

Resort, were caught at 8:20 p.m. last Thursday.

Six beach guards of the Malay local government were roving the beachfront when they saw the two peeing on the shore in front of Calypso Beach and Dove Resort at Station 3 in Barangay Manoc-Manoc.

Zhi and Yueran were brought to

the police station and issued citation tickets in violation of a municipal ordinance on cleanliness and sanitation.

On the following day, Korean national Sungjun Kim was also caught for the same violation while in front of D'Mall. He was also issued a citation.

Other tourists at the Philippines'

top vacation spot were cited for various offenses.

Malay police arrested Colombian tourist Sebastian Garcia for drinking liquor at the beachfront. He was given a citation for violating a municipal ordinance which prohibits carrying and drinking of liquor on the beach.

On Sept. 8, a Chinese national was arrested for allegedly assaulting a member of the Malay Auxiliary Police force. Businessman Dennis Chong, 50, was seen smoking a cigarette while at Bloomfield in Barangay Balabag, Boracay Island in Malay, Aklan. This prompted Noly Cuatriz, a member of the auxiliary police, to warn the suspect for violating Malay town's anti-smoking ordinance.

Chong subsequently flicked his cigarette butt, which landed on Cuatriz's face. Other members of the Malay Auxillary Police immediately arrested the suspect. He was charged for direct assault upon an agent or person in authority.



## 4 foreign tourists huli sa aktong pag-ihi at pag-inom ng alak sa Boracay beach

**KALIBO, Aklan** – Kasunod sa unti-unting pagbuhos ng mga turista sa isla ng Boracay sa pag-simula ng “ber months,” dumarami na rin ang mga pasaway na dayuhang lumalabag sa mga ordinansa ng bayan ng Malay sa lalawigan ng Aklan.

Ito ay matapos na maaktuhan ang dalawang Chinese nationals na kinilalang sina Zhang Zhi, 30, at Hao Yueran, 35, ng

Malay Auxiliary Police na umihi sa front beach ng Station 3, Barangay Manocmanoc, sa nasabing isla.

Ang dalawa ay inisyuhan ng citation ticket dahil sa paglabag sa Municipal Ordinance No. 311 series of 2012 o an ordinance prohibiting littering, dumping, throwing of garbage, and other waste materials and prescribing penalties for certain acts and omissions inimical to cleanliness and sanitation.

Sa kabilang dako, hindi rin pinalampas ng mga enforcers ang dalawang Koreano nang mahuling umiinom ng alak sa dalampasigan.

Kinilala ang mga dayuhan na sina Changhyeok Lee at Choi Rack Hyun, kapwa nasa legal na edad at kasalukuyang nagbakasyon sa isla.

Ang dalawang bakasyonista ay tinikitan din sa paglabag sa Municipal Ordinance No. 319 series of 2012 o an ordinance prohibiting the carrying or clutching of glass bottles of any beverage in the beaches of Boracay island.



## KATARUNGAN PARA SA KALIKASAN

NAUMAY na ako sa magkaka-sunod na column ko tungkol sa isyu ng Good Conduct Time Allowance r'yan sa Bureau of Correction. 'Di lang kasi GCTA ang naging isyu, marami pang lumantad na katiwalian sa loob ng bilibid. Sandamakmak na monkey business ang nadiskubre. Naumay ako.

Kaya ibang isyu na muna ako. Usaping pangkalikasan naman tayo. Kamakailan lang, meron na namang napatay na forest guard sa El Nido, Palawan nito lang Sept. 4, 2019. Sa listahan ng DENR, pangatlo nang forest guard si Forest ranger Bienvenido Veguilla Jr., 44 taong gulang.

Aarestuhin sana ng grupo nina Veguilla ang illegal loggers na natiyempuhan nila habang nagpapatrulya. Pero lumaban ang mga nagpuputol ng mga puno at nataga hanggang sa

mamatay si Veguilla.

Doble ang kasalanan ng mga pumatay kay Veguilla. Ilegal na nga ang kanilang pagtotroso, pinatay pa nila ang isang taga-bantay at tagapagtanggol ng gubat!

Galit na galit daw si DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu at ibinalik niya ang panukala na armasman o bigyan ng baril at sanayin ang forest guards nila.

Sigurado ako, nagngitngit din sa galit ang environmentalists sa Palawan. Sobrang dami na raw ang napatay at napaalis ng mga may ilegal na pagtotroso, pagmimina at nagkakaingin sa mga gubat ng Palawan. Halos lahat na raw kasi ng "protected areas" at watershed ng mga bundok at gubat ng Palawan ay pinasok na nila.

Kaya nga sinimulan ni dating DENR Sec. Gina Lopez



## ALIN ANG NAIBA

NI ALIN FERRER

ang laban at krusada niya para sa Kalikasan. Ito 'yung Save Palawan Movement. Sabi niya, kailangan at dapat alagaan at pakinabangan sa tamang paraan ang mga likas-yaman ng Palawan.

Ang kwento ng pagbabantay at sakripisyo para sa kalikasan ay paulit-ulit sa buong bansa. May barikada laban sa minahan sa Didipio, sa Nueva Vizcaya. Tutol ang mga katutubo sa Kaliwa Dam sa Quezon. May mga gustong ipatigil ang mga maruming coal-fired power plants sa Palawan, Batangas, Negros at South Cotabato. Ayaw ng mga Taga-

Capiz ang pagmimina, kaya nagsabatas ang lalawigan ng pagbabawal ng minahan. Sa ulat ng Global Witness, ang Pilipinas ang pinakadelikadong bansa para sa environmentalists. Noong 2018 daw, ang Pilipinas ang may pinakamaraming napatay na taong luma-laban para sa kalikasan at para sa kanilang lupa. Tatlumpong ang napatay noong 2018. At malamang, marami pa ang hindi nasisama sa report.

Sa panahon na nagbabago ang klima o climate change, kailangang magising at kumilos na tayong lahat para pangalagaan ang kalikasan.





## Editorial

### Fund for cleanup may be wasteful

**T**HE rehabilitation program for Manila Bay is set to receive P1.35 billion in 2020, according to a recent statement from Buhay party-list Rep. Jose "Lito" Atienza, who expressed misgivings about this measure. We urge lawmakers to review this allocation carefully before passing next year's national Budget. Unless there are adequate measures to address the source of pollution, that money, as they say, will go down the drain.

For the record, we are for cleaning up Manila Bay. In fact, we support similar programs to clean up and rehabilitate our polluted rivers, lakes and other coastal areas. But any cleanup effort will be a waste of time and money if we do not attend to the source of pollution first. Think about your sink overflowing. Before mopping the floor, you should turn off the faucet first.

In his statement, Mr. Atienza argued that the rehabilitation program of Manila Bay would be ineffective, unless we stop untreated wastewater from getting into the bay in the first place. He went on to say that the government should compel Manila Water Company Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. to build the sewerage treatment infrastructure along the river systems that empty into Manila Bay. They are required to do so by law.

Just in August, the Supreme Court voted 14-0 to uphold the nearly P2 billion in fines against those two water concessionaires and their regulator, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, for violating the Clean Water Act. That law, formally known as Republic Act 9275, mandates Manila Water and Maynilad to build the sewer lines by May 2009 or five years after the passage of the Clean Water Act. And until they comply, the concessionaires and MWSS will continue to be fined P322,102 daily plus interest. That fine escalates 10 percent in two years, said Atienza who was formerly mayor of Manila and secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Maynilad and Manila appear too big and powerful to be bothered by this, however. As Mr. Atienza said, nothing has changed. "Right now, the bulk of Metro Manila's raw sewage, including those from households, still drains into the Pasig River and other waterways that all empty out into Manila Bay."

#### No valid reason

We see no logical or acceptable explanation for the non-compliance of Manila Water and Maynilad. They have been collecting fees from consumers for the construction of sewer lines, some reports say to the tune of about P60 billion. Even if the concessionaires dispute that amount, there is no way around the law. The Supreme Court decision last month makes that clear. The question now is, what we are going to do about it?

Maynilad and Manila Water are two of the biggest companies in the Philippines. To say that they cannot afford to comply with the law is simply unacceptable. They make loads of money from the privilege of running a monopoly in their respective service areas in Metro Manila. Where is the public outrage?

The longer we remain silent, the greater our suffering. Failure to effectively address the pollution problem in Manila Bay carries a tremendous opportunity cost, not to mention P1.35 billion more in actual expense as proposed in the 2020 budget. That money could be better spent on relocating informal settlers living along the Pasig River. They are a major source of untreated wastewater after all.

Imagine that a small island like Boracay can draw millions of tourists annually and contribute significantly to the GDP. If only Manila Bay was clean enough for swimming and other water sports, for fishing and more tourism activities. And when we say Manila Bay, we should think about the whole thing. Remember that the bay has a coastline that stretches about 190 kilometers and covers an area of nearly 2,000 square kilometers.

Cleaning up Boracay required political will. We now need the same resolve for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay. There is still hope, if only we use common sense in our policymaking and muster the courage to confront corporate greed.



BETTER DAYS

# One step in addressing the plastic problem

By SENATOR SONNY ANGARA



**P**LASTICS are very useful for many industries. For example, up to a fourth of all packaging used globally is made of plastic. Plastic packaging helps food stay fresher, longer. Plastic containers also weigh less, contributing to fuel and transportation savings.

Despite their usefulness, plastics poses a serious challenge. While some types are considered biodegradable, many require industrial-level processes to be recycled or broken down to harmless materials. The continued use of these materials—particularly those of single-use variety—fill the world's landfills and pollute vital ecosystems.

In a 2018 National Geographic article, the estimated amount of plastics used since the 1950s is estimated to be around 9.2 billion tons. Seventy-five percent of that—or some 6.9 billion tons—is already plastic waste material. Even worse, sixty-eight percent, or 6.3 billion tons, escaped into the environment, never making it to a waste basket or bin—let alone a proper waste disposal facility.

In 2015, engineering professor Jenna Jambeck estimated that an average of 8.8 million tons a year were dumped carelessly—mostly in Asia. Much of this ended up in the ocean, where the plastic waste would become smaller and smaller. These are ingested by fish and other sea creatures, and hence eventually enter the food chain. Such waste has polluted our water to such degree and magnitude that it is highly possible that consuming fish caught from the ocean involves ingesting microscopic pieces of plastic.

Sadly, the Philippines is one of five countries that contributes the most plastic trash that leaks into the oceans, according to the Ocean Conservancy

and McKinsey Center for Business and Environment.

Some have blamed this on our country's "sachet economy," or our "tingi" culture, where companies are motivated to sell products in single-use plastic-and-aluminum sachets—that are often not properly disposed of. It also appears that we lack the infrastructure to deal with plastic waste, considering that we generate around 2.7 million tons of plastic waste annually.

One way to address the huge problem is to approach it in manageable pieces. That is why I filed Senate Bill 954, which aims to reduce and, in a way, regulate the use of plastic straws.

Rather than call for an outright ban on the use of plastic straws, the bill will regulate its use, charging ₱2 per straw. However, plastic straws or tubes used for medical purposes, such as those used by the elderly and the disabled, will be exempt from this fee.

In commercial establishments, straws will also be available only upon request, rather than being automatically added to drinks. In the same line of thinking, products such as juice boxes will not anymore be sold with a plastic straw attached to the packaging. Straws will be available at the point of sale, with the fee applied there.

Straw disposal and collection after use in all commercial establishments will also be systematized for recycling. Hopefully, this will also encourage manufacturers to create product packaging that will not require the use of straws.

Aside from the introduction of this bill, it is also important to investigate how older laws — such as RA 9003, which provides for the creation of an ecological solid waste management program — have been implemented. The same goes for the many projects

in the various government agencies which address the many facets of plastic waste disposal, such as the members of the National Solid Waste Management Commission — the DILG, DTI, DOST, DA, DOH, DPWH, DENR, and local government units, among others. The DTI and BOI also have a plastics industry roadmap, which seeks to address standards and related policies related to the plastic production cycle here in the country. If there needs to be amendments or new bills filed, then by all means, these should be undertaken immediately.

Ultimately, the issue of paying two pesos for the use of a plastic straw should be viewed as only one step in a host of initiatives that address not just plastic waste management, but larger environmental issues as well.

Carl Sagan, the famous astronomer, once wrote that "The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand."

It's imperative that we start thinking about how our waste management is affecting our only home. Crafting and executing proper laws are a good start.

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*Senator Sonny Angara has been in public service for 15 years—9 years as Representative of the Lone District of Aurora, and 6 as Senator. He has authored and sponsored more than 200 laws. He recently won another term in the Senate.*



## Globe offers 'Eco' rewards

Globe customers can get 100 reward points when they participate in the coastal clean-up drive led by the International Coastal Clean-Up Philippines (ICC Philippines) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on 21 September in selected locations around Metro Manila and the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales.

The activity is in line with the government's declaration in 2003 of the third Saturday of September as International Coastal Clean-Up (ICC) Day to raise awareness on the growing marine debris problem.

### Clean-up drive slated at Manila and Subic bays.

ICC Day, which is being observed worldwide, gathers volunteers to remove trash from beaches, coasts, rivers, waterways and underwater dive sites and to record information on the debris collected.

In line with its 917 celebration this month, Globe is calling on its customers to sign up and volunteer to help clean up Baseco Beach in Tondo, Manila.

The initiative will also be replicated at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA), a wetland situated south of Manila Bay recognized internationally due to the critical role it plays in the survival of threatened bird species.

Globe customers may also participate in the coastal clean-up at the Lighthouse

Marina Resort, Moonbay Marina Complex, Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales.

The telecom's customers who will join the coastal clean-up are entitled to 100 Globe Rewards Points when they scan QR code and input their mobile phone number upon registration at the location of their choice from 6 a.m. to 12 noon.

"While we do our best to meet the current and future needs of our customers, we must also do our share for the environment for the welfare of future generations. It is everyone's responsibility to take care of the only planet we live in. We think it is appropriate to use this occasion for our customers to share a meaningful experience with us," said Yoly Crisanto, Globe Chief Sustainability Officer and SVP for Corporate Communications.

Globe, likewise, pushed its Wassup ('Wag sa single-use plastic) advocacy with its Plastic Xchange program in seven partner communities where Globe customers can exchange 30 pieces of single use plastic waste for 100 Globe Rewards Points.

All plastic wastes collected will be delivered to Green Antz, an Ayala Land partner organization that convert plastics into eco bricks to be used as construction materials.

A maximum of 3,500 bricks, the equivalent of a 60 sqm room that can be used for any space, including classrooms will be donated back to each barangay which participated in the program. **K. Manalo**



THE clean-up of Manila and Subic bays has gotten a boost with Globe's rewards program for the eco warriors among its customers.





## Mahiga creek cleanup done

Mandaue Mayor Jonas Cortes and Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella yesterday led thousands of city hall officers and employees in the cleanup of the three-kilometer Mahiga Creek which flows between the two cities.

About 60 to 80 tons of garbage were fished out from the creek during the cleanup, which both Labella and Cortes said will be a regular joint effort as this has been known for the volumes of trash due to the presence of informal settlers and some manufacturing companies in the area.

In the next cleanup efforts, though, the Department of Public Works and Highways will take the lead, and regular dredging operations will also be conducted along the creek.

Thousands of informal settlers on both sides of Cebu and Mandaue cities still reside along the creek, and there have already been several hundreds of families that were already relocated from the area, particularly those whose shanties were constructed along the creekside.

**Rico M. Osmeña**



15 SEP 2019

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## Pilipinas, plastic country na nga ba?

Nanawagan ang isang senador sa mga supermarket chain at convenience store sa buong bansa na pangunahan ang kampanya laban sa pagbabawal ng paggamit ng mga single use plastic.

Ipinaliwanag ni Senator Leila de Lima, kailangan ding maghanap ng alternatibong solusyon ang mga kumpanya upang mabawasan ang paggamit ng mga plastic na lubhang mapanganib sa kalikasan.

Sa pag-aaral ng Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) nitong Marso, aabot sa 163 milyong piraso ng plastic sachet ang nagagamit ng bansa o 60 bilyong sachet bawat taon, sapat na upang matakpan ang may 130,000 soccer fields.

Ang mga produktong plastic at aluminium sachets, katulad ng shampoo, toothpaste, at detergent, ang pinaka-popular sa mga Pinoy, lalo na sa mahihirap..

"This is a serious matter that needs to be addressed immediately. We appeal to our local manufacturers to help save our ecosystem by finding other means to package their products," aniya.

Isa rin aniya ito sa mga dahilan kung bakit nababarahan ang mga tubig-daluyan sanhi upang magkaroon ng pagbaha.

**Leonel M. Abasola**





## Crackdown sa illegal structures sa Pasig River, esteros iniutos

INIUTOS ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Sec. at bagong Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission Chairperson Roy A. Cimatu ang crackdown laban sa mga illegal structure sa kahabaan ng Pasig River at lahat ng esteros sa Metro Manila.

Ito'y matapos bumisita si Cimatu sa PRRC Head office sa unang pagkakataon matapos pirmahan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang Executive Order No.90 na naglilipat sa chairmanship ng Board Commissioners sa PRRC sa DENR.

Ang hakbang ay ginawa para pagkaisahin ang mga government's rehabilitation program para sa pagsisikap sa rehabilitasyon ng Pasig River at Manila Bay.

Nilinaw rin ni Cimatu ang direksyon ng liderato ng ahensya ng DENR at PRRC para sa bagong liderato ng pamumuno nito.

Sa pulong nagharap ang PRRC Management Committee ng rehabilitation efforts ng ahensya para palakasin ang ugnayan ng DENR para sa tagumpay ng kampanya.

Sa kanyang mensahe iginiit ni Cimatu ang kanyang hangarin para malinis ang Pasig River at ang mga konektadong tributaries nito o esteros at waterways sa National Capital Region.

"Ayusin natin ang easements. Linisin natin. Maintain the 3-meter easements. Yan ang ating gagawin sa lahat ng esteros sa Metro Manila," ani ni Cimatu.

Ayon pa sa DENR Secretary dapat tiyakin ang mga waterway at komunidad ay matiyak ang public safety, para mapatakbo ng maayos ang environmental management.

**SANTI CELARIO**



## Pinakamatandang punongkahoy sinagip

Nagkaisa ang lokal na pamahalaan, Department of Public Works and Highway (DPWH) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa San Francisco, Agusan del Sur na sagipin ang may 300 taon ng puno na Philippine Rosewood (*Petersianthus quadrialatus*) na pinaniniwalaang pinakamataas at pinakamatandang punongkahoy sa bansa.

Ang naturang puno na may 54 metro ay

matatagpuan sa Maharlika Highway sa Brgy. Alegria.

Una nang minarkahan ng DENR para putulin ang puno dahil sa posibleng panganib nito sa mga motorista at commuter sa sandaling bumagsak. Medyo nakahapay na kasi ang puno dahil nabubulok na ang ibabang bahagi nito.

Gayunman, sinabi ni Dr. Marcelino Pacho, isang tree surgeon, na maaari pang maayos ang puno. **(Juliet de Loza-Cudia)**



# Stricter biosecurity pushed amid ASF

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The private sector is calling on the government to beef up and impose stricter biosecurity measures against the spread of the dreaded African swine fever (ASF), an epidemic that could potentially damage the country's P260-billion hog industry.

The Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food (PCAFI) wants the Department of Agriculture and local government units to ensure the strict implementation of protocol to dispose of dead pigs.

Some of the dead hogs suspected of being infected by ASF have been found floating in the Marikina River.

"Offenders should be prosecuted as this is apparently a violation of certain memoran-

dum act of DA regarding the disposal of dead hogs," PCAFI president Danilo Fausto said.

"Stricter implementation of biosecurity procedures should be observed," he said.

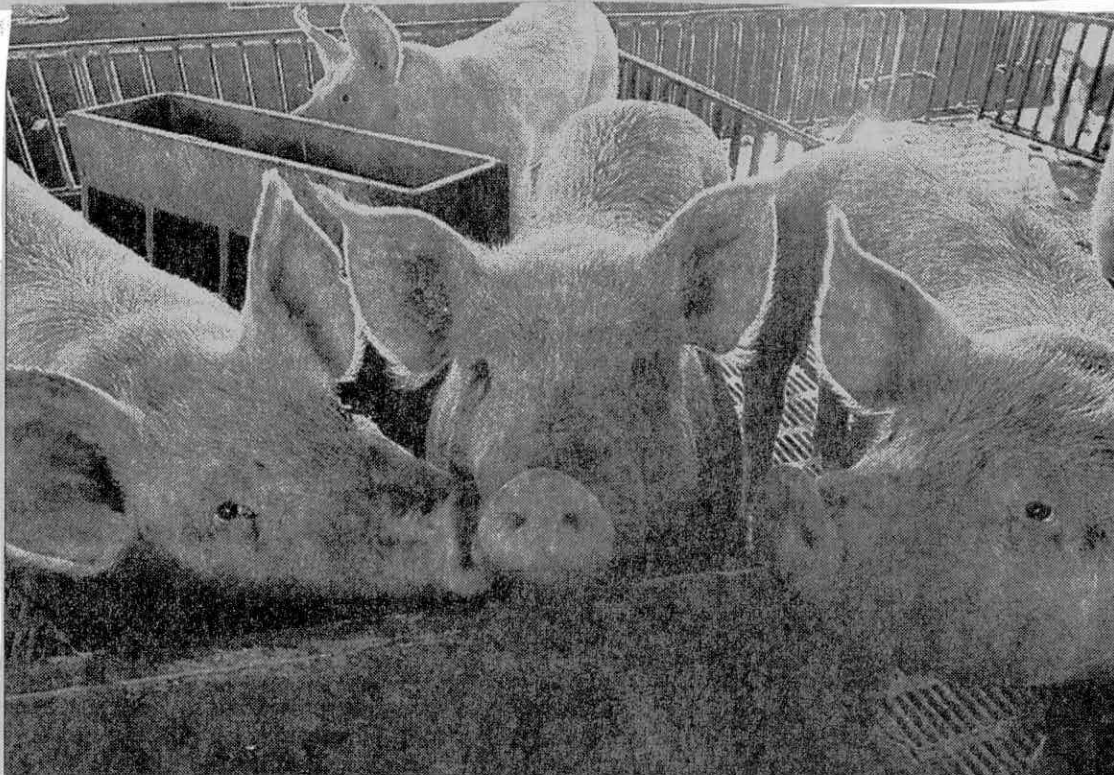
Fausto said there should also be more information program declaring the scare against hog consumption since ASF does not adversely affect human health.

"People should not be afraid of ASF," Fausto said.

Edwin Chen, president of PCAFI member Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines (Propork), said hog raisers, particularly those from small backyards, should be advised to observe proper disposal of dead hogs.

"If the farm is in the backyard, the hogs should be culled first then buried immediately outside the farm at a depth that may not be disturbed by other animals. Depending on the number, it should be within a certain depth, maybe two meters if there are only a few," Chen said.

"In commercial farms or in a locality, DA people have designated areas for burying these. The site should not be



near a waterway or a creek," he added.

Agriculture spokesperson Noel Reyes said the government would be prosecuting offenders on the handling of dead hogs based on the Animal Welfare Act and the Solid Waste Management Law.

The DA recently announced the result of the confirmatory polymerase chain reaction test on the swine blood samples

collected from small backyard farms in Rizal.

It is still awaiting the results of the viral isolation test, which is seen to be more definitive in terms of identifying the nature of the virus detected.

The PCR test result from the World Reference Laboratory in Pirbright in England, which is also the World Organization for Animal Health Reference

Laboratory for ASF, confirmed that majority of the blood samples were ASF positive.

According to the European Union Reference Laboratory for ASF, the PCR amplifies small fragments of viral DNA to detectable quantities, enabling rapid diagnosis of ASF.

The PCR test result serves as basis for authorities to perform necessary measures accordingly.



## Nagtapon ng mga baboy sa Marikina River, papanagutin

**IPINASISIYASAT** na ni Marikina City Mayor Marcelino Teodoro ang nangyaring pagpapaanod ng mga namatay na baboy na naglutang sa Marikina River.

Umbot na sa higit 60 ang naiahong patay na baboy mula sa iba't ibang bahagi ng Marikina River na pinaniniwalaang galing sa mga babuyan sa Rodriguez at San Mateo, Rizal. Sinabi ni Mayor Teodoro, dapat na may managot sa iresponsableng pagtatapon ng mga patay na baboy na pinaniniwalaang tinamaan ng African Swine Fever (ASF).

Sinunog at inilibing na ang mga nakuhang patay na baboy upang hindi makahawa ng anumang sakit, base na rin sa abiso ng Department of Agriculture (DA).

"Para hindi na maulit, dapat ay may managot. Dapat proper disposal. Hindi puwedeng walang managot," saad ni Teodoro.

"May proper disposal na dapat sundin para walang possible contamination," dagdag pa ng alkalde. Kaugnay nito, iniutos din ni Mayor Teodoro ang pagre-activate ng quarantine checkpoints sa lungsod upang mapigilan ang pagpasok ng mga kameng apektado ng ASF. Ipinatigil na rin ng alkalde ang pangingsda sa ilog ng Marikina sa pangambang nagkaroon ng kontaminasyon sa tubig dahil sa nagkalat na mga patay na baboy.

**TOTO NABAJA**

**MGA PATAY NA BIIK, LUMUTANG SA IRRIGATION CANAL**

**SAMPUNG** patay na biik na hinihinalang kontaminado ng African Swine Flu ang natagpuang palutang-lutang sa isang sapa sa Malolos City, Bulacan kamakalawa.

Ayon sa mga residente, bandang 7:00 ng umaga nang makita ang inaanod na mga biik na nahalo sa mga basura sa Brgy. Tikay.

Nakita ring palutang-lutang ang mga lamang-loob ng baboy subalit walang ideya ang mga residente kung saan nagmula ang mga ito maging ang mga biik.

Hiling ng isa sa mga residente, huwag sanang sa sapa itapon ang mga baboy at ibaon sa lupa nang maayos upang hindi makahawa kung ito man ay may sakit.

Napag-alamang iniulat na ito sa Bulacan Provincial Veterinary Office para maimbestigahan kung ang mga patay na biik ay apektado ng ASF.

**DANNY GRAVADOR**





Editorial

## Ilibing ang mga baboy, huwag itapon

**L**IMAMPU'T LIMANG patay na baboy ang nakitang palutang-lutang sa Marikina River noong Biyernes na hinihinalang namatay dahil sa African swine fever (ASF). At ayon sa mga awtoridad, maaaring nanggaling ang mga patay na baboy sa Rodriguez, Rizal. Itinapon ng mga taong walang pakialam kung kumalat man ang sakit sa buong bansa at maapektuhan hindi lang ang mga hayop kundi pati tao.

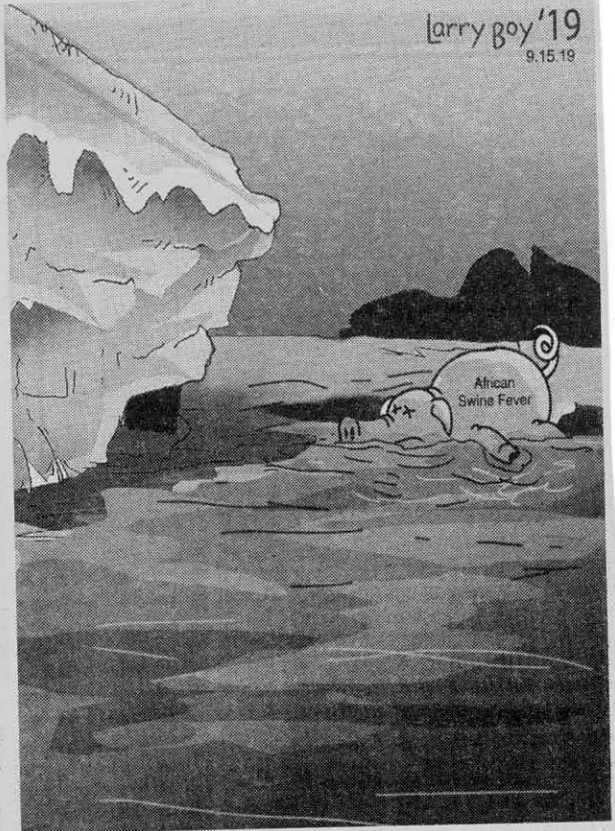
Sa paglutang ng mga patay na baboy, kumpirmadong sa Rizal nga nagmula ang ASF. Matatandaang unang napabalita ang pagkakasakit ng mga baboy sa Rodriguez, Rizal kaya nagsagawa nang maigting na kampanya ang Department of Agriculture at Bureau of Animal Industry para harangin ang mga baboy na nagmula sa nasabing probinsiya. Naglagay ng checkpoint sa maraming lugar para walang makalusot na magbibiyahе ng baboy. Kailangan ding may certi-

fication mula sa beterinaryo ang mga baboy. Dahil sa maagap na pag-iinspeksiyon, hindi na lumaganap ang ASF sa iba pang lugar. Patuloy din naman ang pagmonitor sa mga baboy na inaalagaan sa mga likod bahay.

Si Agriculture Secretary William Dar mismo ang nagkumpirma na ASF ang dahilan nang pagkamatay ng mga baboy sa Rizal. Nagpositibo ang ASF makaraang ipasuri ang mga blood sample ng mga baboy mula sa nasabing lalawigan. Sinuri ang blood sample sa United Kingdom. Ayon kay Dar, 20 blood samples ang kanilang ipinadala sa UK at 14 sa mga ito ang nag-positibo sa ASF. Gayunman, sa kabila na may presensiya ng ASF sa ilang lugar, ligtas kainin ang mga karneng baboy.

Ayon sa report, nakarating ang ASF sa bansa dahil sa mga pagkain (gaya ng pork) na dala ng mga foreigners na naka-check in sa mga malalaking hotel. Ayon sa isang pinuno ng DA, ang mga tirang pagkain sa hotel ay kinokolekta ng mga may-ari ng babuyan at ito ang pinakakain sa mga baboy. Nang makain ng mga alagang baboy ang pagkain mula sa hotel, nahawahan ang mga ito ng ASF. Dapat ibawal ang pangungulekta ng kaining-baboy sa mga hotel.

Magtulungan naman ang lahat para mapuksa ang ASF. Maging responsible ang mga may-ari ng babuyan. Ipagbigay-alam sa mga awtoridad kapag napansing maysakit ang mga baboy. Huwag itago. At lalong huwag itapon kapag namatay. Ilibing sa malalim na hukay para hindi kumalat ang sakit.







# Climate change is the biggest factor in energy planning

By **MYRNA M. VELASCO**

ABU DHABI, UAE – Policymakers and energy planners all over the world are being advised that the “most sweeping factor” in planning the future energy needs of every market is the menacing impact of climate change.

Even for oil-rich countries that have been supplying the world’s needs of the “black gold,” they noted that it is highly important to diversify energy mix and for them to even prepare for the inevitable scenario of the “last drop” of oil.

The more developed energy markets have set out cautionary prescriptions that if energy planners will not heed the warning of climate change, the world is at risk overshooting warming targets for planet earth – which consequentially will be perilous to humanity.

Jean-Bernard Levy, chairman and chief executive officer of Electricité de France, indicated that in energy planning and investments “the climate is one obvious issue,” as he called on global industry leaders to “commit to keep global warming to below 2 degrees that science and the Paris accord tell us, we must.”

At the current path where many energy markets have been behaving, he

cautioned that “this could lead to 3 degrees or maybe more,” hence, the ‘business-as-usual’ paradigm is no longer an option for the energy sector.

Via a pledge-and-review system, the Paris Agreement enjoined countries on their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) that could limit global warming to 2.0 degrees or at least reduce it 1.5 degrees. But with many countries still heavily dependent on high carbon-emitting fossil fuels, fears are lurking that the target may be missed.

As Levy stressed “obviously, we are all committed to do our utmost to achieve a 2.0-degree or less scenario, yet the challenge in front of us is enormous and requires significant changes in how we produce, transport, distribute and consume energy. But we should make no mistake, business-as-usual is not an option.”

For Saudi Aramco, which is the biggest oil producer of the world, it noted that in achieving a sustainable future, it will “require energy products to be much cleaner and delivered in a new and innovative manner.”

Saudi Aramco Chief Executive Officer Amin H. Nasser said their country in particular is “working on a range of technologies with benefits beyond the oil and gas

industry – such as advanced integrated engine fuel systems that deliver greater efficiency and lower emissions,” while it is also aiming to be the world leader in carbon capture and storage (CCS), or that technology that will turn what is considered as waste product into a valuable resource.

Al Tayer, managing director and CEO of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, similarly asserted that for the UAE, “despite possessing one of the largest oil reserves in the world, it has prepared to deliver the last barrel of oil.”

He added “we have started out first steps and early preparations for the sustainability of our resources and to bid farewell to the last drop of oil,” emphasizing further that “today our nation leads global efforts in the clean and renewable energy sector through its strategies and investments.”

The energy investment and consumption cycles being propagated in the UAE, he said, include producing electricity from solar energy in buildings and connecting them to the grid, deployment of electric vehicles as well as other initiatives geared toward carbon footprint reductions and in re-positioning itself as a “green” economy.

# Standing strikes for climate change set

A series of standing strikes to call for climate change action will be staged from 23 to 26 September

By Aldwin Quitasol

BAGUIO CITY – The group Climate Strike will lead the city in its fight against the ill-effects of climate change in a Global Climate Action event that will be held simultaneously and participated in by 170 countries this 20 September.

The event, spearheaded by the Climate Consciousness Movement, is expected to draw schools, churches and barangay councils as well as non-government and civic organizations in Baguio.

It will commence with activities such as a March for Environment from Burnham Park, Session Road, Magsaysay Avenue and ending at People's Park on 20 September starting 10 a.m., followed by a sectoral program and live streaming.

There will also be a "Run for Environment" fun run scheduled on 21 September at the Athletic Bowl, followed by chalk drawing activities at Session Road on 22 September.

A series of standing strikes to call for climate change action will be staged from 23 to 26 September at the City Hall every noontime, then the call for Global Climate Action will be culminate on 27 September with a Climate March from Melvin Jones to City Hall followed by a commitment rite with live streaming.

"Going on a climate strike means people everywhere walking out of their homes, schools, offices, churches, farms, factories. Everyone is needed to disrupt business as usual," the group stated in its release.

The event will call for decisive global action on climate change in time for the United Nations summit in New York on 23 September.

The portfolio of the Climate Consciousness Movement stated that it will demand policy-makers and government leaders to reconsider ending large-scale mining, ban cutting of trees, protect watersheds and ensure water quality, reduce food waste and other wastes.

The group seeks to gain community participation in reducing climate pollution and build climate resilience as a means of transition to a low-carbon economy.



**For Mother Earth** The group Climate Strike enjoins various sectors in Baguio City to spread awareness on the effects of climate change and how to deal with it.

ALDWIN QUITASOL



### 3 bayan sa Romblon nadale ng oil spill

Kinumpirma ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) na tatlong bayan sa lalawigan ng Romblon ang apektado ng oil spill.

Sa nakarating na ulat sa PCG headquarters sa Manila na ipinadala ng PCG-Marine Environmental Protection Unit kabilang sa mga apektadong bayan ang Odiongan, San Andres at Ferro, pawang nasa Tablas Island, Romblon.

Nakumpirma ang oil spill matapos mag-inspeksyon ang nabanggit

na Unit ng PCG.

Nalaman sa Environmental Management Bureau ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources na kulay itim na substance ang nakita malapit sa baybaying dagat ng Brgy. Agpudlos sa bayan ng San Andres.

Sa nakalap na impormasyon ng PCG sa mga residente ng naturang barangay,

nakakita umano sila ng lumulutang na debris ng langis, may pitong araw na ang nakakali-pas pero wala naman

silang namataan na barko na naaksidente para maging sanhi ng oil spill.

Ayon sa PCG posible umanong ang mga langis ay nag-leak mula sa isang malaking vessel o kaya ay oil tanker na dumaan sa Tablas straight.

Humingi na rin ng assistance ang PCG sa local government unit para sa isasagawang coastal clean-up.

Patuloy naman ang isinasagawang imbestigasyon ng PCG sa insidente. **(Juliet de Loza-Cudia)**



# Lio Beach takes environmental awareness to the next level

**I**N addition to raising awareness for the global marine environment, this September's International Coastal Cleanup Day at Lio Beach in El Nido, northern Palawan, has evolved into a full-scale celebration of its unique and biodiverse ecosystems.

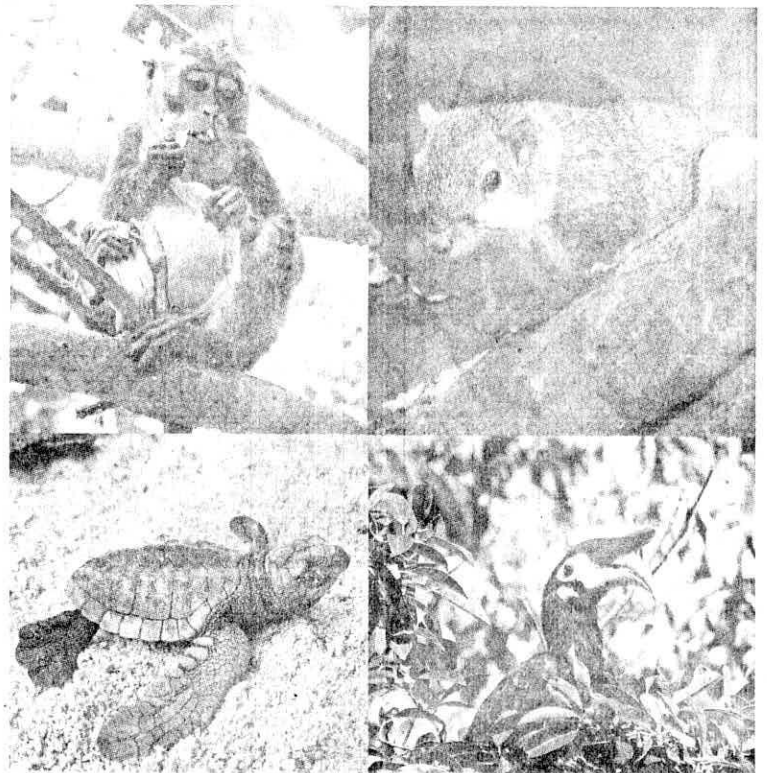
On September 21, a series of activities at the beach which is the centerpiece of Lio Tourism Estate by Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) will highlight key ecosystems supporting over 900 species of fish and 5 out of the 7 species of sea turtles, over 110 species of birds and other flora and fauna that thrive in the area.

At 7:30 a.m., simultaneous coastal cleanups at the estate's 4-kilometer stretch of pristine beach and each of the island resorts developed and managed by ALI subsidiary Ten Knots Development Corp. will jump-start the events. An eco-run through Lio Beach dubbed as "plogging" will simultaneously kick-start the day.

The "ploggers" will each carry a sack while jogging through a specific 6-kilometer route. The participants will be timed as they traverse the route and the litter they collect will be weighed. Ploggers with the shortest time and heaviest sacks will receive recognition.

Joey Bernardino, TKDC director of sales and marketing, observes: "These cleanup activities highlight that what happens to the oceans affects all of us. We firmly believe that marine debris is a threat to ocean life even in our protected area in Palawan and have been participating in International Ocean Cleanup Day for over a decade now."

In the afternoon, TKDC will launch the 3.8-kilometer Lio Hike Trail which will bring trekkers through Lio's forests to a viewpoint 82 meters above sea level with stunning and panoramic views of Cadlao Island and sunset in Bacuit Bay. The do-it-yourself tour allows hikers opportunities to identify and encounter the Palawan hornbill and white vented shama, the Philippine mouse-deer, the long-tailed macaque, lizards and other animals endemic to the Palawan archipelago. A P100-conservation fee will be charged to each guest for the upkeep of the trail.



THE newly launched Lio Hike Trail will allow trekkers opportunities to identify and encounter animals endemic to the Palawan archipelago like the (clockwise) long-tailed macaque, squirrel, Palawan hornbill and Olive ridley sea turtle

"Our goal is to provide Lio visitors distinct holiday experiences in the outstanding natural settings of Lio Tourism Estate," Bernardino discloses. "We have realized that our success as a tourist destination lies in raising awareness that we have a highly unique environment that deserves to be enjoyed by future generations."

These activities will be complemented by the installation of murals within the tourism estate by some of Palawan's visual artists like Frances Mendoza and Jonathan Benitez to further emphasize the richness of the Lio environment. In the evening, a concert by Paulo Alampay and the Bossa Girls will cap the daylong celebration.





## BRITISH FIRM PLANTS OVER 1.7M TREES

QUEZON, Nueva Vizcaya: After having planted more than 1.7 million trees, a British mining firm is targeting another 100 hectares of land, this time with agroforest trees under its Mining Forest Project (MFP). Ian Moller, FCF Minerals Corp. general manager for sustainability, said for the past 10 years of its operation in Barangay Runruno, FCF planted almost 2 million trees to support the government's national greening program. "This was achieved through a series of massive tree planting activities in partnership with Nueva Vizcaya's provincial environment office, government officials, students and residents in the villages of Runruno and Darubba," he said. Moller said under their MFP, they have launched a new 100-hectare plantation where they will grow various tree species, preferably agroforest and fruit trees. He said the MFP seeks to compensate tree cuttings in their project area where a tree cut will require them to plant 100 trees of various tree species. **LEANDER C. DOMINGO**





**TININGNAN** nina Sen. Cynthia A. Villar at Laguna Lake Development Authority Gen. Manager Jaime Medina at BFAR Region IV-A Director Sammy Malvas ang tilapia fingerlings mula sa isang pond. Nasa larawan: si Cynthia Villar, chair of the Senate committee on agriculture and food, kasama ang isa pang batch ng trainors graduate mula sa Villar-SIPAG Farm School sa Bacoor, Cavite. Tinapos nila ang five-day training course sa freshwater aquaculture.