

DATE : 10-06-19

DAY : Monday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



MANILA WATER JOINS INTL COASTAL CLEANUP DRIVE



MANILA Water employees and volunteers joined the recent cleanup activity in Baseco Beach, Tondo, Manila, as part of the 34th International Coastal Cleanup Drive celebration last month.

Jeric Sevilla Jr., Manila Water Corporate Strategic Affairs Group head, said the company's participation is part of its overall thrust on environmental advocacy.

"Manila Water wholeheartedly supports advocacies regarding cleaning and reviving rivers, coastal, beaches and waterways to create

not only awareness on the need to protect the environment but, more important, to gather collaboration and collective action among stakeholders," Sevilla explained.

Besides taking part in this cleanup activity, Manila Water also provided water tankers for the volunteers and donated cleaning materials to the project.

The activity was spearheaded by the city government of Manila through the Department of Public Services Office along with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Other cleanup and tree-planting activities were also being held simultaneously in Barangays Tumana and San Joaquin in Marikina City, and Kasiglahan Village in San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal.

The former was led by Housing Project Development Office head and Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office for the sixth anniversary of YES to Green Program of the provincial government of Rizal and International Coastal Cleanup Drive.

Manila Water employees also volunteered in tree planting and waterways cleanup activities

in Barangay Prinza in Teresa, Rizal, as well as in Maytunas Creek, also in Mandaluyong and in provincial government of Rizal.

This program is also in line with Manila Water's advocacy program called "Toka Toka," the first and only movement in the Philippines on used water management.

Toka Toka listed four shares in activities, which included proper disposal of garbage, availment of desludging services, connecting to Manila Water's sewer network and supporting Manila Water's community-based sanitation projects.



Climate change, environmental damage top CEO concerns

PwC study says business leaders must embrace concepts of sustainability,

responsible use of natural resources

By Annelle Tayao-Juego
@neltayaoINQ

While consumer behavior surrounding responsible product use and waste management continues to improve, thanks to education and awareness on the effects of climate change, a group of CEOs here in the Philippines believes business—especially business leaders—should take the lead when it comes to the matter of sustainability.

“For sustainability to happen, leaders need to embrace it. For me, more than anything, sustainability is a leadership issue. The power comes from leaders,” says Alex Cabrera, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Philippines chair and senior partner. “If they make it happen, it will.”

PwC, together with the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), released recently the report “The Future of Business: Sustainability. Development. Impact,” which details results of the 2019 survey of 127 CEOs in the Philippines, from a mix of large (50 percent), medium (27 percent), small (14 percent), and micro (9 percent) enterprises from various sectors

“about their views on sustainability and the changes that they need to make to address the issues [businesses] are facing.”

According to the report, over 80 percent of CEOs identified climate change and environmental damage among the top threats to their organizations, along with geopolitical uncertainty (84 percent) and overregulation (82 percent).

With that in mind, 83 percent of respondents said they had adopted sustainable practices in their respective businesses.

Such practices include improving energy efficiency and lessening consumption (83 percent); recycling and reusing materials (71 percent); and upgrading waste collection processes (46 percent).

However, when asked about formal plans of transitioning to a “circular” business model that eliminated waste and the continual use of resources, only a third said they had such plans in place.

Moreover, only 44 percent said they measured and reported the financial impact of their sustainable practices, with most measuring only in terms of cost reductions or savings.

Participants identified a number of factors constraining

them from adopting a circular business model: high transition costs (46 percent); inadequate technology (43 percent); economic viability of sustainable practices (41 percent); existing organizational culture (39 percent); upfront investment (36 percent); and lack of talent (30 percent).

“Transitioning to a circular business model is going to be a challenge in some places where there are no support services available,” says Cabrera. “The refurbishing of laptops, for instance—is there a service provider in the Philippines which refurbishes laptops instead of throwing them away?”

The good news is that, according to the survey, 80 percent of CEOs in the Philippines expect to change their production/service model in the next three to five years, to promote more sustainable practices.

Specifically, 71 percent said they planned to increase efficiency by consuming fewer natural resources and materials; 53 percent said they would look into other possible functions for their product; 43 percent said they would repair and maintain a defective product so it could be used with its original function; 39 percent said they would

Q: Are you using sustainable practices in your business?
(with breakdown by size of business)

83%

are doing sustainable practices in their business



Q: Do you have a formal plan to fully transition your business to having a circular business model?
(with breakdown by size of business)

33%

Have formal plans of transitioning to a circular business model



SOURCE: The Future of Business: Sustainability, Development

INQ GRAPHICS

use discarded products or parts in a new product with a different function; and 38 percent said they would process materials to obtain the same quality.

These business leaders also identified urbanization, environmental issues, degrading ecosystems, changing consumer behavior, and disruptions

in the supply and prices of raw materials as the top concerns that would drive companies to transition to a circular business model.

Cabrera also emphasized the critical role of legislation, suggesting that government "incentivize companies that provide 'circular' services, either

for refurbishing or recycling, so that there is a go-to company where corporations can rely on for sustainable business practices, or prolong the use of materials."

"Second, I would suggest that the SEC pass a rule or two, to have everybody, not just the listed

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CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE TOP CEO CONCERNS

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companies, report in their financial statements their sustainable practices, carbon emission

[levels], or their impact on the environment," he adds.

While costly in the beginning, Cabrera also says that they will soon become less so if

more organizations are required to implement them.

"Good growth is not just about profit, but long-term existence," he says. INQ



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Activists start global protests over climate

PARIS—Hundreds of climate activists barricaded themselves into a Paris shopping center for hours ahead of a planned series of protests around the world by the Extinction Rebellion movement.

Campaigners faced off against police and some inconvenienced shoppers as they occupied part of the Italie 2 mall in southeast Paris all day on Saturday, staying put into the early hours of Sunday.

They unfurled banners with slogans like "Burn capitalism not petrol" above restaurants and the window displays of fashion boutiques.

The protest comes ahead of planned disruption to 60 cities around the world from Monday in a fortnight of civil disobedience, from Extinction Rebellion (XR), which is warning of an environmental "apocalypse."

As the center tried to close up on Saturday evening, security forces ordered the protesters to leave the area, activists told AFP.

According to images broadcast on social networks, police then tried to enter the building while protesters blocked entrances with tables and chairs.

"I am with XR to say stop this crazy system before it destroys everything," one young woman told AFP, giving only her first name Lucie.

The demonstrators said they eventually chose to leave at around 4am (0200 GMT).

Other campaign groups also joined in with the Paris shopping center demonstration, including some members of the "yellow vest" anti-government protest group. AFP



DOT to rehabilitate Matabungkay Beach

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

The Department of Tourism (DOT) plans to rehabilitate Matabungkay Beach in Lian, Batangas, in a bid to restore the destination's former glory, a newly-appointed official said.

In a interview, DOT regional director for Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) Jeff Ortega said they have already started talks with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regarding the rehabilitation of the Batangas beach.

"For Matabungkay, we're trying to restore its old glory because it's a very popular beach place especially for families and vacation goers," Ortega said.

Matabungkay beach became a popular weekend destination in the 1950s due to its proximity to Manila.

"Actually as of this moment, this is only my first month (in office) and so far, we've engaged in several talks with a lot of regional offices concerned as well as the stakeholders," he said.

Ortega said among the problems that need to be addressed in Matabungkay are mainly easement issues.

"As of this moment, according to the LGU and the previous management of Region 4 A Calabarzon, sal-

vage zone issues, basically landowners that are building go beyond where they're supposed to build on. It's the usual problem in the Philippines nowadays," Ortega said.

While Ortega said it's difficult to give a timeline for the rehabilitation of the beach, he hopes to have some work started soon. "We're looking forward to running something by this quarter, if not this quarter early next year," Ortega said.

According to earlier reports, an environment users fee of P25 is currently in place in Matabungkay Beach, which is collected from tourists. The fund is intended to be used to ensure the cleanliness and protection of the environment.

Residents of Matabungkay earlier opposed the collection of the said fees, noting the LGU's misuse of the fund, emphasizing that pollution in the water has worsened.

Last year, the DENR said it was conducting a inventory, as well as site inspection of resorts in Calabarzon, to ensure that proper environmental laws are met in a bid to prevent another Boracay from happening.

The flagship island of Boracay was closed for six months last year to pave the way for the rehabilitation of the island plagued by environmental issues.



people&events

Planting of 10,000 mangroves at Hundred Islands starts

By EVA VISPERAS

ALAMINOS CITY - The journey toward planting 10,000 mangrove propagules by the Rotary Club of Makati Lumina at the Hundred Islands here has begun through its "Get Your 'Grove On!"

More than 50 volunteers from RC Makati Lumina, co-hosts RC Murphy and RC Hundred Islands, Internations, and the local government of Alaminos recently joined together to plant 1,000 mangrove seedlings to kickstart the project.

Last year, RC Makati Lu-

mina partnered with the Metro Pacific Investments Foundation with the objective of planting 10,000 mangroves along the coastal areas of this city.

The planting activity last Aug. 24 is a first in a series of events to complete the 10,000 goal before the Rotary Year 2019-2020 ends.

After the planting, the volunteers directly proceeded to Bued Elementary School in this city to conduct a feeding program to 50 Grade 1 students and their guardians and distribute school and medical supplies.

RC Makati Lumina signed

sister club agreements with RC Murphy and RC Hundred Islands prior to the activity.

Other sponsors of the activity include Dr. Siva Ananthan or RC Greater Kuala Lumpur, gov. elect Chacha Camacho of D3830, Jollibee Foods Corp. and Probe Productions.

Alaminos City Mayor Arth Bryan Celeste and Vice Mayor Anton Perez graced the event and personally planted mangrove seedlings together with the group.

Prior to the planting, Celeste expressed his appreciation to the group of volunteers for undertaking this project.



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UST administrators, faculty, support staff, alumni, and DENR staff during the Community Service Day

Thomasians plant 100 narra, coffee seedlings at Ipo watershed

A TOTAL of 50 volunteers participated in the biannual Community Service Day organized by the UST SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office (SIMBAHAYAN) in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Central Office (DENR). Planted at the Ipo Watershed in Bgy. San Mateo, Norzagaray, Bulacan, were 100 seedlings of narra and coffee in the one-hectare area prepared by the Bantay Gubat and staff of DENR.

Headed by SIMBAHAYAN Director Prof. Arvin Eballo, Ph.D., the volunteers were composed of administrators, faculty members, support staff, and alumni. The tree-planting activity was conducted

in commemoration of National Heroes Day that was celebrated nationwide on August 26. Participants were from the UST-AMV College of Accountancy, College of Architecture, Faculty of Arts and Letters, College of Education, Faculty of Engineering, Institute of Information and Computing Sciences, College of Nursing, Institute of Physical Education and Athletics, Institute of Religion, College of Science, College of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Junior High School, and UST Health Service.

The tree planting and growing activity site is a vital part of the Angat-Umiray-Ipo watershed system that supplies around 97 percent of the water needs of Metro Manila. With

the recent water shortage exacerbated by the illegal activities such as illegal logging and charcoal making in Bulacan watershed, the planting activity validates the importance of communities, such as the Thomasian community, in joining activities on reforestation and protection of forests.

Before the actual seedlings were planted, an orientation on the program was given and reminders were explained by the Training and Community Engagement Officer of SIMBAHAYAN, Asst. Prof. Evalyn Abiog, Ph.D. and a staff from DENR Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service, demonstrated the proper method of planting the seedlings.



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GREEN THUMB

Nagsagawa ang Cebu City Government Employees at mga volunteers mula sa iba't ibang mga organisasyon ng isang tree planting activity na pinangalanang "Kakahuyanalang

sa Kaugmaon" o "Mga puno para sa kinabukasan." na layuning makapagtanim ng nasa 3 milyong puno sa loob ng tatlong taon sa Window Hill sa South Road Properties, Cebu City.

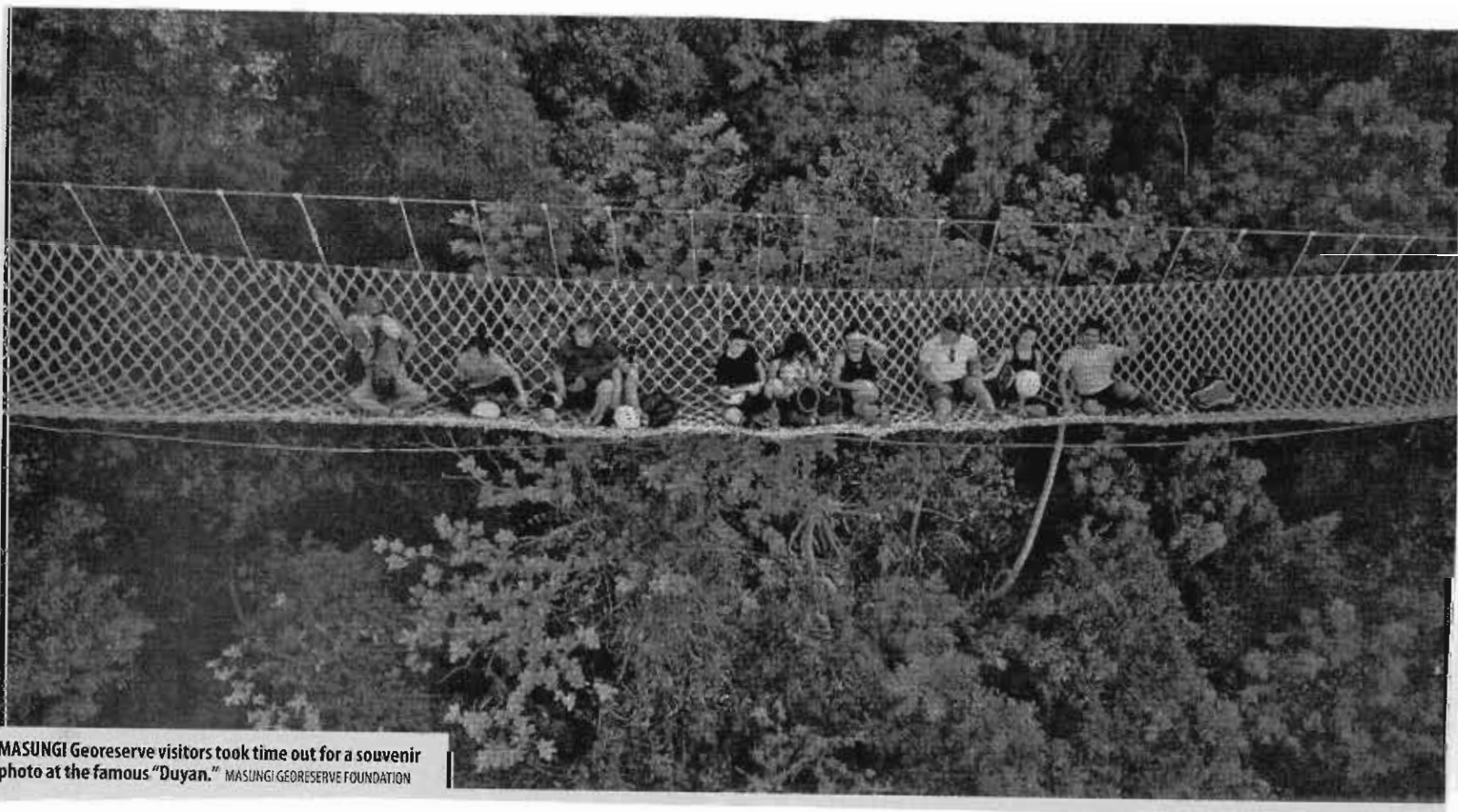
JUAN CARLO DE VELA





Conservation innovation works wonders for Masungi Georeserve but threats remain

President Duterte was asked to extend the momentum from the rehabilitation of Boracay and Manila Bay to Masungi and other areas



MASUNGI Georeserve visitors took time out for a souvenir photo at the famous "Duyan." MASUNGI GEORESERVE FOUNDATION



By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

THE award-winning Masungi Georeserve, a privately managed conservation area in Baras, Rizal, continues to receive global recognition for its innovative, sustainable conservation and ecotourism practice.

Located 45 kilometers east of Metro Manila, the Masungi Georeserve is home to 60 million years old limestones and over 400 documented species of flora and fauna. The nature park boasts of unique attractions, making it one of the most popular tourist destinations for nature lovers in Luzon. The 10-kilometer limestone spine and its unique biodiversity, once threatened by destructive human activities, is protected by the Masungi Georeserve Foundation and the community within the 3,000 hectare total land area.

The park's management, now sustainably financed by tourism income, makes it a model for conservation and ecotourism.

However, despite reaping awards and global recognition, the georeserve continues to face serious threats.

Grassroots conservation project

INNOVATIVE conservation measures that include partnerships with nearby communities made the Masungi Georeserve project story a success. In the 1990s, it was already suffering from illegal logging activities. The area, fortunately, became part of a joint-venture development of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Blue Star Construction and Development Corp. for housing alongside the preservation of the area's natural characteristics and limestones.

Rampant land speculation and lack of government assistance, however, caused the project a major setback—with massive delays despite the project proponent's full financing and sustainably developing the area.

Together with experts and stakeholders, Blue Star continued to lead and invest in research and protection of the rock formations and the restoration of denuded land.

After 20 years of restoration, the Masungi Georeserve Foundation was born to "fortify conservation, education and geotourism initiatives for Masungi."

Low-volume trail experiences

IN December 2015, the foundation opened low-volume trail experiences to the public to raise awareness on

Masungi's importance and finance the substantial operational costs of managing and maintaining the area. Conservation experts from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) have recognized Masungi Georeserve's model as an innovative solution to persistent conservation challenges—such as lack of funding, poor and short-sighted management capacity, and balancing protection and sustainable development.

The late environmentalist and former DENR Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez, recognizing the accomplishment of the people behind the Masungi Georeserve, ordered the expansion of conservation efforts to some 2,700 hectares of denuded land around the original site in 2017 "so that more communities will benefit from increased reforestation and geotourism activities."

Unique attractions

BESIDES offering visitors time to commune with nature, the Masungi Georeserve offers unique tourism experience. The "Sapot" (cobweb) is not for the faint-hearted. It is a metallic platform with wooden steps, which allows visitors to walk on a suspended web-like net above the karst. From the

Sapot, visitors get a 360-degree view of the Sierra Madre and the Laguna de Bay.

The limestone formations in the park are connected by hanging bridges, rope courses and eco-trails developed by the Masungi Georeserve and Blue Star.

Another popular attraction in the park is the Duyan. A giant rope tied together to form a giant hammock spanning a few hundred feet.

Awards and recognition

JUST last month, the Masungi Georeserve was chosen as one of the finalists for the United Nations World Tourism Organization Awards during the UNWTO's 23rd General Assembly in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, last month.

It was the third in a string of

international awards and global recognition obtained by the georeserve just in a span of one year.

It received a special commendation at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UN-CBD) 14th Conference of the Parties in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, in October 2018.

Afterward, it became a global finalist for Destination Stewardship Award at the World Travel and Tourism Council's Tourism for Tomorrow Awards in Seville, Spain, in April 2019.

The UNWTO is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

The UNWTO Awards—the flagship awards for the global tourism sector—aim to recognize the work of organizations and individuals around the world that positively impact and inspire the industry through innovation and knowledge.

"We are very happy to be recognized alongside established and esteemed organizations despite our project being very young and localized. It's a feat to be recognized by the world's authority in the promotion of sustainable tourism and in front of hundreds of ministers from all over the globe," Ann Dumaliang, trustee of Masungi Georeserve Foundation, said.



Under constant threat

AMID the awards and global recognition, Masungi Georeserve is under constant threats of quarrying, illegal logging, treasure-hunting and land trafficking—despite policies and laws that should have protected them long ago, its parks managers said.

“As an example, a businesswoman from Metro Manila was able to unlawfully claim owner-

ship and possession of at least 100 hectares [within] the project site. This particular section of our area is already titled and she has no legal basis to be there,” Dumaliang said.

According to Dumaliang, an absentee claimant or buyer of land in Masungi are adversely affecting conservation efforts, starting with reforestation activities.

“Sadly, it seems as though every hectare of the forest has an absentee claimant or buyer. So how can genuine reforestation efforts like ours flourish?” she asked.

She said it is a challenging sociopolitical context for conservation as corruption, red tape and conflicts of interest abound.

Need for political will

“BUT political will from the current administration is necessary to make an impact- and innovation-based conservation projects like Masungi thrive,” she said.

She urged “President Duterte to extend the momentum from the rehabilitation of Boracay and Manila Bay to Masungi and other conserved areas.”

Dumaliang highlighted a study which revealed that the Philippines is the most vulnerable country when it comes to climate change.

“If Masungi’s forests are not fully rehabilitated, then the tragedies experienced [during Typhoon Ondoy, or international code name Ketsana] will definitely happen again. To this end, Masungi’s team of park rangers and volunteers have planted and nurtured more than 47,000 native trees since 2017,” she said.

According to Dumaliang, more than 100 local residents and volunteers have been instrumental in

the foundation’s daily conservation and geotourism work.

“The UNWTO acclaim reinforces our determination to always win the good fight and to continue doing the successful work we’ve done. If international institutions are already placing so much value and gratitude on a Filipino conservation project, such as Masungi, the question is, why shouldn’t we?” she said.

Government support needed

DUMALIANG told the BUSINESSMIRROR through e-mail that there’s a need for government support in breaking down the barriers for reforestation and conservation “so that the private sector and civil society contributions may thrive.”

“We know that many groups are interested to help in this urgent endeavor, but because there are so many challenges on the ground, they are discouraged from doing so,” she said, citing anew an absentee claimant for over 100 hectares of land, which they have to fight out to be able to start work in the area. She added that in protected areas as well, almost every hectare has already been sold, when these should be protected by law and by government officials.

“That is what we believe is the No. 1 barrier for true conservation work in the Philippines. If you cannot solve the land trafficking happening, how else do you protect what exists on it?”

Policy gap

ACCORDING to Dumaliang, the Philippines may be lagging behind in terms of policy for innovation in conservation.

“I think our policy is still behind the innovations possible to push conservation. In Costa Rica,

25 percent of their land is already protected through both public and private-sector efforts,” she said.

According to her, legislation incentives to private landowners and managers put perpetual conservation easements or trusts on ecologically rich areas

“Some incentives include tax reductions, training and national government assistance against what they call ‘organized squatter invasions’ which has already happened at Masungi in 2016,” she lamented.

She said South Africa also has strong policies that link conservation, ecotourism and livelihood, allowing the private sector to seamlessly work with indigenous communities.

Moreover, Dumaliang said that grassroots conservation workers should be supported with security along with forest rangers and conservationists on the ground.

“We need to be more progressive with our policies, executive actions, and solutions the way other countries have already successfully done,” she added.

She said the DENR should see itself as a catalyst for sustainable development and not just a regulator.

“We feel that sometimes, the government interferes instead of lifting the work that we and other conservation groups do. It might be because of aversion to new ways of doing things or causing friction with those with conflicting interests. But we have already shown results. Our model should be enabled, not hindered. There is so much that can be done for our biodiversity and we hope that the government will embrace and support innovation in doing so,” Dumaliang explained.



Underground mining to erode Philex returns

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

Pangilinan-led Philex Mining Corp.'s move to shift to underground mining operations for the Silangan copper and gold project will likely yield lower earnings but this may be offset by changing global prices.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau

said returns may take a while as Philex decided to do sub-level cave mining operation from the original open pit method as the government has yet to lift the ban on the latter.

"Earnings would definitely be lower because cost of mining operations will be higher compared with the open pit.

Turn to B8

Open pit is really cheaper than doing the tunnel," MGB Mining Technology Division chief Teodorico Sandoval told **The STAR**.

"But it will also depend on several factors especially on what the prices of gold and copper are at by that time, it depends on the global market. Luckily, gold is not severely affected by the fluctuation in prices unlike nickel," he said.

Philex is earmarking an initial \$750 million for the development of the Boyongan ore body, the maiden phase of the project.

While open pit is the best and safest option for the Silangan project, Sandoval said Philex's move is also a good one to efficiently make use of its resources in the Padcal mine which is due to end by December 2022.

"Mining is an industry that is investment intensive, you can lose investors if you take awhile before you proceed. They had to decide because Padcal is about to end and they can use their equipment there for Silangan also, rather than let it be stuck in Padcal," he said.

Philex can still opt to re-

turn to, its original plan of open pit mining once the government lifts the ban.

"They can do that but it has to be approved again by the MGB. It is really possible because open pit is more economical," Sandoval said.

"I think their plan is to do first the ore bodies that are really deep and can be done by underground and then the shallow parts will be done last through open pit eventually," he added.

Last August, Philex said its definite feasibility study has finally concluded for the first phase of the Silangan project with higher mineral resource estimates of 571 million metric tons, up 43 percent from the previously declared levels of 398 million MT for the Boyongan, Bayugo and Kalayaan ore deposits.

The Silangan mine is a large-scale high grade copper-gold development, with a number of greenfield and brownfield components, located in Surigao del Norte in. It is one of three big-ticket mining projects seen to propel the Philippines as a major regional copper producer.



Iloilo school turns over two endangered birds to DENR

By **TARA YAP**

ILOILO CITY — The administration of Iloilo National High School in this city turned over two endangered birds to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

A Brahminy kite eagle, locally known as Dapay, and a Visayan Tarictic Hornbill, locally known as Tariktik, are now with the Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Team of DENR's Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Guimbal town.

The endangered birds were housed at the school's Rainer's Park for almost eight years. The animals were under the care of a teacher, Reyne Gallarda, who took over the responsibilities after the original owner died.

It was later learned that the school had no legal documents to possess the two birds, so Gallarada voluntarily handed it over to DENR.

Francisco Milla Jr., DENR's Western Visayas regional director, continues to urge people to do the right thing by turning over wildlife they come across, especially endangered ones.

Otherwise, they can be charged for violating the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 if caught.



Tackling plastic wastes: effective solid waste management is key

The ongoing discussion on the problem of plastic wastes, universally recognized as one of the world's most pressing environmental concerns, yields a range of proposals that includes banning single-use plastics, taxing plastic straws, avoiding disposables, adopting ways of refilling and reusing, going package-free, and creating new packaging.

Contributing a holistic approach to the discussion, a paper on plastic wastes and solid waste management (SWM) published by the Stratbase ADR Institute for Strategic and International Studies concludes that waste mismanagement is at the bottom of the plastic wastes problem in the country.

The paper by Stratbase ADR Institute environmental fellow Vanessa Pepino, titled "A Balanced Approach to Solid Waste Management: Governance and Total Stakeholder Participation," was presented recently by the author and Stratbase Deputy Managing Director Orlando Oxales at the third general membership meeting of the Philippine Chamber of Food Manufacturers, Inc. or PH Food Chamber, the principal organization of the manufacturers and distributors of food products in the country.

The paper noted that the Philippines has the most number of bans on plastic and Styrofoam, yet it generates the third largest volume of plastic debris in the ocean; waste mismanagement persists; the SWM system is inef-

ficient and overstretched; policy approaches for plastic waste management are lacking and ineffective; and proposed policy interventions are one-sided.

Several factors behind the proliferation of waste plastics were cited: there are gaps in the waste collection system; solid waste management infrastructure systems and regulations are inadequate and outdated; consumer behavior is unregulated; there is an unsustainable linear approach to how waste is tackled; and there is low or no compliance with R.A. 9003 (the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001), e.g. the prevalence of open littering, open dumpsites, and non-segregation.

The country's waste policy framework focuses mostly on plastic reduction, not on monitoring and incentive mechanisms and efficient SWM systems.

"While waste generation is an inevitable environmental concern for growing economies like the Philippines, waste mismanagement is more pressing. Perhaps the policy questions must focus on (1) where the problem of unsustainable practice of plastic waste disposal occurs; and (2) how it should be addressed," Ms. Pepino said in the paper.

She proposed the following policy interventions for plastic wastes management: putting in place quality SWM infrastructure systems, technology and sound regulations; improvement of collection services; in-

creasing access to recycling materials recovery and waste treatment facilities; establishing more large-scale recycling facilities; strengthening governance and a circular approach in waste management; strict monitoring and enforcement of policies for households and companies; encouraging sustainable packaging that can be recycled; and building the support and participation of local communities.

PH Food Chamber President Elizabeth M. De Leon - Lim said, "We believe that collaborative and collective actions toward the complex and urgent issue of plastic wastes are necessary, requiring the involvement of all stakeholders in the public and the private sectors."

"There is a need for various efforts: to innovate with respect to packaging materials; to level up solid waste management with a circular approach including collection, recovery and recycling; and to embrace attitudes and behaviors that eventually will bring about a waste-free environment," she added.

"As food manufacturers, we recognize the importance of packaging which provides our consumers safe, high quality products that have reasonable shelf lives and are affordable, especially in an economy like ours. Therefore, we must exercise due care in the search for packaging alternatives," Ms. Lim said.



Tackling plastic wastes: effective solid waste management is key

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Shun single-use plastics, bishop urges

By Raymart T. Lolo

A Catholic Bishop on Sunday called on the public to stop using single-use plastics to help avert plastic pollution in the country.

It's sad that so many people are abusing mother nature.

Imus Bishop Reynaldo Evangelista noted that the world is not any man's property and it is just right for the people to take care of it.

Evangelista stressed that it is wrong to abuse the world's natural resources noting that it is God's property.

"This world we live in has been entrusted to us by God. It's sad that so many people are abusing mother nature," Evangelista said.

Moreover, the Bishop urged young people to take the lead in promoting measures to

save and protect the environment within their neighborhood and community.

Evangelista told them that simply disposing of plastic waste on the road would have a significant impact on the environment.

"We cannot say that I am not affected by my actions in the environment. The world is affected at every wrong disposal. Every time we use plastic and irresponsibly dump plastic in the water, fish are affected, the ocean is affected," the Bishop said.

To recall, several efforts and attempts from the government and environmental groups have already been made to curb the use of single-use plastics. However, waste production has not significantly gone down.

Single-use plastics include items such as grocery bags, food packaging, films and bags, manufacturing water bottles, straws, stirrers, containers, styrofoam, cups,

sachets and plastic cutlery.

A study by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives revealed that around 59.8 billion pieces of plastic sachets are used by Filipinos a year.

The report also showed that more than 17 billion shopping bags are used across the country every year.



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Japanese firm to build biomass plant in Butuan

By **ANTONIO L. COLINA IV**

DAVAO CITY — A Japanese firm engaged in the construction of bridges and renewable energy projects has partnered with the Butuan City government to build a 2.5-megawatt biomass energy plant that will turn rice husks into fuel this year.

In an interview during the 100th anniversary celebration of the Davao Japanese Community at the SM Lanang Premier on Sunday, Chodai Philippines Corporation Vice President Toshimichi Hosoya said the company is just waiting for the approval of the government before it starts construction of the facility, one of its major projects in Mindanao.

He said rice husks, which are discarded by rice farms, can run the turbines of the biomass plant.

He said the company estimated the biomass power project, considered as one of the major renewable energy projects of Chodai in partnership with a local government unit in Mindanao, would be completed in one year.

"Mindanao has a lot of rice farms. That's why we can get the rice husk easily. It has so much potential for renewable energy projects — a lot of potential. We know rice husk project, before it's just garbage but we are trying to make that into fuel. That is a biomass project," he said.

He added that biomass energy projects are common in Japan as the country, known in the world for its clean environment, tries to further cut carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants, which are "costly" and "not good for the environment."

Mindanao has a huge potential for renewable energy projects, among them hydro energy projects, because of its rich natural resources, according to Hosoya.

He said Chodai had already completed three hydropower projects such as two-unit eight-MW Asiga River Small Hydro-

power Project and four-MW Taguibo Small Hydropower Project in Agusan de Norte, and 23-MW Wawa River Small Hydropower Project in Agusan del Sur.

Chodai was one of the Japanese firms that participated in the three-day Davao Japanese Community's 100th Anniversary Business Seminar to look for possible business ventures in the city from Wednesday to Friday at the Marco Polo Hotel Davao.

April Marie Dayap, the head of the Davao City Investment and Promotion Center (DCIPC), said participants who participated were mostly interested in manufacturing, agri-tourism and environment-related projects.

"Among those investors who expressed their interest in the city are into the manufacturing industry, agri-tourism, waste composting companies, and tourism. We further want to bring them here and hopefully develop investment here," she said.

Japanese Consul General Yoshiaki Miwa said that manufacturing will be the next big thing in Davao City, especially since several Japanese manufacturing firms are interested in setting up in the city.

Miwa said that as the economy of the city grows, Japanese investors also want to develop a company-to-company relationship with local businesses.

"Manufacturing industry has a very wide range. We can start at a level that will match the level of industry in the city. We just have to create a strategy. I understand that the DCIPC and DCCCII know about this and are thinking about ways to accommodate the manufacturing sector," he said.



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High efficiency, low emission—now



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Environmental activist Greta Thunberg's "How dare you?" speech during the United Nations Climate Action Summit demanded real action from world leaders to avert what she passionately described as "the beginnings of a mass extinction."

This speech has gone viral in social media platforms and global news networks, punctuating what is a complex, emotional and serious problem.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a U.N.-supported initiative composed of 1,300 independent scientists, concluded in its Fifth Assessment Report that there is a more than 95 percent probability that global warming has been driven by human activity. The report stated that industrial activities that developed our modern lifestyle have almost doubled the atmosphere's carbon dioxide levels from 280 parts per million to 400 parts per million in the last 150 years. The scientists also concluded that "human-produced" greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, are the main causes of rising Earth temperatures over the past 50 years.

Developing nations like the Philippines are seen to be most vulnerable to the environmental and economic repercussions of climate change. There is now a multi-sectoral clamor for real action to develop resiliency to the increasing amid the increasing frequency of extreme weather hits and changing weather patterns. This will certainly threaten the world's food supplies followed by instability on a global scale. The message of Thunberg is clear, but we, like all developing economies, are heavily dependent on fossil fuels to supply the power and energy to fuel economic sustainability.

This environmental dilemma was an underlying issue in the recent Association of Electricity Supply Industry of East Asia and Western Pacific (AESIEAP) CEO Conference where delegates discussed how to reduce the region's carbon footprint and the impact of the latest energy practices on sustainability and inclusive growth. The conference was attended by power industry players who shared various environmental sustainability and inclusive development advocacies in the power sector.

"Incentives are not a bad idea."

"This is a gathering of influential CEOs and government leaders who are in the position to come up with transition plans for the adoption of energy efficiency, renewable energy and information communication technologies," said AESIEAP Secretary and Meralco Powergen Corp. (MGen) president General Rogelio Singson.

Meralco president and chief executive officer Ray Espinosa said, "We must develop and implement our energy transition plan. We should leverage on technological advancements of renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency that can be adopted in the whole region."

"In our minds, we have set an agenda whereby as we contract stable sources of power, our minds are actually focused on basically moving ourselves from a high-carbon to low-carbon footprint and hopefully to a zero-carbon electricity, which is tapping renewables. The issue in the Philippines is the abundance, whether it can actually substitute fully for fossil fuels. That's a big question," said Espinosa.

The Philippines leads the region with

renewable energy sources supplying 32 percent of total power requirements which is already well above the regional goal of 23 percent and 4 years ahead of target.

Cognizant of the rising demand for affordable and reliable electricity, the government is right to implement a balanced and technology neutral power mix policy to ensure that there will never be a repeat of debilitating the power crisis of the '90s.

Department of Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said, "We really need to develop energy security...we're still building our capacity that's why DOE adopted technology neutrality. We need to fill up our capacity to sufficient reserves."

Consistent with this policy is the Energy Regulatory Commission's (ERC) recent approval of

the country's first coal-fired power plant using High Efficiency Low Emission (HELE) technology.

Replacing the country's old and inefficient power plants with commercially available HELE technologies is a big step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 20 percent. Emission tests have proven that HELE power plants have greater efficiency and lower carbon and non-carbon emissions passing the strictest emission regulations and now seeing increasing adoption in Asia and Europe.



FILE: High efficiency, Low emission - how

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The International Energy Agency's (IEA's) Clean Coal Center in its 2016 report "An overview of HELE deployment in the coal power plant fleets of China, EU, Japan and USA" ranked J-Power's 600 megawatt Isogo Thermal Power plant station in Yokohama Japan as the cleanest coal-fired plant in the world with levels comparable to a natural gas-fired combined cycle plant.

General Electric (GE) is pioneering ultra-supercritical technology at the RDK 8 coal-fired power plant in Karlsruhe, Germany with considerable success. Operated by German utility EnBW, the plant achieves 47.5 percent net thermal efficiency while producing 912MW of electricity, making it one of the world's most efficient hard coal-fired steam power plants.

Nordjylland power station located in Northern Jutland, Denmark is touted by its owner Vattenfall as holding the world record for most efficient coal utilization since it was commissioned in 1998.

Independent consumer advocacy group Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship (PBEST) welcomed the swift decision of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to issue the Provisional Authority to Operate (PAO), giving the go for the country's 1st HELE power plant, San Buenaventura Power Ltd. (SBPL) to begin operations and supply crucial 500 MW of baseload capacity to the Luzon grid.

This is indeed great news anticipating scheduled maintenance shutdowns that would affect Luzon's biggest power generation suppliers cutting about 600 to 1500 megawatts in the months of October to December 2019.

The country's biggest natural gas facility, Malampaya, will likewise temporarily shut down on October 12 until October 15, 2019. Malampaya supplies more than 40 percent of Meralco's power requirement, and provides natural gas fuel for Sta. Rita, San Lorenzo, Ilijan, San Gabriel and Avion.

Considering this scenario, it looks like the government should move triple time on operationalizing more HELE power plants. Giving more incentives is not a bad idea as the economic payback will be very positive for all sectors.



Vizcaya PENRO scored for disqualifying bidder

By Brenda Jocson

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) have been questioned for disqualifying the lowest winning bidder in four Agroforestry Support Facility (ASF) projects here worth a combined P173 million.

The winning bidder, Jann Norris Construction and Supplies Inc., had appealed to the PENRO Bids and Awards Committee to reverse its decision for the projects. It then formally protested the decision to PENRO OIC Edgar T. Martin when its motions for reconsideration with the BAC were denied.

The projects are all concreting road projects, namely: 1) a 7.476-km access road in Barangay Pallas in Bam-

bang with an approved budget of P67,696,229.23; 2) a 1.735-km road in Brgy. Canabay with overflow bridge in Dupax del Sur with an approved budget of P27,002,801.38; 3) the 1.52-km Lazar-Kalinga access road in Brgy. Palabotan, Dupax del Sur with an approved budget of P27,002,801.38; and 4) the 4.1-km Sitio Abuang access road with two overflow bridges at Brgy. Bani-la, Dupax del Sur, with an approved

budget of P52,476,647.19

The four ASF projects were bid out on the morning of August 13 at the 24/7 Inn and Resort in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, records showed.

BAC Chair Melody B. Manzo, in an interview with Manila Standard, said the construction firm based in Valenzuela City was disqualified for alleged misrepresentation, or not listing all of its ongoing projects in public or private in its statement of contracts.

Manzo said the winning bidder should "abide with the rules because these projects are from JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). They are so strict, that's why we are very careful. After seven calendar days their protest became invalid, because they didn't pay the protest fee worth more than P1.3 million nonrefundable."



Efficient titling of land sought by Salceda bill

THE chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means is pushing for the passage of a measure seeking to improve the efficiency of land titling in the country.

Albay Rep. Jose Ma. Clemente S. Salceda said his House Bill 4945 aims to improve confirmation of imperfect titles by adopting the processes introduced under Republic Act (RA) 10023 (Residential Free Patent Act) to the Agricultural Free Patent under Section 44 of Commonwealth Act (CA) 141 (Public Land Act).

The bill also aims to integrate and liberalize court confirmation of imperfect titles under the provisions of Presidential Decree 1529 or Property Registration Decree and CA 141, and remove the time period for application on both free patent and confirmation of imperfect title that is about to expire on December 31, 2020.

"Property rights are important to the country's growth and development," Salceda said in his explanatory note. "Unclear and unenforceable rights to property could lead to underinvestment, undervalued properties, land grabbing, fake titling and lack of access to credit. Land title is a clear proof of ownership and is important to protection of one's property rights."

In the Philippines, he said title to land can be obtained through either administrative mode or judicial mode.

Salceda said that under the Residential Free Patent Act, Congress in 2010 liberalized the titling process in residential lands by allowing ad-

ministrative issuance of free patents to those who have been in actual occupation of residential public lands for a period of 10 years.

"Congress simplified the process of titling of residential lands, set a shorter period of possession for applicants to comply and at the same time, imposed upon the DENR [Department of Environment and Natural Resources] a period of 120 days to process applications," he added. "The law is an instant success and thousands of citizens filed free patent applications, with the DENR processing record breaking numbers in its first years of implementation with more than 382,529 titles issued to date."

However, the lawmaker said government data on public land titling show that only 5,174 titles were confirmed by the courts in the last 10 years, saying court titling has steadily declined, with only around 140 titles issued in 2017.

"The steady decline in court-issued titles was due to the court's recent strict and literal interpretation on land laws," Salceda said. "Although the court recognizes the country-wide phenomenon of untitled lands and the problem of informal settlement, the court puts the burden in Congress to improve land tenure in the country."

Moreover, the lawmaker said RA 9176 that allows titling through judicial and administrative legalization of titles is about to expire on December 31, 2020, which means that titling will come to a grinding halt.

For the judicial confirmation of imperfect title, HB 4945 cited quali-

fied persons who may file at any time, in the proper regional trial court an application for registration of title to land, not exceeding 12 hectares, whether personally or through their duly authorized representatives.

Among others, those who have acquired ownership of land in any other manner provided for by law are qualified to undertake this, according to the proposed bill.

Also for administrative legalization (free patent), the bill said any natural-born citizen of the Philippines who is not the owner of more than 12 hectares and who, for at least 30 years prior to the filing of the application, has continuously occupied and cultivated, either by himself or through his predecessors-in-interest a tract or tracts of alienable and disposable agricultural public lands subject to disposition and who shall have paid the real-estate tax thereon shall be entitled to have a free patent issued to him for such tract or tracts of such land not to exceed 12 hectares.

The bill said all applications shall be filed at any time after the effectivity of this proposal before the DENR's Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) or region.

The proposed bill mandates the Cenro to process the application within 100 days and 120 days to include compliance with the required notices and other legal requirements, and forward recommendations to the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office. The bill said the Penro has five days to approve or disapprove the patent. *Jovee Marie N. Dela Cruz*

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ISA sa mga hindi natin napapansin ang balita ukol sa teknolohiya sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Halimbawa na lang ang proyektong Free Wifi sa buong bansa.

Isa sa magandang balita rito ang pagkakaroon ng libreng Wifi sa 104,000 lugar.

At partikular na magandang balita ang pagkakaroon nito ng mga lugar na ayaw lagyan ng cellular site o torre ng mga hari-hari sa komunikasyon sa Pinas na Globe at Smart-Philippine Long Distance Telephone.

Ang balita, tutulong dito ang third player sa telekomunikasyon na Dito at tiyak namang hindi aayaw na makipag-cooperate ang Globe at Smart-PLDT.

Kung ayaw ng dalawang ito ang makipagtulungan, malaki ang mawawala sa kanila.

IKOT NANG IKOT

Sa ngayon, mga Bro, marami namang lugar sa bansa ang may kontak sa Globe at Smart-PLDT.

Kapat nagpakabit ka ng linya sa dalawang ito, okey sa una hanggang tatlong araw.

"Maganda, mabilis sa amin!" yan ang kampanya ng mga promotion ng dalawang ito.

Pero makaraan ang nasabing bilang ng araw, nandiyan na ang pagpapakita ng ikot nang ikot na mukha ng iyong cellphone o laptop o personal computer.

Anak ng tokwa, pwe-de kang magsaing habang hinihintay mo ang pagbubukas ng iyong panonoring video o bago ka makakontak ng iyong tatawagan.

Ugali pa nga ng mga kompanyang ito ang magpa-echo ng tinatawagan mo.

"Yun bang === akala mo nakontak mo na ang tinatawagan mo, sarili mo pala ang kinakausap mo.

May mga drop call din o 'yung biglang napuputol ang komunikasyon.

Kung iisipin mo ang mga biktima ng mga anyo ng diskoneksyon na ito, milyon ang bilang araw-araw.

Magkano ang kada



ni BENNY ANTIPORDA

GOOD NEWS: LIBRENG WIFI DARATING NA

minuto na tawag na echo at drop call?

Kaya sa sistemang ito, kumikita ang mga kompanyang ito ng milyones araw-araw sa pandaraya sa mga kostumer...kung sinasadya ang mga ito.

Pati nga text message na dapat libre gaya ng sa ibang mga bansa, may bayad din sa Pilipinas.

BATAYANG KARAPATAN

Deklarado nang isang batayang karapatang pantao ang pagkakaroon ng teknolohiya para sa komunikasyon.

Ito ngang Wifi ang isang anyo ng teknolohiya sa komunikasyon.

Kung libre ito, napakalaking tulong ito sa taumbayan, lalo na sa mga mahihirap.

Halimbawa ang kontak ng mga pamilyang-overseas Filipino worker.

Tiyak na gumana ang messenger, twitter, viber, instagram, facebook at iba pang anyo ng teknolohiya sa pagitan ng pamilya ng mga namatayan at mga nabuhay sa disgrasya sa Taiwan at sa pagitan ng mga pamilya at gobyerno na nag-asikaso rito.

Libre ang nasabing mga komunikasyon at kung bayad lahat ng ito, malaking dagok ito sa mga pamilya ng mga biktima.

Napakamahal kaya ang international call.

Sa libreng Wifi, libre rin ang komunikasyon ng mga sangkot sa trahedyang mula sa mga survivor na mga OFW, pamilya-OFW at gobyerno.

SALAMAT SA DICT

Nagpapasalamat tayo sa mga namumuno ng Department of Communications Technology sa pag-susumikap nilang magkaroon ng libreng Wifi, lalo na sa mga liblib na lugar.

Tiyak na makatutulong nang husto ang 4mbps o 4 megabits per second na bilis ng internet o Wifi na ilalagay ng DICT.

Mas mabilis ito kaysa 1mbps na ikot-ikot lang o buffering na madayang

inilalako ng dalawang higante at datihang telecommunications provider.

Saludo tayo sa pagpupursige nina DICT Secretary Greg Honasan at Usec. Eliseo Rios Jr. para sa libreng Wifi.

Totoo na walang kalaban-laban ang 4mbps sa katulad ng 60mbps sa Singapore pero ayos na rin ito pansamantala.

Nangangako naman ang Dito at mismong mga old player na pabibilisin nila ang bills ng internet o takbo ng Wifi at sa katunayan, meron nang mga 4G o Fourth Generation na cell sites na may mabilis na takbong internet.

SALAMAT KAY PDU30

Hindi mallimutan ng ating UZI, mga Bro, ang patakaran ng nakaraang administrasyon na dapat pagbayaran natin lahat ang gusto nating magandang serbisyo ng mga pribadong kompanya at mismo ng gobyerno.

Nagmamadali noon sila na isapribado ang lahat, maging ang mga ospital at eskwelahan, para maging maganda raw ang ating kalusugan at edukasyon.

Bantulot din sila na magkaroon ng mga bagong player sa telekomunikasyon at hinahayaan nilang ang maghari-harian lang ay ang Globe at Smart-PLDT.

Sa administrasyon ni Pang. Duterte, nandiyan na ang ikatlong Telco Player, ang Dito, na nangangakong lubos na makipagtulungan sa mga proyektong pang-komunikasyon ng gobyerno at mamamayan.

Mag-o-operate na ito sa katapusan ng taon o sa Abril at makatitiyak tayo ng higit na paglawak ng libreng Wifi.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring iparating sa 09228403333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.