

DATE : 10-08-19

DAY : Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



House sees passage of water dep't bill by Jan.

THE House of Representatives is expected to approve on final reading by January a bill that seeks to establish a Water department, Rep. Jose Ma. Clemente S. Salceda of the second district of Albay 2nd said Monday.

Mr. Salceda, who chairs the ways and means committee and is part of the technical working group studying the creation of the Department of Water Resources Management, said that the chamber is "working very hard" to pass the measure.

"We want *pasado na siya sa third* (to pass the bill on third reading) by January," Mr. Salceda said in chance remarks to reporters on the sidelines of the technical working group meeting.

He added, "...*Baka ma-report na itong substitute bill* (We might report out a substitute bill) by the first week of November when we return. So we are working very hard. *Yung meeting ngayon* (Today's meeting) is more formal, but actually there have been a lot of exchanges and consultations."

The Department of Water Resources Management will be the primary agency for planning, policy formulation, appropriation, utilization, development, conservation, and protection of water resources.

The bill also seeks to establish a Water Regulatory Commission which will be an independent, quasi-judicial regulatory body under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The commission will have the power to impose price con-



PHILIPPINE STAR/MICHAEL VARCAS

THE Department of Water Resources Management will be the primary agency for planning, policy formulation, appropriation, utilization, development, conservation, and protection of water resources.

trols, invalidate contracts, and impose fines and penalties. It will also be the primary agency for the registration and licensing of all water supply and sanitation service providers.

Mr. Salceda, who also filed a similar bill, said that one of the plans for the department is to fold in the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) as an attached agency.

"*Nung una sabi ko wag muna isama NIA kasi more on agriculture siya. Kaso kailangan din natin ng NIA, kasi marami po sa mga multi-purpose facilities katulad na pinagkukunan ng tubig natin, yung [La Mesa] Eco dam ay ginagamit sa kuryente, sa agri[culture], ginagamit din as domestic water, so ang importante sa amin na yung mga*

multi-purpose asset facilities, water assets ay mapunta dito sa Department of Water (At first I did not want NIA to be included because its role is more focused on agriculture. But we need NIA, because many of the facilities are dual purpose for agriculture as well as water. We consider it important that the Department of Water handle such multi-purpose facilities like La Mesa Dam," Mr. Salceda said.

He said the creation of the department will help the government efficiently utilize the country's water resources.

"*Marami tayong tubig actually pero hindi natin nagagamit gawa nga po ng hindi namanage kaya kailangan ng Department of Water. Like yung mga flood waters, yung mga*

tubig sa mga lakes, although nagagamit pero hindi systematically nao-optimize any kanilang utilization (There's a lot of water which we cannot use because it is not properly managed... like flood water or lake water. We do use these resources but not optimally)," Mr. Salceda said.

President Rodrigo R. Duterte said in his State of the Nation Address in July that the creation of water agencies are needed, noting that "the El Niño wreaked havoc on the agricultural sector and caused water shortage in the greater Metro Manila area."

The creation of a Water Department was also part of a wish list of measures submitted by 14 business groups to Congress. — **Vince Angelo C. Ferreras**



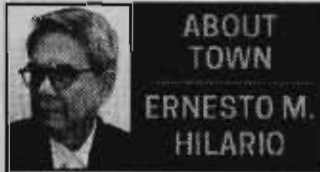
Water firms seeking reversal of SC ruling

IN THE wake of the recent Supreme Court decision ordering Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Company (MWC) to pay a fine of P921 million for alleged violations of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the two water concessionaires are now asking the court to reconsider its stand.

The high court said the two firms failed to connect the sewer lines of homes and commercial establishments to the existing sewage line in the metropolis as mandated under the law.

Both Maynilad and MWC insist that the Supreme Court had earlier given the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and its two concessionaires until 2037 to complete the connection of all private and government sewerage systems lines to the existing sewer lines, along with the setting up of other wastewater management facilities. The deadline is explicitly stated in the case of "MMDA et al. vs. Concerned Residents of Manila Bay," or the Manila Bay case.

The high court pointed out that the cleanup of Manila Bay is a joint effort. Thus, neither MWC nor Maynilad, or even the MWSS, can do the job alone of fully complying with the CWA and the Manila Bay cleanup without the other agencies involved doing their part.



ABOUT
TOWN
ERNESTO M.
HILARIO

Hence, the two water concessionaires cannot understand why they are being singled out when government agencies and local government units have apparently failed to do their job under the CWA.

“*Maynilad and Manila Water cannot understand why they are being singled out.*”

The government agencies involved are the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Environment and Natural Resources. These agencies and the LGUs were all assigned tasks under the CWA to carry out the law's provisions.

Under Republic Act 9275 or the CWA, the DILG is mandated to order all mayors of Metro Manila and the governors of affected provinces to

inspect and determine if wastewater treatment facilities are in place in their respective communities. The agency was also required to submit a five-year plan of action that will ensure compliance by factories, commercial establishments and private homes with the CWA.

For its part, the DPWH, in coordination with LGUs, was also tasked under the CWA to prepare a national program on sewage and septage management.

The DENR, as lead agency responsible for implementing the CWA, is supposed to draw up a Water Quality Management Area Action Plan, which includes setting the goals and targets for a sewerage or septage program.

It appears now that the three agencies have been remiss in doing their part in implementing the Clean Water Act.

The two water concessionaires assert that they cannot speed up the construction of sewage treatment plants or STPs and complete them in a short span of five years because simultaneous construction will cause heavy inconvenience to the public resulting from the ensuing road excavations. Thus, building STPs has to be done in phases to avoid traffic congestion in



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affected areas.

They also say that the wastewater treatment facilities they have built so far would be rendered ineffective in realizing the goals of the CWA if informal settlers continue to directly dump their wastes into rivers, lakes and esteros.

Moreover, fast-tracking the completion of STPs would require such a huge amount of money, which means consumers will end up paying much higher monthly water bills as Maynilad and Manila Water would have to adjust their rates so they could recoup their investments before the end of their concessions.

Maynilad claims it has 20 ISO-certified operational wastewater facilities with a combined capacity to treat 542,000 cubic meters per day, and has already invested P23.3 billion in wastewater treatment projects to service its customers in Metro Manila's West Zone.

To comply with the SC deadline on 100 percent completion by 2037, Maynilad will implement four sewerage projects over the 2018-2022 period. At present, it is on track to complete its target of 100-percent sewerage coverage for the West Zone

by the end of its 25-year concession in 2037. It has so far completed 20 percent, a significant improvement from 6 percent in 2006 before Maynilad's re-privatization.

According to Maynilad it will invest P26.4 billion in the next five years to build new STPs and lay sewer lines in the cities of Calocan, Las Piñas and Muntinlupa, and in Kawit, Cavite. This year alone, Maynilad will shell out about P11.4 billion for wastewater treatment projects.

Maynilad announced just last week that it is setting aside P200 billion to build 26 new STPs and install 425 kilometers of new sewer lines from 2019 to 2037. Meanwhile, Manila Water is spending P115 billion on its wastewater programs until 2037. Moreover, both concessionaires have spent hundreds of billions to solve the water crisis in Metro Manila since 2007 but have yet to recoup their investments.

Given that the implementation of the CWA is a multi-agency and multi-sectoral effort, Maynilad and MWC contend that they shouldn't be unfairly singled out and penalized for something that they actually have up to 2037, or 18 years more, to accomplish.

ernhil@yahoo.com



MARTES 08 OKTUBRE 2019 REMATE 9

NWRB NAGSAGAWA NG 'WATER EDUCATION PROGRAM' SA CUBAO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, QC

BAGAMAT walang nakikitang problema ngayon sa tubig sa Metro Manila at mga karatig lalawigan, habang isinusulat ito ng inyong lingkod, ang water level sa tatlong pangu-nahing dams ay 190.24 (Angat), 100.84 (Ipo) at 78.23 (La Mesa), base sa ulat noong ika-7 ng Oktubre 2019, (8:00am). Hindi nagpapaka-pante ang National Water Resources Board (NWRB) sa pangunguna ni Dr. Sevilla David, Jr., CESO III bilang executive director.

Bukod kasi sa pagtitiyak na mayroong sapat na pagkukunan ng malinis na tubig, mandato rin ng ahensiya na magbigay ng Information and Education Campaign (IEC) sa publiko sa mga ba-gay na may kinalaman sa tu-

big lalong-lalo pagdating sa pagtitipid at tamang paggamit. Isa na rito ang 'Water Education Program for the Youth' na target ipaalam sa mga ka-bataan ang pagpapahalaga sa tubig partikular sa mga nasa elementarya.

Mas murang edad na maturan ang mga bata, mas mailintindihan nila at kalalaki-han ang pagkakaroon ng dis-iplina at pagpapahalaga sa tubig. Alam n'yo ba na bawat isa sa atin ay kumukunsomo ng halos 175 litro ng tubig kada araw, sa Metropolitan Manila na lamang, tinatayang nasa 12 million ang populasyon, ganito karaming tubig ang na-gagamit natin, at kalahati dito ay nasasayang at hindi na-man mahalaga ang pinaggaga-ramitan.



DR. HILDA C. ONG

Nito lamang September 20, 2019, pinangunahan nina Heleena Claire Espina, Rowell Ynzon, Josephine Abelana at Alpha Areniego ang isang IEC campaign sa dalawang pang-elementaryang paaralan sa Quezon City, ang Cubao Elementary School. Katuwang ng NWRB sa pro-gramang ito ang Philippine Water Partnership at ang Manila Water Company, Inc.

Upang maiparating ng malinaw ang mensahe ukol sa El Niño at La Niña phe-nomenons, tamang paggamit at pagtitipid ng tubig, idinaan ni Heleena Claire ang mga ito sa mga kuwentong bata na may pamagat na "Munting Patak-ulan" at "Gigie, the Water Prin-cess", na naglalaman ng

tamang mga pag-uugali para pahalagahan ang tubig.

Sinabayan din ang IEC ng isang puppet show na humi-hikayat sa mga bata na ma-ging mga 'water warriors' sa pamamagitan ng pagtuturo sa mga kapwa kaklase, mga kalaro, at sa sariling tahanan ang tamang paggamit at pagtitipid ng tubig.

Ang paalala ni Executive Director David, kahit na nalampasan natin ang normal na le-bel, kung hindi natin itatama ang paggamit dito, mabilis na matutuyo ang mga pinagkuku-nan natin ng tubig sa Angat Dam. Ipinapakita sa larawan, habang mallilit pa ang mga bata, itinuturo sa kanila ang kahalagahan ng tubig at ta-mang pagtitipid.





TITLE:

Bill on integrated coastal management pushed

By Jester Manalatsats

A BALANCED and healthy ecology is needed to protect the nation's marine wealth and exclusive economic zone.

Assistant Majority Leader and Las Piñas City Rep. Camille Villar said this as she pushed for the approval a measure that seeks to adopt a sustainable national integrated coastal management.

Villar, a stalwart of the Nacionalista Party (NP), filed House Bill (HB) No. 3315 that aims to create a National Coordinating Committee on Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) to formulate, institute and implement the country's national policy on coastal management aimed at ensuring the sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment and resources.

The proposed National ICM through the help of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will also "grant incentives to local government units that exhibit exemplary perfor-

mance in the development and implementation of their respective local integrated coastal management plans."

She underscored the passage of the measure to overcome the challenges of falling fish populations, rising pollution levels, continued threats on coral reefs and mangrove forests, coastal communities experiencing increased poverty, among other things.

"These challenges are winnable. We should just strengthen further the country's campaign on coastal management efforts to reverse the situation. The coordination and support of local government units to national government is very crucial to effect an integrated coastal management, especially on fisheries and habitat protection efforts," Villar explained.

Villar said coastal environments encompass different ecosystems such as shorelands, mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs that are very important to the livelihood of the people, tourism and country's gross domestic prod-

uct (GDP).

Under the measure, the National Coordinating Committee shall exercise and perform the following powers and functions: formulate, adopt, institutionalize and amend, if necessary, the National ICM Framework; identify ICM management areas such as bays, lakes, gulfs, river basins, watersheds, wetlands, protected areas, and other resources that are shared by two or more provinces; resolve conflicts arising from ICM between or among provinces; and recommend to Congress for enactment of legislations or to the appropriate government agency for issuance of policies.

The bill provides that the National ICM Framework shall include the following components of the framework for sustainable development of coastal areas: goals and objectives; strategies and action plans; required policy or legislation; information and public awareness campaign; financing mechanisms; and capacity building and National ICM Training Program..



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COA: Chinese firm pinaboran sa Kaliwa Dam bidding

Pinaimbestigahan ni Rizal Congressman Fidel Nograles ang umano'y iregularidad sa nangyaring bidding sa sa pagpapatayo ng Kaliwa Dam sa Infanta, Quezon at Rizal.

"Mayroon silang pinapaboran na gagawa na kontraktor sa proyekto. Ito yung China Engineering Corp. sapagkat yung dalawang sumali sa bidding ay purposely ay hindi qualified," sabi ni Nograles.

Nasa P18 bilyon ang gugulin sa pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam sa kabila ng epekto nito sa kapaligiran. Malaki rin umano ang inutang ng gobyerno para sa proyekto.

Ayon sa report ng Commission on Audit (COA), dinaya umano ang bidding para matiyak na mapupunta sa China Energy Engineering Corp. ang proyekto.

Gayunman, itinanggi ni Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Administrator Emmanuel Salamat ang paratang ng COA.

"Wala tayong ganyan." Sinunod umano nila ang itinatakda ng batas sa pagsasagawa ng bidding.

Anila, kinausap nila ang mga community na maapektuhan ng proyekto.

Ayon sa COA, hindi dapat pinayagan ang proyekto hangga't hindi pumapayag ang bayan at mga residente.

"Kailangang malaman kung ang Kaliwa Dam talaga ang sasagot sa problema sa tubig," sabi pa ni Nograles.

Ang Kaliwa Dam ay isa lamang sa mga itatayong dam sa Rizal at Quezon ayon sa kasunduan ng gobyerno at China.



SMALL-SCALE OPERATIONS

ILLEGAL MINING CONTINUES IN SOUTH COTABATO,

ENVIRONMENT EXEC SAYS

By Bong S. Sarmiento
@InqNational

KORONADAL CITY—Illegal gold mining operations still persist in the mineral-rich towns of South Cotabato province despite efforts to curb these, officials here said.

Siegfried Flaviano, Provincial Environmental Management Office (Pemo) chief, said small-scale miners in the towns of Tampakan and T'boli continued to defy orders to stop their illegal activities.

Tampakan hosts the largest undeveloped copper-gold reserve in Southeast Asia under contract to Sagittarius Mines Inc. The firm has yet to go into commercial production, hampered by the open-pit mining ban imposed by the provincial government since 2010.

T'boli, on the other hand, is rich in gold and silver deposits. A "minahang bayan," or people's mining site has been established by the provincial government to accommodate small-scale miners employing

tunnel mining but even this has failed to stop illegal operations.

"Illegal mining operations in Tampakan and T'boli remain although not as rampant compared to several years ago," Flaviano told the Inquirer.

Sluice mining

Illegal miners use the destructive "banlas," or sluice mining method. It is done by pouring a large amount of water onto a mountain surface to loosen rocks containing gold and then

panning them using mercury.

Although mercury is a naturally occurring element, it is highly toxic to humans, animals and the environment, if not handled properly. Prolonged exposure to mercury by inhalation damages the nervous, digestive and immune systems.

In mines, mercury is used to recover minute pieces of gold that are mixed in soil and sediments. Mercury and gold settle and combine together to form an amalgam. Gold is then extracted by vaporizing the mercury.

According to Flaviano, illegal miners have been using several mountain routes in the two towns to avoid detection. Sometimes they transport the ores under cover of darkness, he said.

South Cotabato's vast mountains, he said, are "highly mineralized."

The Pemo has deputized the military, police, local environment workers and village officials to help curb illegal mining operations in the area.

Tampakan Mayor Leonardo Escobillo said he had ordered the inspection of mountain villages where illegal miners operate. He said a team had been tasked to confiscate equipment used in illegal mining operations.

Escobillo opposed the establishment of detachments in areas where illegal mining operates as this could make the government personnel manning these "susceptible to bribery" or could tempt them to engage in illegal mining themselves. INQ



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More arguments vs. OceanaGold



IN LAST Saturday's column, I argued against the interim renewal of OceanaGold's financial and technical assistance agreement (FTAA). I cited a study conducted by the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and MiningWatch Canada. I continue to that in this column where I provide more arguments against the continued operations of this Australian mining company in Nueva Vizcaya. Below are additional excerpts from that report:

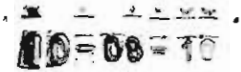
Human Rights: "There have been numerous violations of human rights since the beginning of construction of the mine." A 2011 Commission on Human Rights (CHR) report on the Didipio mine makes at least three important findings. First, it declared that OceanaGold "violated the Right to Residence, the Right to Adequate Housing and Property Rights of several Didipio residents." In June 2008, OceanaGold demolished around 187 houses in Didipio without securing writs and in a manner "attended by unnecessary, violence and destruction." The displaced residents received no just compensation and were given no alternative options for relocation and settlements. Second, OceanaGold supposedly "violated the Right to Freedom of Movement and the Right not to be Subjected to Arbitrary Interference with the Home[s] of the people of Didipio." This occurred when the company fenced off the mining area and blocked off roads that had long been used by the residents to enter and exit the town. Finally, the CHR concluded that OceanaGold "violated the Right to Security of Person of the people of Didipio." People have been beaten and shot during the unlawful demolitions of houses. For example, Emilio Pumihic was shot and wounded by OceanaGold's security personnel when he tried to stop the demolition of his neighbor's house.

Indigenous Rights: "The company violated local indigenous peoples' right to manifest their culture and identity."

A 2007 Oxfam Australia report on the Didipio mine found that: "The company has failed to obtain the community's free, prior, and informed consent in accordance to both indigenous practices and local decision-making processes." It said that indigenous people have accused OceanaGold of, among other things, "forcing the community members by intimidation and harassment to provide the mining company access to or sell their land at prices dictated by the company. The company has also tried to bypass "established regulatory informed consent requirements that prioritize the need for the consent of barangay Didipio." In addition, the 2011 CHR report found that many of the displaced families were Ifugao. The demolition of their homes meant "the destruction of life and a way of life intimately connected with the land they nurtured, with a view to leaving a legacy for their children and their kin that will come after."

*Such sentiments must
"be respected and
not disregarded by the
national government."*

Biodiversity: "There is evidence that the mine is threatening the rich biodiversity of the area." The IPS-Mining-Watch report quotes a study conducted by The Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priorities Final Report, which was prepared by the DENR, the Conservation International and the Biodiversity Conservation Program-UP Center for Integrative Development Studies. It found that Didipio, which is part of the Caraballo-Palali Mountain range, can be classified as "Very High Biological Importance for Terrestrial and Inland Water Areas," "Very High as Conservation Priority Areas for Terrestrial and Inland Water Area," and "Extremely High Conservation Priority Areas for Amphibians and Reptiles," among other things. A 2014 study conducted by Kalikasan and AGHAM determined that there was less biodiversity in water



TITLE

MORE ARGUMENTS VS. OCEANA GOLD

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bodies that were impacted by the mine than in water bodies that were outside of the impact area. This indicates that the mine could endanger the rich biodiversity of Didipio.

Labor Rights: "The Didipio mine has failed to significantly improve the welfare of its employees." The 2014 Kalikasan and AGHAM report conducted interviews and group discussions with communities affected by the mine. Res-

idents who worked at the mine said that "there was no significant improvement in their lives despite the wages they earn from it." They also claimed that "basic social services such as health care and education did not improve." In fact, since mining operations began, the company has only built an elementary school for the community. This is despite the company's promise to build other infrastructure.

Irresponsible Global Actor: "OceanaGold has acted irresponsibly elsewhere throughout the world." The IPS-MiningWatch report argues that Oceana-

Gold has a poor track record in other countries. The case of El Salvador is particularly striking: "OceanaGold purchased a "junior" mining firm, Pacific Rim, in El Salvador in 2013. Pacific Rim had sued the Salvadoran government in 2009 in the biased "investor-state" tribunal at the World Bank Group and sought over \$300 million from the government for not issuing the company a mining concession—even though the company had not met the legal requirements to get one." In 2016, the tribunal unanimously ruled against the company and ordered it to pay the

Salvadorean government \$8 million. The victory of the Salvadorean government is illuminating since these tribunals tend to favor transnational companies like OceanaGold. It indicates that the company's actions in El Salvador were, even by the most pro-business of standards, out of line. In large part due to the country's ordeal with OceanaGold, in March 2017, El Salvador became the first country in the world to place a blanket ban on metals mining.

It must also be pointed out that there is no legal basis for any interim renewal of an FTAA. This is one of the most im-

portant contracts that the national government can enter into. Allowing interim renewal of such contracts undermines its character and severely weakens the hand of the government in negotiating with the private sector.

Finally, the OceanaGold FTAA is opposed by all levels of local government. Under the Local Government Code, such sentiments must be respected and not disregarded by the national government.

Facebook: deantonylavs
Twitter: tonylavs



NLUA: Duterte legacy legislation

FOR more than two decades, many different versions of a proposed National Land Use Act (NLUA) have languished in Congress. I recall that even under the previous administration, the passage of the NLUA Bill was certified as urgent, but, until now, no version of the bill has been enacted into law. The call by President Rodrigo Duterte for Congress to pass the NLUA before the end of the year should prompt our representatives and senators to finally act on the much-delayed measure. As of now, the Philippines is reportedly the only developing country without a national land use policy.

I know for a fact that the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) has already drafted the Duterte administration version of the bill. All Congress needs to do now is to start the ball rolling on this and other NLUA bills filed in the 18th Congress — House Bills 105, 158, 564 and 706, and Senate Bill 38.

If passed, the NLUA will be a legacy legislation of President Duterte. I am certain that with the President's resolve and a strong political will, he can put an end to the haphazard and unplanned development in our urban and rural centers.

It wasn't long ago that the Presi-



FLIPSIDE
ATTY. DODO
DULAY

dent, to the opposition of many, issued Proclamation 475 declaring Boracay Island under a state of calamity. Three years ago, my son went to Boracay expecting crystal clear waters and white sand. Instead, he was greeted with foul-smelling green gunk — algal bloom fertilized by feces and garbage from untreated sewage. Until recently, this was the trend in Boracay.

Seeking to reverse the island's downward spiral into what he termed a "cesspool," the President ordered a full closure of the island for six months even if it meant losing billions in government revenue. Now, the rationale for closing it was simple: a temporary sacrifice for long-term sustainability. To most visitors to Boracay nowadays, the President's gamble has clearly paid off.

The case of Boracay serves as a microcosm of what happens when local government units fail to act. Had the national government not swooped in, Boracay would be the cesspool it was before, maybe even worse. The problem, as usual,

was implementation. The same is happening, albeit on a larger scale, with regard to our current land use regulations.

At present, land use and classification is determined in large part by the local government units (LGUs). This stems from their power under Section 20 of the Local Government Code to reclassify lands. Part of this power is the directive for LGUs to "continue to prepare their respective comprehensive land use plans (CLUPs) enacted through zoning ordinances which shall be the primary and dominant bases for the future use of land resources..."

As it stands, therefore, the LGUs dictate land use within the locality for the foreseeable future (at least 10 years) through its CLUPs. Theoretically, leaving this decision primarily to the LGUs makes sense. They are, after all, the leaders of their own localities. They know the ins and outs of the area.

The problem is most LGUs either do not have a plan or if they do, these are poorly made, based on the priorities of whoever is the mayor at the time. The HLURB estimated in 2012 that "70 percent of municipalities had no or outdated land use plans." Meanwhile, a policy brief by the German Institute for Development Evaluation, which surveyed cities and mu-

nicipalities in the Visayas region in 2016, revealed, "[w]hile 84 out of 100 municipalities had land use planning documents, only 37 had been approved by the Provincial Land Use Committee" (following the hierarchical structure of passing these CLUPs). A review of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board website itself, in its list of cities and municipalities with and without approved CLUPs, shows that a great number of localities have CLUPs last approved in the 1990s and early 2000s, with some even dating back to the 1980s.

Aside from this, numerous other factors hamper the effective and efficient use of land. Since the CLUP is heavily reliant on policymakers to dictate the direction of a locality, a change in leadership means a change in plans. There is nothing preventing a new set of local politicians from changing a CLUP passed by the previous administration.

In addition, a hodgepodge of other applicable laws on land use involve many different government agencies, which results in an overlap of mandates and overall inefficiency. For instance, forest lands are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources but some LGUs are clueless as to what areas constitute forest lands or what projects can be built near or beside forest lands.

The bottom line, however, is that LGUs have not been up to the task with regard to land use. Boracay is only one example.

Land is a finite resource, and the Philippines has 300,000 square kilometers of it. The way I see it, the best course of action would be to pass the NLUA, which will allow a single national authority to streamline and monitor land use more effectively, with more accountability and a clearer delineation of roles.

Given the poor track record of LGUs, it is high time the national government be directly involved in determining the best use of our land, whether it be for protection — designating hazardous areas in case of typhoons or earthquakes as well as lands for preservation — production, settlement or infrastructure.

There will be naysayers for sure. Some have said that centralizing land use would raise the ire of mayors around the country. True, centralizing land use would have its drawbacks such as divesting power from LGUs. But it's high time a national land use plan be passed to allow the national government to do what the LGUs have failed to do for the past two decades.



#nationataglance

DAVAO: DAVAO CITY

Japan aims to help Davao City become model in waste management with WTE

THE JAPANESE government has reiterated its support for Davao City's waste management program as the Davao Japanese community celebrates its 100th anniversary. Mayor Kenji Kitahashi of Kitakyushu City, which has a sister city agreement with Davao, said they want to see Davao become a model in waste management. "Our ultimate aim is to see Davao succeed in resolving all of these problems so that Davao City becomes the model not only for the Philippines but for the entire Southeast Asian region," Mr. Kitahashi said during the opening of the Davao Japanese Community 100 Years Anniversary Expo, Friday. Kitakyushu will provide technical support for a waste-to-energy (WTE) facility in Davao, with construction expected to start before the end of the year. The Davao City government has already acquired a 10-hectare lot in the southwestern part of the city for the facility. — **Maya M. Padillo**



BN/LEW S. DAVAO, JR.

DAVAO City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio and Kitakyushu City Mayor Kenji Kitahashi (2nd and 3rd from right) lead the opening of the Davao Japanese Community 100 Years Anniversary trade expo with the traditional Kagami Biraki ceremony (sake opening ceremony) at the SM Lanang Premier on Oct. 4.



With Russian honorary doctorate, Rody preaches about climate change

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

MOSCOW – President Duterte has stressed the need for the Philippines and the rest of the world to address the issues hounding the environment and the impact of climate change.

In his speech during the conferment of an honorary doctorate degree for international relations at the prestigious Moscow State Institute of International Relations University, the Chief Executive said climate change is already threatening the very survival of the planet.

“Disruptive weather patterns with stronger intensities deliver punishing blows on our archipelagos like the Philippines year-in and year-out. It is aggravating existing divides within and between nations and even as it creates new

ones. Hence, we have to work together to find solutions that are effective, fair and beneficial to everyone,” Duterte said in his speech last Saturday.

It was not known why Duterte shifted his views on the issue of climate change. He has been blaming developed nations for their respective economies’ role in the deteriorating conditions of the environment.

He also previously said that climate change agreements are favorable only to rich countries, that industrial countries are responsible for causing the warming of the globe and that the Philippines is one of the victims.

From his favorite novel in high school to his political career and steering the country’s foreign policy to a different route, Duterte comfortably worked his way into the minds of the young Russians who are studying international relations.

He discussed how terrorism has become a threat to the people of the world and the ill effects of drugs.

“As our world shrinks, our societies will become more and more vulnerable to threats that transcends boundaries. Terrorism and violent extremism, drug trafficking and other transnational crimes are all those that will be prevailing dangers for your generation and for the next, and maybe in all time. They threaten our security, destroy the fabric of our society and endanger the future of our youth from hereon,” Duterte said.

As he batted for forging new alliances with non-traditional allies, Duterte reiterated his call on allies not to set pre-conditions to grants.

“Common threats make us one, (it) should be enough to bring us together. Unfortu-

nately, do I have to mention the country? I’m tempted to. It’s on the tip of my tongue. This might blow up my plane going home. Again, what is required is open and genuine cooperation without political preconditions. And a lot of the West are doing it. If I have to enumerate one by one, I may not be able to finish my speech. I’ll just lose the enthusiasm,” he said.

He added that many choose divisiveness instead of inclusiveness in the belief that “theirs is the best way to approach the world. And more importantly, an enfeebled global order.”

“What is laughable is that the same countries blame others for the state of affairs. They lament the pushback against liberal universalism, from perceived authoritarian leaders, like me, and a handful of others in your region and in my region. What they do not realize, or just can-

not accept, is that their unilateral exploits (are) driven by exceptionalism,” Duterte said.

Back in Manila, presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said the Palace considers the last working day of Duterte’s official visit to Russia special and significant.

First, Panelo said it was the first time for the Chief Executive to receive and accept an honorary degree. Second, it was a welcome opportunity for Duterte to touch base and bond with members of the Filipino community in Russia who came from various parts of the country just to have a glimpse of the President.

“The President stressed that he continues to chart an independent foreign policy course which promotes respectful friendships and partnerships, as well as meaningful cooperation and which enhances the inter-

ests of the Philippines,” he said.

He added that Duterte also talked about “our country’s partnerships with traditional allies, such as the US, remain important much as he recognizes the importance of ASEAN centrality and unity.”

As chief architect of foreign policy, Duterte noted that the country’s overdependence on traditional partners in the past “has limited our room to maneuver when faced with significant matters in a time when the global balance of power is shifting from West to East.”

“He thus made sure to correct this strategic oversight to seize the opportunities of this current evolving order. This explains the raison d’etre for the reinvigoration of diplomatic ties between the Philippines and Russia, which is now bearing fruit three years after (Duterte) adopted such policy,” Panelo explained.



CHALLENGE TO MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES

GREENPEACE SAYS PAPER PACKAGING FALSE SOLUTION TO PLASTIC POLLUTION

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

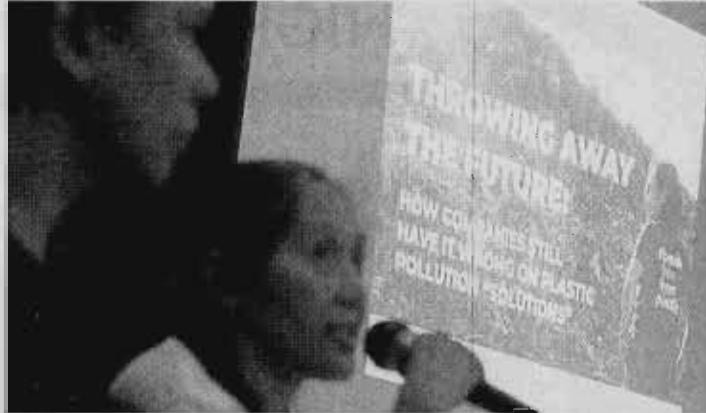
Switching to paper packaging and so-called bioplastics by companies producing consumer goods has turned out to be one of many “false solutions” to the immense problem of plastic pollution, according to an international environmental group.

At the launching of its report titled “Throwing Away the Future: How Companies Still Have It Wrong on Plastic Pollution Solutions” in Quezon City on Monday, Greenpeace challenged multinational companies to go beyond business as usual, and instead shift to practices that would enable reuse and refill methods.

“All these well-meaning initiatives will hardly make a dent in the whole problem ... as long as the production of plastic is not drastically reduced,” said Abigail Aguilar, campaign coordinator for Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

“[The companies’] commitments and declarations are all focused on false solutions that only continue to perpetuate a throwaway culture,” she added.

Their report showed that the shift to other forms of packaging only compounds the persisting problem of waste and environmental degradation. The switch to paper, it said, can lead to deforestation with the growing demand for pulp, while bioplastics—which are touted as biodegradable or compostable—do not naturally decompose in nature and would



REUSE AND REFILL Environmentalists call on companies to shift to business practices that enable consumers to adopt reuse and refill methods instead of peddling false solutions to cover up reliance on single-use plastic in Monday’s press briefing in Quezon City. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

require “industrial-level facilities” to actually break down.

The report also assailed the idea that recycling is the best way to keep plastics out of landfills.

“Recycling systems cannot keep up with the huge volume of plastic waste generated,” it said. “Numerous exposes have demonstrated that recycling systems have failed to deliver on the promise to both recover enough material to reduce demand for virgin plastic or to ensure proper disposal ... due to inherent difficult[ies] posed by the nature of plastics, the mixtures of plastics and the enormous amount produced.”

‘Sachet economy’

Along with green groups Break Free From Plastic and Ecowaste Coalition, Greenpeace called for the massive re-

duction of plastic production and investments in innovative alternative delivery systems.

“Some cannot afford bulk packaging, so they would have to buy materials that come in [smaller] packaging,” said Beau Baconguis, Asia-Pacific coordinator for Break Free From Plastic. “If there are no alternative systems in the community, they will end up buying the sachets.”

Earlier this year, a report released by Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives showed that Filipinos use a staggering 164 million sachets daily, nearly double the use of plastic shopping bags and thin-film bags combined at 48 million and 42 million, respectively.

In 2018, an estimated 855 billion sachets were sold globally, with Southeast Asia accounting for nearly half of the market.

The groups said the thinking that impoverished consumers have contributed to a “sachet economy” by not disposing plastic waste properly must be challenged.

“A lot of times, we don’t have a choice in terms of packaging... especially in poor communities,” Baconguis said.

Law vs plastic use

Among the alternative delivery systems that can be reintroduced in shops and markets is the traditional “tingi” system, where refilling containers of goods was the norm, they said.

“These are the systems that we need to bring back ... This is already in our culture,” Baconguis said.

While these groups say they will continue to demand accountability from multinational companies responsible for continuous plastic production, they also urged Congress to enact a law that would ban the use and production of single-use plastics nationwide.

At present, only ordinances in cities and municipalities that regulate or ban plastic use are in place.

Several bills have already been filed in Congress imposing such a ban, but these have yet to be acted on.

“There are plenty of local ordinances, but [without] a national law, you’re just like squeezing a balloon,” Baconguis said. “If there is a law in one place and none in the other, then you are just moving the problem from one place to another.” INQ



Lawmaker bats for tax-free electric and hybrid vehicles

By **CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE**
and **DANESSA RIVERA**

Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan has proposed to exempt electric and hybrid vehicles from taxes and duties in the next several years to encourage the manufacture, importation and use of carbon-reducing vehicles.

Pangilinan said carbon emissions raise temperatures globally and contribute to drastic changes in the climate. In the Philippines, vehicles contribute 36.1% of total carbon dioxide emissions.

The Department of Energy estimates that replacing 100,000 tricycles with electric and hybrid vehicles will reduce 260,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

"Climate change is upon us, and the Philippines is most vulnerable to it. Proposed solutions must involve most of us in our everyday lives," Pangilinan said.

Citing the 2019 Global Peace Index, Pangilinan said almost half or 47 percent of the country's population are in areas highly exposed to climate hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, tropical cyclones, and drought.

In Senate Bill 638, Pangilinan seeks to provide the following incentives for the use of environment-friendly means of public transportation for manufacturers and assemblers, exemption from excise taxes and duties as well as suspension of value-added tax for capital equipment, spare parts, components, including charging stations for nine years from the effectivity of the law.

He said the bill also seeks to exempt importers from excise taxes and duties for three years of effectivity of the law;

exempt owners and users from the number coding traffic scheme of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the motor vehicle user's charge (MVUC) imposed by the Land Transportation Office (LTO); prioritize them in the registration and issuance of plate number, to prioritize in franchise application by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) -- all for nine years of effectivity of the law.

He said building owners must be required to provide exclusive free parking space. Local government units, on the other hand, should allocate land and lot space for construction of charging stations.

"Like our other bills, Senate Bill 638 is looking to the future. The climate crisis is real. And the Philippines is the most susceptible country to hazards brought about by climate change, according to scientists and experts worldwide," Pangilinan said.

More incentives are being pushed to promote electric vehicle (EV) usage in the country as Congress works on a law that will institutionalize a comprehensive framework for continued development and sustainability of the sunrise industry.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, who chairs the Senate Committee on Energy, said industry stakeholders are asking for incentives both on the EV supply and demand side to make EVs more affordable and attractive for Filipinos.

Department of Energy director Patrick Aquino said the agency is crafting a framework to promote the EV industry's growth development.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is proposing to streamline fiscal and non-fiscal incentives under the Board of Investments (BOI) by crafting an Electric Vehicle Incentive Strategic Program (EVIS).

Gatchalian said the retail cost of EVs is still high, but it is projected to become competitive by 2030.

However, the life cycle or maintenance cost of the

green vehicles are already comparable with that of gasoline-powered cars.

"The whole world is moving into EVs. Thailand has one of the most robust EV policy. What we want is to have a law now when technology becomes cheap. The forecast in by 2030, but it can be 2025. The goal is to have a law that will enable early adoption," Gatchalian said.



With climate woes worsening energy insecurity, geothermal is key—EDC

BY LENIE LECTURA [@llectura](#)

LOPEZ-LED Energy Development Corp. (EDC) said Monday that geothermal energy is key to achieving the country's goal to move toward attaining energy security amid worsening climate-related challenges.

"Since geothermal energy can provide continuous power 24 hours a day, it serves as the best source of baseload power," said Marvin Kenneth S. Bailon, head of EDC's business development, market planning and contracts on Monday.

To date, EDC has a geothermal capacity of 1,181 megawatts (MW) or 60 percent of the country's total geothermal output.

He said geothermal energy is abundant in Negros and Leyte where most of EDC's geothermal assets are located. For almost 40 years, EDC has been powering the islands with what is considered the "holy grail" of renewable-energy sources.

The abundance of renewable-energy sources in both islands gives them the edge over other parts of the country.

"Studies have repeatedly pointed out that the Philippines is the third most vulnerable country to climate-

related hazards and we need to take bold action to reverse that. One decisive step we can take is to transform our energy sector and the islands of Negros and Leyte show that it is possible and now even a reality," added Bailon.

Most important, apart from being more eco-friendly, electricity generated from geothermal sources is helping consumers enjoy more competitively priced power rates, according to Bailon.

The Philippines is currently the world's third-largest producer of geothermal energy after the United States and Indonesia, mostly because of EDC, which accounts for 61 percent of the country's current installed capacity.

EDC's 711.4-MW Leyte Geothermal Project is home to its largest geothermal facility and has the biggest wet steam field in the world. The facility supplies power

to Leyte II Electric Cooperative and Leyte III Electric Cooperative in the province of Leyte and several other electric cooperatives in the Visayas region.

On the other hand, EDC's Southern Negros Geothermal Project supplies 2 MW to Negros Oriental I Electric Cooperative, 25 MW to Negros Oriental II Electric Cooperative, 20 MW to Central Negros Electric Cooperative and 3 MW to Northern Negros Electric Cooperative. These comprise around 16 percent of the island's power supply out of its peak demand of 312 MW.

"With the examples set by the provinces of Negros and Leyte, we are optimistic that a greener energy future lies in store for the entire country," Bailon said.

Assistant Secretary Robert Uy of the Department of Energy (DOE) earlier said the agency is looking at ways by which the government can provide assistance to the development of geothermal sources through both fiscal and nonfiscal incentives.

A geothermal player normally spends between \$30 million and 50 million just to explore potential geothermal resources. It cannot recoup its investment should exploration work turn out unsuccessful.

He also suggested that geothermal developers look into sources that are beyond conventional like medium to low enthalpy and acidic geothermal energy source.

"The DOE is also procuring MT equipment for geophysical surveys. With this and the technically capable personnel from the Geothermal Energy Management Division, the DOE has now the capabilities to conduct preliminary exploratory studies that can prequalify geothermal areas and significantly reduce the resource risk. With this lessened risks, we envision that investing in geothermal energy development will be more palatable for both local and international developers," said Uy.



Climate activists begin protest

SYDNEY—Dozens of protesters were arrested across Australia and New Zealand on Monday as Extinction Rebellion activists kicked off a fortnight of global civil disobedience demanding governments take urgent action on climate change.

Hundreds joined a sit-in on busy inner Sydney road, which police brought to an end by dragging away demonstrators. Thirty people were later charged.

A small group of activists also locked themselves to a bridge in Brisbane, where police said they arrested and charged seven people.

Meanwhile, demonstrators shut down part of Wellington, New Zealand's capital, by chaining themselves to a bright pink car. Police said 30 people were arrested later in the day of protest, but

none were charged.

They were the start of planned disruptions in 60 cities around the world over the next two weeks by Extinction Rebellion, which is warning of a looming environmental "apocalypse".

Thousands are expected to join other events this week in Australia, including a bee die-off enactment, a nude parade and a funeral procession for the planet.

"We have tried petitions, lobbying and marches, and now time is running out," Australian activist Jane

Morton said.

"We have no choice but to rebel until our government declares a climate and ecological emergency and takes the action that is required to save us."

Australia is ruled by a conservative government that has resisted taking comprehensive action to tackle climate change, while backing lucrative coal exports.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison last month snubbed a United Nations climate summit after he was not invited to speak because of his lack of new climate announcements.

"Our governments are lying to us about the state of the climate and ecological emergency," Melbourne-based climate activist Christine Canti told AFP.

"I have got four small young children and I want to be able to look them in the

eye and tell them when I found out the extent and the severity of the crisis... I did absolutely everything within my power to be able to try and reverse that."

Extinction Rebellion's tactics in Australia have prompted senior conservative politicians to call for protesters' welfare payments to be cut and for public denunciations.

"People should take these names and the photos of these people and distribute them as far and wide as they can so that we shame these people," Australian Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton said on radio last week.

"Shame them because of the actions they have committed and because they're acting outside of the law and against community standards. Let their families know what you think of their behaviour." AFP



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Raptors arrive in Sarangani

RAPTOR watchers recently flocked to Raptor Hill in Brgy. Rio del Pilar, Glan, Sarangani to watch these birds passing by southern Mindanao.

Every fourth quarter of the year, raptors from Taiwan and Japan fly long distances and cross oceans to find suitable feeding environments in the tropics. As these birds head to Indonesia, they pass by southern Mindanao to rest and feed before continuing their flight.

Raptors arrive in Sarangani twice a year, September to October and March to April, for their return flight. The birds are characterized by sharp vision that allows them to detect prey during flight, and often feed on rats and insects, thus serving as a natural pest control in the area.

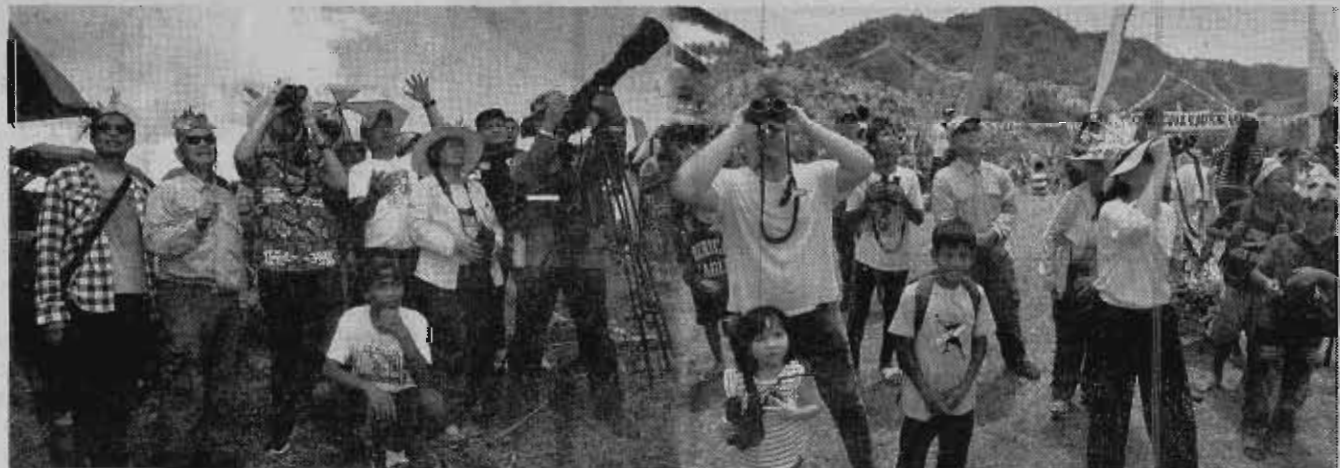
Raptor Hill, the monitoring post of researchers from the Sarangani Provin-

cial Government's Environmental Conservation and Protection Center, has been identified as among the major flyways of migratory birds as observed in their flight patterns for the past four years. The ongoing monitoring and study aims to generate scientific data that will help authorities understand raptor biology and migration behaviors, and help identify critical sites for conservation.

On the third week of observation, the team has already accounted 101,882

rap-
tors
sight-
ings com-
posed most-
ly of Chinese
sparrowhawk,
grey-faced buz-
zard, peregrine fal-
con, and western os-
prey species.

Chinese
sparrowhawk
(Photo by
Ariefrahman)



Birdwatchers wait for raptors to pass by Raptor Hill in Glan, Sarangani.



Grey-face buzzard
(Photo by M. Nishimura)

The birds look for thermal air currents which can be found in Mt. Latian Complex, a Philippine Biodiversity Conservation priority area identified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

A study titled "Project Southern Crossing 2014: First Observations of Autumn Raptor Migration at Sarangani, Mindanao, Philippines" described the archipelago as an "important link in the East Asia-Australasian Flyway (BirdLife International 2015), a migration route involving long sea crossings."

The monitoring season includes

a five-year reforestation initiative at the roosting sites in Mt. Taltak, in partnership with Raptorwatch Network Philippines and the Japanese Society for the Preservation of Birds.

The recently held Raptor Festival emphasized the importance of maintaining the environmental health of the area to keep the raptors from coming.

Sarangani governor Steve Chiong-bian Solon said the provincial government is studying the requirements to improve Raptor Hill as a tourism site in Glan, a popular beach, culinary, and heritage destination.



FROM THE STANDS

DOMINI M. TORREVILLAS

SU's wild sanctuary and call for writers



Imagine walking under the giant acacia trees inside the Silliman University campus in Dumaguete City. Birds are flying above you, frogs are leaping over your ankle, and reptiles are crawling on the lawns sparkling with dew. In sheer delight or fear of being bitten, you're tempted to toss a stone at the creatures.

But you are warned not to do anything of the sort.

Because Silliman is now a wildlife sanctuary.

This declaration was made by the Silliman board of trustees last August. As such the campus is not just a bird sanctuary, but also a wildlife sanctuary, thus collecting or harming wildlife on campus is a no-no.

Dr. Angel Alcala, BOT vice chair and head of the Silliman University Angelo King Center for Research and Environmental Management (SUAKCREM), said the BOT has agreed that it is SU's responsibility to protect and conserve wildlife as an institution that has been active in conducting research and advocacy on biodiversity, which includes wildlife species, since 1941.

According to the Silliman information office, Alcala said another reason why SU should protect wildlife is because populations of wildlife in tropical rain forests and mangrove forests in the country have been declining, although some forest-dwelling biodiversity species are able to adapt to and exist in human-dominated communities and altered or marginal forest habitats.

"Studies on Philippine fauna and flora have documented the decline of populations of wildlife in the tropical rain forests and mangrove forests of the country, where as much as 80 percent of wildlife species are naturally found. These forests have been reduced to fragments and, in general, are not able to support the ecological and biological requirements of wildlife," said Alcala, a former secretary of environment.

There are 69 species of trees, 44 species of recruited trees and community associates, 62 species of birds, 32 species of mammals and 27 species of reptiles and amphibians in Silliman, based on a SUAKCREM study of trees and animals on the SU campus, which includes the A.Y. Reyes Zoological & Botanical Garden and mangrove garden at the Dr. Angel C. Alcala Environment and Marine Science Laboratories.

"Trees have been included (in the study) because they serve as habitats of birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals, and they also provide food for the animals," added Alcala.

The BOT's declaration of SU as a wildlife sanctuary also covers SU's other sites, such as the SU Farm at the College of Agriculture and SU Center for Tropical Conservation Studies (Centrop) extension site in Palinpinon, Valencia.

Alcala clarified that there are no poisonous reptiles on the Silliman campus and that all snakes on campus are harmless.

"There are large reptiles that invade the attics of houses, but they are there because they feed on rats. An example is the reticulated python. Another large reptile species is the monitor lizard. This is a beautiful and harmless species. All snakes on campus are harmless, and they should be free to roam the campus...In general, snakes are more afraid of humans, and they should be allowed to move freely," he said.

All frogs on campus are also harmless, said Alcala, except the toad which he said is not endemic or native in the Philippines and exudes a milky substance which may cause injury to the eyes.

Alcala also said birds, fruit bats and mammals such as wild cats that come to the campus to feed on fruits from its trees should be allowed to do so.

Alcala also cited a recent development in genetics that suggests "kinship

of humans with biodiversity species because of the similarity of the DNA molecule in both humans and wildlife" as another reason for SU's responsibility to protect and conserve wildlife.

In 1974, SU was declared as a bird sanctuary by its university cabinet, which made SU the first institution in the Philippines whose entire campus has been declared a natural bird habitat. During that time, Alcala was the head of SU's environmental center, which spearheaded initiatives to protect all kinds of birds on campus, such as: putting up signs and notices; prohibition of feeding poisonous food to birds, throwing stones and getting a bird's nestling; and confiscation of harmful devices like slingshots and air guns by security personnel.

Meanwhile, the Silliman University (SU) National Writers Workshop, the oldest creative writing program in Asia, is now accepting applications for the 59th SU National Writers Workshop to be held from April 27 to May 8, 2020 at the SU Rose Lamb Sobrepeña Writers Village and the SU campus.

The writers workshop is offering 10 fellowships to promising writers in the Philippines who want to have a chance to hone their craft and refine their style. Fellows will be provided housing, a modest stipend, and a subsidy to partially defray the costs of their transportation.

To be considered, applicants should submit manuscripts on or before Dec. 6, 2019. Extension of the deadline will not be made. All manuscripts should comply with the instructions stated below (failure to do so will automatically eliminate their entries).

Applicants for Fiction and Creative Nonfiction fellowships should submit three to four entries. Applicants for Poetry fellowships should submit a suite of seven to ten poems. Applicants for Drama fellowships should submit at least one one-act play. Each fiction, creative nonfiction, or drama manuscript should not be more than 20 pages, double-spaced. Aside from manuscripts in Poetry, Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, and Drama that should be written in English, the workshop will also be accepting manuscripts for Balak (poetry in Binisaya) and Sugilanon (short story in Binisaya). Applicants should submit a suite of seven to ten balak entries with their English translations, or three to four sugilanon entries with their English translations.

Manuscripts should be submitted in five hard copies. They should be computerized in MS Word, double-spaced, on 8.5 x 11 inches bond paper, with approximately one-inch margin on all sides. The category (Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, Poetry, One-Act Drama, Balak, or Sugilanon) must be indicated immediately under the title. The page number must be typed consecutively (e.g., 1 of 30, 2 of 30, and so on) at the center of the bottom margin of each page. The font should be Book Antiqua or Palatino, and the font size should be 12.

The applicant's real name and address must appear only in the official application form and the certification of originality of works, and must not appear on the manuscripts. Manuscripts should be accompanied by the official application form, a notarized certification of originality of works, and at least one letter of recommendation from a literature professor or an established writer. All requirements must be complete at the time of submission.

Applications or requests for information must be directed to the department of English and Literature, attention Dr. Warlito Caturay Jr., workshop coordinator, 1/F Katipunan Hall, Silliman University, Dumaguete City.

Email: dominitorrevillas@gmail.com





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PHIL
WOOD
EXPO
2019

A GREENER ECONOMY THROUGH A WOODEN WORLD

October 21-22, 2019 | 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Sofitel Philippine Plaza

A convergence of wood manufacturers, specialists, businesses, enthusiasts, builders and design professionals in one venue.

EXPO showcasing sustainable trends and innovations in the global wood industry from participating countries: Africa, Austria, Canada, China, Malaysia, Philippines, and Scandinavia

Day 1 | Oct 21

- 9:00 AM - Opening of Exhibit
- 1:00 PM - **Understanding the Proposed Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Bill** (Code D1-01)
For: Tommy T. Valdez, National Council President-Society of Filipino Foresters Inc.
- 2:15 PM - **Finland Experience in Developing their Wood Industry** (Code D1-02)
Mr. Petteri Mäkitalo, Co-Founder/Vice Pres.-Nordic Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines
- 3:30 PM - **Plans & Programs of DENR for the PH Wood Industry** (Code D1-03)
For: Nonito M. Tamayo, Director-Forest Management Bureau-DENR

Day 2 | Oct 22

- 9:00 AM - **FILTRA|Junkers' Sustainable Solid Wood flooring - Walking on Danish Design** (Code D2-04)
Julia Weise Hellum, Export Manager
- 10:00 AM - **Overcoming Challenges in Developing Malaysian Certification System** (Code D2-05)
Mr. Yong Tang Koon, CEO-Malaysian Timber Certification Council
- 11:15 AM - **Demand and Supply- Side Measures in Support of Legal and Sustainable Trade** (Code D2-06)
For: Bruno Cammaert, Forestry Officer-FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- 1:00 PM - **Wood in Construction: An Option or A Necessity?** (Code D2-07)
Arch. Jon Ander Bilbao, Lead Architect-Goudie Associates
- 2:15 PM - **Limitless Opportunities of Wood Technology: MCL Design** (Code D2-08)
Ing. Anton Wanas, Authorized Officer/Prokurist-Rubner Holzbau GmbH

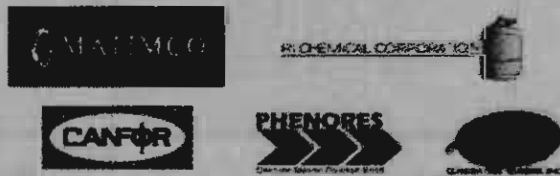
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Philippine Wood Producers Association, Inc.



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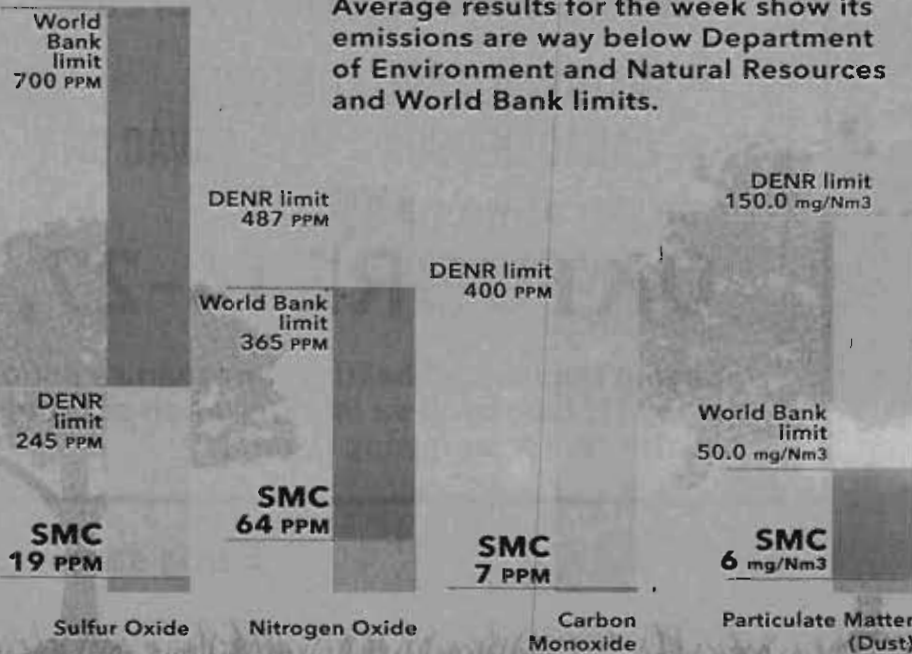


SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

WEEKLY ENVIRONMENT WATCH

September 30-October 6, 2019

San Miguel Corporation's Limay CFB (Circulating Fluidized Bed) power plant undergoes daily emission testing. Average results for the week show its emissions are way below Department of Environment and Natural Resources and World Bank limits.





MAGANDANG balita ang pahayag mismo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na tataas na ang sahod ng mga guro sa pampublikong paaralan.

Kasama sa mga guro ang mga nasa kindergarten, elementarya, high school, senior high school at kolehiyo at iba pang pampublikong paaralan.

Halos isang milyon ang lahat ng ito na dahil kung bakit sa una ay hindi basta nagkaroon ng umento gaya ng mga pulis, sundalo, bumbero at jailguard.

Kinakailangan kasi ang ilang bilyon para mapunan ang sahod ng mga ito.

HINDI TIYAK ANG HALAGA

Wala pang nakatitiyak ng halaga paras sa dagdag-sahod.

May nagsasabi ring dapat sa susunod na taon na lang ang umento.

Pero lumalabas na kung nasa P20,000 ang pinamababang pasahod kina sir at ma'am, tila ipapantay ang halaga sa tinatanggap na ng mga pulis, sunadalo, bumbero at jailguard.

Nasa P30,000 na ang minimum na sahod ng huli.

MATAGAL NANG HINIHINTAY

Kahit kaninong titser ka magtanong, matagal na talaga nilang hinihintay ang umento sa sahod.

Kung may umento nga naman ang mga may trabaho para sa kapayapaan, seguridad, laban sa sunog at krimen, hindi dapat na mahuli ang mga guro na tagapanday ng kinabukasan ng buong bansa.

Yun bang === kung mahalagang-mahalaga ang trabaho ng mga pulis, sundalo, bumbero at jailguard, mahalagang-mahalaga rin ang serbisyo ng mga guro.

Kung magkakaroon ng sapat na ikabubuhay ng mga guro, sa katunayan, makatutulong sila nang husto upang mabawasan nang malaki ang trabaho ng mga pulis, sundalo, bumbero at jailguard.

Ang sistemang edukasyon, kung masigasig sa pagtatrabaho ng mga guro dahil hindi sila nakararanas ng labis na gutom at paghihirap, ay maghuhubog ng epektibo sa mga mamamayan bilang peace loving, law-abiding, mapagmahal sa bansa



NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

GOOD NEWS: TAAS-SAHOD NG MGA GURO TIYAK NA

at may moralidad.

At ang epektibong paghuhubog ay magsimula sa mga batang mamamayan hanggang sa kanilang pagtuntong at pagtatapos sa kolehiyo.

SA 2019

MAGAGANAP

Sinasabing sa taong ito, wala o kulang ang nakalaang pondo para sa dagdag-sahod.

Subalit lumalabas napipiliitin ng pamahalaang Duterte na magkaroon na ng umento sa mga darating na buwan at hindi nito hihintayin ang susunod na taon para rito.

Kung halimbawa namang hindi makukumpleto ang minimum na nasa 30-35 porsyentong umento, maaaring ang mga karagdagang halaga ay maibibigay sa susunod na taon.

Pero harinawa, sa taong 2019 ay maibigay na sa mga guro ang pantay na sahod sa mga pulis, sundalo, bumbero at jailguard.

MAY AAYUSIN

Pero lumalabas na may aayusin nang husto ang mga mambabatas at kasama rito yata ang dapat na pagkakatantay-pantay ng mga ranggo ng mga guro sa mga sundalo, pulis, bumbero at jailguard.

Ang pinakamababang ranggo ng titser, halimbawa, at mga susunod pang ranggo ay dapat umantong sumabay sa mga ranggo ng mga pulis, sundalo, bumbero at jailguard.

Ang salary grade sa mga pulis, sundalo, bumbero at jailguard ay dapat na pumantay sa salary grade ng mga guro?

Sa punto ng accounting ng gobyerno, magiging maayos nga ang lahat ng record at hindi magkagulo-gulo at hindi magbubunga ng mga pag-aaway-away at iba pang hindi magandang kondisyon.

HIRAP NA HIRAP

Kung pakikilingan ang mga guro, ang kanilang mga hinaing, alam ba ninyo na overworked sila?

Hindi man sila katulad ng mga sundalo, pulis, bumbero at jailguard na direktang nakataya ang

buhay at kamatayan sa kanilang duty, may mga namamatay rin sa kanilang hanay dahil sa sobrang trabaho.

May mga nagpapakamatay pa nga umano, may nagkakasakit at may nagre-resign na lang dahil sa sobrang trabaho.

Ang kabilang umano sa nagpapabigat sa kanilang trabaho ay ang dami umano ng mga ulat na ginagawa nila patungo sa district, division, regional at national offices ng Department of Education at Commission on Higher Education.

Ang dami umano nilang hinaharap na mga dokumento na dapat nilang ipasa sa itaas.

At kung titingnan umano ang kanilang gawain, mayroon o marami na ang naaagawan ng oras sa pagtuturo.

Ang bagsak nito, bumababa ang kalidad ng pagtuturo ng mga guro dahil sa pagod at pu-yat sa pag-aasikaso ng mga dokumento at report para sa DepEd at Ched.

Isa pa, napakalaking gastos din pala umano ang mga pagdodokumentamento ng mga ulat ng mga activity, kasama ang mga litrato sa mga ito, at pagpapadala nito sa internet o sa mga opisina ng DepEd.

WORLD TEACHERS DAY

Nitong nagdaang mga araw, ginunita ang Araw ng mga Guro sa buong mundo.

At isinabay ng mga public school teacher ang kanilang kahilingan na ayuda mula sa pamahalaan.

Sana nga, hindi sila mabibigo sa kanilang karangin sa umento na magpapalaki rin sa inasahan, nilang mga benepisyo sa kanilang pagtanda gaya ng pensyon, pabahay, kalusugan at iba pa.

We love you all, mga sir at madam.

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