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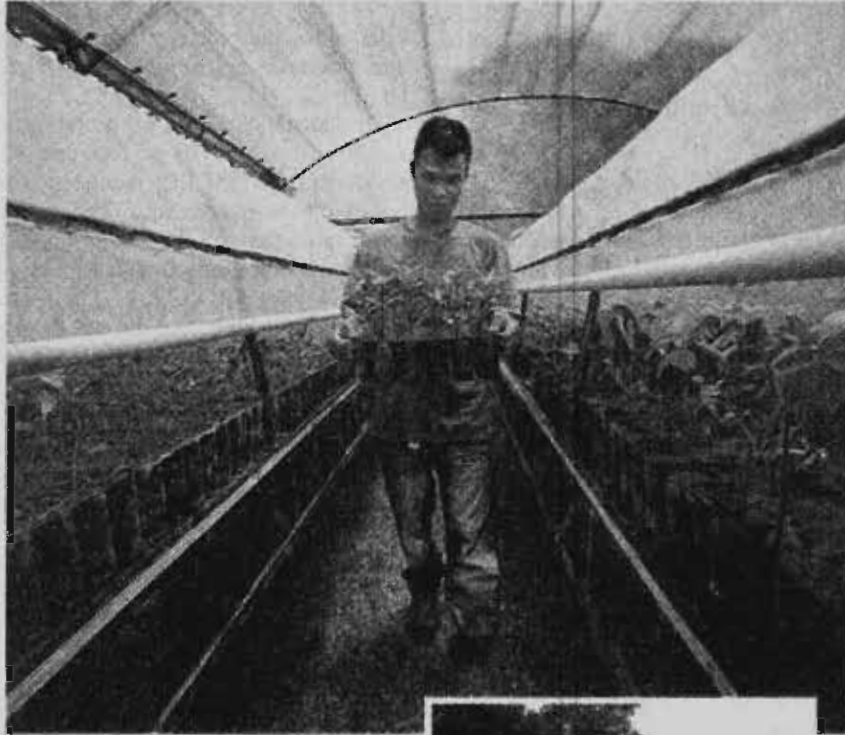
IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Tree is life

ENVIRONMENT and development can work together, and in most cases trees are their common denominator.



Energy Development Corporation's Vegetative Materials Reproduction facility propagates the company's 96 flagship threatened native BINHI tree species and prepare them for replanting.



Reforestation crucial to PH climate change efforts

As countries around the world endeavor to prevent the global climate crisis from reaching catastrophic levels by 2030, reforestation remains a basic but vital strategy in mitigating climate change. A study by academic journal *Science* revealed that one billion hectares of forest could reduce 300 gigatons or 25 percent of carbon in the atmosphere.

In the Philippines, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Forest Management Bureau reported that the country loses 47,000 hectares of forest cover every year. Around 1.2 million hectares of denuded and degraded forest lands of the country need to be rehabilitated by 2022 to prevent landslides and ensure water availability.

9,500 hectares of forest land with 96 premium native trees species under threat of extinction.

This year, the program is expanding its scale to increase the Philippines' forest cover. In its recent celebration of BINHI Day, EDC's facilities across the country—the Mt. Apo Geothermal Project, Leyte Geothermal Project, the EDC-Burgos Wind Power Corporation, Bacon-Manito Geothermal Project, Southern Negros Geothermal Project, and EDC Head Office—rallied employees, community members, and other institutional partners to plant more trees in their respective areas. A total of 10,578 trees were planted across the different sites.

↓



Renewable energy leader Energy Development Corporation responds to these challenges through its flagship environmental program BINHI. The program intends to reforest degraded lands, rescue vanishing native trees, develop ecotourism areas, and provide livelihood to local communities.

Since its launch in 2011, EDC's BINHI has successfully restored

"The scale and breadth of our reforestation efforts is proof that business and the environment can co-exist sustainably. Doubling our efforts to restore our forests can take us a long way in protecting our planet and securing it for the generation who will bear the brunt of our inaction," said Allan Barcena, head of EDC's Corporate Social Responsibility and Public Relations Group.



The Philippine Wood Producers Association emphasizes the importance of ensuring the viability of the wood sector for inclusive development in the country.

Ensuring the viability of PH wood sector

Wood remains a vital part of the construction industry. According to the Forest Management Bureau, the country needs six million cubic meters of wood on an annual basis. However, the local wood sector faces many roadblocks meeting the local demand.

One of the main problems is public perception.

Cutting trees has negative implications perpetuated by the practice of illegal logging, which has led to serious deforestation in many areas around the country.

Groups, however, argue that if done sustainably, cutting down trees can help the environment. Removing mature trees that run the risk of dying and releasing the car-

bon it has stored in its body during its lifetime limits the emission of greenhouse gases.

Groups also cite the lack of legislation that promotes the welfare of the wood sector. Hence, the Philippine Wood Producers Association is advocating for several bills to be passed, including the National Land Use Act, the Forest Limits Act, and the Sustainable Forest Management Act.

"We believe that with the enactment of these proposed laws, we can make the Philippines a global superpower in terms of wood production," said PWPA chairman Charlie Liu. "We are confident that with common sense legislation in place we can bring inclusive development to many places in the country."



Tree plantations, laws promoting FDI seen needed for wood industry

THE Philippines could be a leading supplier of wood if the industry were opened up to investment in tree farming as an alternative to cutting down standing forests, the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) said.

"One million hectares can produce something like 300 million cubic meters of wood, so we can be a global superpower in wood. But we have to get our act together," PWPA Chairman Charlie H. Liu told *BusinessWorld* on the sidelines of the two-day Philippine Wood Expo 2019 in Pasay City.

He cited a report from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, which projects global wood consumption growth of 2% a year over the next 10 years, with demand expected to hit 1.1 trillion cubic meters by 2030 from the current 900 million cubic meters.

He said the Philippines has nine million hectares of forest land, with the potential to generate P1 to P1.5 trillion worth of forest products and more than 200,000 jobs.

"We can take advantage of it, not just for domestic consumption, but for export. Look at Vietnam, it exported \$5 billion in 2014, and this year they will be a \$10-billion exporter of wood furniture. In the next five years they will become a \$20-billion wood exporter," he said.

He said that the government should work with the private

sector to come up with laws that would attract investment in wood-related businesses.

"Work with the private sector and come up with relevant laws that would make it very attractive for investors to come in, invest into tree farming, and then protect their investment because it's a 10-year commitment. Administrations change every six years, and you'll never know what is going to happen. You need the law by your side," Mr. Liu said.

He said that PWPA has been pushing the government to permit sustainable tree farming, which could generate P1 trillion annually.

"What we want to look into is sustainable tree farming, which is plantation forestry. This is where we can plant (trees) like cacao, rice, corn, and then make money out of it," he said.

"If we plant one million hectares through sustainable tree farming, it can be a sustainable P1-trillion industry every year, or \$20 billion every year," he said.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, in August the Philippines exported forest products account for only \$39.885 million of the \$6.25 billion in total exports.

"In Asia, more and more people are getting wealthier, and they are consuming more wood products, and for us, *nasa atin yan* (it is our choice) to take advantage of it or not," he said. — **Vincent Mariel P. Galang**



‘Phl wood production can grow into a \$20-B industry’

By **LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON**

The local wood industry has the potential to grow an initial \$20 billion if the government will push for laws that will boost the sector while ensuring that the environment is equally valued.

The Philippine Wood Producers Association said the sector could earn \$20 billion

if at least one million hectares of the country’s nine million hectares of barren forest land will be reforested.

“This is good for the environment and good for the economy. We need sustainable tree farming in the Philippines and we need help from regulators,” PWPA chairman Charlie Liu said in a briefing during the Philippine Wood Expo 2019 yesterday.

Businessmen also need sovereign guarantee to invest in reforestation and it normally takes 10 to 15 years before trees grow,” he said.

A huge chunk of wood supply in the Philippines still comes from importation. Last year, the country imported one million cubic meters of wood valued at \$200 million to \$300 million as part of the construction and furniture

industries.

The country imports from Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Eastern Europe, Canada, USA, Russia and Ukraine, among others. The Philippines used to export wood back in the 1980s.

“We used to export our natural forest products but laws during that time highly regulate the extraction and processing and sales of these natural forest products. But

now, we have a lot of areas available and yet we do not have trees,” Liu said.

The industry has three major laws that need to be passed to propel its growth.

These are the National Land Use Act aimed at delineating forest lands from non-forest lands, Forest Limits Bill which will determine protected natural forest from those for tree farming, and the Sustainable

Forest Management Act that will manage plantation forests.

“These laws have been filed several times in Congress for more than 10 years already and we really need the help of Congress to pass these laws,” Liu said.

“What we can produce domestic, we can process and export for a much better value. We can develop the market,” he said.



FISHERIES CODE VIOLATION

FOSSILIZED GIANT CLAM SHELLS, WORTH P 36M, SEIZED FROM CEBU TRADERS

CEBU CITY—A couple and three others are facing charges for violating the Philippine Fisheries Code after authorities seized from them last week fossilized shells of giant clams, locally called "taklobo," valued at P36 million.

The charges for violation of Republic Act No. 10654 were filed against couple George and Bebing Oldama, Rowena Tajanlangit and two other men in the Cebu provincial prosecutor's office on Friday.

Tomas Enrile, National Bu-

reau of Investigation regional director in Central Visayas, said it took them a month of monitoring to validate the suspects' illegal operations.

"It was hard to catch them in the act of possessing these giant clams," Enrile told the Inquirer.

About 2,000 kilograms of giant clams were seized from the suspects by a team composed of personnel from the NBI and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in separate villages in Cordova town, Cebu province.

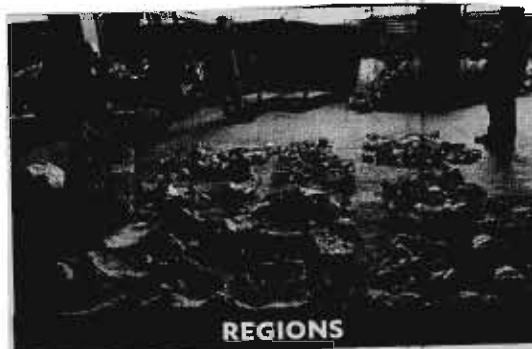
Enrile said the giant clams were being sold for P18,000 to P20,000 per kilo.

"We are still trying to figure out where they would use these clams," he said.

In a statement, Alfeo Piloton, BFAR regional director,

urged the public to alert law enforcers or the bureau in case they catch someone collecting, possessing or selling fossilized giant clams, which is prohibited under the country's environmental and fisheries laws.

—NESTLE SEMILLA INQ



REGIONS

Giant clam shells seized in Cebu town

CEBU CITY—A monthlong monitoring by a team from the National Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has led to the seizure of about 2,000 kilograms of fossilized shells of giant clams, locally called "taklobo," in Cordova town, Cebu province. The haul is valued at P36 million, with a kilogram of taklobo going for P18,000 to P20,000. —STORY BY NESTLE SEMILLA



Foreign tourists outnumber Pinoys in Boracay

By MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO

@akosistellaBM

Special to the BUSINESSMIRROR

VISITOR arrivals in Boracay Island reached 1.6 million in the nine months to September this year, with more than half of them foreign tourists.

Data from the Department of Tourism (DOT) Region 6 (Western

Visayas) obtained by the BUSINESSMIRROR showed Philippine residents accounted for 729,415 of the total arrivals, while non-Philippine residents reached 820,622.

Over 44 percent of the foreign visitors in the first nine months of 2019, were from mainland China, or 363,823, making them the top source market for tourists for Boracay. They were followed by tourists

from South Korea at 303,504.

Lawmaker's warning

THIS developed as a lawmaker on Sunday warned against the possible influx of tourists in Boracay in the coming months, and called on the government authorities to strictly enforce the carrying capacity of the island.

SEE "TOURISTS," A2

Tourists...

CONTINUED FROM A1

In a news statement, Senator Nancy Binay called on the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) "to give us an update on the monitoring system it has put in place to tourist and what are their evaluation and recommendations since we expect a large stream of tourists in the next few months."

Binay chairs the Senate Committee on Tourism, while the BIATF is chaired by Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, with Interior Secretary Eduardo M. Año and Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat as vice cochairmen.

A environmental study commissioned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) indicated that the island can only accommodate 19,125 tourists at any given time.

"We should have learned from our past mistakes," said Binay in Filipino, "from the lack of enforcement of our laws, from the disregard of nature, and from the unli-tourists on the island."

She called for the strict enforcement of the daily limit on tourist arrivals, at 6,405, and the workers at 15,000 everyday, to maintain the 55,000 carrying capacity of the island.

The DOT has already pointed out, however, that for tourists, it is the 19,125-tourist cap that the BIATF enforces, not the daily arrivals limit, because there are tourists who also leave the island everyday. "The 6,405 daily arrivals carrying capacity number assumes a three-night stay," said DOT Undersecretary for Tourism Regulation, Coordination and Resource Generation Arturo P. Boncato Jr., when the possible breaching of the carrying capacity was brought up earlier by Boracay stakeholders. (See, "Boracay stakeholders fret over 'breaching' of daily arrivals cap," in the BUSINESSMIRROR, December 17, 2018.)

Carrying capacity refers to an ecosystem's ability to support people and other living things without having negative effects. "It also includes a limit of resources and pollution levels that can be maintained without experiencing high levels of change. If the carrying capacity is exceeded, living organisms must adapt to new levels of consumption or find alternative resources," according to the Environmental Literary Council.

Due to the six-month closure of Boracay last year, only 930,363 tourists were recorded, about 50 percent less than the 2.1-million peak reached in 2017.

In the nine months to September this year, visitors from the United States were ranked third among the top foreign markets for Boracay, at 18,567. Following at a distant fourth were visitors from Taiwan at 25,133; then at fifth were those from the United Kingdom at 9,806.

Tourists from Australia came in sixth place at 9,225; followed by Japan at 8,889; Saudi Arabia at 8,675; Russia at 8,308; and Germany at 5,464.

Meanwhile, Binay also urged the BIATF to remain vigilant and make sure establishments in Boracay are complying with environmental laws. "I hope this isn't *ningas cogon* only because all the good things that have been started on the island would be wasted. We should also raise the standards of caring for the island," she added. *Ningas cogon* is a Filipino idiom which describes starting something good, only to let things slide and results become shoddy later.

The senator also suggested that the BIATF and the local government of Malay town strongly consider training personnel to brief tourists on the "do's and don'ts" on the island. She said ground and ferry crew, drivers, boatmen, and transport staff can also be tapped since they are already strategically placed at the island's entry points.

"This is a small matter but I think it would go a long way in making sure tourists are aware of the things that are allowed or prohibited," Binay stressed. Recently, Romulo Puyat requested the head of Ctrip to help educate its clients on the laws, regulations and "do's and don'ts" in the Philippines, before they travel. Headquartered in Shanghai, Ctrip is the largest online travel agency in Asia, and accounts for a large number of Chinese tourists bookings in the Philippines. (See, "DOT urges Chinese online travel agent to keep its customers in line," in the BUSINESSMIRROR, October 19, 2019.)

Boracay Island was closed to tourists for six months from April 26, 2019, for rehabilitation, which included the widening of its main road, fast tracking of the construction of vital infrastructure like a drainage system, recovering of wetlands, enforcing the 30-meter "no-build" zone on the main white beach, among others.



Manila Standard

VOL. XXXIII • NO. 250 • 2 SECTIONS 16 PAGES • P18 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019 • www.manilastandard.net • mst.daydesk@gmail.com

World's 'most beautiful bays'

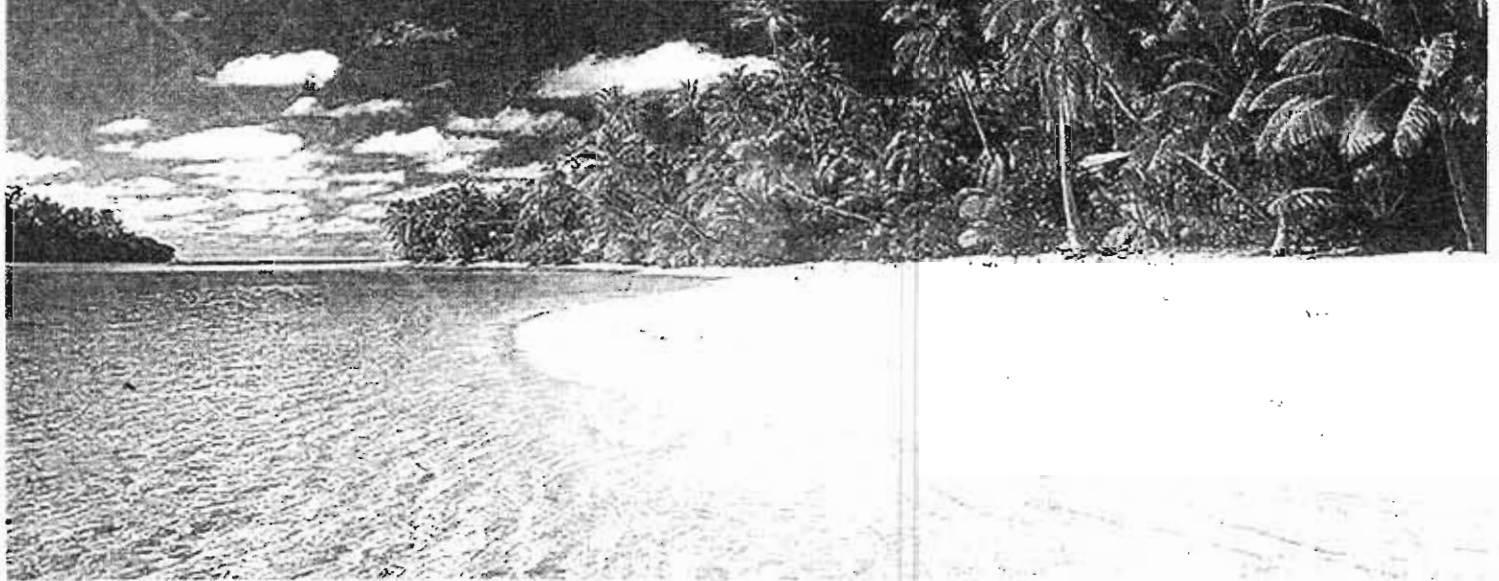
DAVAO CITY—The Pujada Bay in Mati City, Davao Oriental, has been included in the list of the "Most Beautiful Bays in the World" or MBBW, a government agency said Sunday.

The Davao Oriental Provincial Information Office said the declaration was made by the Club of the Most Beautiful Bays in the World during

the 15th World Bays Congress in Toyama Prefecture, Japan, from Oct. 16 to 20.

The Davao Oriental delegation was composed of provincial governor's office chief-of-staff Ednar Dayanghirang and Environment and Natural Resources Office Officer

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PUJADA BAY, BEAUTIFUL. Now it's official. The Pujada Bay in Mati City in Davao Oriental has become the second, after Puerto Galera Bay, to be included in the 'Most Beautiful Bays in the World'—made by the Club of the Most Beautiful Bays in the World during the 15th World Bays Congress in Toyama, Japan from Oct. 16 to 20. *Photo Courtesy of G.E. Mi Yan Facebook Page*

World's...

From A1

Dolores Valdesco, who both represented Gov. Nelson Dayanghirang and City Environment Officer Eddie Cobacha as Mati City Mayor Michelle Rabat's representative.

The team presented the Pujada Bay application to join the club during the congress.

After the application's initial approval, the PIO said experts from the MBBW were now set to visit the province to conduct a ground assessment and validation of Pujada Bay.

"The ground validation is the first official act of MBBW to visit new approved members to see what we told them prior to induction next year for the 16th World Congress in Morocco," Dayanghirang said.

He welcomed the development, saying it would further boost the status of Mati City and Davao Oriental's world-class tourist destinations.

Dayanghirang hoped that the inclusion of Pujada Bay in the MBBW would result in more initiatives aimed at protecting the body of water.

Mati City Mayor Michelle Rabat said the ground validation was a big challenge for local officials, adding "once confirmed," it would lead to increased tourist arrivals.

The club started in 1996 with the concept of bringing together the most beautiful bays in the world.

The Philippines is among the 26-member countries of the club, with Puerto Galera Bay as the lone bay in the country included in the official MBBW list. **PNA**



Another water shortage looms

By Marla Romero

Long lines of residents carrying basins and pails, half-full swimming pools in condominium complexes, and empty water containers piled outside fire stations.

These may be back for water consumers in Metro Manila to face anew as the

level of water supply at the Angat Dam is only 6.77 meters above the minimum operating level as rainfall remains scant.

Based on the latest monitoring of the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), the current level of Angat Dam, the primary water source of Metro

Manila, is at 186.77 meters as of 6 a.m. on Monday.

This current level can be compared to around 191 meters during the last week of September.

"Considering the recent decline of the water level in Angat Dam, a technical working group (TWG) of

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The current level of Angat Dam, the primary water source of Metro Manila, is at 186.77 meters as of 6 a.m. on Monday

From page 1

Angat Dam will be recommending to the NWRB to maintain the allocation for November of 40 cubic meters per second (CMS) for Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and reduction for irrigation from 30 cms to 17 cms.

It has to be noted that allocation for MWSS is still below the normal allocation of 46 cms," NWRB executive director Sevilla David Jr. told *Daily Tribune*.

The NWRB official said the current water level in Angat is still within the operating zone.

"But if it falls below the normal operating level of 180 meters, then we have to prioritize the domestic water for the MWSS," David said.

"This means that if the level is below 180 meters, then domestic supply would be prioritized over other uses, such as irrigation and power," he explained.

According to Manila Water Company Inc. (MWC), which serves the East Zone of Metro Manila, around 52,000 households relying on their supply may be directly affected by the continuing decline in the dam elevations.

"Because of the decline in the dam levels, we may implement possible rotational water service interruptions. We will be posting our schedule on Tuesday morning," Jeric Sevilla, head of Corporate Communications at MWC told *Daily Tribune*.

"We want to simply post an advance notice that we may implement interruptions if the level of the dams continues to go down. If ever, all cities and municipalities of the East Zone will experience water interruptions," Sevilla warned.

Allocation to MWC and West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. from the NWRB through MWSS is now at 40 CMS, which is below the

normal 46 CMS.

"Currently, we are only supplying water to our customers at the ground floor level due to reduced pressure, so we can evenly distribute water to all our customers," Sevilla said.

In an advisory, Maynilad earlier warned of rotational service interruptions of up to 18 hours in the West Zone due to the decreasing level of Angat and Ipo dams.

Affected areas are Navotas, Muntinlupa, Manila, Malabon, Makati, Las Piñas, Caloocan, Parañaque, Pasay, Quezon City and Valenzuela.

It will also affect the cities of Bacoor, Kawit, Noveleta, and Rosario in Cavite and Meycauayan in Bulacan.

A technical working group of Angat Dam will be recommending to the NWRB to maintain the allocation for November of 40 cubic meters per second for Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and reduction for irrigation from 30 cms to 17 cms.

Only a few months after the water crisis faced by Metro Manila last March, lawmakers are now stepping in to address the problem.

In late September, three measures aimed to save rainwater were approved by the House Committee on Metro Manila Development.

The three House bills would require every new institutional, commercial and residential development project in the National Capital Region to construct a rainwater harvesting facility.

This is to save water for use during times of drought.

However, Congress failed to enact those measures into law.

Rainwater harvesting is among the solutions that the authorities are looking at.

In an earlier interview with *Daily Tribune*, MWSS chief regulator Patrick

Ty said water desalination is still not a viable response to the country's growing water requirement.

Ty said desalination has not yet achieved economies of scale that make it commercially attractive for investors in the Philippines.

Because of the decline in the dam levels, we may implement possible rotational water service interruptions. We will be posting our schedule on Tuesday morning.

"Kaliwa Dam is still our Plan A and I hope it would push through. It has been going on back and forth. The Kaliwa Dam is a project of the corporate office and, according to them, it is pushing through. But if it doesn't push through, we are hoping to look into other resources. Wawa Dam is our plan B," Ty said.

"Hopefully in the future, once proper and advanced technology is in place, then we can seriously look into it, especially that Laguna Lake could be tapped for this as it has the largest freshwater supply in the country. Otherwise, water would be too expensive for us," he added.



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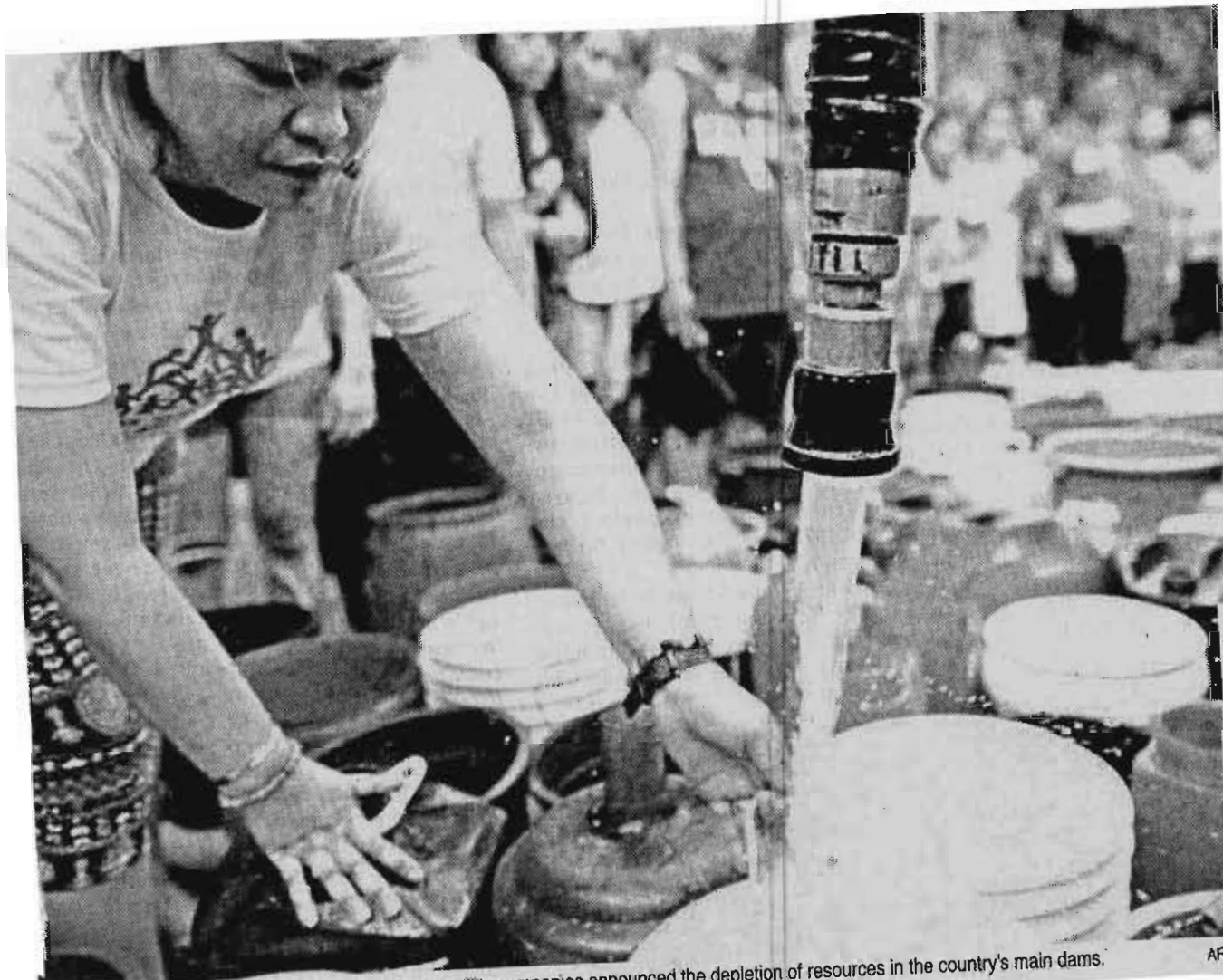
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THE ANOTHER WATER SHORTAGE LOOMS

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AFP

WATER distribution would soon be back as norm as utility companies announced the depletion of resources in the country's main dams.



PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF IPRA

BAGUIO MAYOR SEEKS REVIEW OF ANCESTRAL LAND SALES

By Vincent Cabreza
@vincentcabrezaINQ

BAGUIO CITY—Ibaloy families who sold their ancestral lands in watersheds and reservations here should lose all privileges granted by their certificates of ancestral land title (CALT), Mayor Benjamin Magalong said here on Monday.

In his address on the state of the city, Magalong said non-Ibaloy clan members who bought the ancestral lands have occupied forest or developed portions of it such as those at the Baguio dairy farm.

While the city government recognizes Ibaloy lands, it wants the proper implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra, or Republic Act No. 8371), the mayor said.

He said he raised the matter last week with Allen Capuyan, chair of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the agency which protects indigenous peoples' rights and which issues CALT and certificates of ancestral domain title.

In Baguio, the NCIP has processed 581 ancestral land claims from the original 757 claims based on a 1990 master list. It has issued 66 CALT, archived 254 inactive applications, and is processing 196 claims.

The agency is also studying 112 claims that it said have "controversial issues" that have prevented it from processing them.

"I asked NCIP to resolve all these issues once and for all and to withdraw CALT from families that subdivided and



CROWDED CITY Plans have been laid out to rehabilitate Baguio, which faces problems brought about by overcrowding and overdevelopment.

sold titles to migrants and corporations," Magalong said.

The Ipra prohibits CALT beneficiaries from selling their ancestral lands, Capuyan said, adding that they may transfer these only to their relatives or clan members.

Transfer only

According to a position paper on ancestral lands, selling such property involves not just their transfer "but the spiritual and cultural bonds to these lands which the state is mandated to protect and preserve ... being property belonging to

all generations."

During a land use summit here on Sept. 13, Ibaloy families urged the government to penalize holders of fraudulent CALT reportedly issued by the NCIP, including lands at the Baguio dairy farm.

An Ibaloy leader said many reservations had been settled by families "who simply want to coprotect these forests."

The land summit also drew attention to CALT applications that have also hampered the processing of townsite lands.

Townsite applications

Baguio has been declared a townsite reservation and land applicants have been limited to a hectare each that they must develop and then buy through an auction.

Although it has become an outdated mode of land sale, a townsite sales committee is still working on 26,302 lot applications dating back to 1990.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said 3,611 lots (14 percent) had been cleared while 9,535 others (36 percent) were being processed.

It said 11,708 applications (44 percent) had been rejected while 1,448 others had been frozen by temporary restraining orders or were subjects of protests because the lots overlapped with ancestral land claims.

Magalong said the city government wanted to resolve overlapping land claims to enable the city to follow a land use plan as part of its rehabilitation. INQ



Why do we need proper plazas and green spaces in our cities?

GREEN spaces such as parks, green fields, tree shades, natural paddocks, meadows and even water plants epitomize a fundamental component in any urban system. These green facilities should be readily accessible and be enjoyed by the masses and not just by the privileged few.



THE ARCHITECT'S
PERSPECTIVE

ARCH. REY N.
VILLEGAS, UAP

Parks and other green spaces play a critical role in making cities cool and as places of recreation. They facilitate physical activities and people interaction; a place for social communion as well as relaxation. I don't know about you, but I sure like meeting friends in a garden than in a mall. No Starbucks outlet can beat reading your favorite book under tree canopies and soft air breeze. Green parks can help with health issues, such as obesity, too. In fact, even just looking at greeneries can make you feel better. There is something about plants, flowers and the flowing water in a small water fountain that eases a tired mind — a refuge for a deadbeat soul. A single living tree, for instance, is way more beneficial to humans than being cut and made to timber. As it is, trees produce oxygen and consume carbon dioxide. A decent-sized tree can produce 260 pounds of oxygen per year and absorb as much as 48 pounds of carbon dioxide in the same period, and can sequester a ton of carbon dioxide by the time it reaches 40 years old. It helps filter harmful air pollutants, including airborne diseases and particulates. It also helps in making our ecosystem sustainable. Water features, artificial lakes and natural ponds, on the other hand, help regulate rising temperature and provide venues for water-related activities.

Green spaces are also functional and health-beneficial; a way to reduce street accident cases, as parks provide safe routes for walking pedestrians

and cyclists. Studies show that having access to green spaces improve a person's overall well-being and reduce psychological stress.

It is for such reasons, that it should be the right of every citizen of a local-

ity to have access to proper parks and recreational greens. Unfortunately, in the Philippines, urbanities, and even in

our towns, local governments seem to regard parks as surplus assets, an afterthought, or worse, as a luxury instead of a necessity. If there is indeed a public plaza and park, most of them are underutilized, unmaintained, and even a competition for spaces meant for commercial use. This is in part, a product of an local government unit (LGU) that is conventionally focused on "commercial improvement," and sometimes is oblivious or unaware of the measures that it takes to mitigate rising commercialism with regard to urban planning and balancing growth with a sound ecosystem. The result? More buildings, more paved areas, less greens, lesser trees and areas of shade for pedestrians.

Around the world, city planners and design professionals have begun to respond to the problem of park shortages by finding innovative solutions to add more green spaces to cities. This includes green roofs, green walls and pocket-parks. Some unconventional solutions are emerging, too. Parking lots, former industrial sites (brown fields) and even abandoned infrastructure like old railway lines (like the old New York elevated railways) are being converted into new green spaces. Even cities like Seoul in South Korea, for instance, have torn down freeways to make room for new green spaces for people, plants and animals, with big financial and social dividends like boost in tourism and better social living conditions.

Our LGUs (provincial, city and



■ Proper planning on roads, easements, circulation and greenery should go hand in hand with the rise of commercial progress

municipal) should spearhead urban renewals to prepare our people in the decades to come. Proper planning on roads, easements, circulation and greenery should go hand in hand with the rise of commercial progress. The success of a city's gross domestic product (GDP) should also go together with environmental sustainability.

As architects, and also in the allied profession of landscape architecture and environmental design, we should use our own profession as platforms and launch pads to educate LGUs into making and adhering to proper urban planning. We should educate ourselves on the importance of green spaces within our site and our buildings as we design, integrating them into our projects with seamless transitions to our buildings. We should stop making all these buildings with a small planter at the corner. We should stop thinking as "just a building designer." Instead, we should think as a holistic designer that have our client and the environment's welfare in mind. If these undertakings were successful in places like Singapore, then it won't be impossible to do it here, too. As architects and planners, we cannot do it alone. We need our clients, the LGU and our government officials for this vision. It won't magically transpire with the wave of a wand. It takes work...hard work. But it can be done. We just, collectively, need

the right mind set, discipline and will power to do whatever is needed to make it happen.

For clients, we encourage you to work with architects and planners who know their craft well. We guarantee, you will not regret the decision that you made. Hear us and listen to how we can maximize your property's value, and at the same time, make a significant environmental impact. And, if in the end, you are not convinced with our professional suggestions or design solutions and you don't like our proposal, you can always walk away. No harm done. It won't cost you anything but time, a glimpse of awareness of the problem of your plot, and a takeaway of good advice. It does cost you to hire a good consultant and designer (as great consultants and designers are not cheap), though. But bad and (often) non-specialized design cost you much, much more in the long run — in terms of visual impact, design style and use potential.

Arch. Rey N. Villegas, UAP (architect, master planner and landscape designer) is a member of UAP Cagayan de Oro Chapter since 1997, design director and country manager, Site Concepts International Inc., former design architect, WATG Singapore and former landscape design lead, PDAA Singapore.



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GAANO man kahirap, dapat walang puknat ang pagkilos ng mga kinaaukulan laban sa media killings.

Sa nakalipas na dalawang buwan, dalawa na ang napapatay sa Luzon habang may tinangkang patayin din sa Mindanao, partikular sa Davao del Norte.

JUPITER GONZALES

Pinakahuling pinatay si kapatid na Jupiter Gonzales, isang kolumnista ng diyaryo nating Remate at miyembro ng National Press Club.

Maghahating-gabi kamakalawa nang pagbabarilin si Gonzales ng isang gunman na tumakas makaraang isagawa ang krimen sakay ng isang motor-siklo sa Arayat, Pampanga.

May kasama sa kotseng minamaneho ni Gonzales na namatay on the spot, si Christopher Tlionson.

Unang nakunan ng video, habang naghihingalo si Gonzales, ng grupo ng GNNTV 44 reporter na si Patricia Mamangun Mercado na nakabase sa Pampanga at kinontak nito ang ating Editor-in-Chief sa Remate na si Ms. Lydia Bueno.

Agad nitong ipinaalam sa atin ang pangyayari at kasunod nito ang pagkilos ng Remate Team upang tawagan ng pansin ang Presidential Task Force on Media Security sa ilalim ni kapatid na Usec. Joel Egco at ang pamunuan ng NPC, partikular sina Lakay Rolly Gonzalo at Paul Gutierrez na pangulo at pangalawang pangulo, ayon sa pagkaka-sunod.

Lahat sila ay kumilos para mabills na maasikaso ang kaso ng dalawang biktima na hindi pa alam ang motibo sa pagpatay sa kanila.

Subalit anoman ang motibo, ang pinakamahaling ay may pagpatay na dapat na lutasin.

TULONG NI MAYOR BON

Bukod sa mga pulis-Arayat na pinamumunuan ni Arayat Chief of Police Lt/Col. Dale Soliba at imbestigador ng kaso na si Cpl. Lawrence Perez, nangako naman si Arayat, Pampanga Mayor Emmanuel "Bon" Alejandrino na gagawin nito ang lahat para mapanagot ang salarin.

Kasama ni Mayor Bon ang Remate team na ating ipinadala na nanood sa na-



ULTIMATUM

NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

MAGKASUNOD NA MEDIA KILLINGS LUTASIN

capture ng CCTV sa lugar kung paano nangyari ang krimen.

Ngayon pa lang ay pinasasalamatan na rin natin si Mayor Bon at sana malutas sa pinakamadaling panahon ang kasong ito.

Nakilala na umano ang may gawa ng krimen at hinhahanting na ito ng mga awtoridad.

KASO NI KUYA DING

Hanggang ngayon ay wala pa ring linaw ang pagpatay kay Kuya Ding Ladayo na isang ring kolumnista noon ng Remate Express at nagsulat din sa iba't ibang mga diyaryo.

Aktibo ring miyembro si Kuya Ding ng NPC at sa katurunan, nakatapos siya ng Master in Communication sa Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Open University bilang iskolar ng NPC.

Pinatay siya mismo sa harapan ng kanilang bahay sa Quezon City at swerteng hindi natamaan ang kanyang misis.

Sana, magkaroon na rin ng linaw sa kaso ni Kuya Ding.

PAT LUCERO PACQUIAO

Muntik na ring nasawi si kapatid na Pat Lucero Pacquiao, Davao del Norte Provincial Information Officer, nang ambusin siya ng riding-in-tandem sa Tagum City.

Isa rin siyang broadcaster ng RP-FM Ang Radyo sa Masa sa Tagum City.

Pauwi na umano siya sa kanyang bahay mula sa kanyang trabaho nang pagbabarilin siya.

Masasabing maswerte si Pat at naligtasan niya ang bigong pagkilil sa kanyang buhay dahil sa mga isyung kanyang mga tinatalakay bilang isang broadcaster.

Kabilang sa mga maseselan umanong tinatalakay nito ang ukol sa Tadeco na kinasasangkutan ng malalaki at malimpluwensyang tao.

Sana naman, makilala na rin ang mga umambus sa kanya at ang utak ng bigong pagpatay.

UTAK AT

UTUSAN

Sa mga kasong ito, maaaring may mga utak.

Maaari ring naging upahan lang ang mga pumatay na pawang nakamotor.

Ang isang sigurado, magagaling humawak ng baril ang mga pumapatay na ito at tila sanay na sanay gumamit ng baril.

Halatado ring magaganda at alagang-alaga ang mga baril na gamit ng mga ito.

Sana naman, makilala ng mga awtoridad ang mga utak ng pagpatay upang madala ang mga ito sa timbangan ng katarungan.

Sana mahuli rin ang mga upahang killer upang matigil ang mga ito sa paggawa ng krimen sa ngalan ng salapi.

REWARD MONEY 'DI KAILANGAN

Hindi na siguro kailangan ang reward money para malutas ang mga kasong ito.

Bigyan natin ng lubos na pagtitwala ang mga awtoridad na tulong-tulong sa pagkilos para makilala ang mga salarin, masampahan ng kaso at mapatawan ng mga karampatang parusa.

Bukod kay Mayor Bon, pinasasalamatan na rin natin ang lahat ng kumikilos mula sa iba't ibang sangay ng pamahalaan para sa ikalulutas ng mga nabanggit na kaso.

Ngayon pa lang ay pinasasalamatan na rin natin ang sinomang mamamayan na makapagbibigay ng tiyak at malinaw na impormasyon ukol sa mga nagsasagawa ng media killings.

Walang lihim na 'di nabubunyag.

At hindi kailanman mata-takasan ng isang kriminal ang mahabang kamay ng batas na walang tigil sa pagkilos para sa makamit ang katarungan.

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Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring iparating sa 092284-03333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.