

DATE : 10-31-19

DAY : Thursday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



'DENR officials must lead in seedlings survival'

By Rio N. Araja

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu on Wednesday vowed to sanction field officers who would fail to meet the required 85 percent survival rate of planted tree seedlings.

"I would like to let somebody take the command responsibility for these areas," he told provincial environment and natural resources officers, and community environment and natural resources officers.

"I am designating the PENROs and

CENROs as plantation managers," he said.

Under the expanded national greening program, a frontline field officer must be able to meet the 85 percent survival rate of planted rate seedlings being contracted

to a people's organization.

"It's very simple. I will relieve you if you cannot fulfill that. Yes, it's a tall order. Even if you have to go there at least every two weeks," he warned.

He expressed his disappointment over the low survival rates for seedlings planted in some people's organization-contracted areas ranging only from 35 to 50 percent.

Because of the low survival rates, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources suspended the scheme of contracting people's organizations for

the program this year.

"I would like to let somebody take the command responsibility for these areas," Cimatu said.

From 2011 to July 2019, almost 2 million hectares have been planted with 1.7-billion tree seedlings.

It generated 4.73-million jobs benefiting more than 670,000 upland dwellers. Most of the planted sites have been contracted to POs.

From 2016 to 2018 alone, people's accounted for 573,735 hectares, consisting of 24,672 plantation sites.



Cimatu warns DENR men over 'green' program

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu yesterday warned his men of sanctions if they fail to hit the government's greening program target.

According to Cimatu, he will immediately order the relief of the agency's frontline field officers who will not meet the required 85 percent survival rate of planted tree seedlings contracted to peoples organizations (POs) under the Expanded National Greening Program (E-NGP).

The warning was issued following his disappointment over the low survival rates for seedlings planted in some PO-contracted areas, ranging only from 35 to 50 percent.

The DENR chief said he designated the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officers (PENROs) and Community Environment and Natural Re-

sources Officers (CENROs) as plantation managers in their respective areas.

"It's very simple, I will relieve you if you cannot fulfill that. Yes, it's a tall order. Even if you have to go there at least every two weeks," Cimatu told his men.

The DENR suspended the scheme of contracting POs for the ENGP this year and focused on the rehabilitation and protection efforts in PO-contracted plantation sites established before 2019.

From 2011 to July this year, almost two million hectares have been planted with 1.7 billion tree seedlings.

National Greening Program contracts with POs cover a three-year period, during which the NGP partners enjoy compensation for seedling production, site preparation, tree planting, maintenance and protection.

Joel dela Torre



DENR chief calls for litter-free 'Undas'

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

✉ @jonlmayuga



"We can make the observance of Undas more meaningful if we keep the final resting place of our loved ones litter-free."
—Cimatu

AS Filipinos troop to the cemetery to pay homage to their dearly departed in observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu urged the public to keep memorial parks and public cemeteries clean and garbage-free.

"We can make the observance of Undas more meaningful if we keep the final resting place of our loved ones litter-free," Cimatu said in a news statement ahead of the week-end holidays.

Showing respect for the dead, he said, also means keeping cemeteries clean.

"Let us honor our departed loved ones the proper way and that is to leave them with our prayers and not with our trash," Cimatu said.

An estimated 30,000 tons of garbage is generated in the country every day, with 8,000 tons produced in Metro Manila alone. The volume shoots up especially

during annual celebrations, like Christmas and New Year, in this case, Undas which many consider a once-a-year opportunity to reunite with family.

"The LGUs [local government units] need to step up their implementation of RA 9003 as people continue to generate huge volumes of garbage during Undas, practically turning graveyards into littering sites," Cimatu said.

At the same time, the environment chief called on administrators of memorial parks and public cemeteries to install properly labeled garbage bins to encourage visitors to segregate their trash.

He also urged visitors to bring trash bags to be used for waste segregation, and to place their food in reusable containers instead of buying food packed on plastic and aluminum foils.

Visitors were also advised to bring their own water containers or jugs instead of buying water in plastic bottles, and to avoid using plastic utensils.

The use of *banig* or woven mats, and foldable tables and chairs will also limit the use of newspapers and plastic sheets for seating and eating. Cimatu also reminded LGUs of their duty to enforce Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"LGUs have the primary task of enforcing the provisions of RA 9003," he pointed out.

Under the law, a person caught littering could be fined from P300 to P1,000, or render community service.



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DENR: Cleanliness in cemeteries honor the departed

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has called on the public to maintain cleanliness in cemeteries as a form of respect for the dead. Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu also reminded local government units (LGUs) to enforce the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act to prevent the accumulation of garbage alongside huge crowds. "Let us honor our departed loved ones the proper way, that is to leave them with our prayers, not with our trash," Cimatu said. LGUs "need to step up" in their implementation of the law. —JHESSET O. ENANG



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Cemex cited for waste management programs

Cement manufacturer Cemex Holdings Philippines recently won its second Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Award for its waste management solutions and for the Tamang Segregasyon Para Sa Kalikasan (TSeK) program services that are being offered to communities across the CALABARZON region.

The company was recognized under the Best Available Practice

and Best Environmental Technology categories conferred during the 4th Annual Environmental Summit themed, "Beat Air Pollution: Managing Solid Waste toward a Pollution-Free Environment," held at Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City.

It was first recognized for the DENR-EMB award in 2017 for its commitment as donor partner to the government's Adopt-a-River Program.

Over 400 participants witnessed



At the 4th Annual Environmental Summit are Cemex representatives, from left: Quarry leader & PCO Francisco Esteban, alternative fuel resource manager Rowell Peñaflor, energy director Kristine Gayem, environmental engineer/PCO Rochelle Vicencio; energy management analyst Jevan Dalisay, and Cemex Philippines Foundation executive director Chito Maniago. Right photo: Cemex solid cement plant director Normandy Chan, environmental engineer/pollution control officer Rochelle Vicencio, and Cemex energy director Kristine Gayem receive the DENR-EMB Award given by DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, EMB 4A regional director Noemi Paranada, and former DENR Undersecretary Rolando Metin.



THE: *Cemex cited for waste mgmt programs*

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the 2019 awarding ceremonies led by DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, EMB section chief Corazon Gasapos, EMB regional director Noemi Paranada, and EMB assistant director Engr. Vizmindia Osorio.

“It is an honor to be recognized for making a positive impact on the environment, particularly through promoting proper waste management at the community level. Protecting the environment is an advocacy we’d like to strengthen because

it is key to sustainable development. We hope to encourage more people to take the simple yet important steps that can really make a big difference, such as segregating wastes,” said Chito Maniago, director for corporate communications and public affairs at Cemex Philippines and executive director of Cemex Philippines Foundation, Inc.

Its waste management program at its facilities involves the method of co-processing, which is a way of

recovering or reusing waste materials to manufacture cement.

Co-processing is considered to be safer for the environment and more cost-efficient than other waste treatment processes.

This method reduces solid waste and decreases carbon emission because it lessens the use of fossil fuels from cement kilns.

The TSeK program, on the other hand, is an initiative driven by a multi-stakeholder collaboration to promote waste segregation, education on proper waste disposal, and recycling of dry plastics through seminars and information campaigns.

The TSeK program is currently being implemented in the province of Rizal where community residents are encouraged to surrender properly segregated wastes to their municipality. Cemex only accepts segregated residual plastic wastes listed as acceptable wastes under the DENR Administrative Order 2010-03.

The TSeK initiative aims to motivate residents to become more mindful about their surroundings and take responsibility in keeping their community clean. Cemex continues the TSeK program by partnering with other local government units in the CALABARZON region to boost the sustainability of the program among households.





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Garbage back to South Korea by Dec.

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY: The remaining 5,000 tons of garbage in Misamis Oriental would be sent back to South Korea before the year ends, Gov. Yevgeny Vincente Emano said Wednesday.

Emano made the announcement following the turnover of 4,000-tonnage bags to Bureau of Customs officials Tuesday.

Tonnage bags would secure the 5,000 tons of garbage deposited in the 4-hectare yard in the Phividec Industrial Estate in Sta. Cruz, Tagolo-an.

The provincial government has approved a P2-million budget to hire personnel and rent earth-mov-

ing equipment to be utilized for the total cleanup of the dockyard.

Emano said the garbage would be put in the tonnage bags and would be piled in a 40-footer van to prepare it for shipment.

District Customs Collector John Simon of the Port of Cagayan De Oro City said the South Korean government would provide the cargo vessel that would transport the garbage back to its origin in Pyongteak, South Korea.

He said the garbage was the first of the 6,200 tons of garbage disguised as "recyclable materials" that arrived in Misamis Oriental in July 2018.

Simon said the second batch, which arrived late October in 2018, was immediately shipped back after environment officials from South Korea found out that the shipment were garbage materials.

The owner and officials of the Verde Soko, the company that transported the garbage, are now facing charges for violating the environmental laws.

He said Charles Chu, the Verde Soko owner, and some Filipino associates, were expected to appear in the local court at a hearing scheduled in November.

CRIS DIAZ



337 ANIMALS IN TIGHT CAGES SEIZED IN TANDAG CITY

MANILA-BOUND WILDLIFE SHIPMENT INTERCEPTED

By Erwin M. Mascariñas
@inqmindanao

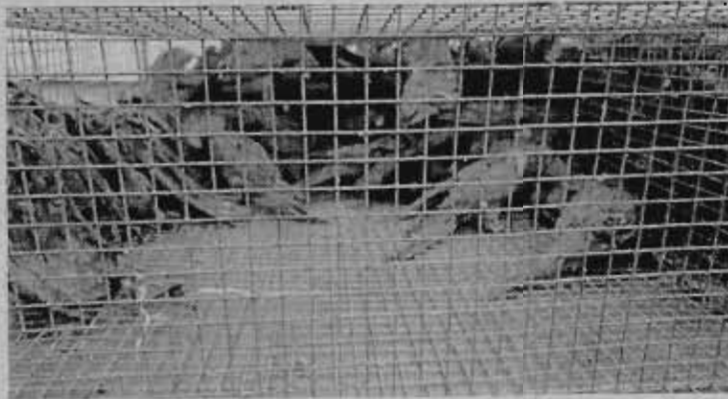
BUTUAN CITY—Environment officials have determined that a wildlife shipment intercepted by policemen in Tandag City on Sunday consisted of animals not endemic to Mindanao, suggesting these were smuggled into the country.

The 337 animals—mostly birds like cockatoos, parrots, hornbills and cassowary and a few reptiles and marsupials—were believed to have been trafficked from Indonesia and New Guinea.

Twenty-four of them died while being transported in tight cages.

Caraga police intercepted the animals while these were being transported in cages by land to Metro Manila in two high-end vehicles.

Lt. Col. Christian Rafols II, regional police spokesperson, said three suspects told investi-



TRAFFICKED BIRDS These birds were among the animals smuggled from Indonesia and New Guinea that the police seized on Sunday in Tandag City. Three suspects said the wildlife came from Mati City, Davao Oriental province. —PHOTOS COURTESY OF PNP CARAGA

gators that the wildlife came from Mati City, Davao Oriental province, and were bound for Pasay City.

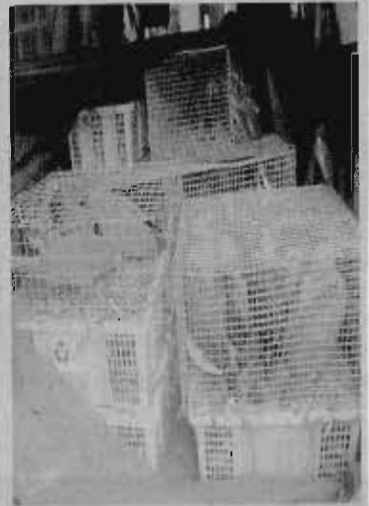
DENR inventory

On Monday, personnel from the Tandag City Environment and Natural Resources Office

(Cenro) conducted an inventory of the animals and found 14 species.

"None ... are from the Philippines," said the Cenro's Ruel Efren.

Its findings, Efren said, were confirmed by the Biodiversity Management Bureau, an agency



ILLEGAL TRADE The birds in cages were found in two vehicles bound for Metro Manila.

under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in Quezon City, suggesting that the animals were trafficked from Indonesia and New Guinea, to

where these were endemic.

Among the rescued species were the Southern Crowned-Pigeon (*Goura scheepmakeri*), Sulphur-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*), Black Palm cockatoo (*Probosciger aterrimus*), Great-billed parrot (*Tanygnathus megalorynchos*), Black lory (*Chalcopsitta atra*), Eclectus parrot (*Eclectus roratus*), Coconut lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*) and D'Albertis python (*Bothrochilus albertisii*)

Wallaby

Others that are yet to be accurately classified are a wallaby, Blue-tongue skink, imperial pigeons, hornbills, cassowary and monitor lizards.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the animals are found on the Solomon Islands, parts of Indonesia, and New Guinea. The D'Albertis python, for instance, is endemic to New Guinea.

On Monday, a case was filed

against the suspected traffickers, identified as Dante Toledo, Joel C. Demoral and Jory C. Demoral, at the Tandag city prosecutor's office for illegal transport of wildlife under Republic Act No. 9147.

Mindanao has become a transshipment for wildlife from Indonesia and neighboring countries.

On April 8, around 450 animals with an estimated value of P50 million in the local market were seized by authorities in Mati City, Davao Oriental.

These consisted of different species of endangered birds, lizards and mammals that were poached from the jungles of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

Illegal wildlife trade is big business in the Philippines.

The value of the trade in the country is about P50 billion every year, according to Theresa Mundita Lim, executive director of the Asian Centre for Biodiversity. INQ



P2-B giant clams seized in GenSan



A NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agent checks the stockpile of *taklobo* (giant clams) found in a lot in Purok London, Barangay Bawing in General Santos City, on Monday afternoon (October 28, 2019). The confiscated giant clams, estimated at 120,000 tons, were valued at P2 billion. PHOTO COURTESY NBI/UNP/PAJES

GENERAL SANTOS CITY - Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) seized about P2 billion worth of giant clams, locally known as *taklobo* in an operation at a seaside village here on Monday.

Exzel Hernandez, NBI 11 (Davao) assistant director, said they found a stockpile of giant clams in a property in Purok London, Barangay Bawing, allegedly owned by a trader of the endangered marine species.

Hernandez said they earlier received reports from local informants about the presence of piled giant clams in the area.

A team from NBI 11, which is based in Davao City, launched the raid at about 3 p.m. on Monday along with augmentation

personnel from the NBI Sarangani/General Santos district office.

The operation was backed by personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard station here and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) 12 (Soccksargen).

"We found a huge stockpile of giant clams upon reaching the site and we immediately confiscated them," Hernandez told reporters, noting that the site was already abandoned when the team arrived and was thus not able to make any arrest.

Jose Andrew Abello, BFAR 12 fishing regulation officer, said the recovered clams, estimated at 120,000 tons, reportedly came from various areas.

He said these are sold in the area at P2,000 per kilogram and are reportedly used in making jewelry, cosmetic products and even medicines.

Abello said the violators could face imprisonment of five years to eight years and a fine of P300,000 to P3 million.

The BFAR had declared the catching and collection of giant clams as illegal because they are considered as among the endangered marine species, as listed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and set in Fisheries Administrative Order 208.

Under Republic Act 10654, or the Philippine Fisheries Code, the "fishing or taking, gathering, selling, purchasing, possessing, transporting, exporting, forwarding or shipping out" of giant clam is deemed unlawful.

Hernandez said they were preparing the filing of charges against the owner of the property and others involved in the trading of giant clams, whom he declined to identify.

However, Roy Benitez, Barangay Bawing chairman, confirmed in a radio interview that the clams were found in a property owned by the family of Abubakar Palalisian.

But he said he had no prior information about the business activities of the Palalisians, whom he described as a big family in the area.

"Based on reports from an informant, they are allegedly engaged in the steady buying of *taklobo* for over a year now," he said.

Benitez acknowledged that some residents previously applied for permits from his office for the trading of giant clams but he turned them down as it is prohibited by the law. *PM*



Mining, oil firms given until Jan. 1

to disclose real owners

Gov't stepping up antimoney laundering campaign, addressing corruption problem

By Ben O. de Vera
@bendeveraINQ

To ensure that dirty money cannot enter the country through extractive industries, the government requires mining and oil firms to disclose their beneficial owners as mandated under a recent rule issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). "Beneficial ownership disclo-

sure in the country is an enormous task, but we appreciate its value in curbing illicit financial activities. We are glad that the SEC is with us in this undertaking," Assistant Finance Secretary Maria Teresa Habitan said in a statement.

Habitan is also the alternate chair and focal person for the Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (PH-EITI) multistakeholder group.

Memorandum Circular No. 15, s. 2019 issued by the SEC in July required all registered stock and nonstock Filipino-led corporations to disclose their beneficial owners by submitting a revised general information sheet (GIS) that now included a beneficial ownership declaration form, PH-EITI noted in a statement.

It defined "beneficial owners" as the natural persons who

ultimately owned or controlled or exercised ultimate effective control over a corporation.

The beneficial ownership declaration form, meanwhile, requires the following information: complete name, nationality, percentage of ownership or voting rights, residential address and tax identification number.

All domestic corporations must submit their GIS, which

now included the beneficial ownership declaration form, to the SEC yearly.

PH-EITI said MC 15 formed part of the government's anti-money laundering drive.

"The PH-EITI, the government's transparency initiative for the extractive sector, required the reporting of beneficial owners of mining and oil and gas companies in line with an in-

ternational campaign to counter or prevent the use of anonymous shell companies to hide or launder money and conceal potential conflicts of interest within the extractive sector," it said.

On Oct. 18, the Department of Finance-led PH-EITI and the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) held a workshop to discuss the SEC's beneficial ownership rule, **B2**

MINING, OIL FIRMS GIVEN UNTIL JAN. 1 TO DISCLOSE REAL OWNERS

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which was attended by over 40 companies from the gas, oil and mining industries.

"There is a global shift toward increased disclosure of beneficial owners, and COMP is committed to taking a lead role in this direction through the PH-EITI. We see the benefits of increased transparency in beneficial ownership—it enhances

confidence in our local companies, thereby helping improve the investment climate. More importantly, it can help prevent corruption and illicit financial flows, and can increase trust and accountability in the mining sector," COMP executive director Ronald Recidoro was quoted by the PH-EITI as saying.

Under the 2016 EITI Standard, countries involved in EITI such as

the Philippines must ensure that all firms with participating interests in extractive assets should have had disclosed beneficial ownership information by Jan. 1 next year, the EITI website said.

"The deadline for these disclosures highlights the need for greater cross-sectoral, cross-jurisdictional collaboration between government agencies tasked to implement

beneficial ownership reforms," the EITI said.

This is in line with the goal to address corruption risks, avoid conflicts of interests for politically exposed persons, improve the business climate, as well as prevent use of shell firms to perpetrate bribery, illicit financial flows and money laundering in the extractive sector, it added. INQ



Group urges MGB to halt mining in Mindanao

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jonlmayuga

A NETWORK of mining and mining-affected communities on Wednesday urged the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) to stop all mining activities in Mindanao and conduct a quick assessment of the stability of mine areas following the recent earthquakes that hit the Mindanao region this month.

In a news statement, the Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) said with the magnitude 6.6 earthquake in Cotabato affecting areas as far as Davao City and Iligan City, the structural and geological stability of mine areas and mine facilities must be established by the MGB to prevent potential disasters.

The area surrounding South Cotabato, Davao del Sur and Sultan Kudarat, the group said, are areas of concern because of the earthquakes on October 16 and 29, 2019.

This is the same area covered by the Tampakan Copper-Gold Mining Project, owned by Sagittarius Mines Inc. and the Tampakan Mining Group, ATM said.

In a case review of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Tampakan Mining Project, environmental and mining experts have previously raised issues about the fault lines that will allegedly impact some of the mine facilities inside the mine area.

ATM believes that the MGB should prioritize first a geologic assessment review before promoting additional mining projects in the region. Without this geologic assessment, the Tampakan Mining Project must continue to be suspended.

MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano was quoted in media reports last October 25, 2019, that the Tampakan Mining Project is expected to operate in the near future, as Malacañang has ordered the reinstatement of its environmental compliance certificate, or ECC.

Former Department of Environment and Natural Resources secretary, the late Gina Lopez, canceled the ECC of the Tampakan Mining Project last 2017, after failing to secure permitting requirements from local government and indigenous peoples.

It is also in the interest of the mining companies and their operators that the safety and welfare of both their employees and communities around their mines are assured, the statement read.



Mining, oil firms asked to disclose real owners

By Julito G. Rada

THE government is requiring mining, oil and gas companies to declare their beneficial or "real owners" as part of a new transparency rule in line with an international campaign to prevent the use of anonymous companies to hide or launder money and conceal potential conflicts of interest within the extractive sector.

More than 40 companies from the mining, oil and gas sectors participated in a workshop on beneficial ownership organized by the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines and conducted by the Department of Finance-Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative on Oct. 18 in Makati City.

The Chamber of Mines, an active member of PH-EITI, recognizes the merits of transparency in beneficial ownership specially for the extractive sector.

The activity centered on the new requirement for corporations to declare their beneficial owners as part of the general information sheet that all domestic corporations are mandated to file annually with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The SEC issued Memorandum Circular No. 15, s. 2019 on July 26, 2019 that revised the GIS to include a beneficial ownership declaration form, requiring all registered stock and non-stock domestic corporations to disclose their beneficial owners.

Beneficial owners are defined as "the natural persons who ultimately own or control or exercise ultimate effective control over a corporation".

It was approved as a policy measure to assist in the anti-money laundering efforts of government.

The PH-EITI, the government's transparency initiative for the extractive sector, also required the reporting of beneficial owners of mining and oil and gas companies.

Mining firms pressed for more transparency

BY ANGELA CELIS

THE Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (PH-EITI), the government's transparency initiative for the extractive sector, has required the reporting of beneficial owners of mining and oil and gas companies, in line with an international campaign to counter or prevent the use of anonymous shell companies to hide or launder money and conceal potential conflicts of interest within the extractive sector.

According to a Department of Finance (DOF) statement yesterday, on July 26, 2019, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issued Memorandum Circular No. 15, s. 2019 (MC 15) that revised the General Information Sheet (GIS) to include a beneficial ownership declaration form, requiring all registered stock and nonstock domestic corporations to disclose their beneficial owners.

The SEC issuance defines beneficial owners as "the natural persons who ultimately own or control or exercise ultimate effective control over a corporation."

It was approved as a policy measure to assist in the anti-money laundering efforts of government, the DOF said.

Ma. Teresa Habitan, DOF assistant secretary, related how challenging yet important the exercise was.

"Beneficial ownership disclosure in the country is an enormous task, but we appreciate its value in



A view of nickel-ore mine SR Metals in Tubay, Agusan del Sur. (Reuters photo)

curbing illicit financial activities. We are glad that the SEC is with us in this undertaking," she said.

The revised GIS under SEC MC 15 mandates corporations to fill out a beneficial information declaration form that asks for nine categories of beneficial owners and their information, including complete name, residential address, nationality, tax identification number, and percentage of ownership or voting rights.

The DOF said more than 40 companies from the mining and oil and gas sectors participated in a workshop on beneficial ownership organized by the Chamber of

Mines of the Philippines (COMP) and conducted by the DOF-PH-EITI on October 18 in Makati City.

COMP, an active member of PH-EITI, recognizes the merits of transparency in beneficial ownership specially for the extractives sector, the DOF said.

The activity centered on the new requirement for corporations to declare their beneficial owners as part of the GIS that all domestic corporations are mandated to file annually with the SEC.

"There is a global shift towards increased disclosure of beneficial

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owners, and COMP is committed to taking a lead role in this direction through the PH-EITI. We see the benefits of increased transparency in beneficial ownership – It enhances confidence in our local companies, thereby helping improve the investment

climate," Ronald Recidoro, COMP executive director, said in the DOF statement.

"More importantly, it can help prevent corruption and illicit financial flows, and can increase trust and accountability in the mining sector," he added.



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GEOLOGIC ASSESSMENT SOUGHT IN MINDANAO

GROUP SEEKS HALT TO MINING IN QUAKE-AFFECTED AREAS

By Karl R. Ocampo
@kocampoINQ

An antimining group is pressing the government to halt all mining operations in Mindanao pending a geologic assessment after two strong earthquakes hit the region over the past two weeks.

Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) on Wednesday called on the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) to suspend mining operations

on the island and immediately conduct assessments to determine the stability of mine areas.

"With the recent magnitude 6.6 quake in Cotabato affecting areas as far as Davao City and Iligan City, the structural and geological stability of mine areas and mine facilities must be clearly established by the MGB, so that the safety of communities around the mine sites are ensured," the group said in a statement.

A 6.3-magnitude quake near

Tulunán, Cotabato province, which struck on Oct. 16, was followed on Tuesday by a more powerful 6.6-magnitude tremor that damaged buildings and other structures in surrounding provinces.

Areas of concern

Scientists say both tremors could have been caused by the same fault. At least 12 people were killed.

ATM said it was particularly

concerned about areas in South Cotabato, Davao del Sur and Sultan Kudarat, which suffered serious damage from the two quakes.

The area is covered by the Tampakan Copper-Gold Mining Project owned by Sagittarius Mines Inc. and the Tampakan Mining Group.

Officers of Tampakan could not be reached for comment and the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines declined to react

to the ATM statement.

MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano had been quoted in media reports as saying that the project was expected to operate soon after the Office of the President reinstated Tampakan's environmental compliance certificate.

In a case review of the project's environmental impact statement, however, issues were raised pertaining to fault lines that could affect some of the mining company's facilities.

"ATM believes that the MGB should prioritize first a geologic assessment review before promoting additional mining projects in the region. Without this geologic assessment, the Tampakan mining project must continue to be shelved," the group said.

"It is also in the interest of the mining companies and their operators that the safety and welfare of both their employees and communities around their mines are assured," it added. INQ



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Suspension of mining operations in Mindanao sought following quakes

By MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has been urged to suspend all

mining operations in Mindanao and immediately conduct assessments to determine the stability of mine areas in the region in the wake of the

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Suspension of mining operations...

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recent earthquakes and the series of aftershocks.

But MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano said assessment of the stability of their facilities after a series of earthquakes is something that mining companies have already been doing automatically.

"It is almost automatic even without the need of a call," Moncano said in a text message, responding to the call of anti-mining lobby group Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM).

"The MGB and the mining companies are aware that after every major events like earthquakes, assessment of the integrity of tailings storage facilities, mine sites, waste dumps, mine buildings, underground tunnels and other mine related support structures," Moncano further said.

With the recent 6.6-magnitude quake in Cotabato affecting areas as far as Davao City and Iligan City, ATM noted that the structural and

geological stability of mine areas and mine facilities must be clearly established by the MGB so that the safety of communities around the mine sites are ensured.

The group said it is particularly concerned with the area surrounding South Cotabato, Davao del Sur, and Sultan Kudarat, which received serious damage from the earthquakes that hit on October 16 and October 29.

But Moncano said the epicenter

of the earthquake was far from the mining region of Caraga and the intensity was considerably lesser in the mining areas of Surigao and Agusan.

"You will note that there are no operating large scale mines in Cotabato area and Davao Sur, thus negating the need to suspend and review the mining operations in Mindanao," Moncano further said.

Meanwhile, MGB recently recommended the lifting of the suspension of the environment clearance of what could be one of the world's largest copper and gold mines – the \$5.9-

billion copper-gold mining project of Sagittarius Mines, Inc. (SMI) in Tampakan, South Cotabato.

The Tampakan project, the largest stalled mining venture in the country, has been put on hold since 2010 after the local government unit (LGU) of South Cotabato in Mindanao banned open-pit mining in the province.

Then in 2017, the late former Environment Secretary Regina Paz Lopez proceeded to cancel the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) of Tampakan project, citing environmental concerns.



Quakes may be a warning on Kaliwa Dam, say critics

LUCENA CITY—Noting the earthquakes that continue to rock the country, critics of the P18.7-billion Kaliwa Dam have asked President Duterte and dam proponents to stop the project.

Fr. Pete Montallana, chair of the Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance Inc. (SSMNA), said the quakes were Mother Earth's means of warning people about activities that harm the environment and put human lives at great risk.

"These series of deadly earthquakes could be one of her messages, which the dam proponents should seriously consider," Montallana said in a phone interview on Wednesday.

"Hear and feel the trembling grounds. Clearly, Mother Earth is angry and we should beware," activist priest Fr. Robert Reyes said in a separate phone interview.

Two earthquakes rocked

Cotabato and parts of Mindanao on Wednesday, right after a powerful temblor left at least seven people dead on Tuesday.

The tremors struck two weeks after a 6.3-magnitude earthquake jolted the same area on Oct. 16. Late last month, a 6.4-magnitude quake shook the Davao region.

On April 22, Earth Day, a 6.1-magnitude quake struck Castillejos, Zambales, leaving 16 people dead.

"Nature has her own way of talking to us. And God is now warning us," Reyes said.

In an open letter to Mr. Duterte in November, the SSMNA and other civic groups noted that as Manila prepares for the so-called "Big One," "the proposed Kaliwa Dam will be constructed within a zone of two active tectonics—the Philippine Fault Zone and the Valley Fault System."

The environment advocates expressed fears that if an-

other dam breaks because of an earthquake, it could trigger a repeat of the 2004 destructive floods in northern Quezon.

In 2004, the Agos River between Infanta and General Nakar overflowed because of heavy rains from three successive typhoons. More than 900 people in Infanta died while fatalities in General Nakar reached several hundreds, including more than 100 Agta tribal members.

Mr. Duterte on Monday warned that he would use all the powers of the presidency to ensure the construction of the P18.7-billion China-funded Kaliwa Dam project in Quezon and Rizal provinces.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources had already granted an "environmental compliance certificate" to the project designed to solve the water shortage in Metro Manila and nearby areas. —DELFIN T. MALLARI JR. INQ



Water firm reaffirms support for Kaliwa Dam

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

West zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. maintained that the controversial P18.7-billion China-funded Kaliwa Dam is a viable long-term solution to the current supply shortage amid continued calls to stop the project.

The Pangilinan-led water utility said it supports the government's move to push for the completion

of Kaliwa Dam amid the persistent supply crunch that affects residents of Metro Manila.

"The government has claimed responsibility for the development of raw water sources, but we have been working with them to expedite the process because we understand the urgency of meeting the supply

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needs of our customers," Maynilad said in a statement.

"As a water distributor, we can only distribute the water volume that we receive from existing raw water sources," it added.

Maynilad's current supply shortage is primarily due to lack of rainfall over Angat Dam, which is still the only primary raw water source for Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Maynilad said it has been doing its part in implementing the necessary water infrastructure enhancements to meet the supply requirements of an ever-growing population.

Maynilad is currently maximizing the limited supply so it can mitigate the impact of the current reduced allocation from Angat Dam.

As an alternative source to

Angat Dam, Maynilad added 300 million liters per day (MLD) to its water production capacity following the construction of its treatment facilities sourcing raw water from Laguna Lake.

"We intend to further boost this by another 150 MLD supply. We continue to aggressively implement our non-revenue water reduction program, reactivate deep wells as needed and deploy mobile treatment plants to source additional raw water from dams in Cavite," it said.

President Duterte has said he will not hesitate to use extraordinary powers to proceed with the construction of Kaliwa Dam.

However, indigenous tribes of the Agta-Dumagat-Remontado in Quezon and Rizal emphasized that proceeding with Kaliwa will destroy their

lives and livelihoods.

"We have a right to our ancestral domains. Instead of protecting our rights, the President and the government are the first to violate them," said Henry Borreo of the indigenous peoples' organization Pigtaanan ni Dumagat Remontado di General Nakar Quezon.

The tribes also fear that Kaliwa Dam will worsen the climate crisis in the Philippines.

"We can already feel the effects of climate change. Seasons have been interchanging. If they construct the dam, they will kill thousands of trees in Sierra Madre, and this will affect not only us Dumagat and Remontado but millions and millions of Filipinos," Agta captain Meleng Rutuqueo said.

Duterte noted that violations on environment and indigenous rights are not enough reason to stop the project, stressing that his primary concern is the

welfare of the people affected by water shortage.

"There are many alternatives that can alleviate water shortage in Metro Manila. Instead of borrowing billions from China, why doesn't the government turn its attention to existing dams like the Wawa Dam and Umiray Dam," Borreo said.

"The Kaliwa Dam is not for the poor like us. Its purpose is to fatten the pockets of businessmen," Rutuqueo added.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System recently secured its environmental compliance certificate (ECC), a requirement needed by any project in the country that poses potential environmental risk or impact.

The ECC granted to MWSS covers the construction and operation of a gravity dam along Kaliwa River located in the towns of Teresa and Tanay in Rizal province and General

Nakar and Infanta in Quezon.

The dam will be 60 meters tall with a riverbed elevation of 100 meters. Its reservoir surface area will cover some 291 hectares at full supply level volume of 57 million cubic meters.

Kaliwa Dam is meant to be an additional raw water source that will augment the supply from Angat Dam, which supplies about 96 percent of Metro Manila's water requirement.

With the ECC approval, the MWSS is awaiting just one more permit which should come from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

Once the NCIP permit is secured, China Energy Engineering Corp. will submit the engineering design for approval of the MWSS Board.

Nationalization of public utilities pushed

To avert the looming water

and power crises, labor groups yesterday pressed the government to re-nationalize public utilities amid what they called a failure of a privatized system in improving the delivery of services for more than two decades.

"The cost is among the highest in the region and in the world, yet about 10 million Filipinos are still without access to electricity, while nearly seven million out of 105 million Filipinos rely on unimproved, unsafe and unsustainable water sources and more than 24 million lack access to improved sanitation," Wilson Fortaleza, Partido ng Manggagawa (PM) spokesman, said.

He said the World Bank advised the Philippines to embrace privatization and liberalization so that these crises, including chronic poverty, will end.

- With Mayen Jaymalin, Ramon Efren Lazaro



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NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Maynilad backs Kaliwa Dam project

MAYNILAD WATER Services, Inc. has backed the development of Kaliwa Dam, calling the new water source as a "viable long-term solution" to the shortage suffered by Metro Manila residents. The China-funded project, which has been issued an environmental compliance certificate by the Department of Environment And Natural Resources, faces opposition from local communities, environmental groups and some legislators. Maynilad's expression of support for Kaliwa Dam comes after the company started implementing water rationing last week as the water in Angat Dam has fallen below normal level. "As a water distributor, Maynilad can only distribute the water volume that it receives from existing raw water sources. The government has claimed responsibility for the development of raw water sources, but we have been working with them to expedite the process because we understand the urgency of meeting the supply needs of our customers," the water concessionaire serving the west zone of Metro Manila said on Wednesday. Maynilad also said it is maximizing the limited supply to allow it to mitigate the impact of the current reduced allocation from Angat Dam. The company has also added 300 million liters per day (MLD) to its water production capacity after the construction of its treatment facilities sourcing raw water from Laguna Lake. "We intend to further boost this by another 150 MLD supply. We continue to aggressively implement our Non-Revenue Water reduction program, reactivate deep wells as needed, and deploy mobile treatment plants to source additional raw water from dams in Cavite," Maynilad said. — **Victor V. Saulon**



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Manila Water may tap Marikina River to ease water supply woes

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR**
and
ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) may consider allowing Manila Water Company, Inc. to tap water from Marikina River to address its tight supply.

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This move involves the setting up of a portable treatment plant that will have a capacity to draw as much as 40 million liters of water per day (mld) from Marikina River, MWSS Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Jose Alfredo B. Escoto Jr. said.

"It's a complete [water treatment] system that will be connected to the river," Escoto said, adding that as much as 300,000 individual Manila Water customers could benefit from this.

The target, according to him, is to have this proposal approved by the MWSS Board of Directors and then be completed within the first three months of next year.

Since Metro Manila's major dams are not getting enough rains and there's no new water sources coming online, Manila Water and Maynilad Water Services, Inc. are both having supply issues right now.

The metropolis currently gets its water supply from the Angat-Ipo-La Mesa water system. Of this, Angat Dam supplies 97 percent of the people's needs, releasing about four mld.

As of Wednesday, the water level at Angat Dam is at 186.63 meters, which is way lower than its spilling level of 217 meters, while Ipo Dam is at 100.23 meters, also below its spilling level of 101 meters.

The water level at La Mesa, on the other hand, currently stood at 77.32 meters, likewise lower than its spilling level of 80.15 meters.

Both Manila Water and Maynilad are now implementing their respective rotational water service interruptions, which may last until next year if the water level at Metro Manila's major water sources will not improve over the next few months.

Because of this, President Duterte said he will exhaust his "extraordinary powers" allowed by the Constitution in order to get the controversial China-funded Kaliwa Dam project going.

He said this after the move of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to issue the project much sought Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) was faced with strong opposition by environment groups.

Located in Quezon and Rizal province, Kaliwa Dam is expected to have a capacity of 600 mld.

Concerns against the Kaliwa Dam include the displacement of communities of indigenous people (IP) in these provinces, the destruction of Tinipak Spring and Tinipak White Rocks in Rizal, massive flood that could drown Infanta, Quezon, among others.

But Manila Water and Maynilad both support the development of Kaliwa Dam.

It is set to benefit 3 million consumers, they said.

Meanwhile, the only sure water project to come online within this administration is the Wawa Dam project of port magnate Enrique Razon.

In September, the MWSS conducted a series of public consultation on the possible tariff impact of the project to the customers of its lone off-taker, Manila Water.

The Wawa Dam project, seen to be operational by 2021, will have a capacity to treat 80 mld and is among the new water sources eyed for Manila in the medium term.

Approval of the Wawa dam project was fast-tracked after Manila Water faced a water crisis in March, which triggered public outrage.

Angat Dam improving

As this developed, the water level at Angat Dam has increased by more than a meter due to rains over the watershed area in Bulacan after falling consistently in the past few weeks.

Based on the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration's monitoring (PAGASA), Angat's water level rose by 1.21 meters to 186.63m Wednesday.

Authorities have been closely monitoring the level of dam since it is still below the desired 210-meter normal high water level by the end of 2019. This is to ensure that by the year-end the dam can supply Metro Manila, and have enough for irrigation and energy at least until the first half of 2020.

Angat is the main water source of Metro Manila.

Rainfall plays a critical role for the dam and so far there is no weather disturbance that could raise its level some more.

As of Wednesday morning, the low pressure area (LPA) that had



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Manila Water may tap...

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brought rains to Palawan and Visayas had moved farther away from the country.

The LPA was estimated to be 895 kilometers west of Southern Luzon and has intensified into a storm.

PAGASA weather specialist Lorie-din dela Cruz said the storm will not directly affect the country.

Meanwhile, a weak LPA was located 865 km east of Davao City on Wednesday morning.

So far, it is not expected to become a tropical depression.

The easterlies, or warm and humid winds coming from the Pacific, will be the prevailing weather system over the eastern parts of Northern, Central, and Southern Luzon.

It could bring cloudy skies with scattered showers and thunderstorms to Albay, Catanduanes, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Masbate, Sorsogon, Aurora, Quezon, Cagayan, and Isabela.

The northeast monsoon or amihan, on the other hand, will continue to blow over extreme Northern Luzon, bringing partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated light rains to Batanes and Babuyan islands.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country will likely have cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers due to localized thunderstorms. Residents in these areas were warned of possible flash floods or landslides during severe thunderstorms, particularly in the afternoon or evening.

Department of Water

Meanwhile, Senator Francis Tolentino has reiterated the need for a Department of Water amid the looming water crisis in Metro Manila and other areas in the country.

Tolentino called on his colleagues in Congress to prioritize the measures that would create a single department to consolidate all existing government agencies on water regulation and distribution.

The proposed agency, he said, would be a long-term solution to the recurring water supply problems not only in Metro Manila, but also in other regions of the Philippines.

"This is a priority bill of the President. Maybe, we should prioritize this, because as I have been saying, this does not only concern Metro Manila. This is not an issue confined to the areas supplied by Maynilad Water Services, Inc. or Manila Water Company," Tolentino said in an interview over DZRH Tuesday.

The neophyte senator told his fellow lawmakers not to focus on short-term solutions and instead look beyond the inefficiencies of water concessionaires.

He repeated his warning of a "nationwide water shortage" in 2050 should the government fail to resolve the issues in the country's water management, citing an Asian Development Bank study.

"That's why it is important that we have our own Department of Water so we could address not only our current problem but our long-term water needs," Tolentino said.

"We might face worse problems if we do not prepare for it," he added.

Tolentino is pushing for the passage of his Senate Bill No. 208, proposing the creation of the Department of Water Resources Management which shall be the primary agency responsible for the

comprehensive and integrated water resources development and management in the country.

Under his bill, the proposed department shall assume all the obligations of all government agencies on water; such as the National Irrigation Administration, National Water Resources Board, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, River Basin Control Office, Manila Bay Coordinating Office, Local Water Utilities Administration, Metro Manila Development Authority, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Laguna Lake Development Authority, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, and Water Resources Regional Offices. (With a report from Vanne P. Terrazola)



Maynilad backs water source

THE water supply shortage besetting Metro Manila residents stemmed from the lack of rainfall over Angat Dam, which is the primary raw water source for Metro Manila and nearby provinces, according to Maynilad Water Services Inc.

While Maynilad supports the creation of additional water infrastructure, it said in a press statement it could only distribute the water volume that it received from existing raw water sources. The government has claimed responsibility for the development of raw water sources, but "we have been working with them to expedite the process because we understand the urgency of meeting the supply needs of our customers."

Maynilad said it supported the government's move to push for the completion of infrastructure enhancements like Kaliwa Dam.

"We believe it is a viable long-term solution to the supply shortage that has been affecting residents of Metro Manila."

Maynilad, in its statement, said it had been doing its part in implementing the necessary water infrastructure to meet the supply requirements of an ever-growing population.

Maynilad is currently maximizing the limited supply so we can mitigate the impact of the current reduced allocation from Angat Dam.

It said: "As an alternative source to Angat Dam, we have added 300 million liters per day to our water production capacity following the construction of our treatment facilities sourcing raw water from Laguna Lake. "We intend to further boost this by another 150 MLD supply. We continue to aggressively implement our Non-Revenue Water reduction program, reactivate deep wells as needed, and deploy mobile treatment plants to source additional raw water from dams in Cavite."



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POSTSCRIPT

FEDERICO D. PASCUAL Jr.

MWCI gives side on water, sewerage

BELOW is a letter from Jose Rene Gregory D. Almendras, president/CEO of Manila Water Co. Inc., one of two giant firms raking in billions in profits yet failing in their basic obligations to provide sufficient potable water and an adequate sewerage system for their customers in Metro Manila.



Much of what the MWCI boss says has come out in their press releases, but we still quote him verbatim below:

This has reference to your column entitled "Water firms' failure in supply, sewerage" published on Oct. 29, 2019, in *The Philippine STAR*. Please allow us to clarify several points you have raised:

• On water supply provision

1. The mandate of Manila Water, as agent and contractor of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System for its East Service Area is to operate, treat and distribute water that has been allocated to us from Angat Dam. For more than 40 years now, we have been dependent on Angat Dam as the major source of water. The development of new sources rests on government.

2. As early as 2009, we have included in our Service Improvement Plan, submitted to our principal, the MWSS, our proposed water source projects to meet the demand of increasing population and economic development. Unfortunately, these projects were not approved. It was only during the recent water shortage during summer that medium-term source projects were approved by the MWSS such as the Wawa-Calawis Water Supply Project in Antipolo and East Bay Water Supply Project which will draw water from Laguna Lake.

3. Since 1997, the Angat allocation to the concessionaires coming from the National Water Resources Board through MWSS has remained at 46 cubic meters per second. Currently, we have been receiving 40 cu.m./sec. which is less than the normal allocation. We have been doing our best to evenly distribute this supply to about 7 million residents of the MWSS East Service Area which is more than double the population of 3.1 million when we started in 1997.

4. We have absolutely no control over the situation in Angat Dam which has been continuously declining due to insufficient rains. If this trend continues, Angat Dam will not reach its ideal yearend level of 210-212 meters to ensure sufficient supply for next year particularly in the summer months. This is the reason that in coordination with MWSS and NWRB, we have begun 4-10 hours of rotational service interruption at night.

5. Since 1997, Manila Water has:
a. Provided 24/7 water from only 26 percent in 1997 to 100 percent of its central distribution system with more than 1.8 million residents from low-income communities benefitting from the company's flagship program Tubig Para Sa Barangay.

b. Reduced system losses from 63 percent to the current 10 percent and recovered about 700 million liters of water a day that were re-distributed to formerly unserved and underserved areas even without a new water source. Water recovered is equivalent to the volume in a medium-sized dam had government built one.

c. Improved water quality and consistently complied with the stringent standards of the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water.

• On wastewater provision

1. Manila Water is compliant with Section 8 of the Clean Water Act and has connected households with sewage lines to sewerage systems available in 2009, or five years from the effectivity of the Clean Water Act. We have emphasized this in our Motion for Reconsideration submitted to the Supreme Court on Oct. 2, 2019. Based on our understanding, Section 8 does not provide any timeframe for the completion of a centralized sewerage system and does not even require the establishment of a complete centralized sewerage system. Note that the Supreme Court also issued an extended resolution on the Manila Bay Case requiring concessionaires of the MWSS to submit their plans and projects for the construction of wastewater treatment facilities and the completion period for said facilities, which shall not go beyond 2037.

2. We would like to clarify that the 780 percent increase in tariff refers to how much the tariff would have increased if all wastewater programs were completed during the period 2004-2009. We did not state that this is an impending tariff increase. Any tariff adjustment, whether upward or downward, will have to be recommended by the MWSS Regulatory Office and approved by the MWSS Board of Trustees.

3. We are currently on track in the implementation of the MWSS-approved Service Improvement Plan to spread implementation of wastewater projects until 2037 to mitigate any potential tariff to customers.

4. Over the past 20 years since we started, Manila Water has spent P38.5 billion for wastewater infrastructure and recovered only P36.9 billion in the form of collections from tariffs.

5. When MWSS employed Manila Water as contractor and agent in 1997, there were only 2 sewage treatment plants in the East Zone with a capacity of 40 million liters per day. Since then, Manila Water has constructed and now operates 40 sewage and septage treatment plants with a combined capacity of 310 million liters per day benefiting almost two million in terms of population.

6. Manila Water continues to provide desludging or septic tank cleaning services at no additional cost to consumers via a fleet of 66 desludging trucks and ensure proper disposal and treatment of septage through the company's two modern septage treatment plants.

7. While we would like to fast track implementation of all wastewater plans and programs, it is physically impossible to build a complete sewer network in the next five to years as these would require large tracts of land for wastewater treatment plants and lay more than 500 kilometers of additional sewer lines. This is the reason the approved SIP for wastewater has been spread until 2037.

8. We are cognizant of the impact as costs to the consumer will be exorbitant. The total expenses to treat wastewater is about P12/cu.m. which is about four times the cost to treat water at P3/cu.m.

9. Laying and installing new and rehabilitating and/or replacing old sewer lines would require digging up all streets in the MWSS East Service Area which will aggravate the worsening traffic situation in the metropolis.

NOTA BENE: Postscripts are archived at manilamail.com. Author is on Twitter as [@FDPascual](https://twitter.com/FDPascual). Email feedback to fdp333@yahoo.com



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Sierra Madre forest rangers on alert

LUCENA CITY—With the coming Christmas season, forest rangers have been alerted on a surge in illegal logging activities in the northern Quezon section of the Sierra Madre ranges. Rexmel Telan, forest technician at the community environment and natural resources office in Real town, said the illegal activities have become a source of easy money for illegal loggers and their protectors. He also appealed to government to provide forest rangers with firearms for their safety and protection. —DELFIN MALLARI JR.



TITLE:

NASA kalagitnaan ng lindol sa Mindanao ang ULTIMATUM noong Oktubre 15, 2019.

Magnitude 6.3 ang pwersa ng lindol na lumikha ng intensity 7 na pagyanig sa ibabaw ng lupa.

Nasaksihan, napuntahan at naramdaman nito ang hirap ng mga biktima.

Imadyinin na lang.

Giba o bumitak ang mga tahanan, ang mga gusaling pribado at pamamahalaan, ang mga eskwela, ang mga simbahan at iba pa.

May nasunog na mall at isang bahay.

May mga namatay at nasugatan at may mga nawalan ng trabaho dahil sa sunog, sirang negosyo, sirang eskwela at iba pa.

Para sa mga namatayan o nabaldahan na mga miyembro ng pamilya ng haligi ng tahanan, matagal bago sila makarekober o muling makatayo sa normal na buhay.

Ang mga nawalan ng puhunan sa pagkasira ng kanilang puhunang gusali, paninda at serbisyo, naririyang ang pagkalugi na maaaring tuluyan nang nawalan.

Naririyang ang mga nawalan ng hanapbuhay at hindi basta makahanap ng kapalit na trabaho na matatag.

Tiyak na aabutin ng siyam-siyam bago maging normal ang pamumuhay ng mga biktima.

IKALAWANG LINDOL

Kamakalawa, lumindol ulit at mas malakas iyon.

Yung pinagmulan ng lindol noong Oktubre 15, siya ring pinagmulan ng magnitude 6.6 na lindol at umabot din sa intensity 7 ang pagyanig.

Kung bumitak lang ang mga tahanan at gusali sa unang lindol, tuluyan na silang nagiba at gumuho sa ikalawang lindol.

Higit ding napinsala ang mga imprastruktura.

Kabilang sa mga tuluyan nang gumuho ang tatlong eskwelahan, ilang simbahan, ospital at mga tahanan.

Kaya naman, higit ang pinsala sa ikalawang lindol para sa iba habang nagdugtong ang paghihirap ng mga biktima mula sa una hanggang ikalawa para naman sa iba.

May susunod pa ka-



TABANG MINDANAO AT KORAP AT MANDARAMBONG

ya?

Diyos lang ang nakaaalam ngunit sana wala nang susunod pa.

Ipagdasal nating sana'y wala nang lindol pang magaganap.

TABANG MINDANAO

Libo-libo talaga ang nasiraan ng buhay at ar-arian hindi lang para sa isang linggo kundi maaaring para sa ilang buwan o taon o maaaring dekada.

Kaya naman, naririyang ang mga nakataas at nakabukas na palad ng mga biktima na humihiting ng tulong, ng pagkalinga hindi lang mula sa pamahalaan kundi mula sa ating lahat na hindi tinamaan ng grabeng kalamidad.

May naitatabi ba tayong piso o isang latang sardinas o isang takal na bigas?

May naitatabi ba tayong mga tent, yero, kumot, damit, tsinelas, paniuto at iba pa?

May naitatabi ba tayong mga gamot, wheelchair at iba pa?

Mayroon ba tayong naitatabing barya para sa mga kabataang mag-aaral na nawalan ng masisiungan, ang mga imbalidong matatanda, maysakit at may kapansanan?

Tingnan at kapain natin ang ating mga bulsa, dibdib at katawan at kaluluwa natin.

Kung meron tayo kahit isa o dalawa sa mga nabanggit na pupwedeng itulong sa mga biktima, kumilos tayo para makarating sa mga biktima ang mga ito.

Ang mga simbahan, sana, mag-alay rin sila ng kanilang mga koleksyon sa misa at iba pang sakramento at pagsamba.

Kung magagawa nating magbigay ng kahit maliit na bagay, sa rami nating Pinoy na kilala sa pagiging mapagmahal at mapagmasakit, walang dahilan upang hindi makaahon sa abang kalagayan ang mga biktima at magkaroon muli ng pag-asa sa buhay.

Tara, bigyan natin ng buhay ang Tabang Mindanao o Tulong sa mga taga-Mindanao.

KORAPSYON.

PANDARAMBONG

Muli, ipaalaala natin sa mga opisyal at empleyado ng gobyerno at mga mamayang kasama nila ang tapat na pagsasabuhay ng Tabang Mindanao.

Sana, hindi na tayo makarinig pa ng mga kwento ukol sa mga bangungot mula sa korapsyon at pandarambong.

Sana, walang masasayang na kahit sentimo o hibla ng mga donasyon at maihatid nang buo ang mga ito sa mga kaawaawang biktima.

Okay tayo sa pagmamasalakit sa pamamagitan ng mga social media na nagpapaabot ng kanilang mga condolence, prayers at good luck.

Pero higit nating kailangan na lhatid sa mga biktima ang kanilang mga kailangan.

Sila'y nauuhaw, nagugutom, nabalda, nahubaran, nawalan ng masisiungan at iba pa.

Sila nakulong sa kawalan, maging sa pag-asa sa kinabukasan.

Bigyan natin ng tunay na buhay ang Tabang Mindanao.

HABULIN SILA

Maraming gusali at imprastruktura ang nasira, lalo na ang mga pag-aari o kontrolado ng pamahalaan lokal hanggang nas-yunal.

Nasira ba sila dahil pawang mga substandard na bunga ng pagbulsa ng mga taga-pamahalaan ng mga pondong bayan na ginamit sa pagtatayo at paggawa sa mga ito?

Panahon nang masimulan ang paghahabol sa mga korap at mandarambong sa buwis ng mga mamamayan na ginamit sa pagtatayo at paggawa ng mga substandard, marurupok at sirang mga eskwela, ospital, tulay, kalsada, barangay hall at iba pa.

Anomang reaksiyon o reklamo, iparating sa 092-28403333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.