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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service

Dokumentaryo para sagipin ang mga tamaraw

NAGLUNSAD ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng compelling documentary sa mga tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*), sa layuning palakasin ang kamalayan at makalikom ng pondo para sa critically endangered animal na sa isla lamang ng Mindoro matatagpuan.

Ang "Suwag o Suko: Saving the Tamaraw from Extinction" ay isang-oras na pelikula na tumatalakay sa economic, social at cultural significance ng tamaraw, gayundin ang walang kapagurang pagsisikap ng tamaraw rangers na inilalagay sa panganib ang mga buhay para maprotektahan ang mga hayop na ito laban sa mangangaso.

Ang documentary ay produced sa pamamagitan ng partnership sa DENR at Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) ng United Nations Development Programme. Ito ay nilahukan ng young film practitioners.

Nagpahayag ng pag-asa si DENR Assistant Secretary at concurrent Biodiversity Management Bureau Director Ricardo Calderon na ang documentary ay magbibigay- inspirasyon sa mas maraming Pilipino para tumulong sa pagsagip sa tamaraw mula sa lubusang pagkaubos.

"I hope every single Filipino will have the opportunity to seeing real-life tamaraws today, and the coming years, decades and centuries," sinabi ni Calderon.

Ang pelikula ay nakatakda para sa regular screening sa sa buong bansa, sa pagtarget ng DENR na makalikom ng P2 milyon para ipambili ng patrol gear at equipment at para tustusan ang accident insurance ng forest rangers.

Ang mga kinita mula sa documentary ay mapupunta sa Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) ng DENR, na naglalayong matugunan ang pagbaba ng bilang ng populasyon ng mga tamaraw.

Ang tamaraw, tinawag ding dwarf water buffalo, ay ang pinakamalaking native land mammal sa Pilipinas.

Mula 10,000 heads noong 1900s, malaki ang ibinaba ng populasyon ng tamaraw sa 480 na lamang sa huling bilang, ginawa itong world's most endangered animals.

Ang illegal logging, poaching, over hunting, intensive farming at pagtatayo ng rantso sa mga kagubatan ng Mindoro ay pawang nag-aambag sa pagkaunti ng bilang ng mga tamaraw.

Noong 1982, itinatag ang Tamaraw Gene Pool sa ilalim ng captive breeding component ng programa. Gayunman, namatay ang 20 tamaraw na orihinal na nahuli para sa gene pool.

Sa kasalukuyan, nakatuon ang TCP sa pamamahala ng wild population at habitat, at sa pagsasagawa ng information and education campaigns sa kahalagahan ng pagliligtas sa tamaraw.

Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz



Rody mulling nationwide plastic ban — Panelo

By **CHRISTINA MENDEZ**

President Duterte is mulling a nationwide ban on the use of plastics in a bid to mitigate climate change, amid what sectors have claimed as a pollution crisis in the country on account of poor solid waste laws and high usage of single-use plastic among consumers and businesses.

Duterte expressed his interest in banning plastic during last Wednesday's Cabinet meeting, presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said yesterday.

During the meeting, Vernice Victorio, president and CEO of the Natural Resources Development

Corp. (NRDC), shared with the Cabinet the Priority Programs for Environment and Climate Change Resiliency.

It was during her presentation that Duterte floated the idea of banning the use of plastics, which according to him would require legislative action, said Panelo.

The NRDC is an attached government-owned and controlled corporation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Panelo said the plastic ban was discussed as part of the administration's efforts to mitigate climate change.

Two pending measures by Sens. Cynthia Villar and Francis Pangilinan that seek to ban the use of single-use plastic are currently pend-

ing at the committee level.

The measures seek to ban food establishments, stores, markets and retailers from issuing single-use plastic. Consumers will instead be using reusable materials, while manufacturers will be tasked to control the circulation and disposal of single-use plastics.

The bill also seeks to give incentives to individuals and businesses that use alternative materials, as it provides for the prohibition of the importation of single-use plastic.

A 2015 report on plastic pollution ranked the Philippines as the third biggest source of plastic leaking into the oceans, after China and Indonesia.



Duterte backs legislation to ban plastic use

By SAMUEL P. MEDENILLA

✉ @sam_medenilla

& CAI U. ORDINARIO ✉ @caiordinario

PRESIDENT Duterte on Thursday said he now is inclined to support legislation banning the use of plastics.

A Palace news statement said Presidential Spokesman and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador S. Panelo made the pronouncement during the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday in response to the presentation of Vernice Victorio, president and chief executive officer of the Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC), which is an attached government-owned and -controlled corporation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"During her presentation, the President floated the idea to ban the use of plastics, which according to him would require legislative action," Panelo said.

Victorio presented NRDC's priority programs for environment and climate-change resiliency, as well as the harmful impact of plastics in Manila Bay during the said meeting.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia said they are still working on the details for the proposal. Among the issues they have yet to finalize, he said, is if the ban will be nationwide or at a local level.

"This is still in the discussion [phase]. There is still no policy [for it]," Pernia told the BUSINESSMIRROR in an interview.

Pernia said President Duterte is now receptive to the idea of a plastic ban due to his growing awareness on the impact of climate change.

There are currently at least two pending bills on banning plastics: Sen. Cynthia Villar's Senate Bill 333, or the "Single-Use Plastic Product Regulation Act of 2019" and Sen. Francis Pangilinan's Senate Bill 40, or the "Single-Use Plastics Regulation and Management Act of 2019."

A 2015 report of Ocean Conservancy and McKinsey Center for Business and Environment tagged the Philippines as one of the top contributors of plastic pollution in the oceans, which prompted stakeholders to call for stricter government policies on plastic use.



Duterte signals plan to regulate plastic pollution

PRESIDENT Rodrigo R. Duterte has floated a proposal to his Cabinet to crack down on plastic pollution after making a similar approach to his fellow regional leaders, officials said.

Mr. Duterte brought up his proposal at the Wednesday Cabinet meeting, during which participants heard a presentation from the Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC) on the pollution problem.

After hearing the NRDC report, "the President floated the idea to ban the use of plastics, which according to him would

require legislative action," Palace Spokesman Salvador S. Panelo said in a statement Thursday.

Mr. Panelo said that upon hearing the presentation, President Rodrigo R. Duterte "floated" the idea of banning the use of plastics but it will need to be legislated.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia told reporters that a plastic ban proposal is still under discussion with no policy action yet.

"The President has become more conscious of climate change. (Before) he was not so concerned.

(NRDC CEO Frances Veronica R. Victoria) presented on plastics... there's so much plastic waste in Manila Bay," Mr. Pernia said.

NRDC is a government-owned and -controlled corporation (GOCC) attached to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The House of Representatives is currently discussing House Bill No. 8692, or the proposed Ban on Single-use Plastic Products Act.

The bill's proposed ban covers plastic packaging, such as grocery bags, food packaging and contain-

ers, water bottles, straws, cups, and sachets.

The counterpart bill in the Senate is Senate Bill No. 40, which if passed will become the Single-Use Plastics Regulation and Management Act of 2019.

Mr. Duterte called on fellow leaders during last week's 35th ASEAN Summit to uphold "environmental sustainability and protect biodiversity" in the region, in particular preventing more marine debris from pollute the region's waters. — **Gillian M. Cortez and Beatrice M. Laforga**



Ban on use of plastic bags eyed

By MJ Blancaflor

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte is considering banning the use of plastic bags in the Philippines, Malacañang said Thursday.

Duterte made the remark during the presentation of Natural Resources Development Corp., an attached agency of the Environment department, during Wednesday's Cabinet meeting.

But Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said Duterte recognized that such a ban would require legislative action.

Two measures seeking the ban on single-use plastics have been filed by Senators Cynthia Villar and Francis Pangilinan, and both bills seek to ban food establishments, stores, markets, and retailers from using or selling them.

Single-use plastics include items such as grocery bags, food packaging, films

and bags, manufacturing water bottles, straws, stirrers, containers, Styrofoam, cups, sachets and plastic cutlery.

Under Pangilinan's Senate Bill 40, penalties would be imposed on those using single-use plastics while incentives would be given to those recycling reusable plastics.

Customers bringing their own reusable or recyclable containers when buying food or groceries would be given a discount of P5 on their purchases.

Meanwhile, Villar's Senate Bill 333 would prohibit the importation of single-use plastics and create a Special

Fund for Single-use Plastic Regulation composed of collected tariffs, levies and fees.

The fund would be used to put up recycling centers and provide assistance and incentives to manufacturers and community-based initiatives for the reduction of single-use plastics.

The proposed measures were pending at the committee level.

A 2015 report on plastic pollution ranked the Philippines as the third biggest source of plastics leaking into the oceans following China and Indonesia.



Duterte proposes ban on use of plastics

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte is eyeing to ban the use of plastics in the Philippines, Malacañang said yesterday.

Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said Duterte broached the idea during the 43rd Cabinet meeting in Malacañang Wednesday night after the issue on climate change was raised.

Panelo said Vernice Victorio, President and CEO of the Natural Resources Development Corp., "shared with the Cabinet the Priority Programs for Environment and Climate Change Resiliency."

"During her presentation, the President floated the idea to ban the use of plastics, which according to him would require legislative action," he said.

Several bills on banning the use of plastics remain pending in Congress.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan has filed Senate Bill 40 which seeks a ban on the importation, manufacture and use of all single-use plastics.

Pangilinan proposed that those who violate this would be penalized and those who re-use and recycle would receive incentives.

Sen Cynthia Villar also filed Senate Bill No. 333 or the Single-Use Plastic Product Regulation Act of 2019.

Under her proposed bill, the issuance of the single-use plastics by food establishments, markets and retailers would be prohibited.

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Plastic ban sa buong bansa, nais ni Digong

Pabor si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na ipagbawal ang paggamit ng mga plastic sa bansa upang masupil ang polusyon at maprotektahan ang kapaligiran, ipinahayag ng Malacañang kahapon.

Kinilala ng Pangulo na kailangang magpasa ng batas ang Kongreso na magpapatupad sa pagbabawal ng plastic products sa talakayan sa Cabinet meeting sa Malacañang nitong Miyerkules.

"The President floated the idea to ban the use of plastics, which according to him would require legislative action," sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo.

Nabanggit ang isyu sa plastic pollution matapos ibahagi ni Vernice Victorio, President at CEO ng Natural Resources Development Corp., sa Cabinet ang mga prayoridad na programa para sa kapaligiran at climate

change resiliency, ani Panelo. Ang state corporation ay nakakabit sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ilang panukalang batas na nagsusulong na ipagbawal ang paggamit ng single-use plastic products ang nakabinbin sa Kongreso sa gitna ng pagkabahala na ang mga ganitong produkto ay naging polusyon sa dagat at nagiging sanhi ng pagkamatay ng marine life.

Sa pagdalo niya kamakailan sa regional summit sa Thailand, nanawagan si Duterte sa mga bansa sa Southeast Asian na huwag isakripisyo ang kapaligiran para sa economic development sa region. Hiniling ang pagpapaigting ng regional cooperation para protektahan ang kapaligiran at labanan ang polusyon sa dagat sa idinaos na 35th Association of Southeast

Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit plenary.

"We must work together to address the problem of marine debris. And we must build resilient and stronger communities to adapt to the effects of climate change," aniya.

Sa pagtatapos ng pagpupulong, nangako ang mga lider ng East Asia Summit na magbabalangkas ng regional action plan para paigtingin ang mga pagsisikap na malabanan ang plastic waste pollution sa mga karagatan at mapigilan ang illegal transport ng hazardous wastes.

Kinilala nila na ang marine plastic debris ay nagiging "global concern" at nagkasundo na magdebelop ng system-based plan para mabawasan ang polusyon sa dagat.

**Beth Camia
at Genalyn kabiling**



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Rody mulls ban on plastics use

President Duterte is amenable to the ban on the use of plastics in the country to curb pollution and protect the environment, Malacañang announced yesterday.

The President recognized that Congress must pass a law implementing a ban on plastic products during the discussion in the Cabinet meeting in Malacanang last Wednesday.

"The President floated the idea to ban the use of plastics, which according to him would require legislative action," presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said.

The issue on plastic pollution was raised after Vernice Victorio, president and chief executive officer of the Natural Resources Development Corp., shared with the Cabinet the priority programs for environment and climate change resiliency, Panelo said. The State corporation is an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Several bills seeking to ban the use of single-use plastic products are pending in Congress amid concerns such products end up polluting the oceans and killing marine life. **(Genalyn Kabiling)**



PDU30 pabor sa plastic ban

ISA ang posibleng tuluyang pagbabawal sa paggamit ng plastic sa mga tinalakay sa ginanap na cabinet meeting.

Sa harap na rin ito ng pagnanais ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na ganap nang ibasura ang paggamit ng plastic para malabanan ang nararansang climate change.

Pero ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo, aminado si Pangulong Duterte na hindi ganoon kadali ang nais nitong basta-basta ipatigil ang paggamit ng plastic.

Batid ani Sec. Panelo ng Presidente na kailangan ditong kumilos ang mga

nasa lehisiatura upang makagawa ng panukalang batas na tuluyang magbabawal sa paggamit ng plastic sa buong bansa.

Sa ginanap na cabinet meeting kagabi ay ibinahagi ni Vernice Victorió, Pangulo at CEO ng Natural Resources Development Cor-

poration, isang attached-GOCC ng DENR ang isang presentation patungkol sa climate change programs na maaaring ipatupad ng gobyerno at gawing priority programs para sa environment and climate change resiliency ng bansa.

KRIS JOSE



Rody mulls nationwide ban on single-use plastics

METRO MANILA (CNN) — President Rodrigo Duterte has raised the idea of banning single-use plastics nationwide.

Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said the suggestion came from Duterte during the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday. He said this was brought up during talks on climate change resiliency.

"The President floated the idea to ban the use of plastics, which according to him would require leg-

islative action," he said in a statement on Thursday.

Panelo said Vernice Victorio, president and CEO of the Natural Resources Development Corp., "shared with the Cabinet the Priority Programs for Environment and Climate Change Resiliency."

A number of bills to end the use of single-use plastics has been filed in Congress. With the absence of a national law, local governments have passed ordinances to lessen the use

of plastics.

A 2015 report on plastic pollution conducted by the international group Ocean Conservancy and McKinsey Center for Business and Environment ranked the Philippines as the third biggest source of plastics leaking into the oceans, following China and Indonesia.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan has filed Senate Bill 40 which seeks a ban on the importation, manufacture and use of all single-use plastics.



Pinag-iisipan ni Duterte NATIONWIDE PLASTIC BAN

Mula sa pahina 16

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo, inihayag ito ng Pangulo sa isinagawang cabinet meeting kama-kalawa.

Aniya, isa ito sa mga nakikitang solusyon ng Pangulo para labanan ang climate change sa bansa at sa buong mundo.

Aminado naman ang Pangulo na hindi madali ang naturang hakbangin at kailangan pang lumikha ang Kongreso ng batas na susuporta sa panukala bago ito mapatupad.

Ilang panukala na ang iniharap sa Kongreso kaugnay sa paggamit ng single-use o isang gamitan lamang na plastic.



Sa kawalan ng batas ay nagpasa na lamang ang mga pamahalaang lokal ng mga ordinansa upang mabawasan ang paggamit ng plastic.

Sa isang pag-aaral noong 2015 kaugnay sa polusyon sa plastic ng international group na Ocean Conservancy and McKinsey Center for

Business and Environment ay lumilitaw na ang Filipinas ang ikatlo sa pinakamaraming pinanggagalingan ng mga plastic na natatagpuan sa karagatan, kasunod ang China at Indonesia.

Matatandaang ilang balyena na natatagpuang patay sa dalampasigan sa iba't ibang bahagi ng bansa ay naglalaman ng plastic ang mga tiyan.

Sa Compostela Valley ay natagpuan ang patay na Cuvier's beaked whale na naglalaman ang tiyan ng 40 kilos na plastic mula sa mga shopping bag, mga sako ng bigas at plastic na gamit sa banana plantation na napadpad sa karagatan.



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Plastik ipagbabawal ni Digong

Ikinokonsidera ni Pangulong Duterte na ipagbawal sa buong bansa ang paggamit ng mga plastik.

Ito ang nabatid kahapon kay Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo na nagsabing ginawa ng Pangulo ang pahayag sa pulong ng Gabinete kamakalawa.

Lumitaw sa isang report hinggil sa plastic pollution noong 2015 na iniranggo ang Pilipinas bilang pangatlong pinakamalaking pinagmumulan ng mga plastik na natatapon sa mga karagatan. Sinusundan ng bansa ang China at Indonesia.

Dalawang panukalang batas na isinampa sa Senado nina Senators

Cynthia Villar at Francis Pangilinan ang nagsusulong na ipagbawal ang mga single-use plastic.

Sa naturang mga panukalang-batas na nakabimbin sa committee level, pagbabawalan ang mga food establishments, stores, markets, at retailers sa paggamit ng single-use plastics.

Ang mga konsyumer ay pagagamitin ng mga reusable material at obligahin ang mga manufacturer na magkolekta, mag-recycle at mag-dispose sa mga single-use plastic na nakakalat sa mga pamilihan.

Pagbabawalan din ang importasyon ng single-use plastic habang bibigyan ng insentibo ang

mga indibidwal at negosyo na gagamit ng mga alternative materials. *(Rudy Andai)*



Plastic ban balak ipatupad ni Duterte

PINAG-AARALAN
na ni Pangulong Rodri-
go Duterte ang pagpa-
patupad ng plastic ban
sa bansa.

Sinabi ni Presiden-
tial Spokesman Salva-
dor Pabelo, ginawa ng
pangulo ang pahayag
sa cabinet meeting
Miyerkules ng gabi
matapos ang presenta-
tion ng Natural Re-
sources Development
Corporation na isang
attached Government
Owned and Controlled
Corporation ng De-
partment of Environ-
ment and Natural Re-
sources (DENR).

Nais aniya ng pangulo
na pagbawalan ang plas-
tic dahil sa climate change.

Pero ayon kay
Pabelo, sinabi ng
pangulo na nangangai-
langan ng legislative
action ang kanyang
planong plastic ban.

Ibig sabihin, kaila-
ngan munang buma-
langkas ng bagong batas
para maipatupad ang
naturang plano.

(Vanz Fernandez)



Plastic ibabawal ni Duterte

NAIS ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na tuluyang ipagbawal ang paggamit ng plastic para malabanan ang matinding epekto ng climate change sa mundo.

Ang isyu ay isa sa mga natalakay sa Cabinet meeting na pina-ngunahan ng Pangulo sa Malacañang nitong Miyerkoles nang gabi.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo na isang paraan lamang ito sa naisip ni Pangulong Duterte para maibsan kahit papaano ang matinding epekto ng climate change.

Gayunman, aminado si Pangulong Duterte na hindi basta-basta maipatupad ang ban sa paggamit ng plastic dahil kailangan ang tulong ng Kongreso para

makagawa ng batas para sa mas epektibong implementasyon ng plastic ban sa bansa.

Sa ginanap na Cabinet meeting, ay iprinisinta ni Vernice Victorio, presidente at chief executive officer ng Natural Resources Development Corporation, isang attached GOCC ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga climate change program na maaaring ipatupad ng gobyerno para malabanan ang climate change.

"During the presentation, the President floated the idea to ban the use of plastics, which is according to him would require legislative action," ani Panelo. **(Aileen Tali-ping/Prince Golez)**



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VOLUNTEERS. Preparations for the 2019 Southeast Asian Games get a boost with the help of 164 volunteers from PMFTC Inc., an affiliate of Philip Morris International, non-government organizations and the local community. The group gathered 446 kilograms of mostly plastic garbage and cigarette butts from under and in between rocks near the stretch of the beach where the triathlon event of the biennial games will be held. The activity is in line with PMFTC Inc.'s 'Unsmoke' advocacy, a campaign to encourage smokers to quit and for those who don't, to change to better alternatives.

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Employees and partners support the move

Meralco pushes sustainable practices in single-use plastics ban



Proud Meralco employees show off their reusable water bottles, one way to reduce single-use plastics at Meralco.

Since its implementation of a ban on single-use plastics (SUPs) one month ago, Meralco employees have been bringing their own water bottles and utensils, while concessionaires have adjusted on how they package and serve food.

Employees admit it took some time to adjust old habits, yet soon realized the policy had a silver lining – not just for the environment but for their wallets, too. “We had to spend on plastic utensils for our meals before, and now the savings will certainly add up in the long run,” said recently graduated and newly hired Meralco employee, Lance Cham. “We in the Gen Z generation and millennials are very conscious of protecting the environment because we are here for the longer term,” he adds, “and so the next generation Alpha may have a better place to live in.”



Slowly but surely, Meralco employees and concessionaires have both learned to adjust to the ban of SUPs.

Gloria Santiago Tan, supervisor of Yayang's, a longtime food stall at the Meralco compound, welcomes the development – a sentiment she shares with other concessionaires. “Our kitchens have become cleaner and more organized because there's less plastic residue,” Tan said, “so our workers have less to dispose of at the end of the day.”

Tan certainly needs no convincing since most of her co-employees live in flood-prone Marikina.

Company-wide ban

Meralco has banned the use of polystyrene foam and other similar plastic products used in grocery bags, beverage bottles, food service utensils, and dispensing containers for cleaning fluids.



Continued
Meralco pushes sustainable practices



A sample of Meralco's internal communications material promoting the company's sustainability efforts.

This will be enforced at all premises of its headquarters, business centers and offices, and companies and subsidiaries within the Meralco group that total over 6,000 employees.

Leading the move is Meralco President and Chief Executive Officer, Atty. Ray C. Espinosa, whose grand vision includes heightened environmental consciousness and a ground-shifting pursuit for eco-technologies.

"Protecting the environment is a collective obligation that we not only owe to the communities we serve, but more importantly, the future generation," Espinosa said. "It is incumbent upon us to ensure that we integrate sustainability in our operations and our workplace to create a positive impact to the environment."

Meralco's supply chain partners are also required full compliance by January 1, 2020.

Responsible waste management is the higher goal, with the ban on SUPs being one spoke of a wheel with multiple strategies in play.

"Everyone in Meralco is committed to do their part in ensuring that we embrace sustainability as a way of life by greatly reducing our contribution to the million tons of plastic waste that are used and dumped

in our water ways, rivers, and oceans every day. Alongside advancing e-vehicles and e-bikes and supporting renewable energy, the ban on single-use plastics aligns with Meralco's expanding sustainability programs," Espinosa said.

The utility recognizes its role in the enormous task of achieving a neutral carbon footprint. But it is also aware that this is a long journey, contingent on everyone doing their part.

As the country's largest electric power distributor and the largest private sector utility, Meralco recognizes its responsibility in caring for the environment and the community while distributing reliable power at the lowest cost. This is what guides the company in helping the country transition towards renewable energy.

Alarming problem requires commitment

According to a report published by the United Nations Environment Program, the world's ability to cope with plastic waste is already overwhelmed. Only 9% of the nine trillion kilos of plastic the world has ever produced has been recycled. Most end up in landfills, dumps or in the environment. If current consumption patterns and waste management practices continue, then by 2050 there will be around 12 trillion kilos of plastic litter in landfills and the environment.

Trash from SUPs ends up in waterways and coastal areas, straining the marine ecosystem and exacerbating the metropolis' floods.

Meralco recognizes how this initiative is a small but essential step in a bigger journey to address these problems.



Reusable water tumblers can be easily refilled at Meralco's many water dispensers.



36 ESTUDYANTE BUMUWAL SA CHEMICAL LEAK

PALAISIPAN pa rin hanggang ngayon kung anong klaseng kemikal ang nalanghap ng nasa 36 estudyante ng Gadu National High School sa Solana, Cagayan na naging sanhi ng kanilang pagkahilo at ang ilan ay nahimatay.

Ayon kay S/Sgt. Joffrey Mabatan ng Solana Police, nalanghap na lamang ng mga grade 12 students ang kemikal mula sa hindi mabatid na lugar na sanhi ng kanilang pagkahilo.

Agad na dinala ang mga estudyante sa isang pribadong

ospital sa lungsod ng Tuguegarao.

Dalawa sa mga na-suffocate na babae ay inoobserbahan pa rin.

Sinabi ni Mabatan, nang magtungo sila sa lugar ay wala namang kakaibang bagay at wala ring laboratory room na maaaring pagmulan ng kemikal.

Sinabi ni Mabatan na maaaring mula rin sa mga estudyante ang naturang kemikal na naamoy ng mga biktima.

**JUN FUENTES/
REY VELASCO**



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Complaint filed vs reclamation projects

Fishing communities in Cavite and members of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) on Wednesday filed a formal complaint before the Department of Environment and Natural Resources central office in Quezon City against three ongoing reclamation projects in the province. The complaint expressed opposition to the reclamation of a fishpond in Maliksi III village in Bacoor City, the reclamation at the Sangley Point Airport project in Cavite City and at the site of Chinese-owned Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations in Kawit town. "Small fishermen reported declines in catch and harvest and fear for their environmental impact such as during high tide and storm surges," said the complainants, who also called for the publication of the Environment Impact Statements of those projects.—MARIEJO S. RAMOS



36 ESTUDYANTE NAHIRAPANG HUMINGA SA KEMIKAL

CAGAYAN – INIIMBESTIGAHAN na ng awtoridad ang sinapit ng 36 mag-aaral ng Gadu National High School na isinunod sa ospital matapos na makalanghap ng isang kemikal sa bayan ng Solana.

Ayon kay PSgt. Joffrey Mabatan ng PNP-Solana, habang nasa loob ng paaralan ang mga grade 12 student nang makalanghap ng kemikal mula sa hindi mabatid na lugar na sanhi ng kanilang pagkahilo.

Kaagad na dinala ang mga estudyante ng mga Rescue Team Solana sa isang pribadong pagamutan sa Lungsod ng Tuguegarao kung saan dalawang babae na lamang ang inoobserbahan hanggang sa kasalukuyan.

Sa imbestigasyon ng PNP-Solana, mismong laboratory room ng paaralan ay wala naman silang nakita o naamoy na kakaibang bagay sa nasabing laboratoryo.

Dahil dito, sinabi ni Mabatan na maaaring mula rin sa mga estudyante ang naturang kemikal na naamoy ng mga biktima, at patuloy ang ginawang imbestigasyon ng pulisya maging ang nasabing paaralan para mabigyang linaw kung ano at saan nanggaling ang kemikal na sanhi ng naturang insidente.

IRENE GONZALES



DENR 7 explains cutting of trees for road expansion

By CALVIN CORDOVA

CEBU CITY — Despite the heavy criticism, the Department of Natural Resources in Central Visayas (DENR 7) will push through with the cutting of trees to pave way for road expansion projects in various areas in Cebu.

In the City of Naga, southern Cebu, the DENR has inspected at least 30 trees and seven of them are scheduled to be cut.

These trees, which include mahogany, Gmelina and acacia, are located along carriage ways.

"We hired pathologists and they were the ones who recommended to have them cut since these are dying trees," said Eduardo Enting, regional technical director of DENR 7.

Enting said dying trees host diseases and pose danger to commuters.

Enting clarified that trees that are set to be cut are not century or heritage trees.

Last October 15, residents and a group of environmentalists held a rally in Naga to protest the planned cutting of trees.

Officials of DENR appealed for understanding from the public.

"In Cebu, some trees will be affected by road widening. There is necessity to expand the road network because traffic is going to be difficult

just like in Metro Manila. There is a need to ease the life of the people," said DENR Undersecretary Rodolfo Garcia at the sidelines of the at the sidelines of the 78th International Federation of Landscape Architects-Asia Pacific Region yesterday at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino.

"It is always a challenge, we have our pragmatic needs. Nature is important and development is also important. It has to be balance," Garcia added.

Corazon Davies, assistant secretary for Police and Planning Services of DENR, said cutting of trees goes through a careful study especially if it involves century or heritage trees.

"The DENR has a program to preserve century and heritage trees. When we cut trees, it is always based on science," Davies said.

Davis said there are ways to cushion the impact of trees being cut.

"Trees are renewable resources. We can plant new ones," she said.

Davies emphasized that some trees located in highways or major streets have to go to improve traffic.

"When there is traffic, there's less productivity. When you get stalled because of traffic, there will be more pollution. There is a need to cut trees and you just have to find open spaces where you can plant new ones," Davies said.

Meanwhile, the DENR has partnered with the Philippine Association of Landscape Architects (PALA) to promote its programs.

"This partnership will bring in the greening of the landscape. In establishments like shopping centers or buildings, you will now begin to see green buildings," said Garcia.

Garcia explained that a green facade is a wall which helps reduce carbon footprints that are generated especially in highly polluted areas.

Eric Estonido, president of PALA, said the partnership will help increase biodiversity by increasing the green network within the urban development.



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Miners group joins rescue ops in quake-hit areas

TO HIGHLIGHT the economic contribution of the mining industry as well as the vital role of miners in times of natural calamities, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and mining industry stakeholders will formally launched today Friday, Nov. 8, hashtag Mining Responsibility (*#Mining Responsibility*).

A nationwide social media campaign through infomercials, the MGB and various mining stakeholders aim to educate the public about the economic and the social impact of responsible mining in the country.

The *#Mining Responsibility* was launched after the series of strong earthquakes that devastated Southern Philippines that triggered the ongoing search, rescue, and relief operations of the government in earthquake-hit parts of Mindanao.

The PMSEA, led by its president, Dr. Walter W. Brown, right after the magnitude 6.5 earthquake that jolted

Tulunan, Cotabato Province, immediately activated the "Operation Mindanao Earthquake" through its Pusong Minero Program headed by Engineer Louie Sarmiento."

Pusong Minero thru volunteer companies have been extending its expertise in disaster search and rescue long before rescue teams were mandated by the government to be formed by LGUs.

Pusong Minero volunteers saw action since the 1990 earthquake in Baguio, Guinsaugon, Leyte landslide, Real Quezon landslide incident; Typhoon Sendong in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan, Negros Oriental Earthquake, Pantukan 1&2 landslide in Compostela Valley, Hagonoy, Typhoon Pablo in New Bataan and Catiil Compostela Valley Bohol earthquake and Typhoon Yolanda in Samar and Tacloban and Mayon Volcano eruption in Albay.

During the past few days, the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association under its Pusong Minero Program

provided much-needed help in the areas affected by the Mindanao earthquakes.

PMSEA-Pusong Minero Executive director Louie Sarmiento said that close coordination with DENR headed by Secretary Roy A. Cimatu through MGB director Moncano has been done following the magnitude-6.5 earthquake last Oct. 31, 2019.

In response, Apex Mining immediately sent an Emergency Response Team to help in the search and rescue operation in a collapse Ecoland Condominium in Davao City.

Other ERTs and were also sent in other parts of Mindanao, such as in Kidapawan City where Pusong Minero members also provided relief goods, including water, inside and outside the evacuation centers of the affected communities.

Apex Mining also deployed geologist to Kidapawan in coordination with MGB-12 Regional Director Felizardo Gacad to conduct geohazard assessment and evaluation to the affected areas.



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House panel approves bills declaring Palawan, Biliran, Cotabato as mining-free zones

By CHARISSA M. LUCI-ATIENZA

The House Committee on Natural Resources has approved measures seeking to declare Palawan,

Biliran, and Cotabato as mining-free zones.

The House panel, chaired by Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga passed House Bills (HB) 1158, 1230 and 3119, principally authored by Palawan Rep. Gil Acosta, Biliran Rep. Gerardo Espina Jr. and Cotabato Rep. Jose "Ping-Ping" Tejada.

Acosta sought the final passage of his House Bill 1158, which seeks to declare the province of Palawan as a mining-free zone, to protect Palawan and its people against the adverse effects of mining.

"Mining in Palawan is said to have destroyed forests and caused siltation of water resources. While mining provides job opportunities for some the degree of damage to the earth, on the livelihood of farmers and Palawenos' general well-being has become exceptionally alarming," he said.

HB 1158 prohibits all forms of mining operations and activities within Palawan's territorial jurisdiction.

Violators of the proposed Act shall be slapped with six to 12 years of imprisonment and a fine ranging from ₱1 million to ₱10 million. Any public officer who violates the proposed Act shall be dismissed from service

and perpetually disqualified from holding public office, the bill said.

Espina also cited the need for Congress to expeditiously act on House Bill 1230, citing that mining has adverse effects to both humans and the environment.

He said his province is composed of two major volcanic islands and that Biliran's topography is enough evidence that mining will be destructive to the province.

"To prevent flash floods from recurring, mining operations must be totally prohibited," Espina said.

For his part, Tejada expressed hope that his bill would be given due consideration by both houses of Congress.

He noted that during the 17th Congress, it was approved by the House of Representatives on third and final reading and was transmitted to the Senate, which failed to pass it due to lack of material time.

"The catastrophic effects of mining are the conditions that our children and future generations will have to endure—a deadly inheritance abridging the right to life, livelihood, health and security," Tejada said.

"We are the world that we live in, and the people of the province of Cotabato choose to live free of mining," he pointed out.

Espina's HB 1230 and Tejada's HB 3119 have the same penalty provisions with that of Acosta's HB 1158.

The three bills task the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to formulate the implementing rules and regulations of the proposed Acts.



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MWSS: Declare Laguna Lake 'vital source of water'

Cabinet recommendation in anticipation of new water crisis

By Julie M. Aurelio
@JMAurelioINQ

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) wants Laguna Lake to be declared a "vital source of water" to be protected amid a water crisis that may strike anew in Metro Manila.

The MWSS made this and several other proposals during a Cabinet meeting presided by President Duterte on Wednesday night.

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said MWSS ad-

ministrator Emmanuel Salamat "sought that the Laguna Lake be declared as a vital source of water which needs protection and security."

Possible water shortage

It was one of several suggestions to help cushion the effects of a possible water shortage in Metro Manila, the second one to hit the metropolis this year.

Salamat also asked the Department of the Interior and Local Government to compel local government units to "expedite necessary permits to

meet timelines of the projects of the MWSS."

He also "suggested the need to secure assistance from other agencies to create a comprehensive water security plan" and proposed the creation of an interagency task force on water supply and sewerage.

Extraordinary powers

Last week, the President warned that he would exercise his extraordinary powers to implement the Kaliwa Dam project in Tanay, Rizal, as an alternative source of water for

Metro Manila.

Mr. Duterte said the people's right to water was the "greater concern" rather than the objections to the dam project, particularly its adverse effects on the environment.

Malacañang said Mr. Duterte was ready to take over the MWSS and private water concessionaires distributing water to thousands of households in Metro Manila.

In recent weeks, Maynilad Water Services and Manila Water have been implementing rotational water interruptions. INQ



MWSS proposes measures to address looming water shortage

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

To address the looming problem of water shortage, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) urged the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to compel local chief executives to expedite the necessary permits so the MWSS can meet the deadlines of their projects, Malacañang said.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said the MWSS made a number of proposals during the Wednesday evening Cabinet meeting to cushion the blow of the looming water shortage in Metro Manila.

According to Panelo, MWSS Administrator Emmanuel Salamat requested the issuance of department orders from the DILG to local chief executives to expedite the issuance of necessary permits to meet timelines of the projects of the MWSS.

He added that the MWSS also cited the need to secure assistance from other agencies to create a comprehensive water security plan and proposed the creation of an inter-agency task force on water supply and sewerage.

Panelo said Salamat also sought the declaration of Laguna Lake as a vital source of water which needs protection and security.

Last week, President Duterte warned that he would exercise his extraordinary

powers to address the water shortage problem to hit Metro Manila this year, even if it meant taking over the water concessionaires.

"I cannot just allow people to go about without water even for drinking," Duterte said.

"Expropriation, or outright police power. Wala. Just ganoon. Diretso (That's it. I'll handle it). You just go to court and file a case if you want. I am there and I will start to find a way to connect the water to the people," he added.

Duterte reiterated his warning to water concessionaires to shape up or ship out.

"I will go there and operate it myself. I will take over and I will direct what to do. Ganoon lang 'yan. Hindi niyo kaya? Sige ako. Umalis kayo diyan (That's it. You can't do it? Then leave. I will take over)," he said.

President Duterte warned water concessionaires early this year that the government would revoke their contract if they fail to address the water crisis that hit Metro Manila early this year.

The President also expressed support for the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project but insisted that it should have safeguards, saying he would rather have people have water than none at all because of complaints on how the project will destroy the environment.

The project in Tanay, Rizal is facing

opposition from environmental groups and local officials, saying it would displace Indigenous Peoples and will have an adverse effect on the environment.

"So kayong concern ninyo, local governments ganoon, it will pollute. I will just say to the, kung sinong magano (So if your concern is it will pollute. I will just say that whoever's in charge), you just place the safeguards," he said Monday evening.

"It might create some danger or damage but that is not my concern. My concern is the welfare. Ganito 'yan, the greatest good for the greatest number. That is democracy," he added.

The President said he could not just allow the people to go thirsty because of concerns for the environment.

"Sabihin papabayaang mong walang mainom? Tapos (You will let people to go thirsty) just because your environment will be spoiled. That will not be a good answer to me," Duterte said.

Earlier, Malacañang said the government could still rescind its contract with China for the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project if it would be proven that the project is disadvantageous to the country.

The Commission on Audit (COA) has also questioned the selection of the contractor for the Kaliwa Dam project, saying the results of its bidding was in the "guise of being a competitive procurement process."



MWSS: Declare Laguna Lake vital water source

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) wants to declare Laguna Lake as a "vital source of water" to help ease the water shortage in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, Malacañang said on Thursday.

Palace spokesman Salvador Panelo said MWSS chief Emmanuel Salamat made a number of proposals during the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

"In view of the looming water shortage, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Administrator Emmanuel Salamat requested the issuance of department orders from the Department of the Interior and Local Government to local chief executives to expedite necessary permits to meet timelines of the projects of the MWSS," Panelo said in a statement.

"[Salamat] suggested the need to secure assistance from other agencies to create a comprehensive water security plan; proposed that there be created an inter-agency task force on water supply and sewerage; and sought that the Laguna Lake be declared as a vital source of water which needs protection and security," he added.

Last week, Duterte

warned that he would exercise his "extraordinary powers" to address the water shortage in Metro Manila, even if it meant taking over the water concessionaires.

"I cannot just allow people to go about without water even for drinking," the President said.

Duterte also reiterated his warning to water concessionaires to shape up or ship out.

"I will go there and operate it myself. I will take over and I will direct what to do. *Hindi niyo kaya? Sige ako. Umalis kayo diyay* (You can't do it? Get out. I will take over)," he said.

Maynilad Water Service Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. started implementing rotational water interruptions last month because the water level in Angat Dam continued to drop.

In March this year, Duterte castigated officials of the MWSS and water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad over the water shortage that gripped parts of Metro Manila and Rizal province.

The President had claimed that the officials knew about the looming water shortage but did not act to prevent it from happening.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE



Department of Water dapat nang isabatas

KALIHIM NATIN



Karlo Nograles

TWITTER: @CabSec_Karlo

Noong nakaraang taon at maging nito lamang mga nakaraang buwan, nakaranas ng lubhang kakulangan sa suplay ng tubig ang Metro Manila at maging ang ilang karatig bayan sa lalawigan ng Cavite at Rizal.

Ang ilang mga tinuturing na sanhi ng krisis ay kakula-

ngan sa tubig-ulan na siyang dahilan ng pagbaba sa kritikal na level ng tubig sa Angat Dam na itinuturing na pangunahing pinagkukunan ng tubig ng mga residente ng Kalakhang Maynila.

Ang water crisis na ito ang nag-udyok sa ilang mga kongresista at senador para magpanukala ng batas sa paglikha ng Department of Water na inaasahang magiging pangmatalagalang katugunan sa hamon ng numinipis na supply.

Kinakatigan natin ang panukalang ito at panahon na para madaliin ang pagsasabatas sa Department of Water. Hindi nararapat na ipasailalim natin ng paulit-ulit ang ating

mga kababayan sa lubhang kakulangan ng tubig.

Ang Department of Water ay bahagi ng medium term plan ng administrasyong Duterte para magkaroon ng ginhawa sa nararanasang problema sa kakapusan ng suplay ng tubig sa Kalakhang Maynila at iba pang mga pangunahing lungsod sa bansa.

Binabalangkas na rin ang isang executive order na layong magpatupad ng reorganization sa lahat ng mga ahensya ng gobyerno na may kinalaman sa supply ng tubig. Ito ay bilang paghahanda sa pagbuo ng Department of Water na tinatrabaho ngayon ng Kongreso.

Batay sa panuka-

lang ito, ang pagpapatayo ng Department of Water ay hindi lamang nakatuon sa pangagalaga ng tubig kundi kasama na rin ang mahusay na pamamahala na may kinalaman sa irigasyon, sewerage at sanitasyon na sa kasalukuyan ay nakaatas sa magkakaibang sangay ng gobyerno.

Inaasahan natin na bago mag-Pasko ay tapos na itong pagdebatehan sa Kamara at makalulusot na ito sa ikatlong pagdinig sapagkat ipinangako ni House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano kay Pangulong Duterte na sa pagbalik ng kanilang sesyon ngayong Nobyembre hanggang Disyembre ay tatapusin nila ang naturang panukala.

Pagkatapos ng Kapaskuhan ay sa Senado naman didinggin ang panukalang Department of Water para kung sakaling mapagtibay ito ay agad na mapirmahan ni Pangulong Duterte. Sana ay magtuloy-tuloy na ang usad ng panukalang batas dahil magsisilbing pamasko ito ng liderato ng Kamara sa lahat ng mga residente sa Kamaynilaan.

Ang bubuuang Department of Water ang siyang mangangasiwa sa pagbibigay ng ligtas, mura at sapat na suplay ng tubig, maayos na sanitasyon at malinis na sewerage services, ganun na rin sa pagpapaunlad ng irigasyon sa iba't ibang panig ng bansa.

AS TRO LAPSES

Illegal Boracay

structures demolished

We need to clear the easement of obstructions and complete the circumferential road in Sitio Bulabog

By Jun N. Aguirre

The municipal government of Malay resumed the demolition of illegal structures built within the 25+5 meter shoreline easement in Bulabog beach after the temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by a local court expired.

Malay acting mayor Frolibar Bautista issued Executive Order 038, s. 2019 on 6 November directing all its concerned personnel to resume the demolition, stating that "due to the expiration of the effectivity of the Temporary Restraining Order, ... there is no further cause restraining the LGU from implementing the demolition orders issued by former Mayor Abram Sualog."

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, who co-chairs the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) with Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat and Interior and Local

Government Secretary Eduardo Año, said that the rehabilitation of Boracay requires the clearing of all obstructions for the widening and improvement of the island's circumferential road.

"We need to clear the easement of obstructions and complete the circumferential road in Sitio Bulabog," Cimatu said.

"Without the road, the garbage in that area cannot be collected; ambulance and fire trucks could not



also penetrate the area during emergencies."

Last 15 October, the Aklan Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 7 issued a 20-day TRO against the demolition of 10 residential and commercial buildings violating the 25+5 meter easement rule. The TRO expired on 4 November.

A vital component of Boracay's rehabilitation is the widening and improvement of the circumferential road, which is a three-phase project of the Department of Public Works and Highways intended to decongest road traffic, provide walkways

for tourists and locals, and make all roads passable for all types of emergency and logistic vehicles.

Owners of the 10 erring establishments along Bulabog Beach have filed a petition for preliminary injunction with the Aklan RTC against a demolition order dated 25 March 2019 and other related orders issued by the municipal government of Malay.

The establishments are Aira Beachfront Boracay Hotel, Ventoso Residences, Freestyle Academy Kite Surfing School, Kite Center at Banana Bay, Wind Riders Inn,

Pahuwayan Suites, Lumbung Residences, Boracay Gems, and Units 101 and 107 of Seven Stones Boracay Suites.

Since April 2018 when the Boracay rehabilitation started and the island was closed for six months, hundreds of resorts and other commercial establishments were made to comply with various environmental laws, including removing structures built on beach and road easements and requiring those with at least 40 rooms to have their sewage treatment facilities.

Maria Romero





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AHEAD OF HEARING ON INJUNCTION

CLEARING OF BORACAY'S BULABOG BEACH RESUMES

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
@inquirervisayas

ILOILO CITY—Personnel of a government task force on Thursday demolished structures on Boracay Island, four days before a court hearing on an injunction sought by property owners.

The Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG) led the demolition of parts of 10 commercial and residential buildings along Bulabog Beach in Barangay Balabag that were purportedly encroaching on the 30-meter beach easement.

The demolition was based on an executive order issued by acting Mayor Frolibar Bautista of Malay town, Aklan, according to Natividad Bernardino, the BIARMG general manager.

A 30-member demolition team, backed by about the same number of policemen, demolished sections of Aira Hotel, Ventoso Residences, Freestyle Academy Kite Surfing School, Kite Center at Banana Bay, Wind Riders Inn, Pahuwayan Suites, Boracay Gems, Unit 101 of 7 Stones Boracay Suites, Unit 107 of 7 Stones Boracay Suites, and Lumbung Residences.

"This is a tragedy. My clients are devastated and we do not understand the urgency of the demolition considering that we have a hearing on the case on Nov. 11," lawyer Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr., counsel of the prop-

erty owners, told the Inquirer.

Owners of the 10 residential and commercial structures had filed a civil complaint against the local government of Malay to declare the demolition orders as illegal and null and void.

"We built our houses and buildings with all government permits and clearances. We abide by all laws. But last year, they told us that we built on the easement. This is a failure of government, and not us and the private sector. How can this be right?" Rafael Claudio Zulueta III, the owner of Ventoso Residences, said.

Bernardino said there was no legal impediment for the implementation of the demolition order.

She said the 10 structures were the only ones remaining of the 52 establishments along Bulabog Beach that had not complied with the easement rules.

Judge Ronald Exmundo of the Regional Trial Court Branch 7 in Kalibo, Aklan, issued on Oct. 15 a 20-day temporary restraining order (TRO) directing the local government of Malay to "cease and desist" from implementing the demolition orders.

The TRO was in relation to the civil case filed by the property owners against the local government. It lapsed on Monday and Exmundo set a hearing on Nov. 11 on the petition for the issuance of a preliminary injunction. INQ



Cops eye 2 angles behind radio broadcaster's slay

By GLAZYL MASCULINO

BACOLOD CITY — The Dumaguete City Police Station in Negros Oriental is looking into work-related and land conflict as possible angles behind the killing of a radio broadcaster in the said city Thursday, Nov. 7.

Lt. Col. Wilfredo Alarcon, city police chief, said Dindo Generoso, 67, of Brgy. Banilad, who was a commentator in dyEM 96.7 Bai Radio, was reportedly known for hard-hitting commentaries in his radio program.

Alarcon said Generoso was recently receiving threats through phone calls, based on the statement of his family.

"He was possibly targeted because of his commentaries," Alarcon said.

Alarcon also said that the killing

might be related to land conflict because he was representing his family in a land dispute case.

"He (victim) was negotiating with another party regarding their land to be used for commercial purposes," he added.

Alarcon said the victim was driving his car on his way to work for his daily radio program when he was allegedly being tailed by two unidentified motorcycle-riding assailants from his house, who blocked his way at Brgy. Piapi, then he was shot.

The two assailants who were wearing full masks and helmets then fled, leaving Generoso, with nine gunshot wounds.

Generoso was rushed to a hospital, where he later expired.

Police recovered from the scene

seven fired bullets of .45 caliber pistol.

"Initially, we are looking at these angles, but we are still trying to dig deeper," Alarcon said.

Alarcon said they have yet to identify the perpetrators behind the killing.

Meanwhile, Dumaguete City mayor Felipe Remollo said he is saddened and outraged over the killing of Generoso.

"I am saddened and outraged by this dastardly act of cowardice which has no place in a decent society especially in a peace loving city of Dumaguete. I condole with Dindo's wife Nits, children and the rest of his family," Remollo said.

The mayor added that Generoso was a true friend and a pas-

enate mediaman and a genuine Dumagueteño! "I will not rest until the perpetrators are put to justice," he added.

The Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFoMS) also condemned the killing and said this dastardly deed will not go unpunished.

"Whoever is behind this senseless murder will be brought to justice," PTFoMS executive director Joel Egco said who is getting other sources of information from local media besides the ongoing police investigation.

Generoso was an anchor for development programs of the local government, including a controversial reclamation project that was halted by the DENR last week. His radio program in Bai Radio is sponsored by the city government of Dumaguete as an extension of its public information office. (With a report from Minerva BC Newman)



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HINDI natin gusto ang mga nagaganap sa hanay ng media sa nakalipas na isang buwan.

Panay ang pag-ambush o pagpatay sa ating mga kapatid sa propesyon.

Anak ng tipaklong, tatlo na ang pinatay habang nasa kritikal pang kalagayan ang isa.

Hanggang ngayon, walang mallaw na motibo.

'Yung isa, medyo nakikilala na ang suspek pero malabo pa rin ang sitwasyon kung kailan ito maaaresto.

DING LADAYO

Noong Setyembre 28, 2019, nasa harapan ng bahay nila sa Quezon City si Kuya Abdulrashid 'Ding' Ladayo Jr. na dating columnist natin sa Remate Express nang dikitan ng riding-in-tandem at pagbabarilin sa ulo at iba pang parte ng kanyang katawan.

Doon na rin nalagutan ng hininga si Kuya Ding o Ama ng kanyang mga nakababatang klasmeyst sa Polytechnic University of the Philippine Open University.

Nakapanghihinayang ang katulad ni Kuya Ding na isang lider at nagtrabaho sa iba't ibang opisina ng gobyerno.

Naging iskolar siya ng National Press Club at natapos niya ang Master in Communication sa PUPOU.

Hanggang ngayon, wala pang nakakamit na hustisya si Kuya Ding.

JUPITER GONZALES

Maghahating-gabi noong Oktubre 20, 2019 nang pagbabarilin si Gonzales ng isang gunman na tumakas makaraang isagawa ang krimen sakay ng isang motorsiklo sa Arayat, Pangpanga.

Kasama sa kotseng minamaneho ni Gonzales si Christopher Tiongson na namatay rin sa bala ng baril.

Kung ano ang motibo sa pamamamili, hindi pa malinaw pero ang mahalagang usapin, gaya ng nangyari kay Kuya Ding, pinatay ito at ang kanyang kasama kaya nararapat lang na hanapin natin para sa kani-ang hustisya.

Isang columnist natin sa Remate si Kuya Jupiter.

BENJIE CABALLERO

Katanghaliang tapat noong Oktubre 30 nang pagbabarilin naman sa



ULTIMATUM

NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

HUWAG MATAKOT SA MEDIA ATTACKS

Tacurong City, Sultana Kudarad si Benjie Caballero na correspondent din ng ating pahayagan at station manager ng Radyo ni Juan FM.

Nasa limang bala ang bumaon sa iba't ibang bahagi ng katawan ng kapatid natin sa propesyon.

Thanks God at naligtasan nito ang kamatayan.

Survivor si Caballero ng Ampatuan massacre.

Kasama siya noon dapat sa convoy pero bumalik sila dahil may nakalimutan sila sa hotel na tinulugan nila at tumindig na lang ang kaniyang balahibo nang mabalitaan nilang patay na pala ang kanyang 33 kasamahan sa Ampatuan massacre.

Kung ano ang motibo, hindi natin alam.

Pero masipag at very passionate si Caballero sa kanyang propesyon bilang mediaman.

DING GENEROSO

Kung tutuusin, hindi pa nahahawi ang usok ng mga baril na ginamit laban sa tatlong mediaman, heto na naman ang gumulantang sa atin na balita.

Pinagbabaril kaha-pon si Ding Generoso, broadcaster at block timer ng dyEM 96.7 Bai Radio sa Dumaguete City.

Dakong alas-7:00 ng umaga habang nagdrive siya ng kanyang kotse si Ding patungo sa kanyang istasyon nang ratratin ito ng riding-in-tandem.

Hindi rin natin alam ang mga motibo sa pagpatay sa kanya.

Pero itong Dumaguete City, sa kabila ng lungsod ng mga relihiyoso ay lumitaw na lungga pala ng mga sangkot sa droga at tila sentro ng droga sa rehiyon.

Kung may kaugnayan ang droga sa kanyang kamatayan bilang kritiko, wala pang nakatitiyak.

Subalit gaya ng paninindigan natin sa iba pang mga biktima ng media killings, hangad natin ang katarungan, anomang mga motibo.

AMPATUAN MASSACRE

Nakapanginginig na malaman ang lahat ng mga pagpatay sa mediamen sa kasalukuyan habang mabilis na dumarating ang Ampatuan massacre na naganap noong Nobyembre 23, 2009.

May namatay noon na 58 katao, kabilang na ang 33 mediaman, ilang kaanak at abogado ni ngayo'y Maguindanao Congressman Esmael Mangudadatu.

Ang Ampatuan massacre ang pinakamasahol na media killing sa buong mundo.

Simula noong 1986 na naibalik ang demokrasya, malapit na sa 200 ang mediamen na napapatay.

HINDI MATATAKOT

Sa kabila ng mga pamamaslang, walang nararamdamang takot ang higit na nakararami sa mediamen, lalo na ang mga sadyang pagbabalita ang piniling propesyon.

Ang kaluluwa ng pagbabalita ay ang kalayaan sa pamamahayag na kailanman ay hindi natin isusuko, maharap man tayo sa kamatayan at iba pang paghihirap.

Ang kalayaan nating maghayag ng ating mga hinaing sa pamahalaan, magbalita ng tama at patas ay lubhang mahalaga para sa ating lipunan na nabubuhay sa kalayaan at demokrasya.

Sa oras na umatras ang mediamen sa kani-ang tungkulin na magbalita at tumalakay sa lahat ng aspeto ng buhay, tapos na rin ang demokratiko at malayang bansa.

Kaya naman, tuloy lang, mga kapatid sa media, ang ating mga paghikbang sa pagbibigay-buhay at kahalugan ng kalayaan sa pamamahayag.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.