

DATE : 11-19-19

DAY : Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



#nationataglance

SOCCKSARGEN: SOUTH COTABATO AND
SULTAN KUDARAT

Cimatu orders probe on coffee plantation contract as IP community takes him to court

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Roy A. Cimatu has ordered a speedy investigation on the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) of agricultural company M&S CO. in South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat. He issued the directive after the indigenous peoples (IP) group T'boli-Manobo S'daf Claimants Organization (Tamasco) filed a case against him in court for alleged neglect of duty over the continued illegal operation of a coffee plantation in their ancestral domain. "I ordered our Legal Team to conduct thorough investigation and give priority on this," Mr. Cimatu said in a statement. M&S Co.'s IFMA covers about 29,000 hectares of public land for 28 years. It is an affiliate of the Consunji-led DMCI Holdings, Inc. and is operating the Dawang Coffee Plantation in South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, a part of which is under the ancestral domain of the IP. The company's IFMA supposedly expired in 2016, but was renewed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) without the consent of the T'boli and Manobo. A formal complaint was submitted to the DENR in July this year. The case against Mr. Cimatu was filed on November 15 at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court. The DENR chief said he has not approved the IFMA. "I fully disagree with the accusation of the group because this activity happened before my time," he said. "To date, I never approved any Integrated Forest Management

Agreement. If ever I need to approve, I will ensure that our indigenous peoples welfare will be given the utmost priority." —
Vincent Mariel P. Galang



Depar
Envi



01-19-19

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE

→CIMATU ORDERS SPEEDY IFMA 'ENCROACHMENT' PROBE

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has ordered legal experts of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to fast-track the investigation of the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (Ifma) of M&S Co. which operates a vast coffee plantation in South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

Cimatu has ordered the DENR's Legal Department to create a fact-finding team that will look into the controversial Ifma case that stemmed from the alleged encroachment of M&S Co's Dawang Coffee Plantation on the ancestral domain of the T'boli-Manobo S'daf Claimants Organization.

The DENR chief assured that under his watch, the DENR is giving priority to the right of Indigenous People, belying allegations that he had "neglected his duty" in failing to act with dispatch on the complaint that landed on his desk last July. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



Gov't clears Razon-led Wawa Dam water supply project

By IRIS GONZALES

The Duterte administration has approved the Wawa Bulk Water Supply project led by ports tycoon Enrique Razon.

During a meeting last week, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System approved the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project of WawaJVCO, ac-

ording to MWSS chairman Reynaldo Velasco.

WawaJVCO is the joint venture between Enrique Razon's Prime Infra and busi-

nessman Oscar Violago's San Lorenzo Ruiz Builders Group (SLRB).

The final approval of the remaining documents, which authorized MWSS Administrator Emmanuel Salamat to sign on behalf of the agency, materialized during the MWSS Board of Trustees meeting held last Nov. 14.

MWSS' green light came following the favorable opinion given by the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) on the project last Nov. 7.

The approval of the OGCC was the remaining document to make the project fully effective and allow the proponents to proceed with the development work.

Velasco said that the regulatory body is taking all the necessary steps to ensure that the country has enough supply in Metro Manila.

"I would like to assure the public that MWSS is doing everything in its power to address the current water crisis. We are committed to make sure that we have enough supply to meet the demands of the growing population in Metro Manila. I am sure the other government agencies who are mandated to issue permits will follow suit as

this is a priority project to solve the water crisis," Velasco said.

The Wawa Dam project will supply 80 MLD in 2021 and more than 500 MLD in 2025.

The project plans to utilize the Wawa catchment area in Rizal province as a source of the water.

The joint venture plans to pour in P15 billion up to P20 billion to develop the big-ticket water source.

Ayala-led water concessionaire Manila Water will be the off taker for the bulk water project.

The water source is strategically located to serve the expansion areas of Manila Water's east zone concession area.

The multi-billion peso project marks Razon's foray into the water business.

Razon said with the water problem in Metro Manila, there is a need to develop new water reservoirs.

The lack of water source for Metro Manila has put the water issue on the spot light.

Water concessionaires Manila Water and Pangilinan-led Maynilad Water Services Inc. have been pressing the government to develop new water sources to address the water supply crunch in Metro Manila.



MWSS approves Wawa water supply project

By JAMES A. LOYOLA

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has given its final approval for the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project of WawaJVCO, the joint venture between Enrique Razon's Prime Infra and businessman Oscar Violago's San Lorenzo Ruiz Builders Group (SLRB).

The final approval of the remaining documents, which authorized MWSS Administrator Emmanuel Salamat to sign on behalf of the agency, was given during the MWSS Board of Trustees meeting held on November 14, 2019.

"As promised to the public, the Board has already given its Final Approval for the Wawa Bulk Water Project," MWSS Chairman

Reynaldo Velasco said.

He noted that, "this is good news for everyone, not only for the proponents and stakeholders, but more importantly for the MWSS consumers. This will ensure water security for the greater Metro Manila area in the coming years."

The approval came in the light of the favorable opinion given by the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) last

November 7, 2019 on the remaining conditions precedent.

This approval is the remaining document to make the project fully effective and enable the project proponent to proceed in the development work.

"I would like to assure the public that MWSS is doing everything in its power to address the current water crisis. We are committed to make sure that we have enough

supply to meet the demands of the growing population in Metro Manila," Velasco said.

He added that, "I am sure the other government agencies who are mandated to issue permits will follow suit as this is a priority project to solve the water crisis."

The Wawa Dam Project will supply 80 MLD in 2021 and more than 500 MLD in 2025.



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

MWSS clears Wawa water project

By Jennifer B. Austria

State regulator Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System said Monday it approved the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project proposed by WawaJVCO—the joint venture of tycoon Enrique Razon and businessman Oscar Violago.

MWSS said in a statement the proposed Wawa Dam Project, which aims to supply 80 million liters per day of potable water in 2021 and more than 500 MLD in 2025, was approved during the meeting of the MWSS board of trustees on Nov. 14.

"As promised to the public, the board has already given its final approval for

the Wawa Bulk Water Project. This is good news for everyone, not only for the proponents and stakeholders, but more importantly for the MWSS consumers. This will ensure water security for the greater Metro Manila area in the coming years," MWSS chairman Velasco said.

The approval came in the light of the

favorable opinion given by the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel on Nov. 7 on the remaining conditions precedent. The approval was the remaining document to make the project fully effective and enable the project proponent to proceed in the development work.

"I would like to assure the public that MWSS is doing everything in its power to address the current water crisis. We are committed to make sure that we have enough supply to meet the demands of the growing population in Metro Manila," Velasco said.

"I am sure the other government agencies who are mandated to issue permits will follow suit as this is a pri-

ority project to solve the water crisis," he said.

WawaJVCo, a joint venture of Razon's Prime Infra and businessman Violago's San Lorenzo Ruz Builders Group, early this month signed a P20-billion term loan facility with BDO Unibank Inc. to umpstart the development of the project.

BDO Capital and Investments Corp. acted as the sole arranger and book runner for the deal.

The Wawa Dam Project is expected to help address the recurring water supply problem in Metro Manila.

WawaJVCo already signed an offtake agreement with Manila Water Co. Inc., the water concessionaire for the east zone of Metro Manila, on Aug. 6.



MWSS GREENLIGHT

Wawa walls water

woes

I am sure the other government agencies who are mandated to issue permits will follow suit as this is a priority project to solve the water crisis

By Maria Romero
@tribunephil_mbr

Metro Manila's drying water supply would soon be doused as water regulator Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) approved the seven-month delayed Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project.

The venture is under WawaJVCO, a partnership between Enrique Razon's Prime Infra and businessman Oscar Violago's San Lorenzo Ruiz Builders Group (SLRB).

The final approval of the remaining documents came during the MWSS Board of Trustees meeting on 14 November.

Signed by MWSS administrator Emmanuel Salamat on behalf of the agency, the approval came in the light of the favorable opinion given by the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) last 7 November on the remaining conditions present.

The go-signal also serves as a resolution to the long-standing legal issues between the MWSS and Prime Infra's joint venture partner SLRB. The issues had prevented the implementation of the bulk water supply project for 10 years now.

With this in place, project proponents can now proceed with the development work of Wawa Dam.



Seven-months ago, the Manila Water Co. (MWC) reported to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) that it had entered into an agreement with Prime

Turn to page A2

THE: Wawa walls water woes...

PAGE 11

2/2

01-19-19
DATE

Wawa walls water woes

The final approval of the remaining documents came during the MWSS Board of Trustees meeting on 14 November

From page A1

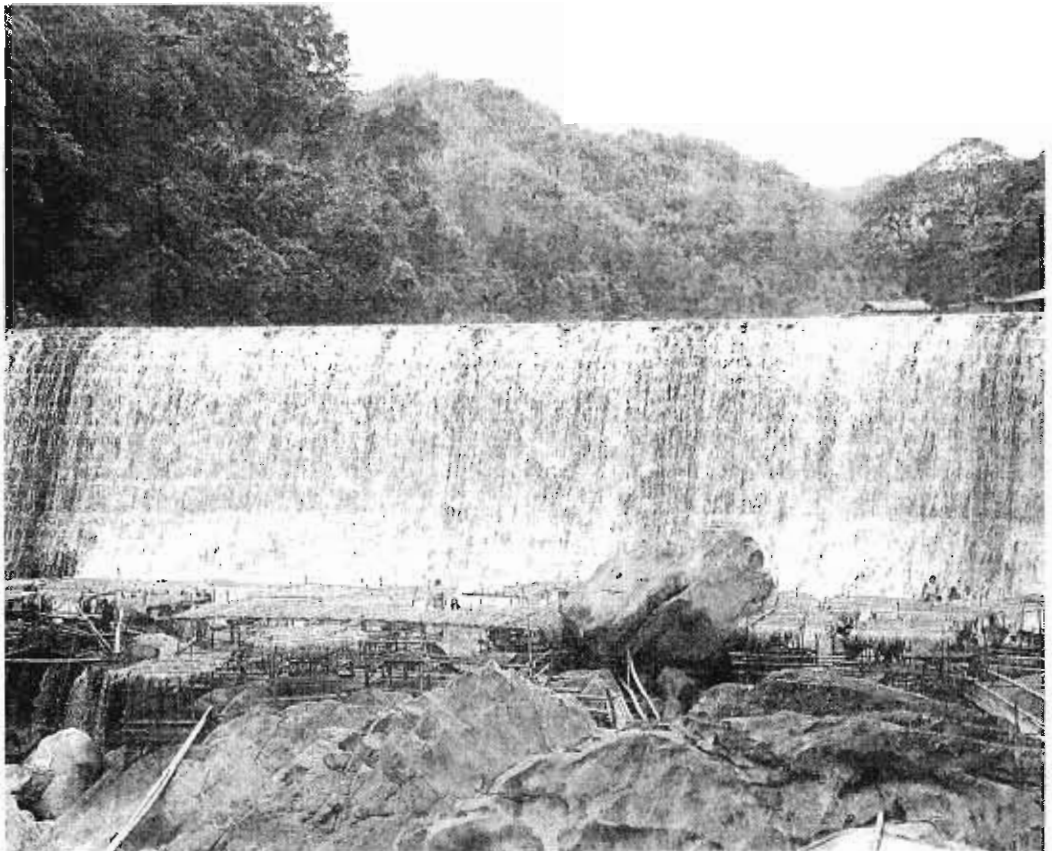
Infra for the Wawa JVCo.

"As promised to the public, the Board has already given its final approval for the Wawa Bulk Water Project," MWSS chairman Reynaldo Velasco said.

"This is good news for everyone, not only for the proponents and stakeholders, but more importantly for the MWSS consumers. This will ensure water security for the greater Metro Manila area in the coming years."

Velasco vowed that the MWSS would do everything in its power to address the current water crisis.

"We are committed to making sure that we have enough supply to meet the demands of the growing population in Metro Manila. I am sure the other government agencies who are mandated to issue permits will follow suit as this is a priority project to solve the water crisis," Velasco said.



FAMILIES enjoy the sights and waters of the Wawa Dam in Rodriguez, Rizal.

ANALY LABOR @facebook.com

The go-signal also serves as a resolution to the long-standing legal issues between the MWSS and Prime Infra's joint venture partner SLRB.

In terms of tariff, Velasco said the impact is expected to be very minimal considering the total systems cost of the treated water is cost effective compared to other water source options, as well as the strategic location of the water supply source within the east zone concession.

Velasco emphasized that water

security is one of the priorities of the Duterte administration of which the Wawa Dam Project is a significant part.

In an interview, MWC head of Corporate Communications Jeric Sevilla told *Daily Tribune* that they welcome the approval.

Sevilla said a new water source "will help augment the current supply in the short-term."

However, he underscored that the water regulator should also work to develop medium- to long-term water sources "to ensure the sustainability of water supply."

Apart from rainwater harvesting and water desalination plants, MWSS chief regulator Patrick Ty maintained that the construction of the China-funded Kaliwa Dam remains the government's long-term plan to solve the megacity's water shortage.

Set for completion in 2021, the Wawa Dam project is expected to add some 80 million liters per day (MLD) to MWC's supply. By 2025, the dam is projected to produce over 500 MLD.

It is considered as the largest water supply project to be implemented under the

Duterte administration.

The project involves the development of a water supply facility at the Wawa catchment area from Rodriguez Municipality to Antipolo City in Rizal Province to provide both raw and treated water to consumers and distributors in Metro Manila and nearby communities.

Wawa Dam was the first source of potable water for the metropolitan area before Angat Dam became the primary source.

Currently, Angat watershed

supplies 96 percent of water to Metro Manila and adjoining provinces such as Cavite, Rizal and Bulacan.

Based on the latest monitoring, water elevation in Angat Dam is at 187.75 meters, Ipo Dam at 100.50 meters and La Mesa Dam, 77.58 meters.

National Water Resources Board executive director Seville David Jr. warned that the water interruptions in Metro Manila may continue until next year's rainy season if Angat Dam's water level does not reach 190 MLD by yearend.



FILE:

PAGE 1/

Stronger 'Ramon' slams N. Luzon

By Villamor Visaya Jr.,
Yolanda Sotelo
and Jheset O. Enano
@Team_Inquirer

TUGUEGARAO CITY—More than 200 people in Cagayan were evacuated on Monday as Severe Tropical Storm "Ramon" (international name: Kalmaegi) barreled toward land, and was expected to hit the northern part of the province during the night or early morning.

Rogelio Sending Jr., Cagayan provincial information officer, said most of the evacuees were residents of flood- and landslide-prone areas in the towns of Santa Praxedes, Gattaran, Calayan and Dalupiri Island.

Storm warnings

Ramon intensified into a severe tropical storm on Monday, threatening several provinces in northern Luzon, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Ad-

ministration (Pagasa) said.

As of Monday afternoon, tropical cyclone signal No. 2 was up in Cagayan, including Babuyan Islands; Apayao; Kalinga; and the northern portion of Isabela province, including the towns of Santa Maria, San Pablo, Maconacon, Cabagan, Santo Tomas, Quezon, Delfin Albano, Tumauni and Divilacan.

The northern portion of Ilocos Norte province, including the towns of Pagudpud, Burgos, Bangui, Dumalneg and Adams, were also under signal No. 2.

Signal No. 1 had been raised in a number of provinces in northern Luzon, including Batanes, Ilocos Sur, Abra, Mountain Province, Benguet, Ifugao, La Union, northern Aurora, particularly Dilasag, Casiguran and Dinalungan towns, and the rest of Isabela.

As of 4 p.m. on Monday, Ramon's center was 125 kilometers east of Aparri, Cagayan, packing maximum winds of

100 km per hour and gustiness of up to 125 kph.

It was moving north-northwest at 10 kph and was expected to make landfall in northern Cagayan between Monday night and Tuesday morning.

The Cagayan provincial government called off school at all levels in both public and private sectors, and imposed a ban on the sale of liquor.

Schools were also shuttered at all levels on Monday in the towns of Conner, Pudtol and Calanasan in Apayao province and at all levels in the City of Ilagan in Isabela.

Michael Conag, a staff member at the Office of Civil Defense in Cagayan Valley, said the Ilagan-Divilacan road in Isabela was closed to traffic due to threats of landslides.

San Roque dam full

In Pangasinan province, the water at San Roque Dam in San Manuel town reached the spilling level of 280 meters above sea level (masl) **A7**

STRONGER 'RAMON' SLAMS NORTH LUZON

FROM A2

on Monday.

But Tom Valdez, San Roque Power Corp. vice president for corporate responsibility, said the spillway gates would not be opened soon as Ramon was not expected to dump heavy rain in the area.

He said in a phone interview that the National Power Corp. and Pagasa would monitor the rainfall and his company would comply if the two agencies would order water to be released from the dam.

San Roque Dam's carrying capacity is up to 290 masl, he said.

In 2009, however, the spillway gates were opened before the water level reached 290 masl, inundating 36 towns and cities in the province.

Pagasa weather specialist Aldczar Aurelio said light to moderate rain occasionally turning heavy could be expected on Tuesday in northern Cagayan, including Babuyan Islands, Batanes, Apayao and the northern portion of Ilocos Norte.

Low-pressure zone

Pagasa was also monitoring a low-pressure zone outside the Philippine area of responsibility.

As of 2 p.m. on Monday, it was 1,320 km east of the Visayas, posing no threat to any part of the country. **INQ**

TITLE :

PAGE 1/

ALOKASYON NG TUBIG PARA SA MWSS MANANATILI SA 40CMS HANGGANG DISYEMBRE

HUMAHANGA ang inyong lingkod sa pro-active na National Water Resources Board (NWRB) sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Dr. Sevilla David, Jr. bilang Executive Director. Tulad ngayon, bagama't may nagaganap na regulated water disruption sa mga tahanan na mula anim hanggang walong oras, magtitiyak naman ito na sasapat ang suplay natin ng tubig pagdating ng malinit na buwan ng bakasyon sa susunod na taong 2020. Kung hindi tayo magtitiis sa ngayon, mas tigmak tayo sa uhaw at kapos tayo sa malinis na tubig.

Naiintindihan naman ito ng ating mga kababayan, naipaliwanag namang mabuti ng ahensya. Habang isinusulat ko ito, ang level ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay 187.84 meters, 100.59 meters sa Ipo Dam, 77.58 meters sa La Mesa Dam at 17.47 meters sa Bustos Dam.

Sa ngayon, ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay mahigit na sa minimum operating

level na 180 meters, ngunit, mababa pa rin kung ikukumpara sa normal high water level (NHWL) na 210 meters, malayo pa rin sa end of the year target na 212 meters.

Noong nakalipas na taon sa kaparehas na araw (November 12, 2018), umabot na sa 203.26 meters ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam.

Ako ay nababahala dahil ikinumpara ang ulat ngayon araw, ang water level sa Angat dam ay nasa 187.84 meters lamang, kulang ng 24.16 meters base sa 212 normal high water level (NHWL). Maaabot kaya natin ang 212 NHWL bago magtapos ang taong 2019?

"Hinihikayat namin ang publiko na magtipid sa paggamit ng tubig, maging responsable at huwag aksayahin ang bawat patak ng tubig upang makabawas sa pangangailangan ng tubig mula sa Angat dam. Kailangang tumulong tayong lahat sa pagbawi at maitaas muli ang lebel ng tubig nito para may magamit

tayo sa susunod na panahon ng Tag-init", panawagan ni Executive Director David.

Kailangang ang pagtipid sa paggamit ng tubig, alamin ang konsumo sa tubig sa araw-araw na mga gawain, narito ang ilang gabay sa pagtipid ng tubig mula sa NWRB:

- * Tiyaking hindi tumutulo ang gripo
- * Magtipid ng tubig sa Pagligo
- * Diligin ang mga halaman bago sumiat ang araw sa umaga at dapithapon
- * Ipagbigay alam sa kinauukulan ang mga sirang tubp at illegal connctions
- * Gumamit ng baso sa pagsisipilyo
- * Mag-imbak ng tubig ulan
- * Maglaba nang minsanan upang hindi maaksaya ang tubig
- * Iwasan ang paghuhugas ng sasakyan araw-araw
- * Sa mga gusaling hindi ginagamit sa gabi, patayin ang gate valve sa gabi at buksan



DR. HILDA C. ONG

mulit ito sa umaga.

- * Magrecycle ng tubig
- * Magbigay lamang ng tubig sa mga customer ng hotel at kainan kung sila ay hihingi
- * Turuan ang mga kawani, empleyado, mag-aaral, o mga kasambahay kung paano sila makapagtipid ng tubig.
- * Maglaan ng puhunan

para sa bagong modelo ng mga toilet bowis na gumagamit lamang ng halos 2.6 hanggang 4 na litro bawat flush.

* Tanggalin ang mga tirang pagkain sa pinggan bago ito hugasan. Hangga't maaari gumamit ng planggana at maghugas nang minsanan upang makatipid sa tubig at sabon.

MAAGAP NA TAYO NG TUBIG

Walis ang ilang gabay sa pagtipid ng tubig:

	Magtipid sa pagtipid ng tubig Huwag magtipid ng tubig kung hindi mo ginagamit. Magtipid ng tubig sa mga customer ng hotel at kainan kung sila ay hihingi.		Magtipid sa pagtipid ng tubig Huwag magtipid ng tubig kung hindi mo ginagamit. Magtipid ng tubig sa mga customer ng hotel at kainan kung sila ay hihingi.
	Magtipid sa pagtipid ng tubig Huwag magtipid ng tubig kung hindi mo ginagamit. Magtipid ng tubig sa mga customer ng hotel at kainan kung sila ay hihingi.		Magtipid sa pagtipid ng tubig Huwag magtipid ng tubig kung hindi mo ginagamit. Magtipid ng tubig sa mga customer ng hotel at kainan kung sila ay hihingi.
	Magtipid sa pagtipid ng tubig Huwag magtipid ng tubig kung hindi mo ginagamit. Magtipid ng tubig sa mga customer ng hotel at kainan kung sila ay hihingi.		Magtipid sa pagtipid ng tubig Huwag magtipid ng tubig kung hindi mo ginagamit. Magtipid ng tubig sa mga customer ng hotel at kainan kung sila ay hihingi.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD



Primer CSR's newest campaign to reduce single-use plastic use

PRIMER CSR, the company's corporate social responsibility arm, launched its 'RefillAndRefrain' campaign at its R.O.X. (Recreational Outdoor eXchange) store in Bonifacio High Street, Taguig City last November 7. Part of the campaign is the unveiling and installation of water dispensers at the said store, which will also be done in Bratpack at Greenbelt 5 (Makati), Columbia store at SM Mall of Asia (Pasay City), and The Travel Club stores at Trinoma (Quezon City) and at South Mall

(Muntinlupa City).

More water refilling stations will be placed in other Primer Group stores all over the country. Using the MyRefillBottle app, which is available for download from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, will help people identify the refilling stations near them.

Primer CSR partnered with Hydro Flask Ph and RefillMyBottle — a community that created an online map that identifies water refilling stations across Southeast Asia — for the campaign to

materialize. The RefillAndRefrain program hopes to inspire Filipinos to do away with single-use plastics by encouraging people to use reusable containers when they refill water and refrain from using single-use plastics to reduce plastic pollution.

Environment advocates who took part in the campaign launch and the unveiling of the water dispenser and ceremonial water refill were ABS-CBN president for creative programs Ernie Lopez, World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Philippines project manager Paolo Pagaduan, Miss Earth 2017 Karen Ibasco, and representatives from the Pasig River Rehabilitation Center (PRRC).

According to Noel Duldulao, Primer Group of Companies' chief of staff, everyone is welcome to use the water refilling stations in their stores. "We'll be placing these near the entrances of stores and people are not obliged or required to purchase an item. We only require them to use reusable containers."



SMC uses biodegradable plastic packaging

SAN Miguel Corporation (SMC) is set to become the first Filipino company to utilize fully-certified biodegradable plastic packaging.

The company said it is tapping a local firm that has been developing and testing the technology for the last five years, which SMC is initially set to use for food and non-food products, such as cement and feed sacks, grocery bags and food and other single-use plastic packaging.

The move will be the newest addition to San Miguel's sustainable business models, which include the zero-waste returnable glass bottle system, and manufacturing processes following circular economy principles--where by-products are re-

used to create other products.

SMC president and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang said that it is partnering with Philip-

pine Bioresins Corporation, a small but innovative company, that has successfully developed and tested biodegradable plastics.



Zambo City bans single-use plastics on Sta. Cruz Islands

ZAMBOANGA CITY (PNA) – Starting Wednesday (November 20), the city government will ban the entry and usage of single-use plastics on the Great and Little Sta. Cruz islands as a strategy of solid waste management program within the protected area.

The Great and Little Sta. Cruz islands have been declared Protected Landscape and Seascape by virtue of Proclamation No. 271 issued on Apr. 23, 2000.

Assistant City administrator Cesar Raz said guests going to Sta. Cruz Island will be advised to bring their own containers, canisters, baskets, eco-bags, and all other reusable wares for their provisions and refreshments.

To ensure compliance, Raz said inspections will be done prior to or during the boarding at the Paseo del Mar.

Single-use plastics that will not be allowed are the following: plastic bags, plastic cups, spoon, fork, and the likes;

Styrofoam cups and Styrofoam packed meal containers; plastics from frozen items (ice and iced candies) and water bottles.

He said chips, curls, wrapped candies, and chocolates must be transferred to a reusable container for convenience while paper cups without plastic skins or films will only be allowed after inspection.

Hundreds of tourists visit the island, especially the Great Sta. Cruz Island, which boasts of being the only pink sand beach in the country. Sta. Cruz Island, which is part of Barangay Sta. Barbara, is four kilometers south of mainland Zamboanga City.

Meanwhile, Raz said the people's organization of Sta. Cruz Island has given the opportunity to sell and rent out the needed and relevant utensils and wares as an alternative in cases guests failed to prepare prior to their visit to the island.



PAGGAMIT NG PLASTIK IPAGBAWAL

BIBIGYAN ng pansin ni President Duterte ang kahalagahan ng kalikasan dahil pinag-iisipan umano niyang ipagbawal ang paggamit ng plastik sa ating bansa.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo, sa isang pagpupulong ng Gabinete ay si Duterte mismo ang nagpalutang ng ideya na i-ban ang paggamit ng plastik upang maprotektahan ang kalikasan at makontrol ang epekto nito sa climate change.

Dahil suportado ito ng Pangulo, hindi na raw kataka-taka kung sertipikahan niya ang panukala.

May lumabas na ulat tungkol sa polusyon kaugnay ng plastik noong 2015 na nagsasabing ang Pilipinas ay pumapangatio sa mga pinagmumulan ng plastik na nakitang nagpaparumi sa mga karagatan. Sumusunod tayo sa China at Indonesia.

Ang desisyon ay resulta ng pa-

kikipagpuong ni Duterte sa isang summit sa Thailand sa ibang mga lider ng Southeast Asia na may dedikasyon na labanan ang polusyon sa karagatan.

Naniniwala ang mga lider na ang mga basura sa karagatan ay problemang pangkalahatan at ang pagtutulong-tulong ng mga bansa ay kailangang palakasin para ito ay malabanan.

Nangako si House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Cavite Representative Elpidio Barzaga Jr. na tatalakayin nila ang mga naka-pending na panukala sa paggamit ng plastik dahil sa negatibong epekto nito sa kalikasan at kalusugan na rin ng mga tao.

Aanyayahan daw nila ang mga stakeholder, kabilang na ang Association of the Plastic Manufacturers in the Philippines at mga ahensya ng pamahalaan na may kinalaman sa lehisasyon tulad ng Department



of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH) at ibang grupong maka-kalikasan na nais ipagbawal o makontrol ang paggamit ng plastik.

Habang naghahanda ang Kongreso na magpasa ng batas ukol dito ay hinimok ni Barzaga ang DILG at pati ang Department of Education (DepEd) na maglunsad ng kampanya laban sa paggamit ng plastik.

Sa ngayon, may dalawang naka-pending na panukala sa Senado na nai-file nina Senators Cynthia Villar at Francis Pangilinan na nag-nanais na i-ban ang paggamit ng plastik at pagbibigay nito sa mga

kostumer sa mga tindahan, palengke at retail shops.

Sa halip, ang mga konsyumer ay ididirekta sa paggamit ng materyales na muli nilang magagamit. Ang mga manufacturer naman ay oobligahin na mangolekta, mag-recycle at magtapon ng plastik na ginagamit at umiikot sa merkado.

Tama lang at napapanahon ang desisyon ni Duterte. Bukod sa napopollute ang karagatan, plastik ang minsang ikinamamatay ng mga laman-dagat dahil nakakain nila ito.

Ituon naman natin ang atensyon sa mga kawawang laman-dagat at ang pagbibigay ng proteksyon sa kanila dahil hindi nila ito puwedeng kayanin nang sila-sila lang.



EDITORIAL

Defile nature, deface capital?

ANATION's natural resources are both a source of inspiration and a reason to be grateful for the Almighty's bounties.

That nation's capital, on the other hand, is a center of pride, honor, and prestige.

It should be a showcase of the best that the rest of the country can offer.

But why do we seem to neglect these basic concerns as citizens endowed with so much natural gifts?

In an effort to save the environment, President Duterte has broached the idea of prohibiting the use of plastics in the country, Malacañang has said.

The President raised the proposal during his "productive" discussions with Cabinet members at Malacañan Palace.

"The President floated the idea to ban the use of plastics, which according to him would require legislative action," Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said in a statement.

Panelo noted that it was Vernice Victorio, president and chief executive officer of the Natural Resources Development Corp., who touched on the plastic pollution when she presented to the President and the Cabinet the Priority Programs for Environment and Climate Change Resiliency.

NRDC is a state corporation attached to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The Philippines uses a "shocking" amount of single-use plastic, including nearly 60 billion sachets a year, according to a March 2019 article published by Agence France-Presse, quoting the report by non-government organization Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives.

The report found that almost 48 million shopping bags are used throughout the Philippines daily, adding up to more than 17 billion a year.

It noted that the figure excludes around 16.5 billion smaller, thinner, and transparent plastic bags used every year across the country.

Meanwhile, Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso wants to turn Manila into a shining, shimmering, squeaky clean - in the broadest sense of the word - capital worthy of the company of its peers in Asia.

He won't allow it to be turned into the country's Crooks' City, Thug Town, Hoodlum's Haven.

Vagrants, vandals, vice lords have no place in the city.

And the mayor can be unforgiving to social deviants scofflaws.

And so he has rejected the apology of cultural youth group Panday Sining which defaced the newly-painted and cleaned Lagusnilad Underpass located near the Manila City Hall.

In a video message, Domagoso said Panday Sining's act, which the group considered as a "form of art," is unacceptable.

"You are allegedly seeking forgiveness. You asked for it on your Facebook account," Domagoso said in a video uploaded Friday on Facebook page named Isko Moreno Supporters.



JOE'S TAKE

Ni Joe Zaldivar

TIGILAN NA ANG PAGGAMIT NG PLASTIK

BILANG bahagi ng kanilang mga sustainability initiative, lumahok ang Meralco sa kampanya ng gobyerno para iligtas ang kalikasan sa pamamagitan ng pagbabawal sa paggamit o pagdadala ng mga single-use plastic (SUP), polystyrene foam o styrofoam, at iba pang mga katulad na bagay, sa kanilang mga opisina at mga corporate event simula noong October 1, 2019.

Kamakailan lang ay inanunsiyo naman ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagsuporta niya na ipagbawal ang mga plastik na materyales upang makabawas sa polusyon at mailigtas ang kalikasan

mula sa malawakang pagkasira.

Ayon sa tagapagsalita ng Pangulo na si Atty. Salvador Panelo, napaisip ang Pangulo kung dapat ba niyang i-certify as urgent ang bill ng pagbabawal sa paggamit ng plastik dahil sa malubhang naidudulot ng mga ito sa ating kapaligiran.

"The President has floated that idea. It's for the members of Congress to adopt it, use their initiative to have that kind of idea bear fruition," sabi ni Atty. Panelo sa isang panayam.

Sa halos limang dekada, integral na parte ng ating buhay ang paggamit ng mga bagay na gawa sa plastik. Mula sa mga kasingkapan sa bahay

hanggang sa mga plastik bag para sa groceries, sa mga piyesa ng sasakyan hanggang sa laruan ng mga bata, eh talagang naging bahagi na ito ng ating buhay. Ngunit kung noon ay talagang nakasanayan na at tanggap ang kahalagahan nito sa mundo, ngayon naman ay ang kabaligtaran dahil sa malubhang pinsala na maaaring idulot nito sa ating kalikasan.

Alam naman nating lahat na hindi biodegradable ang plastik, ibig sabihin nito ay ang itinapon nating mga plastik ay hindi matutunaw at mananatili lang dito sa ating kapaligiran sa loob ng ilan pang dekada.

Ang tantiya ng iba ay halos apat na milyong toneladang basura ang nakakalap kada araw sa buong mundo, halos 12.8% nito ay gawa sa plastik na siyang sumisira sa ating mga lupain, hangin, at katubigan. Ang mga plastik na itinapon sa mga landfill ay nagko-contaminate ng mga masasamang kemikal sa lupa at tubig, saman-

talang ang masamang epekto naman nito sa ating mga karagatan ay hindi kayang sukatin.

Nais gawan ng mga kaukulang hakbang ng House Committee on Natural Resources ang pagbabawal sa paggamit ng mga plastik sa bansa. Sa kabuuan, napakagandang hakbang ito para sa ating bansa at sa ating kalikasan.

Sakto lang din ang timing ng pagkilos ng ating gobyerno laban sa paggamit ng mga plastik, na sumabay rin naman sa inisyatibo ng Meralco na ipagbawal ang mga SUP.

Kailan lang ay nakausap ko si DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na pinuri ang pagkilos ng Meralco laban sa paggamit ng plastik. Si Usec Antiporda ang siyang nangunguna sa solid waste management efforts ng ating gobyerno. Nabanggit niya na ang pagtigil sa paggamit ng plastik ay mahalagang panimula upang pangalagaan ang ating kalikasan. Bukod dito, mahalaga rin na magkaroon ng isang matindi at

epektibong waste management system.

Ayon kay Usec Antiporda, kritikal ang pagsulong ng isang efficient na waste management system. Sa katunayan, ang Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 ay nagbibigay ng isang comprehensive ecological solid waste management program sa pamamagitan ng pagbuo ng mga kinakailangang mekanismo at insentibo, paglalaan ng pondo, pagbabawal sa maling mga gawain, at pagtakda ng mga multa sa mga lalabag sa batas na ito.

Kailangang magtulong-tulong tayo at itulak ang pagsunod sa batas na ito.

Sang-ayon ako kay Usec Antiporda na dapat makipagtulungan ang pribadong sektor sa ating lokal na pamahalaan at bumuo ng solid waste management plan. Ang unang hakbang dito ay ang paglapit nila sa Solid Waste Management Division ng DENR.

Hinihimok ni Usec

Antiporda ang local government units (LGUs) na bumuo ng kani-kanilang 10-year solid waste management plan upang makatulong sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan. Kapag ito ay na-develop at naipatupad na, doon lang natin makakamit ang ating mga pangarap na magkaroon ng isang malinis na bansa.

Bukod sa pagbawas ng kanilang kontribusyon na plastik sa mga landfill, layunin din ng Meralco na turuan ang mga empleyado at mga ka-negosyo nito ng tamang paraan ng pag-dispose ng mga plastik para sa isang sustainable na ekonomiya, at magiging udyok na rin para sa isang lifestyle change.

Ayon sa isang report ng United Nations Environment Program, hindi na makasabay ang buong mundo upang ma-dispose ang mga basurang gawa sa plastik. Halos 9% lang ng 9 trilyong kilo ng na-produce na plastik sa mundo lamang ang nai-recycle. Ang hindi nai-recycle naman ay natiwan lang sa mga

landfill, tambakan, o kung saan-saan na lang.

Kung walang pagbabago sa ating mga gawain, sa taong 2050 ay tinatayang magkakaroon na ng halos 12 trilyong kilo ng basurang gawa sa plastik ang matatagpuan sa mga tambakan at sa aking kapaligiran.

Hindi lang naman tayo ang nagsisimulang kumilos laban sa plastik, mayroon ding mga pagkilos na nagaganap sa buong mundo.

Kagaya ng aking sinabi sa nauna kong column, napakasarap makita kung paano kumilos ang ibang mga bansa at siyudad upang protektahan ang ating kalikasan at labanan ang polusyon.

Marami nang mga pagsisikap at pagkilos ang naganap upang mabawasan ang polusyon na naidudulot ng paggamit ng plastik. Umaasa ako na magkakaisa ang lahat at magtutulongan kung paano mabisang masolusyunan ang ating problema sa plastik upang mapangalagaan ang ating kalikasan hindi lang para sa atin, kundi para sa mga susunod pang henerasyon.



BIBIGYAN ng pansin ni President Duterte ang kahalagahan ng kalikasan dahil pinag-iisipan umano niyang ipagbawal ang paggamit ng plastik sa ating bansa.



FIRING LINE

ROBERT B. ROQUE, JR.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo, sa isang pagpupulong ng Gabinete ay si Duterte mismo ang nagpalutang ng ideya na i-ban ang paggamit ng plastik upang maprotektahan ang kalikasan at makontrol ang epekto nito sa climate change.

Dahil suportado ito ng Pangulo, hindi na raw kataka-taka kung sesertipikahan niya ang panukala.

May lumabas na ulat tungkol sa polusyon kaugnay ng plastik noong 2015 na nagsasabing ang Filipinas ay pumapangatlo sa mga pinagmumulan ng plastik na nakitang nagpaparumi sa mga karagatan. Sumusunod tayo sa China at Indonesia.

Ang desisyon ay resulta ng pakikipagpulong ni Duterte sa isang summit sa Thailand sa ibang mga lider ng Southeast Asia na may dedikasyon na labanan ang polusyon sa karagatan.

Naniniwala ang mga lider na ang mga basura sa karagatan ay problemang pangkalahatan at ang pagtutulong-tulong ng mga bansa ay kailangang palakasin para ito ay malabanan.

Nangako si House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Cavite Representative Elpidio Barzaga Jr., na tatalakayin nila ang mga naka-pending na panukala sa paggamit ng plastik dahil sa negatibong epekto nito sa kalikasan at kalusugan na rin ng mga tao.

Aanyayahan daw nila ang mga stakeholder kabilang ang Association of the Plastic Manufacturers in the Philippines at mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan na may kinalaman sa lehislyasyon tulad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health

Paggamit ng plastik ipagbabawal

(DOH) at ibang grupong makalikasan na nais ipagbawal o makontrol ang paggamit ng plastik.

Habang naghahanda ang Kongreso na magpasa ng batas ukol dito ay hinimok ni Barzaga ang DILG at pati ang Department of Education (DepEd) na maglunsad ng kampanya laban sa paggamit ng plastik.

Sa ngayon, may dalawang naka-pending na panukala sa Senado na nai-file sina Senators Cynthia Villar at Francis Pangilinan na nagnanais i-ban ang paggamit ng plastik at pagbibigay nito sa mga kostumer sa mga tindahan, palengke at retail shops.

Sa halip, ang mga konsumer ay ididirekta sa paggamit ng mga materyales na muli nilang magagamit. Ang mga manufacturer naman ay oobligahin na mangolekta, mag-recycle at magtapon ng mga plastik na ginagamit at umiikot sa merkado.

Tama lang at napapanahon ang desisyon ni Duterte. Bukod sa napo-pollute ang karagatan, plastik ang minsang ikinamamatay ng mga laman-dagat dahil nakakain nila ito.

Ituon naman natin ang atensiyon sa mga kawawang laman-dagat at ang pagbibigay ng proteksiyon sa kanila dahil hindi nila ito puwedeng kayanin nang sila-sila lang.

SHORT BURSTS. Para sa mga komento o reaksiyon, mag-email sa firingline@ymail.com o mag-tweet sa @Side_View.



TITLE:

PAGE 17

DATE

Uphill reforms



REFORM is never as easy to do as it sounds. While very few will dispute the idea of reform itself, it becomes quite another matter when you go ahead and try to RE-FORM something or someone, to reshape "what is" into "what ought to be," especially after years, or centuries, of having been "what was."

This is especially true in our country, where changing "what was" is burdened not only by natural human aversion to risk and uncertainty, but also by our own Filipino habit of clinging to what is traditional and familiar. This is fed to a large extent by our manana mentality—"what will be, will be"—but also by the innate conservatism of the Catholic faith that unites so many of us.

Unfortunately for us, the secular world is not—yet—the kingdom of heaven on earth. We are continually called to remake the old into the new, burdened in this task by our own scarcity of resources and good will to each other. But tarrying, not changing, can be even more dangerous, because it deters us from—in the process of changing the world—becoming better persons ourselves.

A case in point is the current uproar over rice imports and tariffication. How easily we've forgotten those bad old days when we often had to line up for rice that was available only at exorbitant prices, or when millions of tons of rice spoiled inside government warehouses because of poor procurement and stocking, or when stories came out about rice hoarding by traders or corruption inside the NFA.

It got to the point where rice malnutrition had become a real threat to the children of the poor. If only for that reason, one simply can't fault the decision by this administration to finally open up the industry and make cheap imported rice readily available to all those malnourished poor children, while at the same time raising tariff

revenues from those imports that could fund safety nets for affected poor rice farmers.

Unfortunately, every reform must deal with its counter-reformers. A recent initiative, supported by a coalition of leftist party-listers, NFA employees, and rich rice farmers—no surprises there!—wants to repeal the rice tariffication law and put all those malnourished children at risk again. It's a vocal coalition, loud enough to provoke the President into suspending, for now, the operation of that law.

"Tarrying, not changing, can be even more dangerous, because it deters us from—in the process of changing the world—becoming better persons ourselves."

We trust that Duterte will stand his ground on not repealing the law outright, which he correctly points out could lead to a "food crisis." His common-sense position also reflects his very democratic respect for the rule of the majority—millions of rice consumers—over the complaints of a minority—who certainly deserve to be heard, or even cushioned by special arrangements, but certainly not to overrule the good of the majority.

Less spectacular—though just as innovative—is the appointment by the DENR of a thousand "estero rangers" who will patrol some 279 waterways traversing 711 barangays of Metro Manila. Their remit is to clean the trash traps, prevent more trash dumping especially by the informal settlers who live by these esteros, and hopefully inculcate more responsible behavior by these communities.

We've all seen those embarrassing photos of Manila's waterways clogged by trash, mostly plastic items. I remember a story told me, years ago, by green activist Orly Mercado about how he

had once ordered the military to clean up the esteros during his stint as Defense secretary under former President Erap. Well, cleaned up they were, but after six months they were again just as trash-clogged as before.

Changing the culture of the communities concerned is clearly the only permanent solution. It seems that the new estero rangers won't be armed, nor will they have the power to arrest. But we hope that their mere presence along the esteros, by dint of example and reminders, will persuade offenders to mend their ways.

It's the same story with clearing the roads, or no smoking or drinking in public, or obeying traffic rules, or clearing the barangays of drugs, one by one. These are reforms on the ground, day to day, that the Duterte administration might be more profitably remembered for. We can only wish the best of luck to DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu—a former AFP chief of staff—with his new army of rangers and missionaries of better behavior.

Today's readings present us with two exemplars of faith, although quite different from each other. In the first reading (2 Mc 6: 18-31), we meet the venerable Eleazar, who is being forced by the king to demean his faith by agreeing to eat pork. Even to save his own life, he will not simply pretend to eat the meat, but instead chooses martyrdom in order to set a noble example for the young.

In the Gospel (Lk 19: 1-10), the despised tax collector Zacchaeus receives Jesus into his house and promises the Lord to give half his wealth to the poor as well as compensate, four times over, those whom he extorted. Jesus declares in response that "salvation has come to this house," reminding us that a great act of faith and charity is redemptive no matter how well or how poorly one has lived life before.

In the runup this week to the celebration of Christ the King on the last Sunday of ordinary time in the Church calendar, it is good to look to these two models of faith in a Lord whose Advent lies around the corner.

Readers can write me at gbolivar1952@yahoo.com.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

**Daily
Tribune**
www.DailyTribune.com



02-19-19
DATE

FILE:

PAGE 17

Boracay rescuers get British training

By Jun N. Aguirre

BORACAY ISLAND — The British Embassy in Manila has committed to provide trainings on paramedics and anti-terrorism for personnel and members of the Boracay Fire Rescue and Volunteers Incorporated (BFRAV).

Rod Bachillier, of BFRAV, said that the commitment was made by the British Trauma Training Team.

The team visited the BFRAV Monday morning to discuss the proposal and details of the training being eyed.

"The details of the training are yet to be finalized with our head Leonard Tirol. The training is expected to last until February of next year," Bachillier said.

"Trainings on trauma care were also discussed," he added.

Apart from personnel and member-volunteers of BFRAV, the training will also include those coming from the Joint Task Force Boracay, Philippine National Police and other agencies.

The BFRAV is a private based volunteer and humanitarian group operating in the island-paradise of Boracay.



138 Olive Ridley hatchlings released at Pico de Loro Cove



SM Prime's premier eco-tourism development, Hamilo Coast continues to be a haven for sea turtles. Out of five marine turtle species residing in the Philippines, three can be found in the area – the Olive Ridley, Green and Hawksbill.

Approximately 138 newly hatched Olive Ridley turtles were most recently released as of November 2019 to the coastal waters of Pico Beach in Hamilo

Coast. These are always much-celebrated events as the Olive Ridley turtle is the most abundant yet the most vulnerable due to poaching and pollution. More turtle nests are expected to hatch by the yearend.

Data from the Hamilo Coast Sustainability Team shows that an average of five (5) nest sightings are recorded per year, particularly during the hatching season of August to December. Actual

nests are indicated by tracks left by the mother turtle. Unfortunately, these traces are easily washed away by rain and waves, hence locating these nests can sometimes be difficult. According to the Hamilo Coast Sustainability Team, "The coves of Hamilo Coast are nesting grounds for these turtles to lay their eggs. We proactively monitor and protect these nests until the eggs hatch and the hatchlings are immediately released. Protecting the nests will help keep predators away, thereby increasing these gentle creatures' survivability rate and chances of growing to maturity".

Sadly, only 1 in 1,000 hatchlings will survive to adulthood. Turtles mistake plastic for jellyfish, a mainstay in their normal diet. As a result, many turtles die due to suffocation and indigestion - truly another strong argument against throwing trash indiscriminately and using single-use plastics.

Providing a safe haven for nesting turtles is but one of the many sustainability initiatives of Hamilo Coast. Other programs to sustain and conserve the marine environment include the declaration of select coves as Marine Protected Areas, marine mammal rescue training, and cultivation of true giant clams.



#nationataglance

DAVAO: MATI CITY, DAVAO ORIENTAL DENR, Indonesian Consulate plan return of poached birds, other endangered animals



DENR-11

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources-Davao (DENR-11) regional office and the Indonesian Consulate are planning the return of poached birds and

REPRESENTATIVES from the DENR-Davao and Indonesian Consulate in Davao City visit the recovered animals at the privately-owned Davao Crocodile Park, where the birds and other animals were turned over for safekeeping.

other animals that were confiscated in the coastal city of Mati, Davao Oriental last April. DENR-11, in a statement, said they met last week with the Indonesian group led by Davao City-based Consul Henry Mulyani to discuss the "possible repatriation" of the wildlife species that come mostly from Indonesia. If it pushes through, DENR said, "it will be the first in the region and the Philippines to return rescued wildlife species (to) its country of origin."



ENDANGERED

There were 447 animals confiscated during the raid, which could be worth thousands of pesos when sold in the black market. Among the identified species were Black Palm Cockatoos, wallabies and

Echidna. DENR said most of the recovered species are categorized as *endangered based on the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)*. The raid was carried out by Task Force POGI (Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade) composed of representatives from the DENR, National Bureau of Investigation, police, and the army. The two caretakers who have been looking after the animals for about a week before the raid were arrested.



Mine safety, environment natl confab kicks off in Baguio City

IN the wake of the spate of earthquakes that rocked Southern Philippines, various stakeholders, including mining's big players and allied industries, will gather for the Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference (ANMSEC) in Baguio City.

Billed as the forerunner in the promotion of occupational safety and health, environmental management and social responsibility, the ANMSEC is organized by the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA).

The 66th ANMSEC, from November 19 to 22 at the CAP, Camp John Hay Trade and Cultural Center, commemorates 66 years of responsible mining.

"We've prepared an array of activities that highlights mining's best practices and commitment to mine safety and environment of member-companies," Dr. Walter Brown, president of PMSEA, said in a statement.

This year's gathering is seen as an opportunity for mining companies and and mining-support industries

to affirm their commitment to ensuring mine and environmental safety with the social responsibility to respond to disasters such as the recent Mindanao earthquakes in mind.

PMSEA-member mining companies were among the first to respond to the disaster in Mindanao, where a series of strong earthquakes in just two weeks in October claimed the lives of 22 people.

The four-day event will be capped by dinners, welcome night and cocktails, mining night for guests and participants.

The event will be highlighted by the awarding of the Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award (PMIEA) which recognizes the outstanding levels of dedication, initiative and innovation, in the pursuit of excellence in environmental management in mineral development and utilization.

This year's theme: "Culture, Care, Change" highlights the resilience of the industry to the challenges to the minerals development sector around the globe.

The four-day event kicks off with a Holy Mass followed by the opening ceremony for the annual mining exhibition on Tuesday morning.

The first day will be highlighted by a Bouganvillea Planting activity

by DIWATA or Women in Resource Development Inc., a nongovernment organization composed of women in mining, advocating the responsible development of the Philippines's wealth in resources. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



09-19-10

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/

DATE _____

PMSEA nagpulong sa ligtas na pagmimina

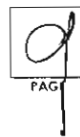
Magkakaroon ng apat na araw na pagpupulong ang mga iba't ibang stakeholder, mining company at kaalyado nito para sa annual national safety and environment na gaganapin sa Baguio City, ayon sa Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA).

Ayon sa PMSEA, na siyang nag organisa sa nasabing pagpupulong, ang Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference (ANMEC) ang siyang nangangasiwa sa halos pitong dekada sa promosyon ng occupational safety and health, environmental management at social responsibility.

Sinabi ng PMSEA, ang 66th ANMSEC ay gaganapin ngayong araw (November 19) hanggang 22 sa CAP Camp John Hay Trade and Cultural Center sa Baguio City bilang paggunita sa 66 pananagutan sa mining.

"We've prepared an array of activities that highlights mining's best practices and commitment to mine safety and environment of member-companies," ani PMSEA president Dr. Walter Brown.

Sinabi ni Brown, ang apat na araw na pagpupulong ay mabibigyan ng oportunidad ang mga mining compa na tiyakin ang mga mining and environment safety. (**Alan Bergonia**)



01-19-19

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____

66TH ANNUAL NATIONAL MINE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE AARANGKADA NA

BAGUIO CITY - POR-MAL na magsisimula ngayon ang apat na araw na 66th Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference. na gaganapin sa Camp John Hay Trade and Cultural Center sa lungsod na ito.

Sa ilalim ng tema na 'Culture, Care, Change', inaasahan ang pagdalo ng libo-libong kinatawan mula sa local mining industry, gayundin ng iba pang stakeholders at allied industries ng sektor ng pagmimina sa bansa.

Pangunahing inorganisa ng Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA) sa loob ng halos pitong dekada na sa ngayon, ang ANMSEC ay kinikilala bilang 'forerunner' sa pagsusulong ng occupational safety and health, environmental management at social responsibility.

"We've prepared an array of activities that highlights mining's best practices and commitment to mine safety and environment of member-companies," pahayag ni Walter Brown, ang pangulo ng PMSEA.

"This year's gathering will be an opportunity for mining companies and mining-support industries to affirm their commitment to ensuring mine and environmental safety with the social responsibility to respond to disasters such as the recent Mindanao earthquakes in mind," dagdag pa ni Brown, na siya ring president and chief executive officer ng Apex Mining Co., Inc.

Bagama't tiyak na puno ng kasiyahan ang bawat araw sa lahat ng programa at aktibidad na gagawin sa ilalim ng taunang komperensiya na ito, itutuon pa rin ang atensiyon ng mga participant sa pagganap sa kanilang

tungkulin o responsibilidad sa aspeto ng mine safety and environment.

Isa sa pinakatampok sa programa ang paggagawad ng Presidential Mineral Industry Environment Award (PMIEA) bilang pagkilala sa outstanding levels of dedication, initiative at innovation sa mithing mapahusay pang lalo ang pamamahala sa mineral development at utilization.

Ngayong araw, magkakaroon muna ng pagdaraos ng Banal na Misa sa umaga na sundan ng opening ceremony at pagkatapos ay isasagawa ang Bouganvillea Planting activity, katuwang ang mga opisyal at kasapi ng DIWATA o ang Women in Resource Development, Inc. at pagkatapos ay ilalarga na ang one-day sportsfest para sa mga laro sa badminton, golf, bowling, at lawn tennis.

ROMER R. BUTUYAN



Agarwood in high demand

The value of agarwood has become too expensive, next only to shabu

By Elmer Recuerdo

TACLOBAN CITY – With an extremely high market value due to an increasing demand worldwide and limited supply in forests, there is a mad scramble of agarwood in Leyte with hunters taking a “cat and mouse” chase with forest guards deployed to guard against the indiscriminate cutting of trees.

“The value of agarwood has become too expensive, next only to shabu,” Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) Moises de la Cruz quipped, adding that dried and top-quality agarwood can demand a price of up to P1 million.

De la Cruz said his office has deployed additional forest protection officers as well as Bantay Gubat personnel in towns that are considered hotspots for agarwood.

He said at least 15 apprehensions have already been made with over 20 cases, including those involving foreign nationals, being filed in different courts against forest poachers searching for agarwood and among those involved in its illegal trade.

There is currently no technology that could determine if a tree has agarwood, thus, agar hunters cut trees indiscriminately resulting to deforestation in some places. “The cutting of trees is trial and error,” De la Cruz said.

Agarwood has high demand throughout the world as a raw material for incense, perfume and medicinal purposes.

According to research published by the US National Institute of Health, global agarwood prices can range from \$20 to \$6,000 per kilogram for wood chips depending on

its quality, or \$10,000 per kilogram for full pieces of wood itself. Meanwhile, the value of agarwood essential oils can fetch as high as \$30,000 per kilogram.

The annual global market for agarwood has been estimated to be in the range of \$6 to \$8 billion, yet a large number of the trades have not been recorded, the NIH research said.

Agarwood is formed in the heartwood of aquilaria trees, locally called *lapnisan* or *lanete*, when the tree is wounded and develops a fungal infection to spawn its creation.

Resin is secreted by trees as a defense mechanism to the infections and is deposited around the wounds in years following the injury, where the accumulation of volatile compounds eventually forms agarwood.

Before the infection, the heartwood is odorless, relatively light and pale colored. But when it gets infected, the tree produces a dark aromatic resin, called agar, resulting into a very dense, dark, resin-embedded heartwood.

The PENRO office has no inventory on the number of *lapnisan* and *lanete* trees in Leyte but De la Cruz said they are abundant because it naturally grows in the province especially in the towns of Jaro, Carigara and Abuyog.

De la Cruz said those involved in cutting *lapnisan* and *lanete* trees will face charges for violation of the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines and Republic Act 947 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

On 3 November, police arrested seven persons for allegedly smuggling pieces of agar from Barangay Canal, Carigara town in Leyte. Cases have been filed against the suspect including a bribery case after they attempted to bribe police to release them.



High value Provincial environmental officer Moises de la Cruz holds up samples of agarwood pieces, which are being sold in the black market as even small chips can already fetch thousands of pesos.

E. RECUERDO



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

191-19-19
DATE

UN-GCF gives PH \$10-M grant for Climate Change project

ALBAY Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda has hailed the United Nation Green Climate Fund's (UN-GCF) \$10-million grant for President Duterte's Climate Change Project proposal to which the UN body will provide another \$58 million in February next year.

The GCF Board approved the proposal and the \$10 million grant during its 24th meeting held last week in Songdo,

South Korea. It will fund a multi-hazard impact-based forecasting and early warning system (MH-IBF-EWS) in the Philippines. Legazpi City, within Salceda's second congressional district, is one among the project's pilot areas.

The GCF (also referred to as Fund) is a specialized UN financing mechanism created to fund initiatives towards a global shift to low carbon

emission and climate-resilient adaptation measures for developing countries. The MH-IBF-EWS aims to strengthen and ensure the delivery of actionable and timely early warning to communities and 'last mile' end users at risk of impending natural hazards.

Salceda, House Ways and Means Committee chair, was the first Asian GCF co-chair, elected to represent all 172 develop-

ing countries including India and China in 2013-2014.

Despite pervasive skepticism, the GCF Board, under the co-chairmanship of Salceda and his German counterpart, delivered two milestone achievements — the completion of the prerequisites that operationalized the GCF, and mobilization that raised the Fund's initial US\$10.2 billion.



DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

PH climate change program may \$10M sa UN-GCF, \$58M grant

MASIGLANG tinanggap ni Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda ang bali-tang aprub na ang \$10-million grant ng United Nation Green Climate Fund's (UN-GCF) sa Climate Change program ni Pangulong Duterte at may kasunod pa itong \$58 milyon sa Pebrero sa susunod na taon.

Pinagtibay ng GCF Board ang \$10 million grant sa ika-24 na pulong nito sa Songdo, South Korea nitong nakaraang lingo para sa panukalang 'multi-hazard impact-based forecasting

and 'early warning system (MH-IBF-EWS)' sa Pilipinas kasama ang Legazpi City na bahagi ng ika-2 'congressional district' ni Salceda.

Ang GCF ay isang 'specialized UN financing mechanism' na nilikha upang pondohan ang mga inisyatibong magbabawas sa ibinubugang 'carbon' sa kalawakan, at mga proyektong magpapalakas sa kakayanan ng mahihirap na bansa laban sa pananalasa ng masamang panahon ría bunga ng climate change.

Ayon kay Salceda, layunin ng programa ng Pilipinas na "tiyaking maisama sa 'climate risk profile' ng bansa ang lahat ng panganib kaugnay sa climate change gaya ng isinasaad sa 'Climate Risk Management Framework (CRMF)' para sa mga LGU, at isangkot ang lahat ng institusyon, kasama ang mga unibersidad at grupo ng pribadong mga eksperto sa sa pagbalangkas at pagtatag ng mga sistema para mabuo ang naturang 'climate risk profile.'"



TITLE:

PAGE 17

DATE

01-15

Landslide hits Negros Or. town after earthquake

A LANDSLIDE occurred in Valencia, Negros Oriental, shortly after a magnitude 3.8 earthquake hit the town before dawn Monday.

No one was reported injured, but fallen rocks and soil rendered the road Sitio Cantiso, Brgy. Caidiocan,

impassable to four-wheeled vehicles, according to a report from the Negros Oriental provincial police.

Personnel of the Energy Development Corp. and Southern Negros Geothermal Community Coopera-

>>PAGE 2

>>PAGE 1: LANDSLIDE HITS NEGROS

tive cordoned the area and were conducting clearing operations, as of this writing.

The landslide occurred around 1:30 a.m., just minutes after the earthquake struck 1:21 a.m.

Residents living near the landslide-hit area believe that the quake caused the landslide, police said.

Another quake that had a magnitude of 3.9 hit the town around 4:05 a.m., followed by a 1.8 magnitude quake 4:33 a.m., according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

The first two quakes were felt at different intensities in Valencia, Bacong, Sibulan, Tanjay City, and Dumaguete City, according to PHIVOLCS. —John Rason



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE HISTORY OF PHILIPPINE PRESS
SINCE 1899

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11-18-18

TITLE:

PAGE 17

DATE



GREEN WAVE PROJECT — Miss Mandaue 2018 Gabriella Carballo and Miss Mandaue 2019 Lorraine Hann pick up trash along the banks of the Butuanon River Monday in Mandaue City for their first clean-up drive of the Green Wave project which focuses on waste management. (Juan Carlo de Vela)



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

19-19-19

TIME:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Ruling on ancestral lands seen to curb Baguio decay

City eyes voiding of Ibaloy property turned into private lots amid planned moratorium on new buildings

By Vincent Cabreza
@InqNational

BAGUIO CITY—A Supreme Court ruling that says ancestral lands may not be issued titles in the summer capital will affect the status of Ibaloy lands sold to developers and stave off overdevelopment in the summer capital, according to lawyers of the Baguio legal office.

In one of the last decisions penned by retired Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, the court's Second Division said the townsite reservation in Baguio cannot be covered by certificates of ancestral land title (CALT) and certificates of ancestral domain title (CADT) as stipulated by Section 78 of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 (Ipra, or Republic Act No. 8371).

The court described Section 78 as a special provision that recognizes Baguio's authority to govern townsite lands, which are exempted from the coverage of Ipra.

"RA 8371 is clear that for properties [within the] townsite ... , no CALT or CADT may be issued by the NCIP (National Commission on Indigenous Peoples)," the high court said.

Ipra tasked the NCIP to issue CALT, which recognizes the native right to individual family properties, and CADT for vast communal lands that serve an indigenous peoples group.

The court made this argument when it nullified 28 CALTs issued in 2010 to the heirs of Josephine Molintas Abanag and the heirs of Piraso, also known



HERITAGE HOTEL Casa Vallejo, a heritage building and the oldest hotel in Baguio City, was nearly evicted by an Ibaloy family which was granted an ancestral land title covering this property. —VALERIE DAMIAN

as "Kapitan Piraso."

The city challenged the issuance of these CALTs for encroaching on forested sections of Wright Park, within the presidential mansion complex, and on an area where Baguio's oldest hotel, Casa Vallejo, operates, said lawyer Melchor Carlos Rabanes, assistant Baguio legal officer, on Monday.

Spared

Rabanes said some of the CALTs revoked by the high court were also sold to developers, violating a rule that ancestral lands may be transferred only to family members or members of the tribe.

Voiding the CALT meant

more Baguio lands would be spared from development, Rabanes said.

Mayor Benjamin Magalong got Malacañang's approval "in principle" to impose a moratorium on building construction and tree cutting.

The city's next step is to seek a court order voiding Ibaloy lands that were converted into private lots, said lawyer Isagani Liporada of the city legal office.

Ibaloy families have yet to comment on the court ruling, although a member of a prominent Ibaloy clan admitted that family members were concerned about its impact on cases challenging other Baguio CALTs.

The Department of Agriculture asked local courts to withdraw the CALTs issued for Baguio Dairy Farm, after discovering that these lands were later sold to private individuals. Baguio's only CADT at Barangay Happy Hallow inside the Camp John Hay reservation, has been contested by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority.

Representatives of Ibaloy families, during a Sept. 13 Baguio land summit, asked the government to deal with spurious CALT.

Processing continues

The NCIP will continue to process 563 CALT applications, while the commission appeals the latest Supreme Court ruling, said Roland Calde, NCIP Cordillera director.

Section 78 does not affect all ancestral lands, Calde said, because Ipra recognizes land rights acquired or secured through judicial and administrative processes before the law was enforced.

Ipra, he said, still applies to lands outside the townsite. Many land claims lie within forest and government reservations that were separated from the townsite.

The American colonial government classified Baguio as a townsite, where alienable lands may be auctioned off to townsite sales applicants.

The townsite process was enacted in the early 1900s to populate Baguio. A century later, the government is still processing more than 10,000 townsite sales applications. INQ



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

MARAMING kontrobersya ang hinaharap ni Vice President Leni Robredo habang co-chairperson siya ng Inter-Agency Committee on Illegal Drugs.

At marami sa mga ito ang binabantayan mismo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte at iba pang mga opisyal ng pamahalaan.

IMBITASYON SA DAYUHAN

Kabilang sa mga pinakahuling kontrobersya ang hindi niya ipinaalam na pag-imbita umano kay ex-Human Rights Watch director Phelim Kline upang magbigay ng payo sa kanya bilang co-chair ng IACAD.

Makaraang maitalaga ni Pang. Rodrigo Duterte si Robredo sa IACAD, agad na nagpahayag si Kline na dapat unahin ni Robredo ang pag-aresto kay Pang. Digong dahil sa paggawa nito sa mahal kong Pinas na "murderous country."

Siyempre pa, pinalagan ito ng Malakanyang sa pagsasabi nina Foreign Affairs Secretary Teddy Locsin at Palace Spokesperson Salvador Panelo na haharangin ng pamahalaan si Kline kung papasok siya sa bansa.

Ang dahilan, isa lamang na pribilehiyo ang pagpasok ng isang dayuhan sa bansa kaya pupwedeng papasukin o harangin si Kline sa pagpasok sa Pinas.

Pero higit dito, hindi dapat na hayaan ang mga dayuhan na magdikta kung ano ang gagawin ng ating pamahalaan at maging ng ating mga opisyal sa panloob na usapin ng bansa, kabilang na ang giyera sa droga.

MALALAKI ANG HINAHANAP

Sa mga pahayag mismo ni Robredo, nakapako siya sa paniniwalang pawang maliliit na sangkot sa droga ang natatamaan ng madugong giyera sa droga at pawang mga inosente ang mga ito.

Kaya naghahanap siya ng malalaki.

Kaya namang pailing-iling na lang ang mga taga-Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency at Philippine National Police.

Hindi nakikita umano ni Robredo ang mga bigtime druglord na dayuhan at lokal, kasama na ang mga narco-politician na namatay dahil sa panlalaban o mga heneral, koronel at iba pang mga opisyal ng PNP na nasibak sa kanilang mga tungkulin o namatay sa mga engkwentro dahil sa droga.

Hindi rin niya umano nakikita ang mga nagsisilabasan sa facebook na may kasama



ROBREDO PINAPALAGAN NG MGA KASAMA NIYA

siyang druglord sa Kabikulan na napakalapit na kamag-anak ng kanyang namayapang asawang si ex-DILG Secretary Jessie Robredo.

Sabi ng ating Uzi, kung mahanap niya umano ang taong ito at ipasakamay sa pamahalaan, masasabi na niyang kahit papano ay may kontribusyon na siya sa paghahanap ng malalaki.

BALIGTARIN

Ayon naman sa ating Uzi, dapat bantayan ni Robredo ang kanyang di-la.

Halimbawa umano noong ipinahahayag ni Pang. Digong na hotbed ang Naga at Kabikulan ng droga.

Agad na sumalungat si Robredo sa pagsasabing insulto umano iyon sa mga Bikolano.

Nang maupo na siya sa IACAD, siya na mismo ang nagsasabing malala ang droga sa Kabikulan at gusto pang inguso ang gobyernong Duterte na mahina sa giyera sa droga.

Agad namang sinalungat ito ni PDEA chief Aaron Aquino sa pagsasabing marami na ang nagawa ng pamahalaan at humihina na ang droga sa bayan ni Manoy.

Una sa mga nalansag ang mega shabu lab sa Catanduanes na pinoprojektahan ng isang National Bureau of Investigation official ng Aquino administration noong Disyembre 2016.

Sumunod na rito ang madugong giyera na ikinasawi ng mga tulak at ilang high value target sa Naga at iba pang bahagi ng Kabikulan.

Kasama sa mga narecover ang mga sunod-sunod na bulto-bultong cocaine na ibinababa sa mga dalampasigan ng Kabikulan.

PASILIP NGAI

Kabilang sa mga kontrobersya sa pagitan nina Aquino at Robredo ang kagustuhan ng huli na malaman o makilala lahat ang mga bigtime na sangkot sa droga.

Pumalag si Aquino sa pagsasabing maaaring pagkakataon ng iba na makisilip sa narcolist at mabubulilyaso lang ang mga operasyon laban sa droga o druglords.

Paliwanag pa ni Aquino, may mga pagkakataon na hindi niya personal na alam ang ilang druglord dahil nasa ka-

may ito ng iba at nagpa-follow up lang siya.

Marahil, kabilang sa mga wala sa listahan ng PDEA ang ilang druglord na binubusisi pa ng Malakanyang o ng pulisya.

PUMALAG ANG PNP

Sa huli, ang PNP ay pumapalag na rin sa mga aksyon ni Robredo.

Ayon kay PNP OIC Archie Gamboa, dapat sa advocacy at rehabilitation na lang magkonsentreyt si Robredo.

Tutal may apat na cluster sa giyera sa droga at isa rito ang advocacy o kampanya laban sa droga sa edukasyon at rehabilitasyon.

Kung liisipin ito, mga Bro, may punto si Acting PNP chief dahil milyones ang nakilalang adik at tulak sa nakalipas na tatlong taon at hindi na magkasya ang kamay ni Robredo sa pag-aasikaso rito.

BABALA NI DIGONG

Panghuli ngunit pinakamahalaga ang kontrobersya sa pagitan nina Robredo at Pang. Digong.

Nagbabala si Pang. Digong na sisibakin niya sa pwesto si Robredo kung magkakamali itong magsubo ng mga impormasyon sa mga dayuhan o sa iba ang anomang nalalaman nitong mga sensitibong impormasyon.

Lalo na kung ikapanganib ang impormasyon ng seguridad ng bansa.

Maituturing na usaping pambansang seguridad ang droga.

Pwera pa ang pakikialam ng mga dayuhan na makasisira sa soberanya o kapangyarihan ng mga Pinoy na pamahalaan ang kanilang sariling bayan.

Alalahaning kabilang sa mga ginagawa ni Robredo ang lantarang pagsandal nito sa mga dayuhan sa paglutas umano sa problema sa droga at pasimpleng pagbalewala sa mga ginagawa ng gobyerno laban sa droga at pang-aabuso ng mga nasa pamahalaan kaugnay ng droga.

Anong sey n'yo?

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