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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Cimatu to mining industry:

strengthen 'culture of care'

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has called on the mining industry to institutionalize a culture of care in all aspects of mining operations as he underscores the need for mining companies to reinvent the industry's image.

In a speech delivered by Environment Undersecretary Analiza R. Teh during the 66th Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference (ANMSEC) held in Baguio City Friday night, Cimatu said "it is high time for the industry to highlight a different but equally important side of the mining culture—that of a caring, nurturing,

protective industry."

"To achieve this, a culture of care should be fostered in all aspects of mining," Teh said reading Cimatu's speech.

First and foremost, Cimatu said mining should care for the people.

"Through various programs being implemented by mining companies, which include the social development and management program, support and services have consistently been provided to ensure sustained improvement in the living standards for the host and neighboring communities," he said.

According to the DENR chief, social development programs should be vis-

ible and should leave a positive social impact on the communities during the life of the mine and even after its closure.

He said the industry should do away with the dole-out mentality. More than the support for infrastructures and other physical assets, mining companies should invest more in programs that will help contribute in the ultimate goal of establishing self-sustaining communities, Cimatu said.

Cimatu said the mining industry should foster a culture of care also by strictly complying with laws, rules, and regulations concerning the health and safety for its workers.

Moreover, the DENR chief said the industry should strengthen its commitment to caring for the environment by ensuring sustainable environmental conditions at every stage of the mining operation, reminding that the DENR Administrative Order 2018-19 requires companies to minimize the disturbed area of a mining project at any given time.

He said through the policies, 31 nickel mining operators should implement progressive rehabilitation to mitigate and reduce the adverse impacts of mining on the environment.

Jonathan L. Mayuga



PGMC leads mining safety awardees

PLATINUM Group Metals Corporation, the Surigao del Norte-based operating arm of listed Global Ferronickel Holdings Inc., was recognized by the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association for its responsible mining practices during the Awards Night of the 66th Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference in Baguio City.

PGMC was the recipient of the 2019 Presidential Mineral Industry Environ-

mental Award Selection Committee Platinum Achievement Award, Surface Mining Operation Category.

The award is bestowed to deserving companies for their outstanding levels of dedication, initiatives and innovations in the pursuit of excellence in environmental protection, safety and health management and social & community development.

Meanwhile, six mining companies received this year's coveted Presidential

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PGMC...

From A1

Mineral Industry Environmental Award.

Environment undersecretary for Climate Change and Mining Concerns Analiza the, who represented Secretary Roy A. Cimatu together with Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association President Walter Brown, led the awarding during the Awards Night and Testimonial Dinner at the CAMP John Hay Trade and Cultural Center in Baguio City Friday night, which capped the 66th Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference.

The four-day event is organized by the PMSEA in partnership with Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Mt. Labo Exploration and Development Corporation won in the Mineral Exploration category while the Mindanao Mineral Processing and Refining Corporation bagged the award for the Mineral Processing category.

For the Quarry Operation Category, Republic Cement and Building Materials, Inc.-Bulacan and Holcim Mining and Development Corporation—Davao bagged the Quarry Operation category.

For the Surface Mining category, Agata Mining Ventures Inc. and Cagdianao Mining Corporation bagged the coveted award.



Platinum Group Metals Corporation, the Surigao del Norte-based operating arm of listed Global Ferronickel Holdings, Inc., was recognized by the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association for its responsible mining practices during the Awards Night of the 66th Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference held in Baguio City. PGMC was the recipient of the 2019 Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award Selection Committee Platinum Achievement Award, Surface Mining Operation Category. The award is bestowed on deserving companies for their outstanding levels of dedication, initiatives and innovations in the pursuit of excellence in environmental protection, safety and health management and social & community development. At the awarding ceremonies are (from left) MGB Director Wilfredo G. Moncano, PMEA President Joey Ayson, PGMC Mine Operations Manager Richard C. Gimenez and PGMC President Dante R. Bravo.



DEMOLITION ON BULABOG BEACH

JUDGE OPTS OUT OF BORACAY CASE

ILOILO CITY—The judge presiding over a case aimed at stopping the demolition of houses and business establishments violating beach easement rules on Boracay Island inhibited himself from hearing the case.

In a two-page order on Nov. 18, Judge Ronald Exmundo of the Kalibo, Aklan Regional Trial Court Branch 7, inhibited himself from the case to “avoid perception” of his being biased or partial.

Showing bias?

Exmundo cited a motion of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through the Office of the Solicitor General, alleging that the judge showed bias to the property owners by issuing a temporary restraining order (TRO) against the demolition.

Property owners of 10 commercial and residential buildings on Bulabog beach are contesting the demolition order issued by the local government of Malay, which is being implemented by the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group.

The structures allegedly vio-

late the 30-meter beach easement which has been strictly implemented when the island was closed to tourists for six months from April 26 to Oct. 25 last year.

Order questioned

But the owners are questioning the demolition orders and the boundary measurements that supposedly show their violations.

They said they started to invest and put up structures after the local government and other agencies issued them building permits and other clearances, only to be told later that they were violating the easement rule.

Exmundo issued on Oct. 15 a 20-day TRO directing the local government of Malay to “cease and desist” from implementing the March 25, 2019, and other demolition orders covering the 10 structures.

The TRO lapsed on Nov. 4, paving the way for the continuation of the demolition, despite appeals of property owners to hold the demolition until the court resolves their petition for the issuance of a preliminary injunction. —NESTOR BURGOS JR. INQ



Velasco featured in 2nd leg of DENR lecture series

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has presented its second installment of the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Distinguished Lecture Series with retired Supreme Court Associate Justice and now Marinduque Governor Presbitero Velasco as guest lecturer.

This unique lecture series on environment initiated by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs of the DENR aims to stimulate critical and

innovative thinking within the department to support the rehabilitation efforts in Manila Bay and Boracay.

Former Chief Justice Reynato Puno gave an inaugural lecture on environmental justice during the launch of the lecture series last April.

Environment Secretary Cimatu rallied DENR officials and employees who attended the lecture forum to strive hard to exceed public expectations insofar as the Manila Bay rehabilitation is concerned.

"Nothing short of victory is expected of

us with this Battle for Manila Bay. This is because we have exceeded expectations when we successfully restored Boracay to an island paradise," Cimatu said in his speech delivered by DENR Undersecretary and Chief of Staff Rodolfo Garcia.

Although Boracay's problems were far more difficult than those of Manila Bay, Cimatu said the DENR people "must exceed themselves as before through teamwork among various bureaus and members of the department."

In Velasco's lecture held at H2O Hotel in Manila on November 12, he reminded the government that the 11-year-old Supreme Court mandamus ordering the DENR and 12 government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay and maintain its waters to Class SB level, "involves a lifetime directive and is a perpetual edict."

"If you are able to restore it to SB classification, after you have restored it, then you're supposed to preserve that water quality—maintain the water quality of Manila Bay to SB classification or better," Velasco said.

He added: "That's why it is continuing. It will go on and on beyond our lifetime."

Class SB, under DENR Administrative Order 34 of 1990, refers to areas regularly used for public bathing, swimming and skin diving.

In order for the Manila Bay rehabilitation to become successful, Velasco said the government needs to decongest the overpopulated Metro Manila, relocate informal settlers and address the garbage problem, which includes strong implementation of local ordinances against indiscriminate dumping.

Cimatu also underscored the need for "proper understanding and relentless implementation of environmental laws, rules and regulations."

"In pursuit of changes, information sharing and critical thinking have become major tools in providing support to ongoing environmental battles, such as the rehabilitation of Boracay and now, the rehabilitation of Manila Bay," the DENR chief pointed out.



Another environment worker killed

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

An employee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) was shot dead in Surigao del Sur province last week, the fourth state environmental worker murdered in just a span of about three months.

Reports reaching the DENR's headquarters in Quezon City said that the victim, special land investigator Joash Peregrino, was gunned down on Thursday while inside his car, as it was parked in front a store near the

DENR office in Bislig City.

His wife, also a DENR employee, had stopped by the store as the couple were on their way home.

Peregrino was assigned to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) in that city. Cenro has been active in apprehending loggers and retrieving logs abandoned in government lands.

Felix Alicer, DENR executive director for Caraga, said Peregrino had just been appointed special land investigator.

"The killing of our colleague ... may also have something to do with the strengthened efforts of our personnel at the field offices led by our Cenro officers on antitimber poaching and smuggling," Alicer said in a statement.

Enforcement bureau

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu condemned the killing and called on law enforcement officials to bring Peregrino's killers to justice.

Cimatu said the number of environmental workers killed

on his watch was "disturbing, if not outright enraging."

He said further there would be no letup in his agency's campaign against violators, and urged Congress to pass legislation that would create an enforcement bureau for the DENR.

Series of killings

Peregrino's murder is the latest in a series of killings targeting environmental workers.

Early in September, forest ranger Bienvinido Veguilla Jr. was hacked to death by illegal

loggers after he and his team had seized their chainsaw in El Nido town, Palawan province.

Just a week later, Gaudencio Arana, a longtime DENR informant, was gunned down in Nueva Ecija province by motorcycle-riding men.

And in October, forest ranger Ronaldo Corpuz was shot dead inside his house in Nueva Ecija.

The Philippines has been ranked the deadliest country for land and environmental defenders by international group Global Witness in 2018. INQ



Cimatu sa PNP: Pumatay sa DENR employee tugisin

Nanawagan si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu sa Philippine National Police (PNP) na gawin lahat para mabigyan ng hustisya ang pamilya ng isa nilang empleyado na tinambangan sa Surigao del Sur noong Huwebes.

Kinilala ang napatay na si Joash Peregrino, special investigator ng Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) sa Bislig City, Surigao del Sur.

Binaril ang biktima sa kanyang sasakyan na naka-park sa harap ng isang tindahan malapit sa tanggapan ng DENR. Si Peregrino at ang kanyang asawa, na isang empleyado rin ng DENR, ay huminto sa tindahan sa kanilang pag-uwi.

Si Peregrino ay ikaapat na kawani ng DENR na pinatay sa loob lamang ng dalawang buwan.

"Counting the number of people killed in the line of duty under my watch as DENR chief is disturbing if not outright enraging," ani Cimatu.

Sa kabila nito, sinabi ni Cimatu na magpapatuloy ang kanilang kampanya laban sa mga lumalabag sa environmental law at sa pagtupad ng mandato na protektahan ang kapaligiran at likas na yaman ng bansa. **(Riz Dominguez)**



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DENR shuts down 4 open dump sites in

Pampanga

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shuts down last week four illegally operating dump sites in this province.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Concerns, issued the cease-and-desist order (CDO) against the City of San Fernando, and municipal governments of Bacolor and Porac for operating the illegal dump sites.

The open dump sites were located at Lara village in City of San Fernando, Maliwalo in Bacolor town, and barangays San Jose Matli and Matli Dos, both in the town of Porac.

"Poor waste management at dump sites poses serious threats, not just to the environment, but also to public health. That is why, we are taking our messaging to uphold proper waste disposal to a higher level to encourage communities, especially our local government units, to not make open fields as repository areas for wastes," he said.

Under the law, establishment and maintenance of an open dumpsite is strictly prohibited.

The DENR found mixed garbage of plastics, diapers, polystyrene and even hospital wastes like syringes and tubings in the dumpsite.

Antiporda said the DENR is keeping an eye on the operations of illegal dump sites, since



ONE of the illegal open dump sites in Pampanga which the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shut down on November 12. Benny Antiporda, environment undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Concerns, issued a cease-and-desist order against the City of San Fernando, and municipal governments of Bacolor and Porac for operating illegal dump sites. DENR REGION 3

it bears a serious impact on the ongoing cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

"We cannot clean Manila Bay if we allow this," he said, pointing out that dump sites have leachate, which could flow to nearby rivers and bodies of water.

The DENR also summoned the local chief executives and their respective municipal councils to explain the operations of the illegal dump sites and to present their immediate plan of action for the closure and rehabilitation of these garbage dumps.

"They [municipalities] were given seven days to explain the illegal operation of the dump site, as supported by the necessary documents, clearances and other permits issued

pertaining to the implementation of the disposal site," he said.

Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, provides that no open dumps shall be established and operated, nor any practice or disposal of solid waste by any person, including local government units, which constitutes the use of open dumps for solid wastes, is allowed.

Any person found violating the law shall be fined with P500,000 plus an amount not less than 5 percent but not more than 10 percent of its net annual income during the year.

But if local government officials and officials of a national agency are found guilty of violating the law, they can be charged



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administratively in accordance with Republic Act 7160, or the Local Government Code.

Meanwhile, Mayor Edwin Santos denied the existence of an open dump site in the City of San Fernando.

"We are not operating an open dump site. We only have the City Transfer Station," Santiago said in a statement following the issuance of a CDO against the operation of the facility in Lara village here.

City Environment and Natural Resources Officer Regina Rodriguez also said no dump site is operating in the city.

Rodriguez said the former dump site has been converted to a transfer station when it was rehabilitated through the city's greening program.

"We are fully implementing RA 9003. From the garbage collection, to the sorting and transferring, our system works. We are in partnership with the Metro Clark Waste Management Corp., which collects the garbage every day from our transfer station. We will never tolerate the existence of an open dump site here in San Fernando," he said.

Rodriguez added that the transfer station was reviewed and approved by the DENR Region 3 pursuant to the Department's Administrative Order 9, Series of 2006, or the "General Guidelines in the Closure and Rehabilitation of Open Dump site and Controlled Dump Facilities."

Marna Dagumboy Del Rosario/PNA



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Bohol capital stinks as trash piles up

Garbage collection suspended after closure of Tagbilaran dump; mayor assures cleanup this week

By Leo Udtohan
@leoudtohanINQ

TAGBILARAN CITY—Stench has started wafting through sections of this city, the Bohol provincial capital, as trash started piling up along the streets four days after garbage collection was suspended when the city dump was closed by the environment department.

Arlene Pesquira, who lives on Graham Avenue in Barangay Booy, has to cover her nose in an attempt to fend off the foul smell from the garbage piles in front of their family's house.

She said the neighborhood had been met with a pungent smell of "rotten fish."

"It stinks already," Pesquira, 43, a mother of four said.

Open dump

Tagbilaran has been generating at least 60 tons of garbage daily from 105,051 households.

The garbage collection was stopped on Nov. 20 after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued a cease-and-desist order against the city government for operating an open dump, which is prohibited under Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid



WASTE MANAGEMENT Tagbilaran City officials have promised to start collecting garbage around the Bohol provincial capital after it found an area to replace the local government-run dump that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources closed last week.

Waste Management Act of 2000. Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, the DENR official in charge of solid waste management and local government concerns, led the closure of the 2.6-hectare dump in Barangay Dampas.

Another Tagbilaran resident, Rosalinda Dacaldacal, 19, said she would hold her breath while waiting for a tricycle to get to school.

"I could not avoid the smell here," she said.

Piles of uncollected garbage can also be seen along major

streets, such as CPG Avenue, B. Inting Street and Gallares Street.

Some contents were strewn along the sidewalks after stray dogs ripped them.

Barangay execs' help

At home, Pesquira said she had to do her part and segregate garbage, separating biodegradable from nonbiodegradable waste.

"We will wait until they will collect the garbage," Pesquira said.

Tagbilaran Mayor John Geesnell Yap II tapped baran-

gay officials to ensure that cleanliness and proper sanitation were being observed in their respective communities.

In a message posted on Facebook, Yap assured residents that garbage collection would resume on Monday. The city's collected trash would be dumped in a 200-square-meter lot in Barangay Cabawan while the dump in Barangay Dampas remained closed.

Yap appealed for discipline and asked residents to avoid throwing their trash anywhere. INQ



1st recycled plastics road in PH pilots in Cavite

SAN MIGUEL Corp (SMC) debuted over the weekend the first recycled plastics road in the Philippines.

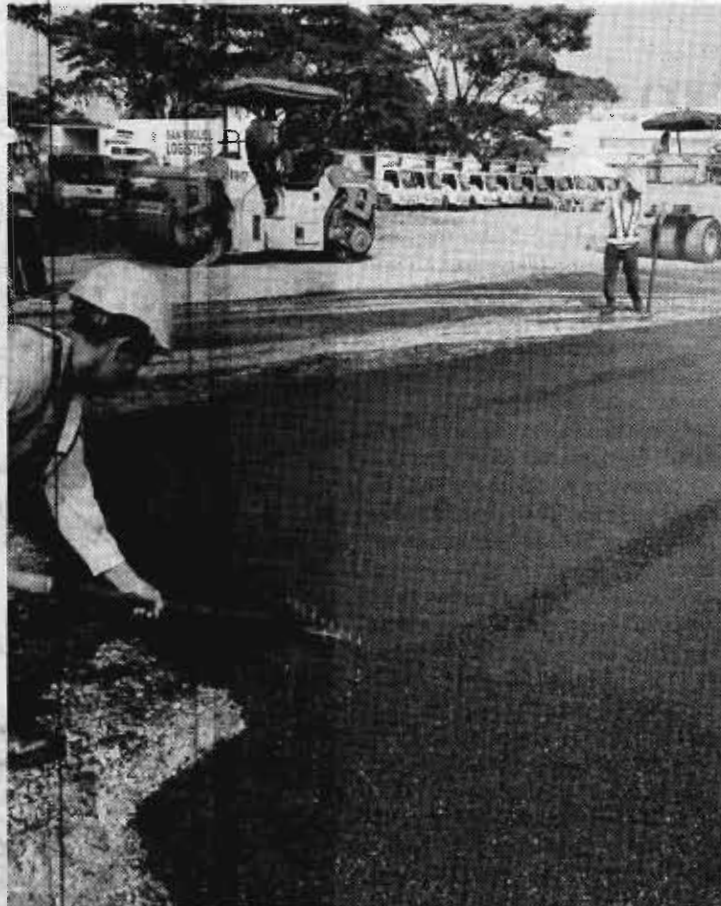
Asphalt using plastics were laid on a 1,500-square meter pilot test site at a new logistics center in General Trias, Cavite. The test site was chosen as it will be used primarily as a marshaling area for trucks with heavy loads, including 18-wheelers, and heavy equipment.

“What we want to achieve is to help address an important environmental issue, and that is plastic wastes. We want to create a sustainable use for waste plastics so that they don’t end up in landfills and our rivers and oceans,” said Ramon Ang, SMC president.

Some 900 kilos of plastic waste, equivalent to some 180,000 sachets and plastic bags, were used for the test site.

SMC’s technology partner, global materials science company Dow, said recycled plastic wastes act as a binder together with bitumen in the production of asphalt.

The company said that using recycled plastics in the production process can help make roads



Sustainable use. Asphalt produced with recycled plastic waste and bitumen as additives is laid on a 1,500-square meter pilot site at San Miguel’s logistics center in General Trias.

longer lasting and more durable compared to conventional asphalt.

Independent lab testing done on San Miguel’s recycled plastics road asphalt shows it exceeds the standards of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

San Miguel said that pending further testing, it can build recycled plastics roads in its facilities as well as major infrastructure projects.

Last week, San Miguel also announced it is adopting the use of biodegradable plastics for food and non-food products.

For this, the company is utilizing the biodegradable plastics developed by Philippine Bioresins Corp. that can be 64.65 percent degraded in 24 months as compared to non-biodegradable plastics (4.5 percent in 24 months).

The Department of Science and Technology Industrial Technology Development Institute gave this innovation an Environmental Technology Verification certificate.

San Miguel has also discontinued its bottled water business a few years ago and embarked on the move to reduce group-wide non-product water use by 50 percent by 2025.



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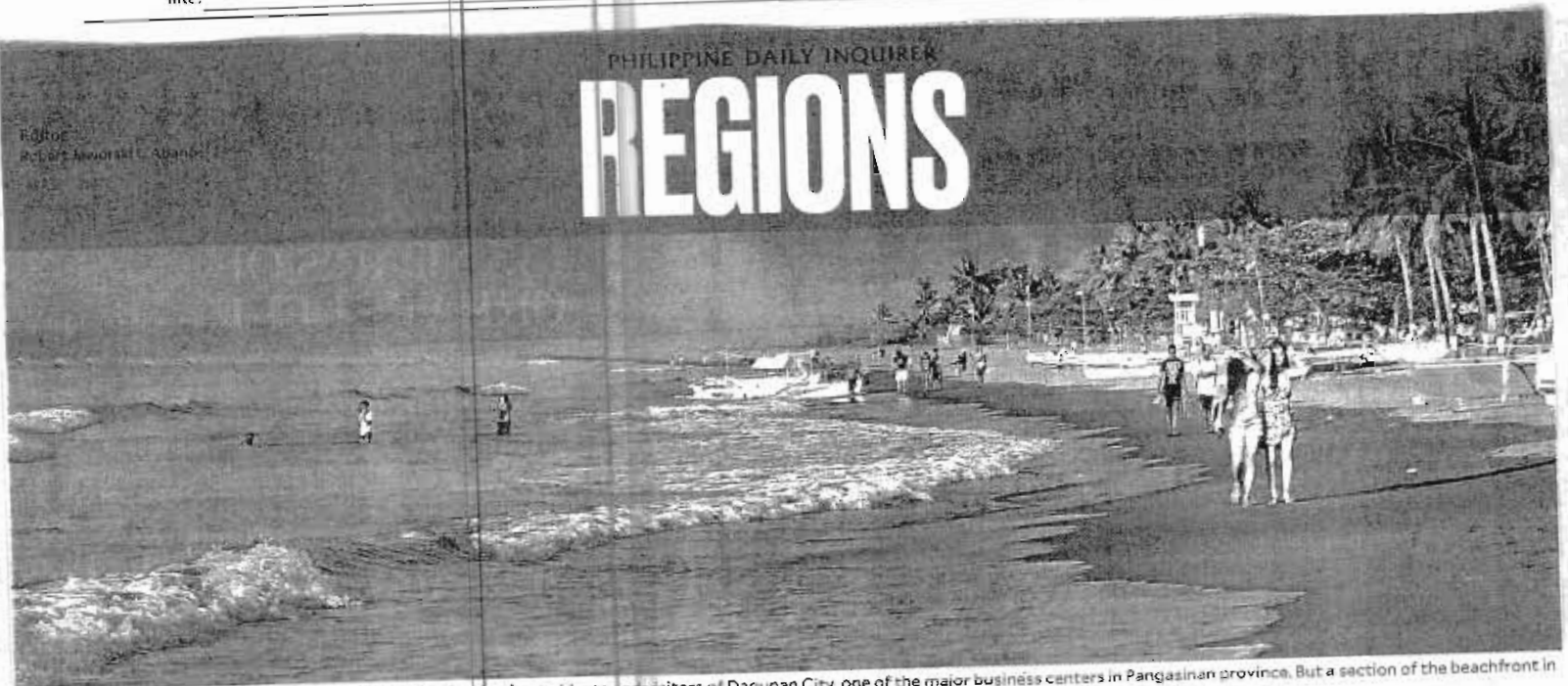
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
REGIONS

DAGUPAN BEACH Tondaligan beach is a popular destination for residents and visitors of Dagupan City, one of the major business centers in Pangasinan province. But a section of the beachfront in Barangay Bonuan, facing Lingayen Gulf, has become an eyesore due to the city's open dump. —WILLIE LOMIBAO

**DAGUPAN TO CLEAR BEACH DUMP
TO EASE LINGAYEN GULF POLLUTION**

DAGUPAN CITY—This city in Pangasinan intends to haul out 50,000 tons of rotting garbage from its open dump next year, after discovering that leachate from decomposing waste has been polluting Lingayen Gulf.

According to Mayor Brian Lim, about a third of the dump is near the shoreline, but budget constraints prevent the city waste management team to immediately clear the area which has taken in 150,000 to 180,000 tons of garbage over the last 50 years.

Using part of its P57-million allocation for 2020, the city waste management unit "will remove the garbage that is nearest to the beach, as the seepage is slowly poisoning the sea and its resources," Lim said.

The Dagupan government will commission private contractors to move the decaying garbage to a sanitary landfill.

Expensive

Each day, the city generates 60 tons of garbage which are shipped to the dump in the absence of a government-run sanitary landfill. Lim said plans were underway to reduce household waste through recycling and waste segregation.

Lim said developing sanitary landfills was too expensive for most local governments.

The mayor said Congress

should amend the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (Republic Act No. 9003) and allow communities to share landfills or introduce appropriate waste processing technologies that serve towns and cities comprising congressional districts or the waste generated by an entire province.

The Dagupan government has committed to solve the city's garbage crisis in a pledge that was submitted to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Trash to fuel

The previous city administration had a joint venture agreement with a company that offered to convert garbage into diesel.

Lim said the city legal officer was studying the proposal, because the technology had not yet been tested elsewhere in the country.

"We are studying the joint venture agreement. Will it be good for the city which committed to supply a certain volume of garbage that would be converted to diesel? What if we cannot provide the volume needed? Also, is there a facility for wastewater treatment? What about the air pollution it could create? If they pollute the environment, what would be their responsibility?" Lim said.

—YOLANDA SOTELO INQ



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Mandaluyong City Medical Center Annex.

Crime scene investigators discovered that the MK2 fragmentation grenade was

attached to the lower engine of the police officer's Yamaha NMAX motorcycle.

Authorities are now conducting an investigation into the incident.



For Mother Nature
Navotas City encourages its constituents to collect plastic bottles and deposit them into bins for recycling.

ROMAN PROSPERO tribuneph1_RRP



RONDA PROBINSIYA

BARKONG MAY KARGANG TOXIC WASTE NASABAT NG PCG

ZAMBALES – NASABAT at inaresto ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ang mga tripulante ng isang Liberian flagged vessel na may kargang toxic waste mula sa South Korea sa isang pantalan sa lalawigang ito.

Agad na ipinasa ng PCG ang imbestigasyon sa National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) para siyasatin ang kapitan at crew merchant ship na mayroong kargang 53,000 tonelada ng nakalalasang kemikal mula sa South Korea.

Ayon sa National Coast Watch Center (NCWC), nagtungo ang PCG kasama ang ilang tauhan ng NBI sa Cabangan Wharf sa Cabangan, Zambales para pormal na ipatupad ang pag aresto sa Liberian-flagged ship.

Sinasabing lulan ng barko ang nakalalasang kemikal na phospho gypsum na nagmula sa Gwangyang Port at nakatakda sanang dalhin sa San Mateo, Rizal.

Pagkadating sa Zambales, agad hiningan ng mga awtoridad ang kapitan ng barko ng cargo permits ngunit wala itong naipakita.

Dahil dito, agad ipinag-utos ang pagpapahinto sa unloading operation dahil sa paglabag sa Republic Act 6969 o Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act



of 1990 at Republic Act 9003 o Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Kasalukuyang nagsagawa pa ang PCG ng inventory sa mga gamit sa barko at iba pang sasakyan na sangkot naman sa sinasagawang sa unloading operation para sa mga pinagbabawal na kargamento.

Dinala naman ang kapitan, crew members at maging ang crane operators sa NBI headquarters sa Maynila para sa isasagawang mas malalim na imbestigasyon. **VERLIN RUIZ**



Paper project using pineapple seen cutting plastics use

AN ARM of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said it is hoping to raise farmers' incomes by using waste material from the pineapple-growing progress to make specialty paper that can replace plastic packaging.

The DTI's Design Center of the Philippines calls the initiative the Pinyapel Project, after the Filipino words for pineapple (*pinya*) and paper (*papel*).

"The Pinyapel Project began with the intent of maximizing the use of agricultural waste to improve the livelihood of farmers, address concerns on dwindling natural resources and offer alternatives to plastic; collaborate with local enterprises; and consequently, show to the world what the creative and design mind of the Philippines can do," Design Center Executive Director Rhea O. Matute said in an e-mail.

Design Center was established in 1973 through Presidential Decree No. 279 to develop, promote, and enhance the design of the country's manufactured goods. The Pinyapel project is led by its materials research and development team.

Pinyapel uses material left over after the pineapple harvest. Development started in 2018 and is ongoing.

On Nov. 6, Pinyapel was cited by the D&AD Future Impact Awards 2019 for its potential impact on environmental sustainability.

"The inspiration behind the product is the growing packaging needs. According to the Pollution Control Association of the Philippines, our country will not be ready to phase out plastic use until cost-effective alternatives are available," Ms. Matute said.

"Sustaining the use of pineapple leaves in paper production will ultimately contribute to changing the lives of pineapple farmers and laborers," she added.

Pineapple leaves were sourced from Nature's Fresh Pineapple, Inc., which cultivates 300 to 400 hectares in Aglayan, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon. It can produce about one to five tons of pineapple leaves per month, with 57 kilograms yielding about 88 sheets of 70 by 100-centimeter Pinyapel.

Pinyapel can also be turned into corrugated cup sleeves and gift bags.

— Vincent Mariel P. Galang

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link bit.ly/Pinyapel



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Epson, DENR-EMB call entries for the 2nd EcoVision Film Competition



VISIT

Epson Philippines, in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), announced today the launch of the 2nd EcoVision Short Film Competition for university students.

This year, the EcoVision inter-school video-making contest aims to tap the creativity of university students in raising public understanding of environmental conservation through short documentaries. With the theme 'Upcycling Heroes', entries must feature a Philippine-

based organization or individual who champions or performs upcycling as a tool for environmental sustainability.

Upcycling, or creative reuse, is the process of transforming by-products, waste materials or unwanted products into new materials of quality and environmental value.

Epson seeks to promote the practice of upcycling as a way of strengthening anew its commitment to the environment, which is manifested not just through its reliable and energy-efficient products but also its active participation in encouraging the public to become more aware of pressing ecological issues.

"With the help of the upcycling heroes who will be featured in the



ecovision
SHORT FILM COMPETITION

students' entries, we want to inspire the public into action and let them know that there are different ways to become more active in advocating for the conservation of the environment," said Donna Ferro, brand and communications head of Epson Philippines.

The EcoVision short film competition is open to all students at any year level and degree or course from colleges and universities in NCR, Region III, and Region IV-A during the period of the competition.

To join, all qualified entrants must download, fill out, and submit the accomplished form along with attachments to epson.ecovision@gmail.com. Each documentary entry must have a minimum running

time of 5 minutes to a maximum of 15 minutes and should feature a Philippine-based organization, group, or individual who champions upcycling for a more sustainable Philippines.

Ten documentaries will be chosen as the finalists of the competition and will serve as informative materials for the Environmental Education and Information Division (EEID) of DENR-EMB. EEID's mission is to advance environmental education in the Philippines and disseminate environmental information to the DENR-EMB regional offices and the general public.

The final winners will be determined based on their material's strong adherence to the theme.



MAYFLOR R. CANDELARIA (fifth from right, front), Clark Development Corp. (CDC) Environmental Permits Division (EPD) assistant manager, receives the award given by DENR Region 3 headed by Director **Lormelyn E. Claudio** (sixth from right, second row). Other awardees include Fontana Development Corp. represented by **Mannie Dungca** (right), Filinvest Mimosa with **Liezl Santos** (second from left, front), CRL Environmental Corp. with COO **Maria Carmela Q. Capule** (fourth from right, front), **Donggwang Clark** with Engr. **Jeff San Juan** and **Nathaniel Esteban** (fifth and sixth from left). The Environmental Practitioners Association Inc. is represented by its Secretary **Jocelyn T. Ricardo** (left) of Tipco, Vice President Engr. **Rolando Sta. Cruz** (third from right) and **Yasmin M. Dizon** (fourth from right). They are joined in the photo by EMB Officers and staff.

CDC, CLARK LOCATORS RECOGNIZED FOR SUPPORTING DENR PROGRAMS

CLARK FREEPORT—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) recently recognized Clark Development Corp. (CDC) and other locator companies in this free port for supporting various environmental programs in the region.

During the Environmental Partnership Awards held at a hotel, CDC, through its Environmental Permits Division headed by Engr. Rogelio Magat, CDC-EPD Assistant Manager Mayflor Candelaria, received the award that cites the long-term partnership of CDC and DENR Region 3 for numerous environment undertakings.

The award also acknowledges the contribution of the state-owned firm to the advocacies of DENR-EMB.

"It is this enduring partnership that inspired some locators to go beyond compliance and become environmental advocates for sustainable economic development," Candelaria said after they received the award.

Acknowledging their commitment to the environment, DENR Region 3 also conferred awards to some locator companies in the free port. These include Donggwang Clark Corp., Fontana Development Corp., Filinvest Mimosa Inc. and CRL Environmental Corp.

Some of the notable eco-friendly programs of CDC which are also participated in by its locators include the annual Recyclables Collection Event and Adapt an Estero Project. These aim to clean up the river systems within the Metro Clark area.

Meanwhile, the Environmental Practitioners Association, headed by Magat, was also recognized for being the longtime partner of the EMB R3, in the conduct of training for Pollution Control Officers and Managing Heads to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills needed for environmental stewardship.

Coinciding with the activity, outgoing DENR Regional Director Lormelyn Claudio welcomed the incoming DENR Region 3 Regional Director Wilson L. Trajeco in a turnover ceremony.



DENR-Calabarzon creates forest protection TF

CALAMBA City -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Calabarzon has formed a Regional Enforcement Task Group (RETG).

DENR-Calabarzon Enforcement Division chief Oliver Viado announced the creation of RETG during the Regional Multisectoral Forest Protection Committee (RMFPC) meeting held at Monte Vista Resort & Hotel in Bgy. Pansol here.

RMFPC is composed of community representatives and government officers who support the DENR as partners in forest protection.

Viado, head of RMFPC secretariat, said the task group will be composed by the regional executive director, assistant regional director for Technical

Services, regional Director of Environmental Management Bureau, regional director of Mines and Geosciences Bureau, chief of Enforcement Division, provincial Environment and Natural Resources officers of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon, and RMFPC members.

Viado said the formation of RETG, to be headed by DENR Regional Executive Director Gilbert Gonzales, is in line with the memorandum issued by DENR Usec. Juan Miguel Cuna to assist the newly-created Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF) in the regional level.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ordered Executive Director Nilo Tamoria to form the EPETF last Aug. 20.

Geml Formaran



WATER COMES FROM FORESTS, NOT DAMS—HARIBON

AMID ongoing contentions about the controversial Kaliwa Dam, environmental group Haribon Foundation reiterates that the solution to the water crisis is right in our midst—the restoration of Philippine forests.

Haribon emphasized that the water issue should be understood from the ridge-to-reef perspective that begins with where water comes from.

"Water comes from forests not from dams. Forests absorb water through their roots, releases it from their leaves through transpiration, then turns into rainwater together with water evaporated from oceans and other water bodies," the group said.

The foundation cited that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), submitted by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has also recognized the significant role of forests in the global carbon cycle as carbon sinks of the land ecosystem, absorbing carbon dioxide and storing carbon in soils.

"Forests have an indispensable biodiversity value—not only does it supply goods for trade and subsistence, it also contributes to water cycle and groundwater withdrawal," Haribon added.

Based on the government reforestation costing—particularly the National Greening Program—restoring 1 hectare of forest costs P16,450 for three years.

According to Haribon, this shows that only around P2.48 billion is needed to restore 150,000 hectares of forests in the country compared to the P12.2-billion loan from China that puts the Philippines at risk of environmental chaos and debt trap.

Threatened species

HARIBON also cited that the EIS reported that 67 species found in the watershed area and along the tunnel alignment are listed under the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Endangered Species, four of which are critically endangered native tree species, such as *yakal saplungan*, *bagtikan*, white lauan and tanguile; endangered species such as narra; 13 vulnerable species including *kamagong*, *haindang* and *tanglin*.

Various fauna species in the EIS report identified 69 species of birds—such as the yellow vented bulbul, the Philippine bulbul, chestnut munia, Luzon tarctic and rufous hornbill.

There are 13 mammalian species—including the short-nosed fruit bat,

musky fruit bat, long-tongued nectar bat, rousette bats, pygmy roundleaf bat, Polynesian rat, long-tailed macaque, Asian palm civet, Northern Luzon giant cloud rat, wild boar, Philippine forest rat and the Oriental house rat.

A total of 15 herpeto-faunal species (nine reptiles and six amphibians) are recorded in the area—including the gecko, skink, cobra, Philippine brown rat snake, green tree skink, cuming's eared-skink, water monitor lizard, python and green snake.

The list of amphibians, include the Malayan freshwater turtle, Laguna de Bay frog, common tree frog, giant marine toad, Chinese softshelled turtle and Luzon-fanged frog.

"Their presence in the watersheds of Sierra Madre is a good indicator of balance in the ecology, food chain cycle and natural environmental process that humans benefit from daily," Haribon said.

According to the foundation, while the EIS report submitted by the MWSS on September 2019 highlights the abundance of biodiversity in the area, it fails to respond to how it will establish and implement mitigating measures to address the impacts of structural development to the affected wildlife species.

The construction of the dam, said Haribon, will not only submerge their homes, but will also impact our daily survival once they go extinct.

Good governance

THE group also cited the Commission on Audit's (COA) report on the Kaliwa Dam project as a "negotiated contract."

COA has since called on the MWSS to explain the bidding process it undertook that seemed to have favored the China Energy Engineering Corp. Ltd.

According to Haribon, the report is telling of the integrity of an institution, its potential impacts to the quality of infrastructure services, and the treatment toward social and environmental interventions.

Despite staunch opposition from various groups, the Kaliwa Dam project has recently received a green light from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Groups, including the Stop Kaliwa Dam Network, composed of environmental and Indigenous Peoples groups, criticize the issuance of the environmental compliance certificate that was said to bypass proper permission procedures from affected Indigenous Peoples communities.



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Going back to the dark days of the water crisis

Last month, residents of Metro Manila suffered another round of water rationing as water levels dipped in the city's principal water source, the Angat Dam.

As if on cue, leftist groups staged a protests and called for the re-nationalization of water services citing incompetence by the two water and wastewater service providers, Maynilad and the Manila Water Co. (MWC). They demanded that the concessions of the two companies be revoked and water distribution functions be ceded back to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

Before the hate campaign of these leftist groups gains momentum, let me to put perspective on how life was like when MWSS managed our water systems.

The year was 1991 and I had just started my business. I built a factory in Mandaluyong and I still recall how water was only available for one hour, every 12 hours. We had to hoard water in drums and ration it throughout the day. Homes and factories in our neighborhood dug deep wells to ensure a steady supply, the depth of which got deeper every year as the water table slowly receded.

Dry taps left us with no recourse but to purchase water from vendors at the rate of P30 to P62 per cubic meter (a small drum). Not only was this an added overhead cost for our business, it also caused inconvenience and great stress for all. Maintaining cleanliness (essential in a food manufacturing facility) was a challenge given strict water rationing.

Back then, the MWSS was so inept that it only distributed water to 69% of the metropolis. It was saddled with more than a billion dollars in debt and operated with extreme inefficiency due to graft. The MWSS was in such a miserable state that President Fidel Ramos had to ask Congress for emergency powers to privatize it.

In 1997, the MWSS was successfully privatized with Maynilad winning the concession for the western zone of Metro Manila while MWC won the concession for the east. Both firms absorbed the debts of MWSS and collectively invested close to a P100 billion to provide water and sewerage connections. Today, 96% of Metro Manila is interconnected via underground pipes.

NUMBERS DON'T LIE
ANDREW J. MASIGAN

These days, water flows freely in our taps albeit with occasional interruptions. It is worlds away from the conditions we suffered through in the 1990s. It only proves that the private sector is more competent in delivering services than the government is. This is true for water as it is for power distribution and even in highway management.

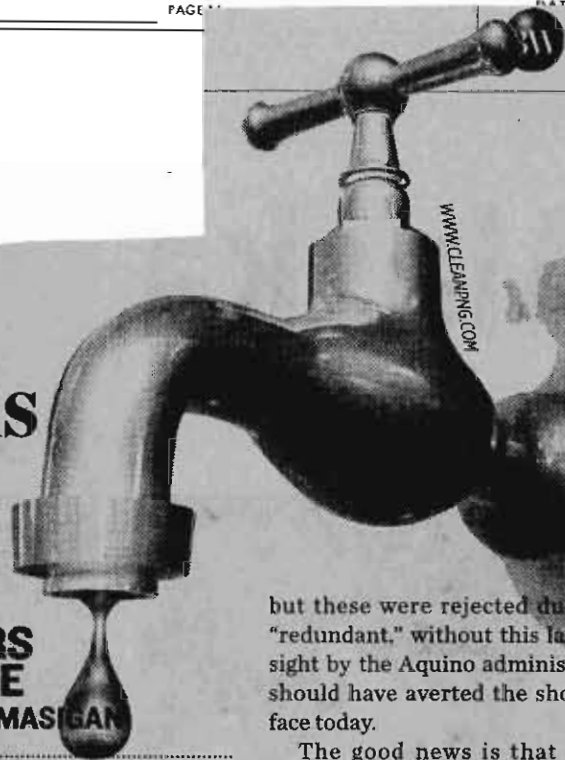
This is why we should reject the call for the re-nationalization of water services. To go down that road is like eating the food we already vomited.

As mentioned earlier, the water rationing last month was due to the low water levels at the Angat dam. Bear in mind that the management of our dams and securing new water sources are the responsibilities of government, not the concessionaires. The latter's role is merely to distribute water and manage sewerage systems throughout the city. To blame Maynilad and MWC for the lack of water supply is to bark up the wrong tree.

If there is anyone culpable for the water shortage, it is the governments of Marcos and Noynoy Aquino and all those in between. MWSS chief regulator Patrick Ty admitted that the government was partly to blame for this year's water shortage due to its failure to do what had been on the drawing board 50 years ago — which is to build an alternative water source for Metro Manila's ever-growing population.

Plans to carry out the New Centennial Water Source project, which involves the construction of the Kaliwa Dam in Quezon and the Laiban Dam in Rizal, had been discussed since the Marcos era. But the twin projects had been put off again and again amid opposition by, and accommodations for, indigenous folk, informal settlers, the church, and leftist groups.

Several proposals to build an alternative water source were proposed during the Noynoy Aquino administration



but these were rejected due to being "redundant," without this lack of foresight by the Aquino administration we should have averted the shortages we face today.

The good news is that construction of the P12.2-billion peso Kaliwa Dam was given the green light by the Duterte administration. Construction should commence soon as the project had already secured its environmental compliance certificate (ECC) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) last month. When completed, the Kaliwa Dam will ensure that Metro Manila has an ample supply of water, even with low levels of rainfall, for decades to come.

But again, leftist activists and leftists in congress are standing in the way of Kaliwa Dam's construction. They claim that the project proponents failed to secure free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) from the Dumagat and Remontado residents as required by Republic Act No. 8173 or the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act. They also claim that the dam will contribute to global warming.

I cannot understand the thought process of these leftists. On one hand, they complain about the water shortage and demand long-term solutions. On the other hand, when a viable solution is presented, they demand that it be trashed. With one demand cancelling the other out, government should just proceed with the project as it serves the greater interest of the greater majority.

As for Maynilad and MWC, they are on track towards achieving 100% connection of both water supply and sewerage systems by 2037. Maynilad has set aside P200 billion to build 26 new sewer treatment plants and install 425 kilometers of new sewer lines. As for MWC, they are spending P115 billion from hereon.

Building the Kaliwa Dam will assure us that the dark age of the 1990s water crisis never happens again. We owe it to the next generation of Manileños to build it. ■

ANDREW J. MASIGAN
is an economist.





BioCleaner aims to expand local market share

In 2004, a group of friends got together to develop something new, something innovative that has something to do with clean water. "Thus, we came up with the technology that requires very little energy to clean water. Back then, it used to be called the creek cleaner, but the main problem was waste water. So, we developed a system that treats wastewater and eliminates odor as well because everybody wants the odor to be taken away," said Eros Kaw, chief executive of BioCleaner.

In 2009, the BioCleaner was launched and sold its first unit to Tagaytay Highlands. With their sewerage treatment broken down, Tagaytay Highlands installed the portable BioCleaner unit to test the system's efficiency. From an electrical consumption of 129HP, their energy requirement was reduced to 2HP and the system treated the wastewater without the use of chemicals. It worked well and 10 years later, it is still in good working condition," Kaw said.

Since its introduction to the market, the BioCleaner system had been utilized to clean water not only in the Philippines, but also bodies of water in Indonesia, China and the US.

Today, BioCleaner has set its sights to expand its local market share. According to Kaw, "the main thing we want to do in the Philippines, outside of NCR, is to make our system available, accessible, and most importantly, affordable for the water districts. We would like to offer a sewerage system at a price of P25 per cubic meter of water and septage treatment at P2 per cubic meter, approximately a third of the

costs of other systems.

"Through public-private partnerships, the local government does not have to buy a unit. We want the local communities to keep the sovereignty of their local water rights. In certain places, that is more urbanized and in downtown areas, we are willing to invest for the long term. The local government doesn't even have to turn over their water distribution rights to us. We are looking for partners in the local government and other corporate investors as well. We want to be the economical and green alternative," Kaw said.

With US Green Patent A, BioCleaner is regarded as a product that is energy efficient and brings benefits to the environment.

BioCleaner is the first non-chemical water cleaning facility that provides a biological solution in treating wastewater and different types of organic waste. The BioCleaner system can create microbes tested as Biosafety level 1, making it suitable to work with well-characterized agents that do not cause disease in healthy humans. This wastewater cleaning facility can produce colorless and odorless water, eliminating the need for chlorination process. Without the use of any chemical solution, BioCleaner is safe for cleaning natural water systems such as creeks, ponds, and lakes.

The BioCleaner system is also highly adaptable to agricultural (piggeries, chicken, cow farms), industrial (factories, economic parks and zones), commercial and municipal (malls, condominiums, gated communities, hospitals) sectors.



Companies need to wake up to the new normal of climate change

These days, the reminders of how rapidly the world's climate is changing come with depressing frequency. In just the past few months, we've had heat waves in Europe and the US, floods and droughts in India, and wildfires in Australia. And it has been almost exactly six years since typhoon Yolanda killed thousands in the Philippines.

Added to that, a recent landmark report by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that accelerating rates of ice melt in polar and mountain regions and big rises in global sea levels will have devastating effects on coastal cities around the world, on anyone who relies on glaciers for water, and on marine ecosystems. The IPCC has warned that we are already past certain tipping points, and that large areas of the planet will become uncultivable and unlivable – fueling climate-related economic hardship and migration.

The warnings are stark – and they cry out for ambitious, wide-ranging and swift action.

Yet despite the evidence, many companies in Asia – the Philippines included – still find it hard to recognize the magnitude and urgency of the problem, let alone act on it.

To some extent, this is understandable. After all, while it's easy to justify spending money on repairs once a storm, wildfire, or drought has struck; it's harder to rational-

ize the costs of climate-proofing production sites, office buildings or logistics systems for events that lie in the future.

Similarly, while the immediate physical damage caused by a disaster is easy to see, the indirect, often non-physical implications of the worsening global environmental crisis are harder to grasp or plan for.

Those impacts, however, can be costly and profoundly disruptive.

Entire business sectors and communities could be wiped out by climate change. Think wine growers in Australia, ski resort operators in Japan, or fishing and farming communities in the Philippines, whose way of life depends on environmental conditions that are already changing dramatically.

In areas that are simply vulnerable to the effects of global warming, insurance premiums stand to rise significantly at the same time as property valuations fall.

Shifting consumer, investor, and regulator expectations also pose reputational, policy, regulatory, and legal risks to business. Some nations are now discussing introducing taxes on meat and plastic packaging, for example – measures that would have been inconceivable just a few years ago – while the rise of everything from vegan foods and ocean-friendly sunscreens to electric vehicles shows that consumers increasingly care about the environmental and social credentials of what they buy.

Meanwhile, analysts at pension funds and asset managers are already calculating the long-term risks to industries that fail to move away from high-carbon, high-polluting activities – anticipating that changing laws and attitudes may make it expensive to raise capital or access new markets, if not put them out of business altogether.

So while governments and multilateral organizations are making long-term plans to combat global emissions and pollution, it is manifestly in companies' own interests to step up efforts to help fight our planet's climate emergency.

This is particularly the case in Asia, which is especially vulnerable. Failure to combat the effects of global warming now could severely dent this region's growth opportunity. Yet HSBC's latest annual Sustainable Financing and Investing Survey showed that, while encouraging progress has been made, Asian financial markets are still not as environmentally and socially aware as those in other regions.

So, whether you are in resources, real estate, retailing, or financial services, here are some thoughts.

Think short-term and long-term: Decisions made today impact the future. Climate change is not just about the next storm or flood. It is systemic, all-encompassing, and here



JONATHAN DREW
Managing Director,
Sustainable Finance,
Asia-Pacific, HSBC

to stay. Fast forward 10, 20, or 30 years, and the heat waves, droughts, storms, and floods we've seen in recent years – plus mounting pollution and much-reduced biodiversity – will be the norm.

Think holistic: Addressing just one aspect of your operation is not enough. Review everything from electricity usage and property portfolios, to where you source materials and how you package and ship products, to your operational preparedness for weather-linked disasters. This means engaging with all layers of your organization. And it means embedding "green" and "social" issues into all your business and investment decision making.

Think global: Melting glaciers and rising sea levels are not just bad news for the inhabitants of Greenland or Tuvalu. They have global implications. In today's interconnected world, there's no such thing as far away.

Stay up to date: The debate on climate

moves fast. Technological changes and green innovations could put more low-carbon alternatives and opportunities within your reach. Stay abreast of the regulatory environment, sustainable financing options, and evolving investor and customer expectations. You may well find that climate-friendly action could lift – not drag down – your profits and reputation.

Act now and lead by example. It takes time to climate-proof a factory or office building, switch a fleet of delivery trucks to electric, source more sustainably-developed goods, or change consumption habits. Business strategies and product lineups can't be shifted overnight. But we can all at least start the process now, not next week, or next year. Failure to act now means the legacy of this generation may irreversibly be seen as one of failure. We can do so much better.



Say no to single-use plastics



Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

RISING SUN

AS the Climate Change Commission (CCC) of the Philippines celebrated the 12th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week from November 18 to 22, 2019, at One Esplanade in Pasay City, the conversation remains focused on how the Philippines has taken action on the problem and what its plans are for the future.

Part of the weeklong celebration were activities like the Third National Convention on Climate Change Adaptation, "Ctrl+S Now: A Print Exhibition on Climate Change Awareness and Action," and "Making Climate Finance Count: Increasing Flows for Adaptation."

As the country's lead policy-making body tasked to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the government programs related to the creation of plans and strategies that will

mitigate the effects of climate change in the country, CCC is ready to lead the country as it moves toward low carbon and climate-resilient development. This is according to CCC head Secretary Emmanuel M. de Guzman.

One aspect that requires attention would be the production, use, and disposal of single-use plastics. Experts from environmental organizations have said that one possible solution is for the Philippines

to uphold the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) strategy. If this becomes a legislation, manufacturers will be held responsible for the packaging of their products up to the end of its life cycle. The government may also choose to ban the use of single-use plastics, or to require that all plastics used in packaging should be recyclable. The public, naturally, needs to support the call to formalize these regulations.

Manufacturers have the power (as well as the responsibility) to influence their customers' behavior. It only takes a little creativity and innovation. Possible strategies that they can implement would be to give out discounts for every use of reusable packaging or containers, or award points to those customers who recycle. Their advertising and PR agencies can definitely think of more creative ways to nudge people to change their ways.

These companies and manufacturers also have a say in the way their suppliers deliver the raw materials. They can always request their partners to use environment-

friendly packaging in delivery, for example.

Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, author of the Climate Change Act that gave birth to the CCC, said during the above-mentioned event that we have reached the point of no return. She said that we all have to take action now in order to survive; otherwise, people are going to die. She also said that climate science already presented the possibilities that we all face as we fight against the challenges brought about by climate change.

As to be expected, changing mindsets and behavior appears to be the biggest hurdle in this advocacy. But if the government and businesses will take responsibility and initiate proper action, then people may be influenced, educated, and moved to change their attitudes, habits and lifestyle.



LET us remember the life, courage, and heroism of Sen. Ninoy Aquino (Benigno Aquino Jr.) on Wednesday, November 27, his birth anniversary. Ninoy was born in Tarlac, in 1932.



A smarter approach



A GLOBAL campaign to save the planet from what some experts call an existential threat to humanity is in full swing. There is not a day when I don't encounter at least one article, advertorial or high-profile campaign in TV, cable, or social media raising the alarm on climate change and plastic packaging. The need to be sustainable or to go "green" is now a reality that is influencing legislators and regulators of governments and pressuring enterprises, big and small, to lessen their impact on the environment.

Reacting to reports that rank the Philippine as a top ocean polluter, several lawmakers are proposing a gamut of legislation that mostly seeks the outright banning of single-use plastic or non-biodegradable packaging. As these new policies are being debated, the most targeted brands by environmental groups like Coca-Cola and Unilever are already heavily investing in sustainability programs that combine shifting to recyclable packaging and advocacy campaigns to modify the throw away behavior of consumers.

The message we often hear on plastic packaging to simply "use something else" is not as simple as it sounds. All the anti-plastic campaigns have buried the original motivation to shift from the pre-plastic world of glass, tin can, and paper-based packaging which was ironically about the environment, economics and consumer safety. I am old enough, (over 50 years old) to remember that plastics were the solution to saving the fast denudation of the world's forests because of the demand for paper products used daily as paper bags and boxes and since the personal computers and the Internet was decades away, paper was the main medium for communication and data storage. Plastics packaging was a revolution and soon became dominant because it drastically reduced costs, used less material, was lightweight, increased shelf life of food products and was more adaptable to various applications compared to glass or metal which increases distribution costs because of its heavier weight and bulk. Further innovations in sachet packaging made consumer products more accessible to the poor masses who could not afford the larger packaging of first-world countries.

So now that the trend to shifting to alternative packaging materials seems to be unstoppable, there should be an equally serious discussion on how shifting back to paper, glass, tin and aluminum will impact all consumers. As the great majority of Filipino consumers are in the D and E side of the economic spectrum, our policy leaders and economic managers must study the real cost impact on our already heavily burdened people.

According to a 2018 report of the American Chemistry Council and accounting firm Trucost, the shift to alternative packaging will increase environmental costs five times higher than plastic packaging. Production costs will likewise go up as whole manufacturing and distribution operations will need a invest heavily in new production processes.

As a consumer, more practical questions come to mind. When we totally ditch plastics, how will the grocery stores wrap the fresh meats, vegetables and fish? Without all the shrink wrap packaging of food items, how will the shelf life and sanitary issues be addressed. Does this mean I will need a bigger refrigerator space? How will all these non-plastic alternatives affect my family's monthly budget?

Instead of banning plastics, some experts support a smarter approach that focuses on more innovation of plastic packaging. Governments should support the development of new technologies that use plants to create biodegradable plastics that disintegrate and break down and may even be used as compost material. Notable is Coca-Cola's opening to the public of its PlantBottle technology patent so other manufacturing developers can use it. The technology produces 100-percent recyclable packaging and has helped reduce the company's emissions.

"We need to design and implement smarter policies and solutions to our garbage woes."



Others suggest making plastic packaging more durable to make them reusable, therefore creating value for a cash deposit then reuse or recycle system like glass bottled drinks

But all these ideas do not really solve the real problem which is the need to dispose of our garbage responsibly. It's easy to blame the big manufacturers and shout demands to stop using plastics but this is a deceptively oversimplified and misdirected attack to a complex systemic and behavioral problem that involves every human being on the planet. Focusing on plugging the leaks in the circular ecosystem of all solid waste and a holistic attitude that welcomes practical and viable solutions with the least burden to consumers is the best way to go.

These environmental complexities will be tackled in the upcoming Pilipinas Conference hosted by Stratbase in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship. DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu will deliver the keynote address to the multi-sectoral participants represented by leaders from government, the legislature, presidents and CEOs of private industries, environmental groups and the academe. The speakers and panel discussions will exchange insights and best practices relevant to managing the solid waste and plastic packaging problem in the context of the DENR's ongoing Manila Bay clean-up project. Hopefully these discussions will provide the right direction in designing and implementing smarter policies and solutions to our garbage woes.



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Equity not hot air

“Rody’s position is a strong challenge to the United States particularly since it has been exiting most of the international deals which it had spearheaded and demanded that other countries adhere to.”

President Rody Duterte made clear his demand for equity in the climate change pact or the Paris Agreement to which the country is a signatory, but he wanted the United Nations (UN) that sponsored it to impose sanctions.

Rody pointed out he is for the compact that seeks to limit and eventually end the use of fossil fuel, such as coal and petroleum, that pollutes the environment,

Earlier, Rody had balked at the agreement despite signing it after the United States under President Donald Trump withdrew from the deal.

From then on, Rody said any discussions on the agreement would be all air since there are no penalty mechanisms.

“UN should better understand that it has to have a sanction for violators,” Rody said. “Without a sanction, I do not think that it will succeed. It will only fail and worsen the situation for the coming generation.”

His critics have accused Rody of turning his back on the global movement, but he made clear that on the contrary he wanted stronger measures in protecting the environment.

The US government, for instance, withdrew from the global pact without any consequence.

“As the President (Donald Trump) has made abundantly clear, the United States is withdrawing unless we can reenter on terms that are more favorable to our country,” the White House said in a statement on the superpower’s position.

Trump once called climate change a “hoax,” and announced after assuming the presidency that his country will leave the Paris Agreement, which was met with widespread criticism both at home and abroad.

Rody wanted greater responsibility from industrialized nations, which are the source of much of the pollution and not those that are still in the development stage such as the Philippines.

He issued a directive restricting foreign travel to climate change conferences abroad since such meetings are futile without any meaningful implementation that binds the signatories.

Rody’s point is that participating in international talks about climate change is a waste of money when there was “no entity to enforce the laws governing climate.”

“I said to the body: Let’s stop kidding each other or else we are just wasting the time and the money of the people coming back and forth to these conferences, which has not improved a bit since we started to talk about it, except for the noisy scientists,” Duterte had said.



WIM 11/25/19
DAILY TRIBUNE

“A perpetrator, for instance, may no longer claim that his intrusive gaze whenever a female neighbor passes by is an innocent act.”



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TITLE: Equity not hot air

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**“
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The Philippines, in a bid to cut down greenhouse gas emissions globally, committed to join almost 200 countries in a deal in December 2015 during the Aquino administration. The agreement was signed by Rody in March 2017.

Rody, however, consistently voiced his view that the agreement was a “farce” if developed countries would not honor their obligations.

Duterte’s position is a strong challenge to the United States particularly since it has been exiting most of the international deals which it had spearheaded and demanded that other countries adhere to.

“I don’t know why... I have to fathom the reason given the rationale of the withdrawal. Is it because it cannot work hand-in-hand with other nations, or is it because (Donald)

Trump would like to do it alone?” Rody had said.

The US ranks as the second largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, according to the latest World Bank data.

“There has to be an enterprise in the approach, business-like, you honor your word,” Rody said. “You do not exceed the limits that we have set for ourselves. And the one thing that I said we cannot really control are those countries who are highly industrialized and powerful enough to impose their own will. That’s the problem,” the President went.

Developing nations should not be made to solely carry the burden of saving Mother Earth when it is the superpowers that are the chief source of the degradation of the environment.



TITLE:

LALABANAN daw ng mga negosyante sa vape at e-cigarettes si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na nag-utos sa mga awtoridad naarestuhin ang mga gumagamit ng vape o e-cigarette sa mga pampublikong lugar at iba pang ipinagbabawal ng batas na smoking area.

Kakambal ng kautusan ang pagbabawal din ng pagtitinda ng vape o e-cigarette.

Sabi ng mga negosyante na distributor at importer, maaaring nakabatay lang si Pang. Digong sa mga nakikitang menor-de-edad na nagbe-vape.

Maaaring nagkamali rin umano si Pang. Digong sa pagsasabing may namatay na sa vaping o e-cigar smoking sa Kabisayaan dahil ang totoo umano, matagal nang maysakit ang 16-anyos na biktima at kamakailan lang ito nagvape.

HINDI NAIINTINDIHAN

Kung pag-aaralan nang husto ang kautusan ni Pang. Digong, nagkakamali ang mga negosyante.

Hindi naiintindihan ng mga negosyante ang pinakapuno't dulo ng kautusan ng Pangulo.

Nag-utos ang Pangulo laban sa vaping o e-cigarette smoking para protektahan ang mamamayang Filipino sa nakasasakit at nakamamatay na bisyong ito na noong una ay sinasabing "ligtas" umarong pamalit sa sigarilyo.

May namatay man o wala sa Pinas, mga Bro, ang katotohanan, eh, mabilis na namamatay ang mga gumagamit ng vape o e-cigarette sa Amerika.

Nasa 49 na ang namatay sa nakalipas ng tatlong buwan lamang at may 3,000 libo rin ang naospital.

Ang New Jersey Hospital Association lamang ay tinatayang aabot sa 16,000 ang maging pasyente nila sa katapusan ng taong ito.

Paano naman ang iba pang 51 estado ng Amerika, eh, nakakalat sa 42 estado ang namamatay sa kanila?

Mayroon pa ring 16-anyos na estudyante na pinalitan ang baga dahil sa pagkalulong sa nasabing bisyo.

MAY NICOTINE

Sabi ni Pangulong Digong, bawal ang niko-



VAPE, MAY NICOTINE NA, MAY MARIJUANA PA

tina o nicotine sa Pinas dahil isa ito sa mga pangunahing sangkap ng sigarilyo.

Kung gusto mong lumanghap ng nicotine, sa loob ng bahay mo at hindi sa labas.

At ang nicotine ay galing sa tabako na ipinagbabawal na gamitin sa mga pampublikong lugar.

Pero alam ba ninyo ang nicotine, mga Bro?

Ito ang kemikal na nag-utos ng mabilis sa utak ng tao na gustuhin ang sigarilyo at maging adik sa yosi sa huli.

Pero alam ba ninyong bukod sa gagawin kang adik ng nicotine, ito pala ang isang malaking dahilan kung bakit lumalaking pasaway at matigas ang ulo ng isang bata.

Sa sobrang nicotine din nagkakaroon ng maaga o premature na panganganak ng isang ina na delikado sa ina at baby.

Pinagmumulan din ito ng mahinang puso ng bata at nakamamatay rin sa nasa sinapupunan o sa sanggol.

At marami sa mga vape at e-cigar ang puro nicotine na nasa anyong likido ang palaman.

Hindi bawal at hindi delikado sa tao ang nicotine?

Anak kayo ng pitong putakte.

MAY MARIJUANA

May isang milyon nang nagbe-vape o nag-i-e-cigarette sa mahal kong Pinas.

Ang sabi ng iba, may nicotine free na vape at e-cigarette.

Ipagpalagay nang may tamang kawiran ito.

Pero may tinatawag namang CBD o cannabidiol at THC o tetrahydrocannabinol.

Kapag nurirat mo kung saan galing ang CBD at THC, magugulat ka.

Galing pala ito sa marijuana.

Ang CBD ay mahinang kemikal mula sa marijuana samantalang ang THC ang malakas na kemikal galing sa marijuana rin.

Ilang THC ang nagpa-

vape o e-cigar.

Lumalabas, mga Bro, napaiikutan tayong mga druglord.

Sa vape o e-cigar na sila mabilis na nagtitinda pala ng marijuana sa mahal kong Pinas.

Ligal ang marijuana sa Amerika ngunit bawal sa Pinas.

At hindi lang bawal dahil isang krimen sa Pinas ang paggamit, paggawa, pagtanim, pagbebenta, pag-aangkat ng marijuana.

Heto ang parusa sa pagkakaroon ng marijuana.

Life imprisonment sa pagkakaroon ng 10 gramo o higit pa ng 10 grams or more of marijuana resin or marijuana resin oil.

Hindi ba resin oil ng marijuana ang THC at CBD na siyang palaman ng vape paraphernalia, gayundin sa e-cigarette?

ANONG GUSTO NILANG PALABASIN?

Ano ang gustong palabasin ng mga negosyante?

Sige, lumaban kayo, kayong mga negosyante, pabor sa nakasasakit at nakamamatay na bisyo.

Siyempre pa, sa korte hahantong ang lahat.

Pero kung iinit nang husto ang laban, isang araw mabubulaga na lang kayo ukol sa marihuwana at nicotine na sangkap ng vape at e-cigarettes.

Bukod sa marijuana at nicotine, may vitamin e acetate pa na galing sa petrolyo na talaga naman nakamamatay rin.

Ayaw kong isipin na kung nagtagumpay kayo laban kay Digong sa ligal na paraan, kapalit naman ito ng pagkalulong sa marijuana at nicotine ang milyon-milyong mamamayan hanggang sa sila magkasakit at mamatay.

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



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
RXI-2B, Salvacion, Panabo City, Davao del Norte, 8105 Philippines
TELEFAX NO. (084)823-2011/email.rxi_panabo@yahoo.com

LEASE OF PUBLIC LANDS

Notice is hereby given that the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office XI-2B, Salvacion, Panabo, City will accept oral or written bids not later than ten (10:00) o'clock in the morning on **January 3, 2020**, for the lease for docking purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location	:	San Pedro, Panabo City
Description	:	Mlc-11-001228-D
Area	:	101,401 square meters
Appraisal (Land)	:	Php 2,600.00 per square meter or Php 263,642,600.00 for the whole tract
Value of Improvements	:	Php 108,563,025.00
Applied for by	:	Davao International Container Terminal, Inc. represented by: Bonifacio B. Licayan

The successful bidder if other than the applicant must reimburse the latter of the expenses for the publication of the notice of lease and the survey of the land.

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three per centum (3%) of the value of the land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed/existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent of at least three (3) months' rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified checks, cashier's check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit everytime his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) month's rental, otherwise, such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Panabo City, Philippines, November 12, 2019.

ROGELIO M. HERMO
OIC, CENR Officer



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
XI-2B, Salvacion, Panabo City, Davao del Norte, 8105 Philippines
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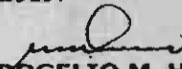
PAGPAPAUPA NG LUPANG PUBLIKO

Ipinagbibigay alam sa madla na ang Community Environment and Natural Resources Office XI-2B, Salvacion, Panabo City ay tatanggap ng selyado o nakasulat na alok sa ika alas Diyes (10:00 o'clock) ng umaga sa ika **3** ng **Enero**, taong **2020**, para paupahan ang isang sukat na lupang publiko na inilarawan sa ibaba nito.

Lugar	:	San Pedro, Panabo City
Deskripsyon	:	Mlc-11-001228-D
Sukat	:	101,401 metros kwadrados
Tasahan ng Lupa	:	Php 2,600.00 kada metro kwadrado o Kabuuang Php 263,642,600.00
Halaga ng nakakatayong Proyekto	:	Php 108,563,025.00
Aplikante	:	Davao International Container Terminal, Inc. (DICT) represented by: Bonifacio B. Licayan

Ang karapatan na upahan ang nasabing lupa ay ibibigay sa tao o partido na makapagbibigay ng pinakamataas na upa sa isang taon na hindi bababa sa tatlong (3%) porsyento sa halaga ng lupa at isang (1%) porsyento sa halaga ng itatayong estruktura. Upang ang isang tao ay makakasama sa isasagawang subasta, kailangang siya ay karapat-dapat na aplikante at kailangang bago magsimula ang subasta ay nakadeposito siya ng halagang katumbas ng tatlong buwang upa. Ang deposito ay kailangang salaping papel, money order, cashier's o manager's check, ang siya lamang tatanggapin. Ang isang tao na sumali sa subasta na nagrerepresenta ng ibang tao ay makakasali lamang kung mayroon siyang pahintulot na ibinigay sa pamamagitan ng kaukulang pahintulot na nilalagdaan ng Notaryo Publiko. Sa panahon ng subasta, ang taong sumali ay magkaroon ng dagdag na deposito kapag ang kanyang alok ay itinataas para makumpleto ang kabuuang tatlong buwang upa. Ang karapatang tumanggi o tanggihan ang anumang alok o sa lahat ng alok ay palaging nakalaan para sa pamahalaan. Ang magwawagi sa alok na ito kung hindi siya ang aplikante ay kinakailangan tutumbasan ang kabayaranang nagugol sa pagpapalathala ng panawagang ito sa pagpapasukat ng lupa.

Lungsod ng Panabo, Pilipinas, Nobyembre 12, 2019.


ROGELIO M. HERMO
OIC, CENR Officer



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman Quezon City 1116
Telephone Nos.: 925-47-93 to 97
Email: emb@emb.gov.ph
Visit us at <http://www.emb.gov.ph>

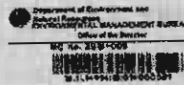
EMB MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
No. 2019-003

**SUBJECT: HARMONIZATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EMB
MC NO. 2019-003**

In the interest of public service and to harmonize the processing and issuance of Environmental Compliance Certificates with existing laws, rules and regulations, the implementation of the EMB Memorandum Circular No. 2019-003, otherwise known as "*Updated Guidelines in the Processing and Issuance of ECC for Category B Projects*" is hereby held in abeyance, pending revision of the EMB Citizen's Charter, pursuant to Republic Act No. 11032, otherwise known as "*East of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018*".

This Memorandum shall take effect immediately after publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgment of receipt of a copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR), UP Law Center.


ENGR. WILFREDO P. CUSADO
EOIC-Director



MT - Nov. 25, 2019