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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Zero-waste SEA Games eyed

By Maria Romero
@tribunephil_mbr

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is calling on the organizers of the 30th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games and host local government units (LGU) to ensure proper waste management and implement "zero-waste-to-landfill" policy throughout the nearly two-week biennial sports event.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns Benny Antiporda said the target is to have "no biodegradable or recyclable waste sent to landfills coming from the SEA Games venues."

"We call on the SEA Games organizers to use the sports event as a venue to showcase our best practices on solid waste management," Antiporda said.

The appeal was made in anticipation of the large volumes of waste to be generated in the venues where food and drinks are sold.

The DENR expects plastic food and beverage

containers, aluminum cans and cardboard as among the wastes to be produced at the sporting event.

Antiporda, who chairs the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), said the SEA Games organizers and host LGU could tap concerned city and municipality environment and natural resources officers and mobilize volunteers to ensure that the waste to be generated during the event will be properly segregated and sent to materials recovery facilities.

The DENR official hopes the 12-day event will serve as a venue to promote waste segregation and recycling and that such practices would "go beyond the games."

In fact, he said the systems for implementing waste segregation and recycling have been in place from the provincial down to the barangay levels, as laid out in their approved 10-year Solid Waste Management Plans (SWMP).

This is pursuant to Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000,

which mandates LGU as primarily responsible for waste segregation and disposal.

NSWMC records show that 20 out of 23 cities and towns hosting the SEA Games already have approved SWMP while the remaining three are still under evaluation.

Host LGU with approved SWMP are the cities of Makati, Mandaluyong, Manila, Muntinlupa, Pasay, Pasig, Quezon and San Juan in Metro Manila; Angeles, Lubao, Mabalacat and San Fernando in Pampanga; Capas and Tarlac City in Tarlac province; San Juan town in La Union province; Imus and Tagaytay in Cavite; and Biñan, Los Baños and Sta. Rosa in Laguna.

Those whose SWMPs are under evaluation are Calatagan, Batangas; Bocaue, Bulacan; and Subic, Zambales.

To date, the NSWMC has already approved the SWMP of 819 LGU or 48 percent of all 1,715 LGU in the country.

The SWMP of 791 LGU are under evaluation while 105 have yet to submit their plans prepared by their respective local solid waste management boards.



'Use SEAG to show best practices in waste mgmt.'

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

USE the SEA Games as a venue to showcase our best practices on solid waste management.

This was the call made by Benny Antiporda, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns, to organizers of the sports event.

Antiporda, who chairs the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), said the SEA Games organizers and host local government units (LGUs) will ensure proper waste management and implement a "zero-waste-to-landfill" policy throughout the nearly two-week biennial sports event.

He added that the DENR targets that no biodegradable or recyclable waste will be sent to landfills coming from the SEA Games venues.

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The DENR official expressed hope the 12-day event will serve as a venue to promote waste segregation and recycling, and that such practices would "go beyond the Games."

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SAN Miguel Corporation (SMC) president and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang said that traffic on the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) is expected to ease with today's reopening of the third lane of the Skyway at-grade level, and the opening of a new, 2-lane ramp connecting the Alabang viaduct to the elevated Skyway.

"These enhancements will ensure that there will be 5 lanes available to northbound SLEX vehicles during rush hours, even as we go full blast with construction of the Skyway Extension project. Motorists will be able to use the original three lanes at the at-grade section, plus 2 more lanes at the elevated section," Ang said.

This is a considerable improvement from previous conditions, wherein 5 lanes on the SLEX would narrow to just 3 at the Alabang viaduct.

To make this possible, Skyway reconfigured and maximized the first section of the elevated Skyway coming from the Alabang-Zapote road to 3 lanes, from the original 2.

With the new ramp connecting to the elevated section, northbound traffic from SLEX can be accommodated without significantly impacting traffic coming from the Alabang-Zapote road.

The original design for the Alabang-Zapote road Skyway ramp, built by the previous concessionaire, is one lane northbound and one lane southbound. At certain times in the morning, when traffic is heaviest, both lanes are used for northbound traffic.

The advantage of the new 3-lane configuration at the start of the elevated portion is that lane assignments can be easily adjusted depending on traffic volume.

As such, even with the



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new ramp, motorists coming from the Alabang-Zapote road will retain use of 1-2 lanes, depending on traffic volume.

In the evening, when southbound traffic is heavier, more or all lanes—including the two lanes on the new ramp—can be assigned for southbound use.

These measures are part of preparations for the construction of the Skyway Extension, a P10 billion SMC initiative to extend Skyway from Alabang to SLEX near Susana Heights and the Muntinlupa-Cavite Expressway (M C X).

Set for completion by December next year, it will add three northbound lanes and 2 southbound lanes on either side of the existing SLEX. It will allow both northbound and southbound motorists to bypass the Alabang viaduct.

With the Dec. 1 openings on track, SMC is delivering on a promise to reopen the third-lane of the at-grade Skyway before the Holiday

rush, and improve Alabang traffic by adding new lanes.

"We hope that our valued motorists will find these immediate measures satisfactory. Even as we start construction on the Skyway Extension—which is meant to be the long-term solution to traffic on the SLEX—we've already increased the number of usable lanes to help mitigate and improve traffic," Ang said.

"But as with anything new, we expect a period of adjustment for motorists. This may still cause some congestion in the beginning, especially with the sheer volume of vehicles on the SLEX everyday. But we expect the traffic situation to improve quickly once we open," Ang added.

As part of continuing efforts to manage traffic, Ang said that SMC's tollway unit is mobilizing all traffic personnel to ensure efficient flow of traffic. They are also increasing the number of signs and providing advisories to motorists.

"We've also instructed our teams on the ground to constantly communicate with the different communities and villages for traffic matters. In the mean-

time, we continue to appeal for patience and understanding, as we work on providing a long-term solution to traffic in south Metro Manila." Ang said.



SEAG as venue to showcase PH best practice in waste management urged

"USE the 30th SEA Games as a venue to showcase our best practices on solid waste management."

This call was made by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns Undersecretary Benny Antiporda to the organizers of the sport event.

Antiporda, who chairs the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), said the SEA Games organizers and host local government units (LGUs) should ensure proper waste management and implement "zero-waste-to-landfill" policy during the two-week biennial sports event.

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Cory Martinez



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda poses with former national team coach Johnny Tam during a meeting recently. Tam is organizing the Coach JT Paete Physical Fitness Club and a one-day Paete invitational tournament featuring a guest team from China thru sportsman Achit Kaw and two local teams.





DENR Misamis pinag-iingat sa Initao bombing

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Pinag-iingat ni Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu ang mga opisyal at empleyado ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa bayan ng Initao, Misamis Oriental kasunod ng tangkang pagkuha sa nakumpiskang sasakyan na may lamang 2-libong putol na kahoy ng punong lawaan.

Ayon kay DENR Asst. Regional Director for Northern Mindanao Aldritch Resma, nagpaabot ng pakikiramay si Sec. Cimatu sa pamilya ni Police Master Sgt. Jason Magno na nasawi nang masabugan ng granada sa covered court ng Initao Community College.

Si Magno ang pulis sa viral video na nakipag-agawan ng eksplosibo mula sa salarin na si Ibrahim Basher, 65-anyos, ng Madamba, Lanao del Sur, para hindi madamay ang mga estudyanteng nasa lugar kungsaan nangyari ang insidente.

Itinuturing na bayani ngayon ang nasawing pulis dahil sa pagbubuwis buhay nito para sa iba.

Isang netizen naman ang nag-post sa aniya'y dahilan nang pag-amok ni Basher: "Itong matandang ito (Basher) ay dinakip ng mga taga-DENR Misamis ang kanyang mga kahoy na dapat ay ibebenta nya. (Note: All has legal documents to pass). Apat na beses siyang pabalik-balik sa opisina ng DENR Misamis which happened na sa loob ng school campus ang opisina. What they did to the old man is miserable and inhuman. Gusto ng DENR Misamis na magbigay ng pera ang matanda para ma-release ang kanyang ibebentang kahoy tapos pag nandun ang matanda ay tinatawanan lang nila ito at kinukutya kaya na-depress. 65 years old kinukutya nyo pa at pinagtatawanan??? FYI lang ahhh, Maranao sya the same with me. We are a tribe never wanted to be laughing stock, ma-pride kami basta nasa tama ang aming pinaglalaman. Maranao sya and dont mention his religion. Everyday halita sa TV na patayan na hindi naman mga Muslim but media didn't mention the religion, so don't unfair."



EDITORIAL

Underwater in 30 years, if...

New scientific research released last month warns of an increasingly ominous future for the environment. People may think that warning is more of the usual, but something in the report should concern Filipinos in particular: In about three decades, the Philippines could find many of its coastal areas, including those surrounding Manila Bay, underwater due to the effects of climate change.

The research, produced by science organization Climate Central and published in the open-access journal *Nature Communications*, said 150 million people—three times more than was previously estimated—could potentially be displaced by 2050, or up to 300 million by the end of the century if climate change is not mitigated. The number of people affected, it further warned, could rise to 480 million by 2100.

The study identified the Philippines as one of the countries most vulnerable to flooding. "...We find that more than 70 percent of the total number of people [live] on implicated land area in eight Asian countries: China, Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Japan," it said.

Which parts of the Philippines? As shown in a map simulation on the Climate Central website, parts of Manila, Malabon, Bulacan, Valenzuela and Pasay City (narrowly missing the Ninoy Aquino International Airport where it stands now) will be below sea level in 30 years. Other areas that will be affected include parts of Roxas and Iloilo cities in the Visayas, and Cotabato, Surigao and Butuan in Mindanao. This could directly impact at least 8.6 million Filipinos living in these areas. And with Manila and Pasay underwater, the new shoreline is projected to be in—imagine this—the Edsa-Magallanes area in Makati.

What happened in Venice, Italy, about two weeks ago is but the latest warning of the severe threat of rising seas due to climate change. Venice, which sits in the middle of a lagoon at the edge of the Adriatic Sea, experienced not only its worst flooding in 50 years; according to LiveScience.com, quoting BBC meteorologist Nikki Berry, "Of the 10 highest tides in Venice since record-keeping began in 1923, five have occurred in the last 20 years, including the current flood and one in 2018." The calamitous "acqua alta" (high tide) penetrated St. Mark's Basilica and caused considerable damage to

one of the world's most famous landmarks—only the sixth time the church was flooded in 1,200 years, again with four of those floods happening in the last 20 years. Venice Mayor Luigi Brugnaro was clear about the culprit: "These are the effects of climate change," he said in a tweet. "The costs will be high."

Another report, "Climate tipping points—too risky to bet against," written by a group of experts from Europe and Australia and published last week in *Nature* magazine, outlined tipping points and how exceeding them could result in a domino effect that would be catastrophic for the planet. These tipping points include ice collapses in West and East Antarctica and in Greenland that could add anywhere between three and seven meters to the sea level, and which could happen as early as as 2030—11 years away—if global warming is at 1.5 degrees Celsius. "We might already have committed future generations to living with sea-level rises of around 10 meters over thousands of years," the authors said.

The rising temperature, the *Nature* report warned, could destroy entire ecosystems and, in fact, has already destabilized the Amazon, the world's largest rainforest and home to 10 percent of the world's species. Evidence suggests that "we are in a state of planetary emergency," and the intervention period left to prevent irreparable damage to the planet has "already shrunk towards zero, whereas the reaction time to achieve net zero emissions is 30 years at best."

The Philippines is in the direct path of environmental devastation, so it's startling to learn that, for one, the Duterte administration had suspended a \$36-million loan from Germany to fund climate change studies, according to Mongabay, a nonprofit environmental science and conservation news platform. It said negotiations bogged down after President Duterte bristled against foreign scrutiny on his human rights record. The Department of Finance is reportedly looking for alternative fund sources.

In just about three decades, Metro Manila and other coastal cities may well see millions of its residents displaced and forced to forge new ways of living as the seas flood in and reconfigure the land—a development with far-reaching consequences for the Philippines' economy, food and resource security, and social stability. What is the country and its government doing to prepare for such an upheaval?



TITLE:

Climate justice advocates protest vs coal projects in Philippines

Climate justice advocates held a protest action on Friday to put an end to all coal projects in the Philippines to curb the spread of greenhouse gas emissions in the environment.

The Global Climate Strike against coal projects were initiated two days before the 25th Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Protests in Manila showcased Power for People Coalition's (P4P) Dora the Explorer mascot which called on global leaders of COP in Madrid, Spain to say "hasta la vista" to coal energy.

"It has been a quarter of a century since COP negotiations to avert cata-

strophic climate change began. Yet after 25 years of talks and pledges, we are seeing emissions rise to an all-time high," Gerry Arances, P4P convenor, said in a statement.

"In 2018, global energy-related emissions rose to a historic 1.7%. Just this week, the WMO reported that we have already reached the critical level of 400 ppm CO2 concentration. And how could this not be, when 85% of the world's energy comes from coal and other fossil fuels?" he added. Ian Rivera, national coordinator of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, cited how coal energy affects climate impacts such as Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda).

"Coal makes up 40%

of global fossil fuel emissions. Climate impacts like Haiyan and Ketsana and the long drought in the Philippines last 2016, the forest fires in California and flooding in Europe, all these should have spurred an iron-handed approach towards coal among global leaders," Rivera said in the same statement.

Rara Ada of Youth for Climate Justice said the youth sector participated in the rallies in Mindanao to condemn coal projects and its proponents to continue "stealing and swiping away young people's future and that of generations to come."

Avril de Torres, convenor of the Ecological Justice League of Youth Leaders, called on the government to question

and act on the harmful effects of coal projects in the environment.

"We hope that members of our government would also ask themselves, 'where are we going?' and that the answer to that question – the climate catastrophe we are currently being led to – would force them to rethink their carbon-intensive idea of development," she said.

Bishop Gerry Alminaza of San Carlos sad the provincial governments of Negros Island denounced the entrance of coal projects.

"The battle to reject San Miguel Corporation's 300 MW coal plant is the fifth we have had to fight to keep dirty coal out of the island's shores," Alminaza said. *-Inquirer*



Angat Dam's water level up as typhoon threatens Phl

By RAMON EFREN LAZARO

MALOLOS – The water level in Angat Dam continues to increase slightly even as Typhoon Kammuri has yet to enter the Philippine area of responsibility.

The provincial disaster risk reduction and management office of Bulacan said the water level in Angat was at 188.14 meters on Thursday, 188.64 on Friday and 188.82 meters

yesterday.

In the last three days, the dam's water elevation rose by .68 meter. It was 8.82 meters above its minimum operating level of 180 meters, but still 23.18 meters below its ideal

end-of-the-year level of 212 meters.

Aside from Angat, the water level in Bustos Dam, which is also located in Bulacan, was at 17.48 meters yesterday morning or higher by .14 meter from its spilling level of 17.34 meters.

Bustos Dam supplies irrigation water to farmlands in Bulacan and Pampanga.

Felix Robles, chief of

the water control and coordinating unit of Bustos Dam, told **The STAR** they have been releasing water only for standing crops from the wet season.

No irrigation water is being released yet for the dry cropping season that usually begins every Dec. 1.

Meanwhile, Ipo Dam's water level yesterday was at 100.29 meters or .71 meter below its spilling level.



Creating sustainable growth through responsible mining

By Peter Paul Duran

NICKEL is the fifth most abundant element on Earth. In the Philippines, the hard and silvery-white metal known for its ductility and resistance to heat and corrosion is not hard to miss.

In fact, the country is second only to Indonesia as the world's biggest supplier of the valuable element.

Extremely useful in making various materials, Nickel is the metal that makes up almost everything that humans use, from everyday coins to high-caliber medical equipment.

"It is something we use every day. We see it every day," said Global Ferronickel Holdings, Inc. (FNI) President Atty. Dante R. Bravo in an interview with Manila Standard at their Makati office recently.

The amiable company executive says that every day, we use and encounter an end product made entirely out of or in part by nickel. From food consumption to essential hospital supply, nickel is important to humans.

"Actually nickel has thousands of applications to make our lives

"Our mission is to deliver value by carrying out our activities in an environmentally, socially and financially responsible manner for the benefit of the nation, the communities where we operate, our employees, customers and other stakeholders."

— Atty. Dante R. Bravo

comfortable, make our lives safer, and make our lives more convenient and modernized," Atty. Bravo further said.

From coinage to aerospace, DRB, as he is fondly called by his FNI

Talking about how their recent achievement will impact their future operations, he says this will inspire the company to become more efficient and to show the regulators, the public, and their people that they are "doing things right."

"We want to show that there's integrity in what we do and that we also want to be a shining example for other mining companies. Because in the end, really, mining companies are also leaders in environment protection," adds Atty. Bravo.

FNI looks forward to not only being compliant with the standards but becoming the standard in sustainable growth.



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family, says nickel is "so important" to humans that its "practically hard to live without nickel."

Given that the natural resource is abundant and in many aspects a key driver for growth in a myriad of industries, is there a way for people to take advantage of its benefits without harming the environment? FNI is conscious of its role in environment protection. That's why

FNI, together with its operating arm Platinum Group Metals Corporation (PGMC), is at the forefront of sustainable mining practices, a duty the company is committed to spearhead as a leading nickel ore producer.

And their efforts have not been put to waste. PGMC has been given the 2019 Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award (PMIEA)

Platinum Achievement Award in the Surface Mining Operation Category, a feat the company says is an affirmation of their sincere drive for responsible mining.

"It's a confirmation of our being a responsible and responsive mining company," said Atty. Bravo. This is not the first time they won an award for pioneering ethical standards in the mining industry. For years FNI has been adhering to the best global practices in all facets of their operations especially on environmental and socio-economic requirements.

"We are ISO certified, we use modern practices, the best equipment, the best software to help us optimize the use of our resources," said Atty. Bravo.



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atinum Group Metals Corporation is the recipient of the 2019 Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award (PMIEA) 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. In the photo during the awarding ceremonies are MGB Director Wilfredo G. Moncano, PMIEA President Joey Ayson, PGMC Mine Operations Manager Richard C. Gimenez and PGMC President Atty. Dante R. Bravo.



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PGMC is an active participant of the National Greening Program

NATIONAL Greening Program of the Philippine government was launched in 2011 by virtue of under Presidential Executive Order No. 26. This seeks to plant 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 million hectares throughout the country. It has a four-pronged agenda: food production, poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation. As of 2018, the company has already covered 588.92 hectares.

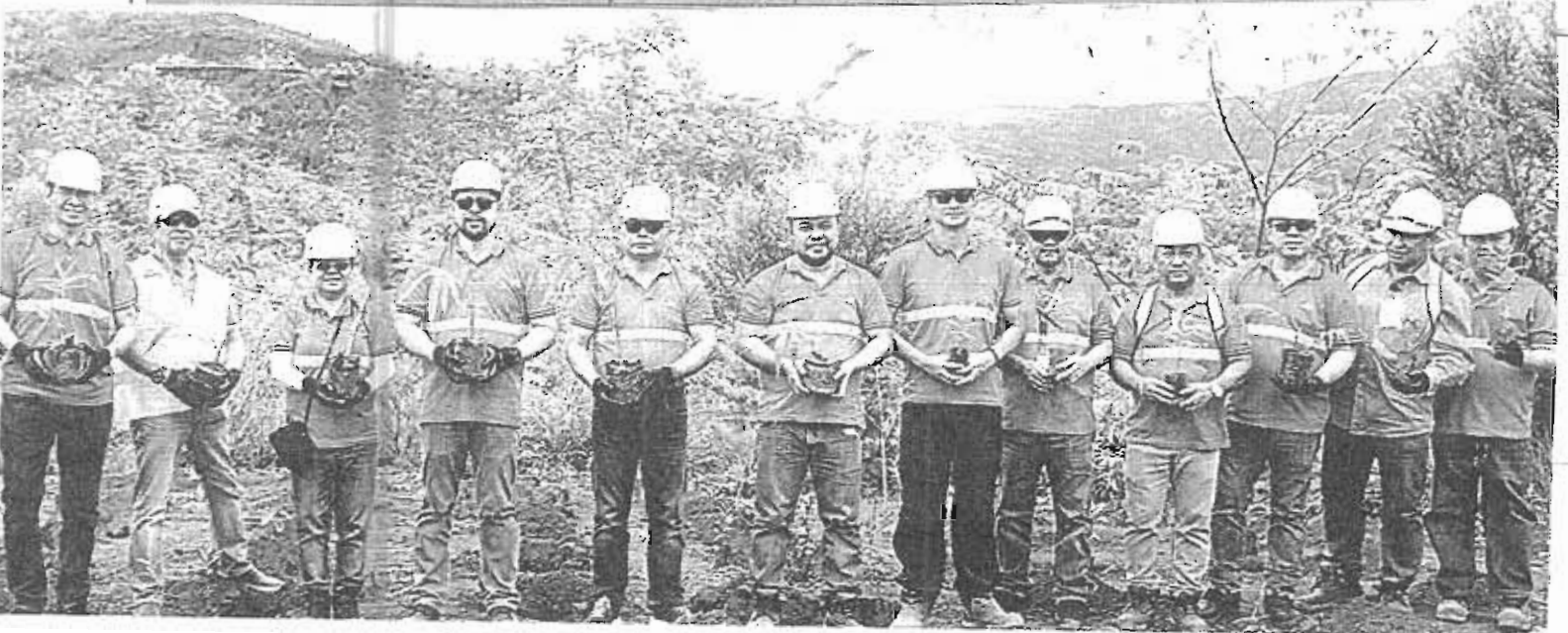
During this year's Earth Day celebration, PGMC together with over 200 volunteers from the local community planted over 1,000 indigenous trees in a water reservation area in Barangay Cagdianao.

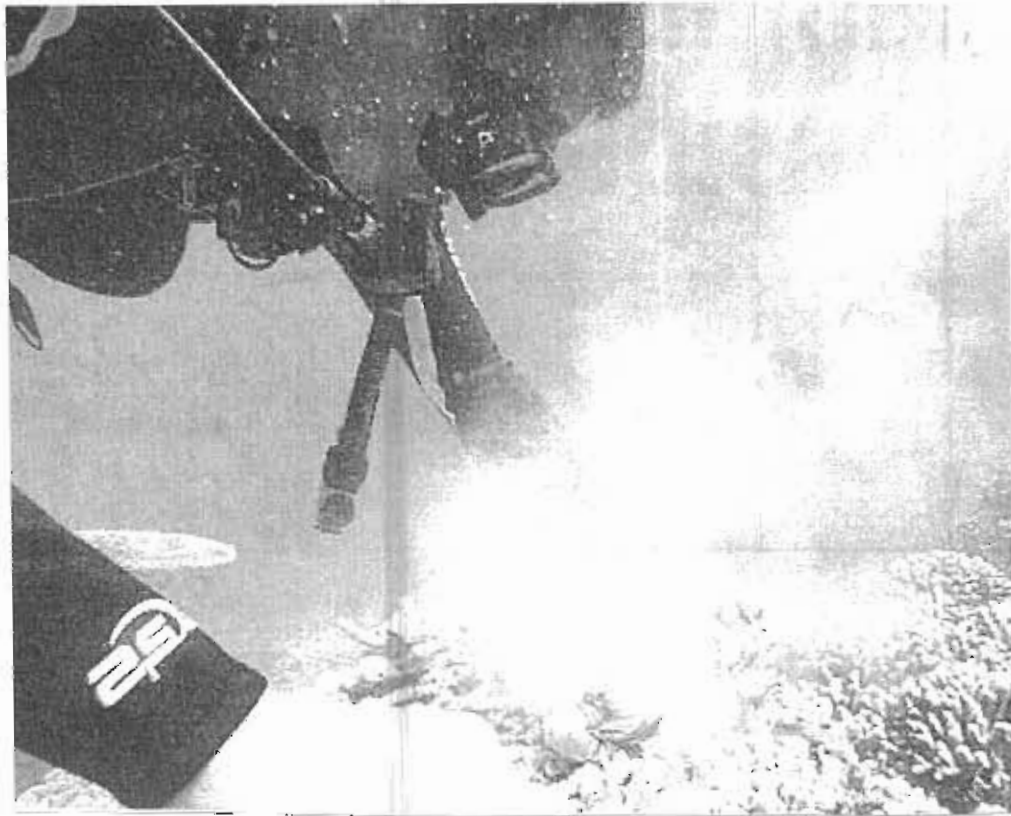


REFORESTATION PROGRAM

National Greening Program as of December 2018

NGP	Reforestation Establishment		Seedling Donation		Total Area (Has.)
	No. of Hills	Area (Has.)	No. of Seedlings	Area (Has.)	
2012	55,766	50.18			50.18
2013	61,545	108.9	80,235	160.47	269.37
2014	167,448	50.54	200	0.12	50.66
2015	199,130	94.15	6,430	1.97	96.12
2016	178,567	51.47	5,699	3.42	54.89
2017	65,477	22.29	5,109	2.09	25.28
2018					
Jan.- June	3,200	0.23	20,840	41.68	42.42
July- Dec.	6,500	0.51			
Total	737,633	378.27	118,513	209.75	588.92





Coral Transplantation in Lambason Marine Sanctuary

"We believe in the principle of stewardship by protecting and caring for the environment for a sustainable future."

CORAL reefs are widely recognized to be important ecologically and biologically. They are the most diverse of all marine ecosystems and about 25 percent of all known marine species depend on them for food, shelter and breeding.

But coral reefs around the world are threatened by natural and man-made disturbances. The same is true with the coral reefs in Lambason island in Surigao del Norte which have been under stress because of destructive fishing methods. To remedy the situation, the local government of Cagdi-

anao, Surigao del Norte, through the support of PGMC, declared portions of the island's reef area as a marine sanctuary for protection and enhancement. As part of the rehabilitation efforts, PGMC's technical team with the help of local fisherfolks, conducted coral transplantation through asexual

method wherein fragments were taken from an already-detached colony called coral of opportunity. Apart from facilitating the speedy recovery of the stressed corals, the activity also raised awareness among the local community about the vital role of coral reefs.



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Baby sperm whale found dead

By Jonas Reyes

MARIVELES, Bataan — A baby sperm whale was found dead by residents in Sitio Boracay of Barangay Town Site in Mariveles, Bataan on Friday.

Residents living in the area said they found the carcass of the baby sperm whale around 3

a.m. at the shore lying belly up and lifeless during the low tide.

According to Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) officer Ricardo Bais, the baby sperm whale has a length of 5.3 meter and width of 2.5 meters. He added that the whale was already dead when the carcass was washed ashore.

He added that they will conduct an autopsy to determine the death of the whale.

This is just one of the many marine mammals dying in Manila Bay, with the recent death of two bottlenosed dolphins. There was also a sea turtle being rescued in Pilar that was trying to leave the water.



Cause for alarm The death of marine mammals, particularly along the Manila Bay coastline alarm DENR officials.

The report added that while the buying price of *sayote*, which used to sell at P20 to P25 per kilo, has reached as low as P1 per kilo.

Sayote is one of the less perishable agricultural crops produced in Baguio and Benguet thriving best in a semi-temperate weather like the highly-elevated areas in the Cordillera, and is one of the favorite crops being purchased by visitors who frequent the city because it is can be transported without much damage.

The city government is also currently conducting an inventory of the total number of *sayote* farmers to ascertain the volume of their produce and to have a database of who would be provided with the appropriate assistance in case the oversupply of the crop will further decrease prices to levels which will adversely affect the income of producers.

At the same time, the city government will also closely coordinate with the Cordillera office of the Department of Science and Technology to conduct researches on appropriate technologies and machinery that can be used to produce *sayote* chips and other products of the crop.

Meanwhile, the agriculture department will continue to closely monitor the activities of city agriculture industry stakeholders to identify promptly issues and concerns related to their production, marketing and packaging to be addressed by the concerned government agencies and the offices of the city government to help uplift the status of *sayote* growers among other similarly situated stakeholders.