

12-14-18

DATE :

DAY :

Saturday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Review, freeze DENR effluent standards

Leaders of various industry groups and trade associations, joint foreign chambers, and a government agency are appealing to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to suspend the implementation of the revised General Effluent Standards (GES) to allow for the order's review and consultation with stakeholders.

In a joint position paper, 12 industry and trade chiefs expressed concern over unaddressed issues with regards to implementing DENR Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2016-08: Water Quality Guidelines (WQG) and General Effluent Standards (GES).

Also in a separate position paper, Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. (PHILEXPORT), wrote to the DENR on the adverse impact of the DAO especially on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

In the joint paper that the 12 top officials submitted earlier in July this year to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, they reiterated the issues they said have yet to be addressed.

"The implementation of the revised GES will have a huge impact on the viability of existing companies and may pose a barrier to future investments without optimally addressing prevailing environmental issues," they warned.

One of their major requests is "to be enlightened on the basis of the revised GES." The groups are requesting for a review and copy of the study upon which the new and more stringent parameters were based.

"The revised Philippine standards (are) considered to be one of the strictest in the world, some of the parameters for discharge are more stringent than the drinking water standards of the World Health Organization," they pointed out.



Top firms back drive vs garbage

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

Major consumer companies in the country have committed to support the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in its efforts to address the current garbage crisis in Metro Manila.

Government officials together with representatives of the private

sector, academe and environmental advocacy groups recently pushed for a balanced approach and harmonized solutions to the waste problem.

Beverage giant Coca-Cola Philippines general manager and president Winn Everhart said the firm aims to collect

Turn to Page 5

Top firms From Page 1

and recycle every bottle sold by 2030 through its World Without Waste global initiative.

It also committed to build a P1-billion PET bottle recycling facility – the first in Southeast Asia that would substantially reduce the waste leakage in the Mega-Manila area.

Coca-Cola has also teamed up with non-government organizations through the Blastik project, a full circle collection and recycling program in 13 areas including Bataan, Cavite, Albay, Baler, Palawan, Siargao, Davao, Boracay, La Union, Negros Occidental, Marinduque, Sarangani and Metro Manila.

On the other hand, Unilever Philippines chairman Benjie Yap emphasized the firm's "ambitious new commitments to collect and process more than it sells and halve use of virgin plastic."

"The initiative commits to produce 100-percent reusable, recyclable and compostable packaging by 2025 and invest in technical solution to recycle sachets produced by the industry," he said.

Unilever is currently implementing its environment programs such as collecting sachet waste in more than 300 communities in Metro Manila, incentivizing plastic waste collection and other innovations

in sustainable packaging and alternative delivery systems.

Maynilad Water Services Inc. president and CEO Ramoncito Fernandez, for his part, noted the importance of having sustainability strategies.

The west zone concessionaire invested some P40.7 billion in the non-revenue water program where 360,000 leaks were repaired in 2,300 kilometers of old pipes, resulting in the recovery of 700 million liters in the last 12 years.

The Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship has welcomed the initiatives of the big manufacturing brands to work with the government "as they re-align operations and invest heavily in pro-active initiatives to perform their critical role in the circular ecosystem to mitigate pollution and integrate waste management at all levels."

Stratbase Group managing director and CEO Dindo Manhit also noted that a smarter approach is to focus on instilling discipline in consumers to responsibly dispose of trash in parallel with enabling policies that encourage new innovations for packaging materials and waste management systems.

"Stewardship of the environment should be everybody's concern. The task to protect and preserve the environment is not just the government's business, it's everybody's business," Manhit added.



PAGSUSUNOG SA ISKUL NG MGA HAZARDOUS MEDICAL WASTE, BAWAL!



malaman kung mayroon bang batas hinggil dito?—Nessah

Dear Nessah,

Naaangkop sa inyong katanungan ang Republic Act (R.A.) No. 8749 o ang Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, kung saan isinasaad na:

"Section 20. Ban on Incineration. - Incineration, hereby defined as the burning of municipal, biomedical and hazardous waste, which process emits poisonous and toxic fumes is hereby prohibited; Provided, however, That the prohibition shall not apply to traditional small-scale method of community/neighborhood sanitation "siga", traditional, agricultural, cultural, health, and food preparation and crematoria; Provided, Further, That existing incin-

erators dealing with a bio-medical wastes shall be out within three (3) years after the effectivity of this Act; Provided, Finally, that in the interim, such units shall be limited to the burning of pathological and infectious wastes, and subject to close monitoring by the Department" (Binigyang-diin.)

Maliwanag na tuwirang ipinagbawal ang pagsusunog ng *biomedical and hazardous wastes* at kung ipagpapatuloy ng inyong paaralan ang nasabing gawain, maaari silang maparusahan hinggil dito.

Nawa ay nasagot namin ang inyong katanungan. Nais naming ipaalala sa inyo na ang opinyong ito ay nakabase sa inyong mga naisalaysay sa inyong liham at sa pagkaka-intindi namin dito. Maaaring maiba ang opinyon kung mayroong karagdagang impormasyong ibibigay. Mas mainam kung personal kayong sasangguni sa abogado.

Maraming salamat sa inyong patuloy na pagtitiwala.

ADNEY



12-14-19

TITLE:

PAGE 17

DATE

DENR 5 shoots for Final Four berth

Games tomorrow (San Juan City gym)
2 p.m. - NHA vs PhilHealth
3:30 p.m. - Judiciary vs Agriculture
5 p.m. - PITC vs DENR

Newcomer DENR tries to secure the other outright semis berth when it goes for its seventh straight win against Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC) in the eighth UNTV Cup tomorrow at the San Juan City gym.

Game time is at 5 p.m. with the DENR Warriors out to protect their unblemished record in the annual tournament for public servants with the chosen charity of the champion team getting top prize of P4 million.

A victory would enable DENR to join defending champion Armed Forces of the

Philippines in the Final Four of the event organized by UNTV President and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

The AFP Cavaliers grabbed the first automatic semis berth after drubbing the Malacañang-Philippine Sports Commission Kamao, 77-65, in a win that gave them a second-best 7-1 record.

With the Kamao slipping into a share of third to fourth places with the National Housing Authority Builders at 5-3, the Warriors have three chances to make it to the semis.

Judiciary takes on the slumping Department of Agriculture at 3:30 p.m. while the Builders collide with the also-ran PhilHealth Plus at 2 p.m.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

12-14-19

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/

DATE _____

DENR eyes semis berth

Newcomer Department of Environment and Natural Resources tries to secure the other outright semis berth when it goes for its seventh straight win against Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) in the 8th UNTV Cup tomorrow at the San Juan City gym.

Game time is at 5 p.m. with the DENR Warriors out to protect their unblemished record.

A victory would enable the still undefeated DENR to join defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines in the Final Four of the event organized by UNTV president and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

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12-14-19

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

UNTV Cup: DENR seeks semis berth

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With the Kamao slipping into a share of third to fourth places with the National Housing Authority Builders at 5-3, the Warriors have three chances to make it to the semis but they want to achieve their initial goal right away.

Clashing in other games are Judiciary and the slumping Department of Agriculture at 3:30 p.m. while the Builders collide with the also-ran PhilHealth Plus at 2 p.m.

The Magis are hoping to extend their win run to three games and improve their 4-3 record. They are currently locked in a three-way tie for fifth to seventh places with the Food Masters and Global Traders.

The bottom two teams after the second round will be eliminated while the third to sixth placers play another round in the quarters with the top two teams advancing to the semis.



DENR tangka ang outright semis berth

LARO BUKAS

(San Juan City gym)

2 p.m. - NHA vs PhilHealth

3:30 p.m. - Judiciary

vs Agriculture

5 p.m. - PITC vs DENR

Target ng baguhang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang outright semis berth sa tangkang ikapitong sunod na panalo laban sa Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) sa 8th UNTV Cup bukas sa San Juan City gym.

Alas-5 ng gabi ang laban kung saan asam ng DENR Warriors na mapanatiling malinis ang kartada sa annual tournament na ito para sa mga public servants kung saan ang napiling charity ng champion team ay magkakaroon ng P4 milyon.

Sa isa pang laro sa alas-3:30 ng hapon, magsasagupa ang Judiciary at dumadausdos na Department of Agriculture pagkatapos ng sagupaan ng Builders at PhilHealth Plus sa alas-2.



PASIG RIVER CLEARING OPERATION MEETING, PANGUNGUNAHAN NG DENR

PANGUNGUNAHAN ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang gaganaping pagpulong sa Disyembre 16 tungkol sa Implementasyon ng gagawing clearing operation sa Pasig River.

Ang naturang pulong ay hinihingi ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na nagsisibing chairman ng Manila Bay Task Force at nakatakda itong ganapin sa corporate building ng Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) sa Manila.

Kabilang sa mga imbitado sa gaganaping pulong ay ang mga pinuno ng 12 pang government agencies na kasama sa inilabas na mandamus ng Supreme Court upang linisin, isaayos at pangalagaan ang Manila Bay.

Kasama sa mga ahensiyang ito ang Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Budget and Management, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Local Water Utilities Administration, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police-Maritime Group at PPA.

Imbitado rin sa gaganaping pulong sina Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto at Makati City Abby Binay. Kamakailan ay naglabas si Cimatu ng direktiba upang tangalin ang lahat ng bara at harang sa 24-km Pasig River para sa muling pagbuhay ng ferry sa Ilog, bilang bahagi ng isinagawang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay.

Lumalabas sa pag-aaral na one-fifth sa organic pollution na napupunta sa Manila Bay ay nanggagaling sa Pasig River basin. Ayon kay Cimatu, ang gaganaping pulong ay isang pagkakataon upang makausap niya ang iba pang ahensya na kabilang sa "continuing mandamus".

Noong Disyembre 9 nang maglabas si Cimatu ng kautusan na nagbibigay ng direktiba sa lahat ng DENR offices at officials na kasama sa Manila Bay rehabilitation na makipag-ugnayan sa iba't ibang "mandamus agencies" upang matutukan ang ginagawang rehabilitasyon.

Partikular na inatasan ng environment chief sina DENR Undersecretaries Juan Miguel Cuna at Ernesto Adobo, Jr., Manila Bay ground Commander at Manila Bay Task Force Secretariat head, ayon sa pagkakasunod, na makipagtutungan sa mga mandamus agencies, local government agencies at private sectors tungkol sa rehabilitasyon.

JAY REYES



PAGLILINIS SA ILOG PASIG TATALAKAYIN NA NG DENR

TATALAKAYIN ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at 12 pang government agencies ang gagawing clearing operation sa kahabaan ng Pasig River.

Inaasahan na dadalo sa pagtitipon sina Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto at Makati City Abby Binay.

Ang hakbang na ito ng DENR ay kabilang sa inilabas na mandamus ng Korte Suprema upang linisin, isaayos at pangalagaan ang ilog at ang Ma-

nila Bay.

Una na ring ipinag-utos ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, chairman ng Manila Bay Task Force, na tanggalin ang lahat ng bara at harang sa 24-kilometer ng Ilog Pasig para sa muling pagbuhay ng ferry sa ilog bilang bahagi ng isinagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

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POLLUTION, POACHING

'PAWIKAN' FREED AMID THREATS TO NESTING SITES

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—In the midst of a construction boom around their vulnerable nests, 100 baby "pawikan" (sea turtles) crawled back into their natural habitat after they hatched at a beach resort inside this free port.

The olive ridley sea turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) were born at a conservation sanctuary at All Hands Beach, one of the seven major beach areas that have been identified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as nesting sites for marine turtles.

Cold season

The newborn pawikan belonged to the first batch of baby sea turtles released by the resort for the cold season, said Selina Jayme, protected areas division chief of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority ecology department.

Beach guests and representatives from the Philippine National Police Maritime Group joined the ceremonial release on Tuesday. Since 2012, the resort's management had released 5,374 baby pawikan to the sea, Jayme said.

According to the DENR, the olive ridley is among three species of sea turtles found in Zambales. Green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) also lay eggs on the province's coastline.

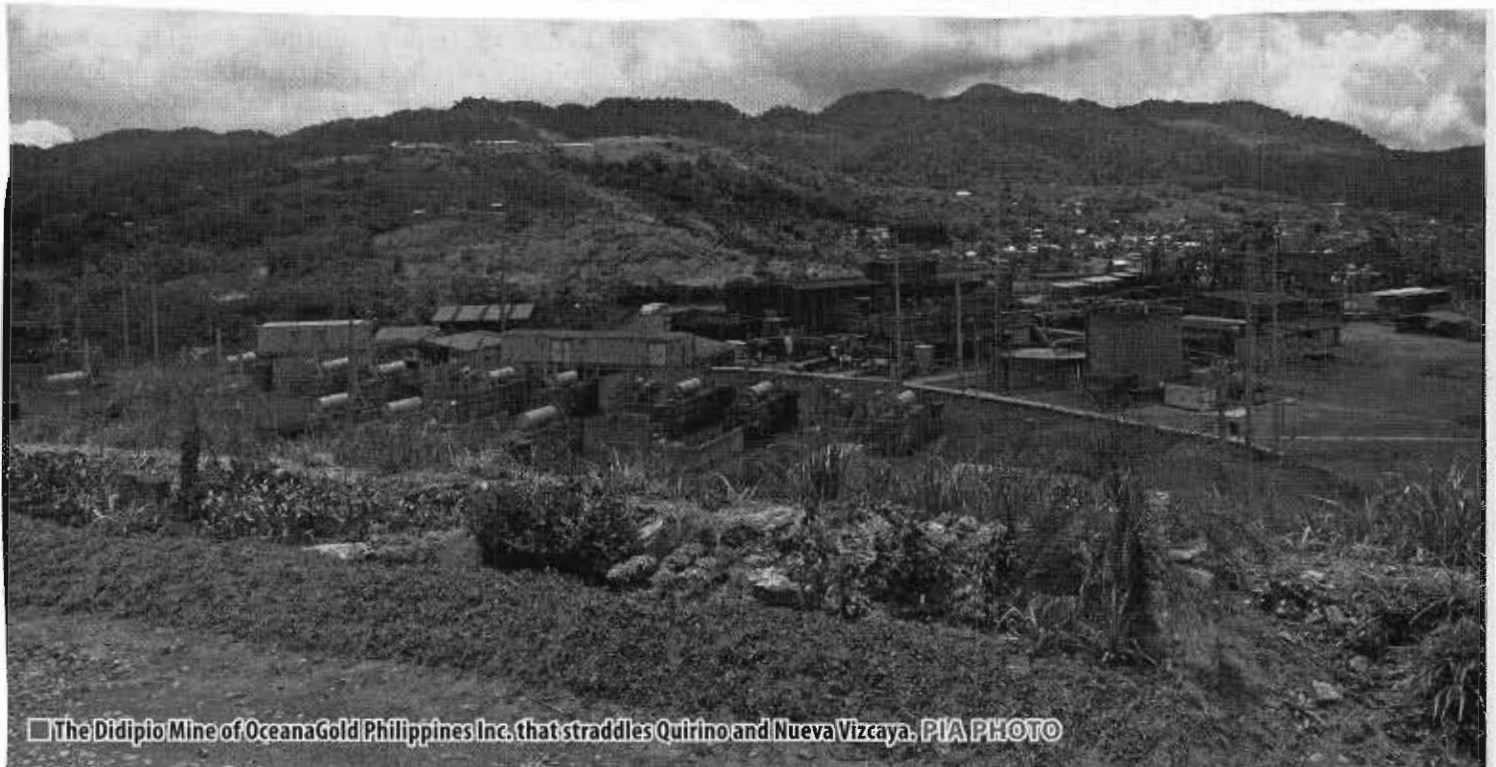
But Jayme said the recent construction activities around Subic Bay could pose danger to the nesting sites of marine turtles. "We're worried that with the construction of sports venues [for the 30th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games] in the free port, these hatching areas might be disturbed," she said.

The free port hosted 17 SEA Games events, some of which were water sports such as sailing, wind surfing and traditional boat race.

Jayme said the threats caused by human activities, including property development near the shoreline, might alter these nesting sites and abort or delay egg laying of marine turtles.

DENR officials said newly hatched sea turtles only had a 1 percent survival rate due to several other obstacles.

Aside from being eaten by predators, such as sharks and fish, baby sea turtles face other threats caused by humans, including ocean pollution and poaching. —JOANNA ROSE AGLIBOT/INO



■ The Didipio Mine of OceanaGold Philippines Inc. that straddles Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya. PIA PHOTO

Didipio Mine challenged by contract's non-renewal

BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

DESPITE BEING one of the safest gold mining operations in the world with state-of-the-art automated and digital technology, the Didipio Mine of OceanaGold Philippines Inc. (OGPI) still suffers from zero production from the non-renewal of its contract with the Philippine government.

It was in March 2018 when OceanaGold submitted its applications for the renewal of its financial or technical assistance agreement (FTAA) with the Philippine government.

When its FTAA expired on June 20, 2019, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau issued a letter authorizing the Didipio Mine to continue its operations while the company continued to work with the government to complete the renewal.

OGPI's Didipio Gold and Copper project is located across Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya.

As one of the safest gold mining

operations in the world, OGPI received numerous awards. These were the two Presidential Awards recognizing the mine as the most environmentally and socially responsible mining operations in the Philippines.

Internationally, the company was also awarded the 1st Asean Mineral Award for best practices in sustainable development. Asean is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

David Way, Didipio Mine General Manager, said the mine also implements International Organization for Standardization systems

for environmental management, occupational health and safety and energy management.

"Being a proud member of the UN (United Nations) Global Compact, OGPI practices absolute transparency in its commitment to the universal sustainability principles of human rights, labor, the environment and anti-corruption," Way said.

"This is so because sustainability means earning the right to remain a valuable part of the community for many years to come," he added.

Also, OGPI has delivered significant socioeconomic benefits to the host barangay of Didipio and 10 other neighboring villages in Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino.

"We directly employ 1,500 workers, where approximately 97 percent are Filipinos, with 59 percent who hail from local communities," Way said.

He said the company also provides livelihood opportunities and indirect jobs through partnerships with cooperatives and

social development organizations. Religious groups are also thankful for OGPI's providing school, roads and electricity to the community.

"Our major initiative was to contribute to the local economy through the construction of a P43 million senior high school building at Eastern Nueva Vizcaya National High School," Way added.

A report presented to the Philippine Mining and Exploration Association showed that OGPI has generated over 3,000 jobs as part of its economic contribution to the country.

The report added that 119 kilometer of roads were improved and developed, 201 scholars graduated since 2007, 11 mining engineers produced and 114 local residents trained to become globally competitive underground mine workers. The company also established a community-owned corporation that offers a multitude of services to OGPI while financially and technically supporting 13 agricultural cooperatives.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

INCORPORATED

The Manila Times

PS
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

RAINIER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

12-14-19

DATE

Unwanted visitors: A trip to LPPCHEA

WHO could ever resist a picture-perfect sunset or sunrise by the sea? I wouldn't miss the opportunity to take a photo or two.

Being born and raised in the beautiful islands of Mindanao, I wake up daily to the majestic — albeit familiar — sight of mountains and canyons. And so whenever there's a chance, I would stop by the coasts. There is something in the place where the shore meets the sea that gives a sense of calm and sweet escape from the urban jungle.

This year, I joined a coastal clean-up drive regularly facilitated by the Haribon Foundation at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA). It was my first time to join the activity as a Haribon member as well as to visit the area.

LPPCHEA is a nature reserve located at the south of Manila Bay covering about 175 hectares of wetland ecosystem and is the first critical habitat to be declared in the country through Presidential Proclamation 1412.

Between August and April of each year, the area hosts thousands of birds to rest and feed from as far as China, Japan and Siberia before making their way to the warmer regions of the planet. Apart from tourist birds, LPPCHEA is also home to different mangrove species that help protect shorelines from erosion and serve as a buffer against strong waves.

But migratory birds aren't LPPCHEA'S only visitors. The coastline

also picks up tons of garbage from neighboring cities. Waves carry various waste materials such as plastics, styrofoam and rubber that get stuck in mangrove roots, cover the reserve's sands and sometimes get caught by visiting birds.

Seeing the deluge of washed-up garbage was quite an experience, to say the least. Even after cleaning the beach for over two hours, the amount of work left undone seems rather endless.

It was then that I remembered one of The Seven Environmental Principles, "Everything must go somewhere." And I thought, this place must be one of those "somewhere."

After the cleanup, staff from the Haribon Foundation gave a quick debriefing on the activity and some volunteers shared their insights.

While certainly an important step to spread awareness on ocean pollution, coastal cleanup drives are not meant to be a lasting endeavor as these do not intend to solve the root of the problem.

According to a recent report, the Philippines is the third major contributor of ocean garbage on the planet, putting ocean wildlife and coastal communities at risk.

More than ever, it is important for all sectors to work together towards making these habitats we share together livable for present and future generations through proper waste management in our homes and across industries.

KATHLEEN ZAMBAS



Volunteers take part in Haribon Foundation's cleanup of the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area, a nature reserve at the south of Manila Bay covering about 175 hectares of wetland.

HARIBON PHOTO