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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



DENR eyes review of LGU garbage deals

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is eyeing to review the garbage contracts entered into by local government units (LGUs) with private contractors to ensure efficient garbage collection, especially in Metro Manila.

At the year-end Assessment with Media Partners of the DENR on Tuesday, Undersecretary for Local Government Unit and Solid Waste Management Benny D. Antiporda said the review of garbage contracts, in particular, would focus on the hauling aspect of garbage.

"We want to know why garbage collectors haul the garbage in commercial and residential areas, but neglect...informal settler

areas," said Antiporda.

The official said this is one of the problems why garbage sometimes find their way in vacant lots, or worse, clogging waterways that cause severe flooding.

He said the DENR has already asked the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) for copies of the LGU contracts with their private garbage contractors.

"Unfortunately, what we were provided with by the DILG are plans. That is why we are coordinating again with the DILG, this time, to get the copies of the garbage contracts," he said.

According to Antiporda, in 2019, the DENR focused on addressing the garbage shortly after launching the "Battle for Manila Bay" in January 26, 2019.

In reviewing the garbage con-

tracts, he said, the DENR will ensure that collection covers all areas within a city, whether rich or poor.

"For instance, if Quezon City, if you collect garbage, it should be collecting garbage in all areas, whether you are rich or poor," he said.

The DENR official who is also the concurrent executive director of the National Solid Waste Management Commission said the DENR will continue to work with LGUs to come up with their 10-year solid waste management plans while threatening to file charges against erring officials who continue to ignore their mandates as stated under Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Garbage has been identified as a major cause of water pollution in Manila Bay.



MANILA BAY R:2 MAPALILIGUAN NA SA SUSUNOD NA TAON-DENR



INILAHAD sa mga media partner ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda ang mensahe ni DENR Sec. Cimatú para sa Year-End Assessment Report ng kagawaran na ginanap sa DENR Office sa Visayas Ave., Quezon City. **DANNY QUERUBIN**

Manila Bay mapaliliguan na sa susunod na taon—DENR

KUMPIYANSA si Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na maari nang paliguan ng publiko ang Manila Bay sa susunod na taon matapos ang isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng DENR sa naturang baybayin.

Ayon kay Usec. Antiporda ng Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Concerns umaasa ang DENR na mapaliliguan na ng publiko ang makasaysayang Manila Bay makaraan ang pagsusumikap ng pamahalaan na malinis ito.

Sa year-end report ng DENR sa mga mamamahayag kahapon, sinabi ni Antiporda na umaasa ang pamahalaan na malilinis na ang mga ilog at estero na dumadaloy patungo sa Manila Bay bunsod ng mga inilulunsad na kampanya ng pamahalaan para maiwasan ang pagtatapon ng basura rito.

Sinabi pa ng opisyal na naisip ng ahensya ang paglilinis sa mga ilog at estero sa Central Luzon, Calabarzon at Metro Manila area na dumadaloy ang mga tubig sa Manila Bay bilang bahagi ng rehabilitasyon sa baybayin.

Nauna rito, nitong nakalipas na Enero, inilunsad ng DENR ang Battle of Manila Bay matapos lumahok ang may 10,000 katao sa Unity Walk para sa clean-up sa makasaysayang Manila Bay na pinangunahan ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatú.

Kaugnay nito iginiit ni Antiporda na dapat magkaroon ng segregation ang lokal na pamahalaan ng lungsod at munisipalidad sa bansa upang matugunan ang lumalalang problema ng basura sa bansa.

Ibinigay na halimbawa ni Antiporda ang patuloy na paggamit ng plastic na siyang nagiging dahilan ng pagbara sa mga ilog at estero.

Ilinagdag pa nito na dapat rebyuhin ang mga kontrata ng mga local government unit kung nasusunod ba ang pagkolekta ng mga basura ng mga informal settler na nagiging dahilan ng problema ng basura.

Nauna nang sinabi ni Cimatú, na hangarin ng DENR na maibaba ang fecal coliform level ng tubig sa Manila Bay sa 100 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100ml) na siyang tamang antas para mapaliguan ng tao at ligtas ang baybayin.

SANTI CELARIO



DENR opposes taxing plastic bags by weight

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it supports taxing single-use plastic shopping bags on a per-piece basis, saying that taxing by weight would worsen the plastic pollution problem.

"We would like to ask for the understanding of the House of Representatives that if they really want to tax (it should not be) by kilo, but by piece because that will only promote the use of single-use plastics," Environment Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Concerns Benny D. Antiporda said at the department's year-end news conference Tuesday in Quezon City.

House Bill (HB) No. 178, or the bill imposing a P20 per kilogram tax on single-use plastic bags, was approved by the House Committee on Ways and Means on Dec. 10. If signed into law, this will be the Single-Use Plastic Bag Tax Act.

The tax is expected to generate P4.8 billion, which will fund solid waste management and the implementation of Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Mr. Antiporda said taxing by weight will only drive plastics manufacturers to produce thinner bags that are of lower quality, raising the risk they will be easily discarded.

"*Pag numipis iyon, automatic pag binuhol hindi nila mabubuksan, pupunitin nila iyon* (Thinner bags will discourage reuse) and they will just be thrown away, so what will happen it will just end up in our landfill, worst case in our waterways," he said.

"*Nananawagan tayo at nakiki-usap na kung maari ay i-reconsider yung taxing by kilo. We have nothing against taxation... but taxing by kilo iyon ay very dangerous* (We are asking that the House reconsider taxing by weight. We have nothing against taxation... but taxing by kilo is very dangerous)," he said.

President Rodrigo R. Duterte expressed his support for a single-use plastics ban via legislative action at a Cabinet meeting on Nov. 6. — **Vincent Mariel P. Galang**



STRATEGIC
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DENR wants single-use plastics taxed per piece

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Tuesday has called on lawmakers to tax single-use plastic bags by piece, and not by kilogram, saying the earlier approved proposal might only push manufacturer to produce thinner bags that would be discarded after one use. Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said the department supports the proposal to tax plastic bags, but appealed to the Congress to rethink its understanding of plastic, some of which can be recycled and reused. "Taxing by the kilo would be very dangerous, since it may promote the manufacturing of thinner bags," he told a press briefing on Tuesday. Last week, the House committee on ways and means approved a bill that would impose a P20 tax per kilo of single-use plastic bags beginning next year. Lawmakers estimate that the proposed tax would generate some P4.8 billion on its first year of implementation and boost the government's solid waste management programs. —JHESSET O. ENANO



Buwis sa bawat pirasong plastic bag, giit ng DENR

Hinimok kahapon ng mga opisyal ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang Kongreso na ikonsidera ang pagbubuwis sa bawat piraso ng plastic bags para matugunan ang plastic pollution sa bansa.

Hiniling ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGU) Concerns Benny Antiporda sa Kongreso na muling pag-isipan ang approval ng House Committee on Ways and Means na magpataw ng P20 excise tax sa bawat kilo ng single-use plastic bags simula sa 2020.

"We'd like to ask for the understanding of the House of Representatives that if indeed they really want to tax the use of sando bags, yung taxing nila not by the kilo but by piece," ani Antiporda, namumuno rin sa National Solid Waste Management

Commission (NSWMC).

Ipinunto niya na patuloy na pinagsisikapan ng DENR na matugunan ang paggamit at tamang pagtatapon ng plastic "labo" na madaling masira at hindi na muling nagagamit.

"But the sando bag na makapal hindi siya single-use, it is reusable. Ito dapat nating i-consider. Himayin muna nang maayos bago gumawa ng batas," aniya.

"We got nothing against taxation of sando bags but taxing by the kilo, yun ay very dangerous. It will promote literally the single-use of mas manipis na plastic," dagdag niya.

Malaking problema pa rin ng bansa ang solid waste dahil sa non-segregation, talamak na paggamit ng single-use plastic products at hindi tamang waste disposal.

Ipinakita sa datos ng DENR na sa first quarter ng 2019, ang Metro Manila ay nakapag-prodyus ng 34,574.77 cubic meters ng basura. Ito ay 59.45 porsiyento ng total target 58,112.31 cubic meters para sa 2019.

Sinabi ni Antiporda na ang mga pagsisikap ng DENR na matugunan ang single-use plastic ay para himukin ang mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan at local government units na umiwas sa paggamit ng single-use plastics, gaya ng stirrer, cup, spoon and fork, at plastic "labo."

"We will be asking them to cooperate para tigil muna and paggamit ng plastic since we are still looking for alternative for some important single-use plastics. At the moment, yun muna ang inuuna namin," aniya.

Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz



TOP COMPANIES BACK GOVT WAR ON WASTE

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

@jonlmayuga

TOP executives of major companies have committed to support the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) call for a collaboration between the government and the private sector to address the garbage crisis in Metro Manila.

In the recent Pilipinas Conference hosted by the Stratbase Group in Bonifacio Global City, leaders from the government, the private sector, the academe and environmental advocacy groups pushed for a balanced approach and harmonized solutions to the waste problem.

This came as Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu convened a high-level meeting of so-called "mandamus agencies" to discuss ways to "clean and green" the Pasig River.

Repeatedly, the DENR chief has sought the cooperation of various stakeholders, particularly the private sector, to address the garbage crisis, saying the DENR cannot do it alone.

His appeal to the private sector yielded positive results, with top company officials affirming their support.

"A smarter approach other than the traditional regulatory tools imposing bans or taxes is to focus on instilling discipline for consumers to responsibly dispose of trash in parallel with enabling policies that encourage new innovations for packaging materials and waste management systems," Prof. Dindo Manhit, managing director and CEO of Stratbase Group said in a statement.

"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.

Coca-Cola Philippines General Manager and President Winn Everhart presented the beverage company's "World Without Waste" global initiative during the conference.

Under the initiative, the company aims "to collect and recycle every bottle or can sold by 2030." 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.

Everhart said Coca-Cola Philippines also teamed up with nongov-

ernment 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.

Unilever Philippines Chairman Benjie Yap, on his part, discussed the company's "Zero Waste to Nature" program and its "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.

Unilever also presented ongoing environment programs, such as the "Misis Walastik," which collects sachet waste in more than 300 communities in Metro Manila; the "Kolek, Kilo, Kita, parasa Walastikna Maynila," which incentivizes plastic waste collection under the "May Pera sa Basura" project of Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso; and other innovations in sustainable packaging and alternative delivery systems.

Maynilad President and CEO Ramoncito Fernandez stressed the importance of having sustainability strategies. He said the west zone water 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.

Fernandez also discussed the award-winning "Sining Ipo" program for the Dumagat Tribe; the "Plant for Life" project, where 800,000 trees and mangroves were planted in the Ipol Laguna Lake, and Malabon Watersheds and Manila Bay coastal area; and the "Daloy Dunong" education program that educates children and parents about environmental protection and water sanitation.

Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship Convenor Carmelo Bayarcal welcomed the initiatives of the big manufacturing brands to work with the government "as they realign operations and invest heavily in proactive initiatives to perform their critical role in the circular ecosystem to mitigate pollution and integrate waste management at all levels."

Major firms commit to help resolve 'garbage crisis'

TOP executives of major companies have committed to support Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu's call for collaboration between the government and the private sector to address what he called a "garbage crisis" in Metro Manila.

In the recent Pilipinas Conference hosted by the Stratbase Group in Bonifacio Global City, leaders from the government, the private sector, and the academe, and environmental advocacy groups pushed for a balanced approach and harmonized solutions to the waste problem.

"A smarter approach other than the traditional regulatory tools imposing bans or taxes is to focus on instilling discipline for consumers to responsibly dispose of trash in parallel with enabling policies that encourage new innovations for packaging materials and waste management systems," said professor Dindo Manhit, managing director and CEO of Stratbase Group.

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Manila Bay Dev't junks Supercity backdoor listing

By IRIS GONZALES

Manila Bay Development Corp. (MBDC) will no longer proceed with the backdoor listing of dormant firm Supercity Realty Development Corp. due to unfavorable market conditions.

In a disclosure yesterday, Supercity said MBDC had decided to abandon its plan, thus the backdoor listing would no longer push through.

Supercity said it shall continue to serve institutional or corporate clients and focus on the construction of horizontal residential house and land development works for residential subdivisions.

Last June, Supercity said its board of directors approved the issuance of 990 million new common shares to MBDC for a property-for-share swap

arrangement.

Supercity also approved to raise its authorized capital stock to P1.5 billion from P155 million.

"The increase in authorized capital stock shall enable the corporation to secure properties along Roxas Boulevard, within the Reclamation Area of the Bay City (Boulevard 2000) development in Parañaque City, which would be a source of recurring rental income or future income from development projects," Supercity said.

Supercity listed with the Philippine Stock Exchange in 2003 to engage in the business of construction and related services and activities.

In February 2008, Supercity decided to wind down the its construction business and re-focus its activities into real estate development.



Manila Bay Dev Corp. drops backdoor listing plan

SRDC had planned for the real estate to be a source of recurring rental income or future income from development projects including resort hotels, tourist-related attractions, commercial areas with upscale residential and serviced residential apartments and office buildings

By AJ Bajo
@tribunephil_AJ

The Manila Bay Development Corp. (MBDC) is dropping plans for a backdoor listing after notifying listed developer Supercity Realty Development Corp. (SRDC) it will not pursue a property-for-share swap agreement.

"In a letter received by the corporation on 16 December, 2019, MBDC and (president) Mr. (George T.) Chua communicated to the corporation that due to unfavorable market conditions, they have decided not to proceed with the Property-for-Share Swap Agreement. Thus, the backdoor listing will no longer push through," SRDC told the stock exchange on Tuesday.

SRDC said it will continue serving its institutional and corporate clients and focus on constructing horizontal residential houses and land development works for residential subdivisions.

In June this year, SRDC announced its bid to increase its authorized capital stock to P1.5 billion with 1.5 billion shares with a par value of P1 apiece, from P155 million divided into 155 million shares with a par value of P1 apiece.

The increase will allow it to acquire a premium real estate along Roxas Boulevard within the reclamation area of the Bay City development in Parañaque City, owned by

MBDC. This would have been MBDC's key to be listed at the Philippine Stock Exchange instead of a direct listing.

The value for the issuance of 990 million common shares was disclosed to be at least P1.386 billion.

MBDC is involved in developing and leasing reclaimed raw land in the central business part II complex in Parañaque City. It acquired several parcels of land in the area over 30 years ago which has increased in terms of value, SRDC said.

SRDC had planned for the real estate to be a source of recurring rental income or future income from development projects including resort hotels, tourist-related attractions, commercial areas with upscale residential and serviced residential apartments and office buildings.

"The sites' proximity to entertainment and gambling clusters in the Manila Bay area would be an advantage. The concentration of hotels and cultural entertainment activities in the area would create a major attraction for locals and tourists alike," SRDC said in an earlier disclosure.

Incorporated in 2000 as a real estate development firm, SRDC primarily engages in construction as well as related services and activities. It currently caters to the mass-, low-cost and middle-scale housing markets.



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Tagum LGU distributes lot titles

TAGUM CITY – Christmas came early as the city government facilitated the distribution of Original Certificates of Title to 44 families living in Barangay Visayan Village who have been fighting for their right on the land they had been in actual possession of for more than 30 years.

Anchored on its developmental thrust toward social services, the LGU, through the leadership of Mayor Allan Rellon, has chosen to finally recognize the 44 families' claims to the land.

The Tagum local government unit (LGU) awarded the titles on a portion of the highly-contested land on which the Aguinaldo Development Corporation once proposed to have an airstrip built relating to the operation of their banana plantation.

To recall, the property in question was part of the land subject of Department of Environment and Natural Resources Case 8259, which granted Tagum City preferential rights to determine the appropriate mode of disposition of its various lots, which included the lots of the 44 families.

Anchored on its developmental thrust toward social services, the LGU, through the leadership of Mayor Allan Rellon, has chosen to finally recognize the 44 families' claims to the land.

It also assisted the beneficiaries of the Villegas Landing Homeowners Association in the processing of their original certificate of titles under Republic Act 10023, which authorized the issuance of free patents to residential lands to any person who had been an

actual occupant of a lot that had been zoned as a residential area.

Along with this, the LGU also caused the appropriate registration of their homeowners' association to Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board and concreted portions of the road and drainage in the area.

Meanwhile, the LGU distributed Transfer Certificates of Title to 95 families of the Immaculada Concepcion Homeowners Association in Barangay Cuambogan, who had been in actual possession of the lots for 16 years, through the City Housing and Land Management Office (CHLMO).

CHLMO Housing and Homesite Officer IV Raul Becerro Jr. said that the beneficiaries had once been unable to cope with the payment of their land taxes which paved the way for the Office of then-Representative Ariel Olano to allocate funds for its payment.

The congressional office then transferred the rights for the appropriate disposition of said lots to the Tagum LGU, which saw the propriety of distributing the lots to the families who had been living in the site for close to two decades already.

Both groups of beneficiaries to this recent distribution of certificates of land title had been tagged and validated by the CHLMO to ensure that the land beneficiaries, who are afforded the security of tenure as espoused in the EAGLE WINGS program, are those that really deserve it.

To date, the city's housing office has tagged and validated more than 4000 informal settler families to be affected by different circumstances that need to be resettled and/or relocated. **TIO @tribunephil_3na**



PITC foils DENR's 6-game run

Games on Jan. 5
(Paco Arena)

3:30 pm - DENR vs PhilHealth

5:00 pm - Malacanang-PSC vs Agriculture

Judiciary, National Housing Authority and Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) kept their hopes for the second outright semis berths alive by posting contrasting wins in the 8th UNTV Cup held over the weekend at the San Juan City gym.

Of the three, it was the PITC Global Traders who produced the biggest win, stunning the erstwhile unbeaten Department of En-

vironment and Natural Resources Warriors, 74-64.

With Rod Vasallo doing a little of everything, the Global Traders of started to pull away in the second quarter and hand the Warriors their first defeat in seven matches in the tournament organized by UNTV president and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon for public servants.

DENR's defeat pushed idle and defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines to the top with a 7-1 record.

The Builders of coach Beneth Palad, on the other hand,

hiked their record to 6-3 with a 100-96 win over the also ran PhilHealth Plus.

Alvin Vitug and Marvin Mercado formed NHA's 1-2 punch as they registered 24 and 22 points, respectively. Mercado completed a double-double by grabbing 13 boards.

The Judiciary Magis, meantime, stretched their winning run to four games by downing the slumping Department of Agriculture Food Masters, 81-72, to tie idle Malacañang-Philippine Sports Commission, and PITC for fourth to sixth places at 5-3.



PITC's Rod Vasallo goes to the basket during the team's stunning 74-64 win over the DENR Warriors in the UNTV Cup at the San Juan gym.



#nationataglance

Cagayan, Cordillera infra projects completed under P4.3-B JICA-DENR forestland program

INFRASTRUCTURE projects worth P86 million under the 9.244 billion yen (about P4.3 billion) Forestland Management Project (FMP) of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have been completed, JICA reported on Tuesday. In a statement, JICA said the projects that were recently turned over to local government units include bridge, roads, and irrigation facilities in Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino provinces in Cagayan Valley, and Ifugao in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). The JICA-DENR 10-year program aims to protect 71,300 hectares of forests in the country's watershed areas, including



DENR

THE 3.38-kilometer farm-to-market road in Diffun, Quirino is one of the recently completed infrastructures under the JICA-DENR Forestland Management Project.

the Jalaur Watershed in Iloilo, Upper Magat and Cagayan River Basins, and Pampanga River Basin. "The agroforestry infrastructure support like roads and bridges are meant to support the livelihood activities of the people's organizations (POs) in the project areas. Likewise, JICA will continue to support the training of POs so they can manage their enterprises and keep their organizations viable," JICA Philippines Senior Representative Yo Ebisawa said in a statement. Aside from infrastructure, the FMP, which is scheduled for completion by 2022, also provides training and enterprise development support to some 149 POs.



Philippines-China 2020

I must admit – my ideal image of a diplomat from China has to be Zhao Jianhua, the Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines from 2014 to 2019, perhaps the most unpredictable and exciting years in Philippines and China relations.

The tides that these years brought were tumultuous and rocky, but led to the strong ties that we have today.

Ambassador Zhao carried everything with such ease, having calm demeanor, forever smiling, his signature Chinese traditional clothes always at tip-top shape.

Despite his towering presence, you will never feel intimidated around Ambassador Zhao, who steered the diplomatic ship away from the dangerous waves and to the calmest shores.

That's why it came as a surprise to me that Ambassador Zhao's tenure in the Philippines was not extended, although I am admittedly unaware of Chinese foreign policy with their diplomatic officials. But whatever the reason, I thought that Ambassador Zhao should have been granted an exception and allowed to stay until the end of this Administration. This was my thinking until I met the new Ambassador to the Philippines, H.E. Huang Xilian.

Ambassador Huang arrived on 2 December and he has not rested since. His blitzkrieg meetings have brought him to the offices of all the key government officials.

He has met with President Rodrigo Duterte, Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano, and a number of Cabinet Secretaries. At this rate, he should be done meeting the entire top-level government officials by Christmas Day.

A seasoned diplomat, Ambassador Huang is an expert in ASEAN affairs, having been previously deployed as China's envoy to the ASEAN in Jakarta, Indonesia.

He previously served in India, Brunei, the USA and Pakistan.

And at Monday's Christmas Party of the Chinese Embassy for the Media, I saw that Ambassador Huang

has all the tools to bring the diplomatic relations of Philippines and China to a higher level, especially in 2020 – the 45th year from the establishment of China-Philippines relations.

In his welcoming remarks, Ambassador Huang highlighted the figures to show the strong relations our two countries have been enjoying.

China is a top trading partner of the Philippines with the bilateral trade volume reaching \$49.8 billion at year-on-year growth of 7.2 percent. Bananas were of special mention, with more than 1.1 million tons of bananas exported to China within the first three quarters of 2019, amounting to \$493 million. Chinese tourists in the Philippines spiked to 1.5 million as of October 2019, a huge increase from the previous years.

China's unwavering support to the Administration's "Build, Build, Build" Program was mentioned, with the projects and numbers to prove it. China has provided funds for the Chico River Pump Irrigation, New Centennial Water Source—Kaliwa Dam, and the Philippine National Railway's South Long Haul Commuter Rail, not to mention the total of 10 projects already completed.

A total of \$398 million in grants and \$500 million soft loans have been given, with a promise of around \$421 million more in grants.

Incidentally, 20 December will also be the celebration of the 20th



QUO VADIS
Darren M. de Jesus

Anniversary of Macau's return to China.

Ambassador Huang took this opportunity to remind everyone on how the "One Country, Two Systems" policy can work, with Macau reaping the benefits of its good relations with its mother country, China.

Ambassador Huang then bit the bullet, and

went straight to discussing the situation in Hong Kong, something rather controversial, yet important to the hearts of Filipinos with the estimated 230,000 overseas Filipinos workers there.

Ambassador Huang said that China's main concern is restoring peace and order, and the safety of all those in Hong Kong, including Filipinos.

The program went on to entertain all those in attendance. I was fortunate enough to sit in the VIP table close enough to the Ambassador for him to cheers my shot glass with as many *moutai* as I can drink.

Moutai is a highly potent Chinese hard drink, of the same caliber (or even higher) than absinthe. Note that he made sure that both our shot glasses were filled to the brim when he and I toasted – an honor I will always cherish. It didn't help that he had a server waiting behind him ready to refill the shot glass seconds after being emptied.

Moutai aside, it was certainly an enjoyable evening. The Chinese Embassy also awarded winners of their vlogging contest, and had surprise numbers by El Gamma Penumbra and KZ Tandigan, who apparently is very famous in China. This was a fitting event to end the year 2019, and a good preview on what China will bring in 2020.

E-mail: darren.dejesus@abogados.ph
or tweet @darrendejesus.



PHL miners bag Asean award

THREE mining companies from the Philippines were adjudged winners at the recently concluded second Asean Mineral Awards (AMA) held in Bangkok, Thailand.

The awards is a biennial event that recognizes mineral resource companies for achieving best practices in environmentally and socially sustainable operations.

The winners, all members of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP), are large-scale miners that passed the environmental standards set by mining regulators.

Coral Bay Nickel Corp., which operates a nickel processing plant in Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan, emerged with the best practices award for the Philippines in the metallic mineral processing category. Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp., also in Bataraza, was named runner-up in the metallic mineral mining category while Agata Mining Ventures Inc. was also named runner-up in the Metallic mineral distribution category. In the non-metallic category, Lafargeholcim bagged runner-up awards in both the mining and

processing categories.

The AMA is an initiative of the Asean mining ministers to recognize best practices in sustainable mineral mining, processing and distribution among its various member-countries.

The Awards, launched in 2017 in Myanmar, saw the Philippines garnering 2 of the 3 awards handed out, with Rio Tuba Nickel recognized for best mining practices and OceanaGold Philippines Inc. for best plant. Since then, the AMA has been expanded to six categories, with nonmetallic minerals separate from metallic minerals.

"We are extremely pleased that again, Philippine minerals resource companies were recognized for best practices in the various categories," Gerard Brimo, COMP chairman, said in a statement.

"We hope this recognition will demonstrate that we have world-class mineral operations in our country even as we in COMP strive to raise the bar by subscribing to new global mining standards of excellence, such as the Towards Sustainable Mining initiative.

Jonathan L. Mayuga



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UN more determined after COP25

By Elmer N. Manuel
@tribunephil_lmer

Negotiations at the COP25 United Nations (UN) climate conference in Madrid ended on Sunday, wrapping up an event which saw much progress made by the private sector, and by national, regional and local governments.

But as progress was achieved, there was widespread disappointment that no overall consensus was reached on increased climate ambition.

UN Secretary General António Guterres expressed his feelings on Twitter, but refused to see the conference as a defeat, and wrote that he is "more determined than ever to work for 2020 to be the year in which all countries commit to do what science tells us is necessary to reach carbon neutrality in 2050 and a no more than 1.5 degree temperature rise."

By Friday, when the conference had been expected to end, agreement on some important issues had been reached by negotiators, for example on capacity building, a gender

program and technology – but an overall deal was held up over disagreement on the larger, and more contentious issues dealing with loss and damage caused by man-made climate change, as well as financing for adaptation.

Weary negotiators worked at the request of the Chilean president of the COP, but a draft version of the outcome text released on Saturday morning was reported to have underwhelmed all parties to the negotiations, with representatives of non-government organizations and civil society describing it as unacceptable and a betrayal of the commitments made under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

By Saturday evening, there was still no sign of a deal, prompting acclaimed 16-year-old activist Greta Thunberg, one of the high-profile speakers at the Climate Action Summit held at UN Headquarters in September, to announce that "it seems like COP25 in Madrid is falling apart right now. The science is clear, but the science is being ignored."

Despite the disappointment voiced at the contents of the outcome document, several announcements made during the two-week conference to indicate progress.





Climate groups sa Global leader: 'Dirty Coal, tuldukan!'

Dalawang araw bago ang gaganaping 25th Conference of Parties (COP) sa The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), nagkaisa ang climate justice advocates sa Pilipinas na magsagawa ng Global Climate Strike upang himukin ang mga nasa gobyerno na tuldukan at pigilan ang paggamit ng 'coal' o karbon bilang enerhiya sa bansa.

Sa Manila, ang Power for People Coalition (P4P) ay nagsuot ng costume ng Spanish-speaking cartoon character Dora the Explorer upang himukin

ang global leaders na dadalo sa COP sa Madrid, Spain na sabihin ang "hasta la vista to dirty and costly energy from coal."

Sinabi ni P4P Convenor Gerry Arances na, nitong 2018, ang 'global energy-related emissions' ay tumaas ng 1.7%. At nito lamang nakaraang Linggo, iniulat ng World Meteorological Organization (WMO) na umabot na sa 'critical level' na 400 parts per million (ppm) ang carbon dioxide (CO2) concentration. Gayunpaman, sa kabila na malaki na ang epekto sa klima ng

paggamit ng 'coal', ay may mga bago na namang proyekto nito ang itinatayo sa bansa. At sa katunayan umano ay 579 gigawatt (GW) ng bagong planta ng karbon ang nasa 'pipeline globally.'

Ang panawagang tuldukan o hadlangan na ang paggamit ng karbon sa enerhiya ay sinupportahan ng mga grupo sa komunidad sa bansa, na kinabibilangan ng La Union, Quezon, Palawan, Masbate, Pangasinan, Cebu, Negros Occidental, Leyte, Lanao Del Norte, Davao, at Cagayan De Oro.



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IN BRIEF

Climate group seeks clean energy policy

CLIMATE and environmental advocates and other non-government organizations reminded administration officials Tuesday to pursue more clean energy as directed by President Rodrigo Duterte during his state-of-the-nation address.

The Power for People Coalition (P4P), a broad network of clean energy advocates from across the Philippines, said the current administration must "walk Duterte's clean energy talk" by reviewing existing policies in the energy sector which enabled the dominance of destructive and expensive electricity from coal at the cost of consumers' welfare.

"These past weeks, Filipinos from all walks of life knocked on different corporate and government bodies to hold them accountable for enabling coal to heavily burden Filipinos with its costly price and the detrimental impacts it brings to the environment and its host communities," said Gerry Arances, P4P convenor. **Alena Mae S. Flores**



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Phoenix supports clean energy mix with new partnership

The agreement will make the genset units available in the Philippines with the corresponding commissioning, training, and technical support from the USA

Phoenix Petroleum, the fastest-growing and leading independent oil company in the Philippines, reinforces its thrust for cleaner energy and diversified energy sources through a new deal with a manufacturer, distributor, and operator of generator sets that can run on raw wellhead gas, LNG, CNG and propane rich LPG. The partnership was made official with a memorandum of agreement (MoA) between Phoenix Pilipinas Gas and Power Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Phoenix Petroleum Philippines, Inc. and Mesa Natural Gas Solutions LLC, an American company based in Casper, Wyoming. The MoA was signed by Dennis Uy, president and CEO of PPPI, and Scott Gromer, president and CEO of Mesa Natural Gas Solutions LLC on 11 December at the UDENNA Tower in BGC, Taguig City.

The agreement will make the genset units available in the Philippines with the corresponding commissioning, training, and technical support from the USA. Both companies are expecting the deal to promote the use of gas and broaden the Philippines' energy mix. The project also aims to contribute to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' initiatives on Clean Development Mechanism.

Present during the signing were Zachary Soukup, director of international development of Mesa Natural Gas Solutions LLC based in Oklahoma City and Henry Albert Fadullon, COO of PPPI.

"Through this valuable project, we will be able to further support the Philippine government's thrust to broaden our energy mix and move closer towards cleaner energy. Gas, being available in many parts of the world,



PHOENIX Petroleum Philippines Inc. president and CEO Dennis Uy shakes hands with Mesa Natural Gas Solutions LLC President and CEO Scott Gromer at the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the two companies.

will allow us to diversify and stabilize our energy sources as we help the country better secure its energy requirements. Considering the innovative properties of this technology, remote areas of the country that suffer from unreliable power supply and quality can greatly benefit from it, including businesses in the hospitality and manufacturing industries," Fadullon said.

He also said the genset technology will allow the use of propane rich LPG as a transition fuel while the availability of LNG is still being developed. Phoenix LPG Philippines Inc. will supply propane rich LPG as the

feed-stock to the Mesa gensets.

Often used in upstream operations providing power for remote locations even without access to the main grid, Mesa genset units are compact, mobile, and can be custom-engineered to fit the requirements of the clients. The performance of the gensets can be monitored remotely on a real-time basis and immediate action can be taken on-site if needed.

Also present during the MoA signing was Keenan Ugarte, Director of Primeiro Partners, the strategic advisor to Mesa Natural Gas Solutions LLC.



TITLE:

BUKAS, DISYEMBRE 19, 2019, ilalabas ni Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes ng Regional Trial Court Branch 221 ang kanyang desisyon ukol sa Ampatuan massacre.

Gaganapin ito sa loob ng Camp Bagong Diwa na roon nakadet-ine ang lahat ng nahuling akusado sa pinakamasamang rekord sa pagpatay sa mediamente.

Isa sa pinakahuling balita ang pagpapabalik kay dating Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Governor Zaldy Ampatuan na naospital dahil umano sa sakit.

Kasama si Zaldy ang kapatid niyang ex-Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr. sa mga akusado, kasama ang ama nilang si ex-Maguindanao Governor Andal Sr. na pumanaw na.

Mahigit 100 akusado ang bababaan ng hatol.

GUILTY

Siyempre pa, mga Bro, may dalawang panig sa kaso.

Para sa mga mamamahayag, mga Mangudadatu at iba pang biktima, guilty ang kahilingan nilang desisyon ni Judge Reyes.

Not guilty naman ang hinihiling ng mga akusado.

Depende sa mga umiiral na batas at mga ebidensya na inihain ng magkabilang panig pabor sa kani-kanilang interes, inaasahan si Judge Reyes na magbababa ito ng desisyon na makatarungan.

Dahil kasong kriminal ito, isa-isang binusisi ng huwes ang mga argumento ng bawat akusado bagama't may ideklarang guilty batay sa sabwatan.

NAPAKAHIRAP

Batay sa mga obserbasyon natin sa mga kasong kriminal na nililitis at dinedesisyonan, itong kasong ito ay napakahirap na desisyonan.

Unang-una, patay lahat ang mga biktima kaya walang tumayong saksi laban sa mga gumawa ng krimen.

Kung may mga nakasaksi man, naging laban-bawi ang tinayuan dahil sa takot na madamay.

Kaya naman, umasa na lang ang hukuman sa mga testimonya ng mga galing sa hanay ng mga akusado mismo o ilang may konsensya at nanindigan na hindi kasali sa aksyon.

May mga ebidensya



ULTIMATUM

ni BENNY ANTIPORDA

KATARUNGAN PARA SA MGA MINASAKER SA AMPATUAN

rin na may mga nagamit sa krimen na mga nakumpiskang baril subalit naging problema tiyak kung sino ang kumalabit sa mga gatilyo.

Alalahaning may mga akusado na inakusahan bilang mga mastermind, mga direktang sangkot mismo sa pagpatay, mga nagtago ng krimen gaya ng mga naghukay ng lupa gamit ang backhoe para tabunan ang mga bangkay at kanilang mga sasakyan.

Ang konswelo lang natin kung tutuusin, pinigilan ni Judge Reyes na lumaya ang higit na nakararami sa mga akusado sa loob ng kulungan bilang tanda ng pagkakaroon ng probable cause na sila'y may sala.

Ang iba kasi, gaya ng ilang pulis na sinasabing sangkot noon, ay lumaya sa bisa ng piyansa.

WALANG KADUDA-DUDA

Ang isang babantayan naman talaga ay ang mga utak ng krimen at kanilang henchmen na kumalabit ng mga gatilyo ng baril.

Siyempre pa, kasama rin dito ang mga kasabwat din nila sa paggawa ng krimen na kung wala sila ay hindi magagawa ang krimen.

Kailangan ang proof beyond reasonable doubt o patunay na walang pag-aalinlangan para madeklarang guilty ang mga akusado.

Sa oras na pumasok ang pagdududa kung guilty o hindi ang isang akusado, tuluyang mapawawalang-sala ito.

Katwiran ng korte, "Better to free a guilty man than to punish the innocent."

'Yun bang === mas magandang palayain ang isang akusado o may sala kaysa ibalanggo ang isang inosente.

PANALANGIN

Ang pinakamahalagang usapin dito ay may naganap na maramihang pagpatay kaya naman dapat na may managot.

Ang panalangin natin ay magiging matibay ang lahat ng ebidensya na hawak ni Judge Reyes para sa deklarasyon ng guilty laban sa lahat ng akusado o ilan sa mga ito, ialo

na ang mga utak ng krimen at mga tauhan nilang kasama nilang nag-sagawa ng krimen.

Maging matibay dahil tiyak na aabot pa sa Korte Suprema ang kaso.

Dapat nating alalahanin na may mga nananalalo sa mababang hukuman gaya ng RTC ni Judge Reyes pero pinawawalang-saysay naman ng Korte Suprema ang kanilang mga panalo.

Nagaganap din ang kabaligtaran nito.

NAKATATAKOT

Ngayon pa lamang, may namumuo muling takot ang mga biktima at iba pang maaaring maging biktima sakaling magkaroon ng acquittal o pagpapawalang-sala sa mga pangunahing akusado sa krimen.

Maging si Cong. Toto na pinanday ng panahon at tumibay ang dibdib sa pakikipaglaban sa katarungan ay nangangamba rin.

Lalong nangangamba ang iba na alam na wala silang kalaban-laban kung magsibalikan sa poder ang mga mapangyarihang akusado.

Pwede kasing makabalik sa pwesto ang mga akusado kung ideklara silang "not guilty."

Pwede silang maging kapitan, mayor, gobernador at iba pa kung mapawawalang-sala sila.

Lalo na kung iisipin na malalaking angkan ang kinabibilangan ng ilan sa mga akusado at wala kang kalaban-laban sa mga halalan kung haharapin mo sila.


Sana nga, ilal ang katarungan at mabigyan ng hustisya ang mga biktima at mga tunay na inosente.

Para sa atin, dapat may managot sa karumal-dumal na krimen para maging leksyon sa lahat ng mamamayan.

oOo

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





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD
8th Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1109

GOODHANDS WATER SPECIALISTS, INC.,
Applicant. Case No. 19-2812

-----x
SECOND NOTICE OF HEARING
-----x

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Ibiza Townhomes and Clayton Heights Subdivisions, Barangays Maly, Guinayang and Malanday, municipality of San Mateo, province of Rizal, with the following proposed rates:

Residential / Institutional / Public Taps		Commercial / Industrial	
Consumption, cu. m.	Peso / cu.m.	Consumption, cu. m.	Peso / cu.m.
0 - 10 (min.)	P 227.36 (min.)	0-25 (min.)	P 1,136.80 (min.)
11 - 20	27.33	26 - 1000	63.73
21 - 30	31.92		
31 - 40	36.40		
41 - 50	38.64	Over 1000	77.28
Over 50	40.99		

Notice is hereby given that this application will be initially heard by the Board on **January 13, 2020**, hearing will start at 9:00 o' clock in the morning at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City at which time applicant shall present its evidence.


At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the province of Rizal and send by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of (i) the application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any affected party to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard and the Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 6th day of November 2019.

By Authority of the Board:

Dr. SEVILLO B. DAVID, JR. CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:

The Secretary
Sangguniang Bayan
San Mateo, Rizal

The Barangay Chairman
Barangays Maly, Guinayang
& Malanday, San Mateo, Rizal


The Homeowners Assn. President
Ibiza Townhomes & Clayton Heights Subd.
Barangays Maly, Guinayang & Malanday
San Mateo, Rizal

The Administrator
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road
Balara, Quezon City 1105



TITLE:

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 Republic of the Philippines
 Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
 Tel Nos. 929-8828 to 29; 929-8829 to 39
 929-7041 to 43; 929-8252; 929-1880
 Website: www.denr.gov.ph / E-mail: pub@denr.gov.ph

DEC 11 2019

DENR Administrative Order
No. 2019-24

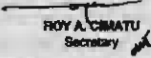
SUBJECT : AMENDMENT OF ITEM III, SECTION 4(b) OF THE DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2019-13, "RATIONALIZING DREDGING ACTIVITIES IN THE HEAVILY-SILTED RIVER CHANNELS OF BUCAD IN BOTOLAN, MALORMA IN SAN FELIPE AND STO. TOMAS TRAVERSING THE SAN MARCELINO, SAN MARCOS AND SAN FELIPE MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES"


In the interest of service and for purposes of providing clarity on the financial requirements under DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2019-13 issued on 24 October 2019, Item III, Section 4(b) of said DAO is hereby amended as follows:

b) For a corporation, partnership, association or a consortium, its capital must be at least sixty per centum (60%) owned by citizens of the Philippines. A minimum authorized capital of One Billion Pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) shall be required, twenty-five percent (25%) of which shall be subscribed and paid up. In no case shall the paid-up capital be less than P250,000,000.00. For consortiums, one of its members must possess these qualifications.

All other orders and issuances, rules and regulations, and parts thereof inconsistent with this Order are hereby amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in a newspaper of general circulation and registration with the Office of the National Administrative Register.


ROY A. CIMATU
 Secretary


 503627694

Let's Go Green!!!

(Bandera - December 18, 2019)