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PH to have sufficient water supply this year – DENR

By GENALYN D. KABILING

The government has assured the public that the country will have a sufficient supply of water this year.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu gave the assurance after presenting the government's water outlook and action plan in preparation for the coming summer during the Cabinet meeting held on Monday.

The commitment was made to prevent a repeat of the water shortage that struck Metro Manila and nearby provinces during the summer months last year.

"Cimatu discussed the water supply outlook. Sec. Cimatu presented his recent inspection of the Angat Dam, where he looked into the capabilities and limitations of the aforesaid dam which supplies more than 97% of the total water supply requirement of Metro Manila," Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said during a Palace press briefing.

"The Environment secretary assured the President that we will have enough water for the year," he added.

Dismayed by the water interrup-

tions that hit the capital last March, the President slammed water officials to resolve the problem or face termination. He also threatened to terminate the concession agreements with the two Metro Manila concessionaires at the time.

To augment the water supply, Duterte also authorized the release of 150 days worth of water from Angat Dam to Metro Manila and nearby provinces. The water concessionaires earlier blamed the water shortage on the decreasing water levels at nearby reservoirs due to the dry spell last year.



'THE SAME FOR THE SUBSEQUENT YEARS'

PALACE ASSURANCE: NO WATER SHORTAGE THIS YEAR

By Julie M. Aurelio
@JMAurelioINQ

Following the water crises that hit Metro Manila in 2019, Malacañang on Tuesday said there won't be a water shortage this year.

"The environment secretary assured President Duterte that we will have enough water for

the year," presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said in a press briefing on Tuesday, referring to Monday night's Cabinet meeting.

He said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu recently visited Angat Dam in Bulacan province to check its water level. The dam supplies more than 97 percent of Metro Manila's total

water supply requirement.

"What I heard last night is, they're assuring us that there's no water problem. They're doing something about it," Panelo said.

Asked if the government could similarly guarantee the water supply in succeeding years, the Palace official replied in the affirmative.

"That goes without saying. If there's no problem now, then it's the same for the subsequent years. That's included in their plans, projects for 2020, 2021, 2022," Panelo said.

Panelo said a groundbreaking ceremony for the Kaliwa Dam project is being scheduled for July or August. The Kaliwa Dam is being touted as an al-

ternate water source for Metro Manila.

Last year, Metro Manila suffered two water shortages—one in March, in which households were without water for several hours in a rotational water shortage following lower water levels of the Angat Dam.

The capital experienced an-

other water crisis in October, during which water service providers implemented rotational shortages as well.

The President had ordered a review of the water concession agreements with Maynilad and Manila Water, citing "onerous" provisions in the 1997 deals, which he said greatly disadvantaged the public. INQ



DENR: Phl has enough water to last 2020

By ALEXIS ROMERO

The country is expected to have enough water supply this summer and the rest of the year, the environment department said.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu discussed the water supply

outlook and action plan during a Cabinet meeting last Monday at Malacañang.

Cimatu also talked about his recent inspection of Angat Dam, which supplies more than 97 percent of the total water requirement of Metro Manila.

"Secretary Roy... assured

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the President that we will have enough water for the year," Panelo said at a press briefing yesterday.

President Duterte's spokesman said agencies are also preparing to ensure that there would be adequate water supply in the next years.

Last year, Panelo said Duterte was supportive of the proposal to create a separate department for water-related concerns, saying it could prevent a repeat of the water service interruptions in Metro Manila and parts of Rizal.

The water shortage experienced in March 2019 prompted the President to scold water officials and to threaten to terminate the concession contracts of the

two Metro Manila water distributors.

The establishment of a water agency is one of the proposals in a road map that aims to address the effects of water shortage.

The road map will include immediate, medium and long-term interventions like making an intensive campaign for the conservation of water and energy, creating a Department of Water and a Department of Disaster Resilience.

Other measures in the proposed road map are the dredging of waterways, replacing tunnels and aqueducts, installing water tank systems in all hospitals under the health department and providing funding for the establishment of water treatment plants.



The Manila Times

www.manilatimes.net

As summer nears, govt assures of water supply

WITH summer almost here, the government has assured the water supply is enough for the year.

Palace spokesman Salvador Panelo said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu told President Rodrigo Duterte that the country would not be experiencing a water shortage this year. Cimatu presented the government's outlook and action plan in preparation for summer during Monday's Cabinet meeting in Malacañang.

Panelo said Cimatu inspected Angat Dam, which supplies more than 97 percent of Metro Manila's water supply.

In March last year, Metro Manila suffered its worst water crisis in years, as the water level at Angat dipped, leaving families queueing for hours to get water from tanker trucks.

Duterte blamed officials of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the two

water concessionaires for the water shortage, claiming they knew about the problem, but did nothing to prevent it.

The President also questioned the concession agreement with a water company, which he did not identify, that bound the government to the deal until 2070.

Both Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. are in the middle of negotiations for a new concession agreement.

Panelo also mentioned that the China-funded Kaliwa Dam project was scheduled to break ground by July or August this year.

The controversial project, which involves the construction of a reservoir straddling Rizal and Quezon provinces, has been long delayed.

Kaliwa Dam is designed to augment Metro Manila's water supply.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE



No water shortage in summer

Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu has assured Malacanang that there will be enough water supply in the metropolis for the year.

Chief presidential Legal Counsel and spokesman Salvador Panelo said Cimatu disclosed this during Monday night's 47th Cabinet Meeting presided over by no less than President Rodrigo Duterte in Malacañang Palace.

During his presentation, Panelo said Cimatu discussed the outlook and action plan of the government in preparation for summer.

"Secretary Cimatu discussed the water supply outlook. He presented his recent inspection of the Angat Dam, where he looked into the capabilities and limitations of the aforesaid dam which supplies more than 97 percent of the total water supply requirement of Metro Manila," Panelo said on Tuesday.

"The environment secretary assured the President that we will have enough water for the year," he added.

Panelo said Cimatu made the assurance that there will be no water shortage in Metro Manila despite the water level in Angat Dam continuing to decrease.

FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The majority should always win but we we're not able to get the majority votes.

At the same time, Go noted there are pending cases before the High Tribunal regarding the same issue.

"First, let me reiterate my position that as Chief Executive and Chief Architect of our foreign policy, it is within the President's power and prerogative to cause the review and termination of treaties taking into consideration the welfare of our nation," Go said.

"Second, there are pending cases before the Supreme Court tackling the issue of whether or not Senate concurrence is necessary in terminating or withdrawing from a treaty. I believe that as a co-equal branch of the government, the Senate must not dictate upon the Supreme Court as to how and when to do its job," he added.

During his manifestation after the adoption of the measure, Drilon explained that in his 21 years in Senate, he felt saddened that the Chamber is not unified in seeking SC's declaration of Senate's authority in abrogating treaties.

"All that we're asking the Supreme Court is to define our constitutional boundaries. Nothing else, nothing more," Drilon said.

"We are in fact asking the Supreme Court to rule on this issue. And for all you know, the Supreme Court may rule that the Senate's concurrence is not necessary, and that settles the issue or the Senate may rule that the Senate's concurrence is necessary, again that settles the issue."



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NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
**Palace assures Metro Manila will have
enough water supply this year**

THE NATION'S capital will have "enough water" supply, at least this year, the Palace said on Tuesday citing an assurance from the Environment chief. Presidential Spokesperson Salvador S. Panelo said Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu made the statement during Monday evening's Cabinet meeting. "The Environment secretary assured the President that we will have enough water for the year," Mr. Panelo said. He added that Mr. Cimatu is on top of monitoring the Angat Dam, which provides 97% of Metro Manila's water supply. Mr. Panelo also said that the government is already working on measures for future supply. "They already have projects regarding that," he said. Agencies are still working on requirements for the controversial P12.2-billion Kaliwa Dam project, which was planned to break ground this year. — **Gillian M. Cortez**



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DENR assures Duterte 'No water supply shortage this year'

THE country will not be experiencing any water shortages this year, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has assured President Rodrigo Duterte as the dry season approaches.

According to Duterte's spokesman Salvador Panelo, the government's outlook and action plan in preparation for summer were among those discussed during Monday night's Cabinet meeting in Malacañang.

Panelo said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu recently visited the Angat Dam in Bulacan province to check on its water level. Angat Dam supplies more than 97 percent of Metro Manila's total water supply requirement.

Panelo added that Cimatu "assured the President that we will have

enough water for the year."

In March 2019, Metro Manila suffered the worst water crisis in years, leaving families to wait for hours just to get their daily water supply from tanker trucks as Angat Dam's water level dipped.

Panelo added that the highly-contested China-funded Kaliwa Dam is scheduled to break ground by July or August this year.

The controversial dam project, which involves the construction of an integrated reservoir bordering Rizal and Quezon provinces using funding from China, has been long delayed. Once operational, Kaliwa Dam will augment Metro Manila's water supply from the Angat Dam.

—*Inquirer.net*



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WALANG WATER SHORTAGE

SAPAT ang supply ng tubig sa Metro Manila sa taong 2020, ito ang tiniyak ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Pagtitiyak ni Cimatu kay Duterte

SUNDAN SA PAHINA 15



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Pagtitiyak ni Cimatú kay Duterte

WALANG WATER SHORTAGE

Mula sa pahina 1

Ginawa ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatú ang pagtitiyak kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa idinaos na Cabinet meeting kamakalawa sa Malakanyang.

Sa nasabing pulong ay nagprisinta si Cimatú ng water supply outlook at action plan.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo na inilahad din ng kalihim sa Pangulo ang resulta ng ginawang inspeksiyon sa Angat Dam kung saan ipinakita ang kapabilidad at limitasyon nito.

Nasa 97 porsiyento ng suplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila ang nangagaling sa Angat Dam, na siya ring pinanggagalingan ng mga patubig

sa palayan sa Bulacan at ilang mga lugar sa Pam-panga.

Ang pahayag ni Cimatú ay makaraang magbabala ang water concessionaires sa kanilang customers ng "stricter implementation" ng kanilang rotational service interruption schedule na ginagawa na nila ng ilang buwan ngayon sa pagbaba ng lebel ng tubig sa Ipo Dam.

Nag-abiso ang Maynilad at Manila Water sa kanilang mga kostumer na paghandaan ang water interruptions at ang limitadong supply ng tubig sa unang linggo ng pagpasok ng summer season.

Matatandaang Oktubre nang nakaraang taon nang magpahayag

si Duterte na ikinokonsidera niya ang paggamit ng "extraordinary powers" upang mapabilis ang paggawa ng Kaliwa Dam project upang mapigilan ang panibagong krisis sa tubig sa Metro Manila katulad ng naranasan noong nakaraang taon.

Ang Kaliwa Dam project sa Infanta, Quezon ay pinopondohan ng Chinese loans habang ang proyekto sa Wawa Dam sa Rodriguez, Rizal ay joint venture ng consortium nina Enrique Razon at Oscar Violago.

Inaasahan na ang nasabing mga proyekt ay magkaloob ng karagdagang 600 million liters a day (MLD) at 80 MLD, sa Metro Manila.

EVELYN QUIROZ



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Suplay ng tubig ngayong taon, sapat- Sec. Cimatu

TINIYAK ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu kay Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na may sapat na suplay ng tubig sa bansa para sa taong ito.

Isa si Sec. Cimatu sa mga dumalo sa cabinet meeting sa Malakanyang kamakalawa na isinagawa sa Aguineldo State Dining Room, Malacañan Palace.

Ayon kay Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo, ipinisinta ni Sec. Cimatu sa Pangulo ang outlook at action plan ng gobyerno para sa nalalapit na panahon ng tag-init.

Kabilang sa inilatag ng Kalihim sa Pangulo ang resulta ng kanyang pag-inspeksyon sa angat dam kamakailan.

Aniya, inilathad ni Sec. Cimatu sa Cabinet meeting ang kapabilidad at limitasyon ng Angat dam na siyang nagsusuplay ng mahigit 97% ng kabuuang water supply requirement ng Metro Manila.

Sa huli, tiniyak ni Sec. Cimatu sa Pangulo na hindi kakapusin sa tubig ang metro manila ngayong taon.

Nauna rito, may pahayag na ang National Water Resources Board na nagsabing 'di na sila magbabawas pa ng alokasyon ng tubig sa dalawang water concessionaires. KRIS JOSE



Metro Manila, 'di mawawalan ng tubig sa tag-araw

Ni GENALYN D. KABILING

Tiniyak ng gobyerno sa publiko na ang bansa ay magkakaroon ng sapat na supply ng tubig ngayong taon.

Siniguro ito ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu matapos ipresinta ang water outlook at action plan ng gobyerno bilang paghahanda sa paparating na tag-araw sa Cabinet meeting nitong Lunes.

Ang pangako ay ginawa upang maiwasan ang pag-uulit ng kakulangan ng tubig na tumama sa Metro Manila at

kalapit na mga lalawigan sa mga buwan ng tag-init noong nakaraang taon.

"Cimatu discussed the water supply outlook. Sec. Cimatu presented his recent inspection of the Angat Dam, where he looked into the capabilities and limitations of the aforesaid dam which supplies more than 97% of the total water supply requirement of Metro Manila," sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo sa Palace press briefing.

"The Environment Secretary assured the President that we will have enough water for the year," dagdag niya.

Dismayado sa water interruptions na tumama sa kabisera ng bansa noong nakaraang Marso, kinalampag ng Pangulo ang water officials na resolbahin ang problema o masisibak sila.

Nagbanta rin siyang wawakasan ang concession agreements sa dalawang Metro Manila concessionaires nang mga panahong iyon.



Water crisis sa Metro Manila 'di na mauulit – Cimatú

Tiniyak ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatú na hindi kakapustin ng supply ng tubig sa Metro Manila pagsapit ng tag-init ngayong taon.

Sa ginanap na cabinet meeting noong Lunes, prinisenta ng kalihim ang action plan ng ahensya para sa inaasahang tagtuyot.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo na kabilang sa presentasyon ito ang ginawang inspeksyon sa Angat Dam.

Inilahad aniya ni Cimatú sa Pangulo ang kapabilidad at limitasyon ng dam na siyang nagsu-supply ng 97 porsiyento ng tubig sa Metro Manila at irigasyon sa mga Bulacan at Pampanga.

Inaasahang tataas ang konsumo ng publiko sa summer dahil mas magiging malimit ang pagligo at paghuhugas ng publiko.

Noong 2019, matatandaan na nagkaroon ng kakulangan sa supply ng tubig sa Metro Manila dahil rin sa pagbaba ng level ng mga dam. Kaya naman mas pinabibilis ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagpapagawa ng Kaliwa Dam sa Quezon, na magpapalayas sa mga indigenous people na naninirahan malapit dito. **(Aileen Taliping)**



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Kaliwa dam project tuloy na sa Agosto

HARANGAN man ng sibat, wala nang makapipigil sa pag-arangkada ng kontrobersiyal na China-funded Kaliwa Dam project.

Kinompirma ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo na pinagusapan sa ginanap na cabinet meeting kamakalawa, sa darating na Hulyo o Agosto ay isagawa ng groundbreaking ceremony para sa Kaliwa Dam project.

Ang pahayag ng Palasyo ay isang araw matapos maglabas ng kalatas ang Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) na masidhing pagtutol sa Kaliwa Dam project bunsod ng panganib na idudulot nito sa kalikasan at gagastusan nang malaki ng gobyerno.

Ang narinig ko kagabi, parang may groundbreaking sa isang Kaliwa Dam - dalawa yata iyon 'diba? There are two, two Kaliwa Dams e. I think so, because may groundbreaking na this July, August e," tugon ni Panelo sa media hinggil sa update sa kontrobersiyal na proyekto.

Matatandaan, naging masidhi ang pagtutol ng mga residente, Dumagat tribe, environmental groups at simbahang Katoliko sa Kaliwa Dam project mula pa noong administrasyong Arroyo at Aquino dahil itatayo

ito sa Philippine Fault at Valley Fault System, isa itong 'death trap' na magiging sanhi nang pagbaha sa watershed mula Infanta hanggang Tanay, Rizal; at binabalewala ang epekto ng climate change.

(ROSE NOVENARIO)

SUPPLY NG TUBIG SAPAT — CIMATU

TINIYAK ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sapat ang suplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila hanggang matapos ang kasalukuyang taon.

Ito ang inilat ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa cabinet meeting kamakalawa.

"The Environment Secretary assured the President that we will have enough water for the year," ani Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo.

Nagpresenta aniya si Cimatu ng water supply outlook at action plan at ang resulta ng ginawang inspeksiyon sa Angat Dam na ipinakita ang kapabilidad at limitasyon nito.

Aabot sa 97 porsiyento ng suplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila ang nanggagaling sa Angat Dam.

(ROSE NOVENARIO)



DENR moves to rehab rivers ruined by Marcopper mining disaster

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jonmayuga

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has approved an initial P5-million funding for the construction of a 90-meter wide gabion dam across the Mogpog River in Marinduque province as part of the government's rehabilitation efforts in water bodies devastated by the Marcopper mines.

The dam will be built downstream of the Maguila-guila Creek to prevent further siltation in its basin.

In a statement, Regional Director Roland de Jesus of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB) in the Mimaropa region said the amount will cover the first phase of the project—conduct of a feasibility study, technical data gathering, design and planning for the dam's construction.

"The result of the first phase will yield crucial information on the geological, geotechnical and hydraulic analysis of the Maguila-guila Creek, which will determine the design of the structure," de Jesus said.

"The second phase or the implementation of construction stage may vary depending on the result of the first phase of the project," he added.

Cimatu earlier vowed to restore two rivers, including Mogpog, that were devastated by the worst mining disasters in Philippine history—the Marcopper mining disasters in 1993 and 1996. Marcopper mine is one of the so-called legacy mines—those abandoned by mining companies after tragic mining disasters or upon reaching the end of the life of the mine before the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

While guesting at the recent 100th anniversary of Marinduque province upon the invitation of local officials led by Gov. Presbitero Velasco Jr. and his son, Rep. Lord Allan Velasco, Cimatu bared that a plan to restore all the rivers in the Philippines, including the Boac and Mogpog rivers using nongovernment

resources will soon be implemented by the agency.

He said it is high time that the government lead the massive cleanup and rehabilitation of the Boac and Mogpog rivers as people continue to suffer from the effects of the catastrophic tailings spills from the site of Marcopper Mining Corp. in 1993 and 1996.

"The environmental damages and unresolved issues brought about by the Marcopper mining operation in Marinduque for several decades now must be put to an end," Cimatu said.

In March 1996, a fracture in the drainage tunnel of Marcopper's Tampilan pit spilled more than 1.6 million cubic meters of toxic mine tailings, flooding villages and poisoning the Boac River.

Three years before that, the firm's Maguila-guila siltation dam also burst, flooding the town of Mogpog, where two children drowned in the mine waste. It practically killed the Mogpog River with its toxic mine tailings.

Marcopper, which started its copper mining operations in the province in 1969, had been dumping mine waste into the Calancan Bay, destroying its corals and seagrasses.

Cimatu said he will immediately issue a department administrative order (DAO) once the Marinduque provincial government submits a formal request to place the Boac and Mogpog rivers under rehabilitation.

The planned river rehabilitation, he said, would include the dredging of the two rivers by a private contractor at no cost to the government.

Cimatu said the private contractor must shoulder all the expenses of the dredging operation in exchange for whatever minerals it may recover, provided the contractor pays the corresponding 4-percent excise tax.

So far, Cimatu has issued four DAOs in relation to the restoration of silted rivers through dredging, based on the separate requests of the provincial governments of Zambales, Oriental Mindoro and Negros Occidental.



DENR halts quarrying in georeserve

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday vowed to stop all quarrying operations in Masungi Georeserve in Rizal province after it was discovered that a quarry firm had fenced off some 500 hectares of this forestland up for reforestation.

"We will make sure to stop it. There should be no room for quarrying in Masungi *kasi* (because) that's a georeserve. We'll definitely put all our efforts to stop the quarrying as soon as possible," Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda told *The Manila Times*.

Antiporda said Environment chief Roy Cimatu, with several DENR officials went to Masungi Georeserve on Tuesday afternoon to confront the involved parties, namely Rapid City Realty and Development Corp. and Masungi Georeserve Foundation.

On Wednesday last week, the quarry firm put up barbed wires to cordon off a quarter of the 2,000 hectares reserved for Masungi's conservation work without any permit from the government.

After learning of the fencing incident, the Masungi Georeserve Foundation urge President Rodrigo Duterte and the DENR leadership to prohibit quarrying in the area, including in the larger Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape.

"*Mismong si* Secretary Cimatu *ang maglilinaw doon na hindi talaga pwede 'yung action na ginawa nu'ng* company. (Secretary Cimatu himself will explain to them that the action of the company is not allowed). It is illegal and our secretary will make sure that they will never be given MPSA (mineral production sharing agreement) to operate there," Antiporda said, admitting that while the incident happened a week ago, the DENR Central Office and its chief were informed only on Monday.

An MPSA is one of three types of mineral agreements that the government grants to a contractor for the right to mine within, but not title over, a contract area.

With such, the government shares in the production of the contractor, whether in kind or in value, as owner of the minerals.

Antiporda said, "We will move fast because we're really focused on preserving Masungi. *Hindi natin hahayaan ang kung sino man ang sumira ng* geopark *na 'yun* just because of profits. (We will not allow anybody to destroy the geopark)."

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ



AMLC PROBING 12 CASES OF 'DIRTY MONEY' FROM ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

THE Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) is investigating a dozen cases of money laundering involving high-profile subjects involved in the illegal wildlife trade.

Interviewed at the sidelines of the World Wildlife Day 2020 celebration at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City, Maria Ivy B. Jovellanos-Lanuevo of the AMLC Secretariat's Compliance and Investigation Group said the cases were referred to the anti-money laundering body by the various law-enforcement agencies working with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"We are now investigating at least a dozen cases and are following the money trail. We are closely working with various law-enforcement agencies and are now focusing on this illegal activity," she said.

Last year, she said the AMLC caused the freezing of several bank accounts of a businessman, whom she declined to name, following a thorough investigation by the AMLC.

The subject, she said, was arrested by authorities for violation of the Wildlife Act repeatedly, funneling suspicion that organized crime is involved. She said the AMLC is now working with counterpart law-enforcement agencies in the country where illegally caught wildlife are being brought by the subject.

"The subject has several bank accounts and on suspicion of that person's involvement, we decided to freeze some of these accounts," she said.

However, she said the AMLC was only able to freeze a total of P1.5 million from the subject's accounts.

"The subject was able to withdraw the money from the accounts before we were able to freeze [them]," she said.

According to Jovellanos-Lanuevo, the subject uses legitimate businesses as fronts for the illegal activity.

Considered a transnational crime, illegal wildlife trade is a major driver of biodiversity loss.

The Philippines, both a consum-

er and source of illegally traded animal and plant wildlife, is struggling to protect its threatened species.

Considered one of the megadiverse countries in the world in terms of biodiversity, it is also a biodiversity hotspot because of the rapid rate of flora and fauna loss.

During a press conference highlighting the Philippines's celebration of the World Wildlife Day, Environment Undersecretary Ernesto D. Adobo Jr and Environment Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon underscored the successful operations that led to the rescue of live species of animals from illegal wildlife traders.

Adobo, the DENR's undersecretary for legal, administration, finance, human resources and information system said while the DENR has succeeded in involving the communities in combating illegal wildlife trade, the fact remains that hunger and poverty persist in many areas.

"When the community go hungry, they resort to illegal wildlife trade," he said.

The DENR's campaign, he said, is two-pronged—fighting those involved in both the demand and the supply side of the equation.

For his part, Calderon underscored the need to give more teeth to the law to deter crime.

"As Undersecretary Adobo said, when the people feel they are hungry, they catch a pangolin and sell them because it's easy money," he said.

He said one way of preventing wildlife crime is by imposing severe penalties and bigger fines.

The DENR's current protection and conservation strategy is anchored on the strength of its Protected Area management. Calderon said currently, there are 107 legislated Protected Areas in the Philippines with the enactment of the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (Enipas) Act.

These Protected Areas cover a total of 7.7 million hectares of the country's 30 million hectares total land area.

He said the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau will push for increased funding for these legislated Protected Areas to boost forest and coastal area protection and deter illegal wildlife trade.



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DENR beefs up inter-agency cooperation to prosecute wildlife criminals

By CZARINA NICOLE ONG KI

The Philippines is rich in wildlife and biodiversity, but the country's lax prosecution of traffickers and illegal wildlife traders, not to mention its poverty situation, is making it more difficult for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to protect endangered animals and the world they live in.

The department has teamed up with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Asian Development Bank (ADB), as well as law enforcement agencies such as the Philippine National Police (PNP),

Philippine Army, and many more in order to beef up its mission to protect the country's wildlife.

In an event held at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City on Tuesday morning, these agencies kicked off the celebration of World Wildlife Day 2020 with the theme "Sustaining All Life On Earth."

Atty. Ernesto D. Adobo Jr., Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Finance, Human Resources and Information Systems of the DENR, revealed that many of the cases they have filed against wildlife criminals often get dismissed because of the unavailability of witnesses.

He highlighted the need to get more people who are highly-trained and disciplined to handle "science-based" evidence, because the details of their cases are very technical.

DENR Assistant Secretary Ricardo L. Calderon cited an example in which it was crucial to identify banned species of wood in a case. Not only did they need a witness to identify these, but they also needed an expert. "Wrong identification can even lead to the dismissal of the case," he warned.

Calderon added that they are already coordinating with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to increase their personnel. These individuals, he said, will be their "frontline" in different provinces and manage the habitats for biodiversity.

"It is very important that enforcers are more intelligent than the ones committing the crime," he said.

On the other hand, their partnerships with law enforcement agencies will ensure that they get to check the illegal smuggling of animals being conducted through seaports and airports.

Adobo further expounded that the illegal wildlife trade can be addressed in two fronts. The first is poverty, which they have addressed by providing alternative means of livelihood.



Deterrent value of wildlife smuggling laws limited — DENR

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said wildlife smugglers are not deterred by the current set of penalties prescribed for them because violations are prosecuted as if they were "second-class crimes."

Undersecretary Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr., a lawyer, said societal attitudes towards wildlife smuggling are unhelpful because they do not recognize the urgency of the issue.

"It is a victimless crime. People do not think about wildlife trafficking too much because they are just animals. Moreover, smugglers take the risk... because the illegal wildlife trade is just a second-class crime," he said Tuesday.

Mr. Adobo was speaking to mark World Wildlife Day at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City.

He said a bill that is pending in Congress that addresses the weaknesses of the wildlife regulatory regime.

"We already have a bill pending that we hope to be certified soon. It will institutionalize law enforcement (practices) against the illegal wildlife trade," Mr. Adobo said.

Assistant Secretary Ricardo L. Calderon said that the DENR is being assisted by the Asian Development Bank and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in the amendment of the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act or Republic Act (RA) 9147.

At the event, the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and USAID unveiled a new digital tool to combat wildlife trafficking, with the soft launch of the beta test version of the WildALERT system.

The system consists of a mobile interface, a species library with 480 entries, and a report management platform to help users identify wildlife species to help them better fight wildlife crimes.

The system's senior developer Fheter John B. Calanday said the testing process seeks to ensure that the Android-based app can work even on older-model phones.

"Very challenging *sa amin na gumana 'yung app sa mga lumang phone pero napagana namin* (It was very challenging for us to make an app that even old phones can run), but we did it so that it can be more accessible to law enforcers," Mr. Calanday added.

App users can take photos and provide key information via the app's reporting feature, which will then be sent to the WildALERT report management platform.

Reports can be accessed by the nearest DENR field units such as City Environment and Natural Resources Offices, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office and the BMB for appropriate action.

The system will be officially turned over to DENR by the end of March or early April.

— **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

LAGOT ANG KRIMINAL

Ipinapakita ng app developer na si Fheter John B. Calanday, kung paano gamitin ang WildALERT, isang bagong digital tool na dinebelop ng DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau at ng USAID para tulungan ang DENR frontliners at law enforcement partners na labanan ang wildlife trafficking.

MARK BALMORES



Pagtugis sa wildlife criminals, palalakasin

Mayaman ang Pilipinas sa wildlife at biodiversity, ngunit ang mahinang prosekusyon ng traffickers at illegal wildlife traders, bukod pa sa poverty situation, ang nagpapahirap sa trabaho ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para protektahan ang endangered animals at ang kanilang tirahan.

Gayunpaman, gumagawa ng mga hakbang ang DENR upang matugunan ang mga isyung ito - at hindi sila nag-iisa.

Nakipagsanib-puwersa ang department sa United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Asian Development Bank (ADB), gayundin sa law enforcement agencies gaya ng Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Army, at marami pang iba para palakasin ang misyon nitong protektahan ang wildlife ng bansa.

Sa isang okasyon na ginanap sa Ninoy

Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center sa North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City kahapon ng umaga, inilarga ng mga ahensiyang ito ang pagdiriwang sa World Wildlife Day 2020 na may temang "Sustaining All Life On Earth."

Isiniwalat ni Atty. Ernesto D. Adobo Jr., Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Finance, Human Resources and Information Systems of the DENR, na marami sa mga kaso na isinampa nila laban sa wildlife criminals ay madalas na nababasuna dahil sa kawalan ng mga testigo.

Binigyang-diin niya ang pangangailangan na makakuha ng maraming mga tao na may lubos kasanayan at disiplinado upang mahawakan "science-based" evidence, dahil ang mga detalye ng kanilang mga kaso ay napaka-teknikal.

Czarina Nicole Ong Ki



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NEW DENR APP. App developer Fheter John B. Calanday, demonstrates how to use the WildALERT, a new digital tool developed by the DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau which he said would help DENR frontliners and law enforcement partners in the fight against wildlife trafficking. **Manny Palmero**



Philippine Eagle released in Aurora missing

By RAMON EFREN LAZARO

MALOLOS – As the country marked World Wildlife Day yesterday, the whereabouts and status of a Philippine Eagle named “Agawid” that was released in Aurora province in October 2017 remains uncertain.

Don Guevarra, information officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Luzon, said the juvenile eagle was caught in June 2016 by a farmer in a snare or *silo* that was used for catching monkeys inside the Aurora Memorial National Park (AMNP).

Since the eagle was juvenile when snared, Guevarra raised the possibility that a pair of Philippine Eagles made the Sierra Madre Mountain range in Central Luzon their home.

The eagle was turned over to the DENR-Community Environment and Natural

Resources Office (CENRO) based in Dingalan and later placed in the custody of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), where it was cared for until its release into the wild.

On Oct. 4, 2017, Agawid – which weighs 5.31 kilograms – was finally released in the wild and fitted with a radio transmitter to help DENR monitor the eagle’s activities.

Guevarra said the last sighting of Agawid was on July 31, 2019 within the stretch of Lamig Creek in AMNP. Since then, the transmitter attached to it has not been giving signals on its whereabouts.

Meanwhile, the alleged sighting of a Philippine Eagle in Angat watershed in Bulacan several months ago has not officially been confirmed by environment officials in the province.

It cannot be ascertained if it was Agawid, since Aurora is adjacent to Bulacan.



ABOUT 3,000 hectares of the Dakeol Forest in Maitum is proposed for declaration as a critical habitat. It is home to Sarangani Pride, a male Philippine Eagle that was rescued in 2017 and released back into the wild. The Philippine Eagle Foundation and the Maitum local government monitors him through a GPS tracker.

SOCCKSARGEN: MAITUM, SARANGANI Indigenous communities assured of assistance with declaration of Dakeol Forest as critical habitat

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE (IP) communities in Dakeol Forest have been assured of livelihood support as protective measures are put in place with the planned declaration of part of the woodland as critical habitat. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-SOCKSKSARGEN Region (DENR-12), in a statement Monday, said they have already "identified some 3,000 hectares of forest lands to be declared as "critical habitat." In a stakeholders meeting last week, DENR-12 officials asked the IP representatives from the village of Babian for their full support to the forest's protection while addressing concerns on allowance for volunteer forest guards and livelihood programs. The area is home mostly to the Tboli, who are engaged in hog farming, sugarcane, and upland rice production. "Establishing Dakeol Forest as a critical habitat is for your benefit... We are partners in the protection of Dakeol," said Elizabeth Ramos, chairperson of the civil society group Maitum Advocates for Sustainable Environment (MASE).

EAGLE'S HOME

The forest is the nesting site of a Philippine Eagle named Sarangani Pride, which was rescued in the village in 2017. It is also home to various flora and fauna such as red lauan, wild orchids, ferns, bats, birds, and monkeys. A profiling of the species will be undertaken by DENR-12 this year as part of preparations for the inclusion of Dakeol Forest in the list of critical habitat areas by 2021. Last February 4, DENR-12, the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of Kiamba, and the local government of Maitum signed an agreement for the creation of a multi-sectoral task force that will implement environmental protection measures and the establishment of a central nursery in Maitum. "The agreement will address the issues on social conflicts, environmental, and economic problems, thru establishing the DENR-LGU (local government unit) central nursery which shall provide livelihood to the upland dweller and other interested people's organization of the town," DENR-12 said. — MSJ



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Manila bans bird imports from Germany, Saudi Arabia

THE Philippines placed a temporary ban on the importation of domestic and wild birds from Germany and Saudi Arabia after an outbreak of H5 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus was confirmed in several areas in the two countries.

In its Memorandum Order (MO) 15, Series of 2020, the Department of Agriculture (DA) cited a report from Germany's Department for Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture saying Bretzfeld, Hohenlohekreis and Baden-Wurttemberg were positive for the highly pathogenic H5 virus, which occurs mainly in birds and can be deadly, especially in domestic poultry.

The DA, as stated in MO 15 also imposed the same ban on Saudi Arabia after it confirmed that the virus was affecting birds in Sudair, Riyadh and Ar Riyadh.

The subtype H5N8 virus, often carried by migrating wild birds, spread in Eastern Europe in recent weeks, hitting farms and backyard poultry in Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary.

With the ban in place, the DA suspended processing and evaluation of applications for and issuance of sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances for domestic and wild birds, including their poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs and semen.

The department assured that veterinary quarantine officers and inspectors in all major Philippine ports would stop and confiscate all inbound shipments of the banned items.

"There is a need to prevent the entry of HPAI virus to protect the health of the local poultry population," Agriculture Secretary William Dar stated in the order.

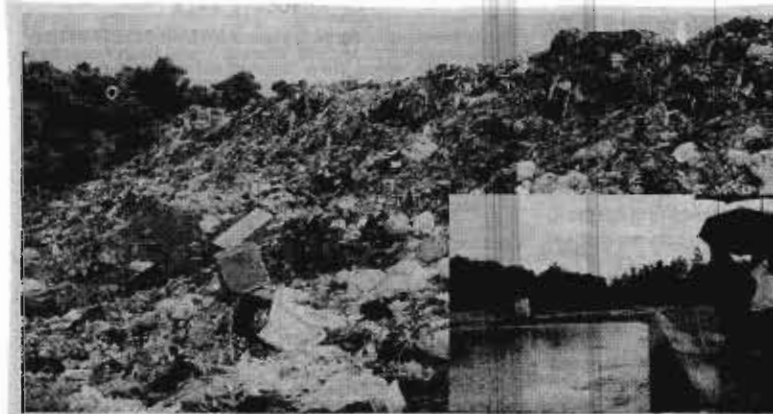
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IPINASASARA ng LGU ang Hermosa Sanitary Landfill Facility na ino-operate ng Econest Waste Management Corp. dahil sa mga paglabag sa environmental laws na natuklasan ng Environmental Management Bureau ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
REY VELASCO

Sanitary landfill sa Bataan, ipinapasara

UMAPELA ang local government unit ng Hermosa, Bataan na ipasara pansamantalang ang isang pribadong kompanya ng sanitary landfill sa Brgy. Mambong sa nasabing bayan dahil sa masamang epekto nito sa kalikasan at kalusugan ng mga residente.

Mismong ang mga residente ang nagreklamo dahil sa kanilang nalalanghap na kakaibang amoy sa pag-apaw ng basura na dumidirekto sa ilog na nagresulta ng pag-

itim ng tubig nito lalo kapag umuulan.

Si Hermosa Mayor Jopet Inton ay naghain ng cease and desist order na nag-uutos na pansamantalang ipasara ang Hermosa Sanitary Landfill Facility na pinatatakbo ng Econest Waste Management Corp.

Nilabag umano ng kompanya ang environmental laws na natuklasan ng Environmental Management Bureau ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR).

Ayon kay Municipal Administrator Rex Jorge, paulit-ulit na lang ang problema ng Econest Waste Management Corp. kaya marapat lamang na ipasara ito dahil na rin sa banta sa kalusugan ng mga residente.

Nagsimula ang isang Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) noong 2017 upang maging maayos ang paglimbak ng basura subalit nitong nakalipas na taon ay marami nang nilabag ang nasabing kompanya. **REY VELASCO**



Sanitary landfill sa Bataan, pinapasara

UMAAPELA ang Local Government Unit o LGU Hermosa, Bataan na ipasara pansamantala ang isang pribadong kompanya na Sanitary Landfill sa Barangay Mambong dito sa nasabing bayan.

Dahil sa nakakasira sa kalikasan at kalusugan ng mga residente sa masang-sang na amoy lalo sa tuwing umuulan at nangigitim na tubig na dumadaloy ilog.

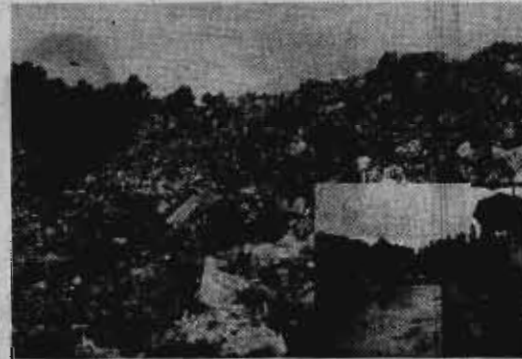
Mismong concerned citizen at mga residente ang nagreklamo dahil sa kanilang nararanasang kakaibang amoy at umaapaw na basura na dumidiretso sa ilog na nagmistulang itim na ang tubig nito lalo kapag umuulan.

Si Hermosa Mayor Jopet Inton ay naghain ng cease and desist order mula sa Hermosa LGU na nag-uutos na pansaman-

talang ipasara ang Hermosa Sanitary Landfill Facility na ino-operate ng Econest Waste Management Corp. dahil sa mga paglabag o violations of environmental laws na natuklasan ng Environmental Management Bureau ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR).

Ayon kay Municipal Administrator Rex Jorge, ay paulit-ulit na lang ang problema sa Econest Waste Management Corp. kung kayat marapat na ipasara ito dahil sa banta ng kalusugan ng mga residente.

Nagsimula ang kasunduan o Memorandum of Agreement o MOA noong 2017 na maging maayos sa pag-iimbak ng basura subalit nitong nakalipas na taon ay marami ang nilabag ng nasabing kompanya. (Rey Velasco)





House seeks waste, energy solutions

BY GABBIE PARLADE
@tribunephil_gabs

The House Committee on Ecology and Energy on Tuesday consolidated three bills pertaining to the use of waste-to-energy (WTE) technologies and facilities to aid in mitigating the problem of waste in the country.

House Bill 3174 by Cavite Rep. Abraham Tolentino, HB 3423 by Quezon City Rep. Alfred Vargas, and HB 5706 authored by Parañaque Rep. Eric Olivarez have been fused.

Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Velasco, chairman of the panel, welcomed the move as most municipalities and local government units do not have enough funding to put up their own sanitary landfills.

One of the solutions that they see would solve the existing waste problem in the country is through waste to energy facilities.

"One of the solutions to the looming trash problem in the whole country is to put up waste-to-energy facilities that won't produce many emissions that will affect the health of our countrymen," Velasco said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) also agreed with the establishment of WTE facilities.

"For the disposal, we consider WTE as one of the most viable options considering the magnitude of (the) problem of solid waste in the country," said DENR Assistant Secretary Jesus Salazar.





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Single-use plastics banned in SC offices

THE Supreme Court through the Office of Administrative Services yesterday came up with a memorandum banning the use of single-use plastics in its offices.

In a memorandum addressed to all heads of offices of the SC, Deputy Clerk of Court and Chief Administrative Officer Atty. Maria Carina M. Cunanan said the High Court is adopting the solid waste avoidance and waste management strategy of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), which is under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Under the NSWMC Resolution No. 1363, the following items were unnecessary single-use plastics: "plastic cups (lower than 0.2 mm in thickness), plastic drinking straws, plastic coffee stirrers, plastic spoons, plastic forks, plastic knives, and plastic labo, and thin-filmed sando bags (lower than 15 microns)."

Hector Lawas



Big plans for Daang Kalikasan

BY JONAS REYES

MANGATAREM, Pangasinan – National government agencies and local government units (LGU) that encompass the Daang Kalikasan are planning to put a nursery, view deck stations, and a dam as part of its development while imposing speed limits for the safety of travelers.

According to Lingayen Mayor Leopoldo Bataoil, the construction of a nursery, view deck stations and dam are being considered after they conducted an ocular inspection of the area last week. He said that these infrastructures would be in partnership with national government agencies.

The nursery, he pointed out, will be established and maintained by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Bataoil said that there are already non-government agencies that are already propagating seedlings that will be planted in the mountains surrounding the area.

Bataoil said that the tree planting will be part of the National Greening Program of the DENR, and will further beautify the already scenic route of Daang Kalikasan.

The Department of Tourism (DoT) is also being tapped for the construction of view deck stations. He said that the DoT will maintain these view deck stations.

“Water ranges are being identified for possible construction of a dam in the area by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH),” he said, adding that these infrastructures would spur growth in tourism for the areas that are near Daang Kalikasan.

A speed limit will also be imposed for the safety of commuters in Daang Kalikasan. Mangatarem Mayor Ramil Ventenilla said that this will certainly make the road safer.

“We ask the DPWH to also provide manpower so that the checkpoint there will be 24 hours as some people still manage to sneak into the road, especially at night without the police checkpoint,” he said.



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Manila declares Arroceros Forest Park as permanent forest park

By MINKA KLAUDIA S. TIANGCO

Arroceros Forest Park, dubbed as Manila City's last lung, will now be a "permanent forest park," the city government announced following the signing of a city ordinance.

Manila City Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso recently signed Ordinance No. 8607, the Arroceros Forest Park Ordinance, declaring the parcel of land along Arroceros Street, formerly known as "DECS Property", a permanent

forest park.

Under the ordinance, the city government will allocate P1 million for the operation of the 2.2-hectare park that houses more than 3,000 trees and 8,000 plants. ▶6

Manila declares Arroceros... 1◀

This is pursuant to Republic Act No. 5752, or the "Local Autonomy Act" which mandates cities to establish, develop, and maintain a permanent forest, tree parks or watersheds within public land.

The local chief executive had vowed to protect the park while he was then campaigning for the mayoral post in 2016 after it came under threat under the former administration.

A plan to build a gymnasium inside Arroceros Forest Park, that was outlined by the former city administration, earned flak from Manila residents and environmentalists, among others.

"The use and enjoyment of the Arroceros Forest Park must be consistent with the principles of sustainable development and the right of the people

to a balanced and healthful ecology," the ordinance read.

An Arroceros Forest Park Governing Committee, which will be tasked to formulate a management plan for the maintenance and operations of the park, will be assigned by the city government.

Peace officers, who are tasked to issue citations against violators, will also be designated.

Under the ordinance, cutting trees, dumping waste products and any form of excavation within the area of the forest park are prohibited.

Violators will have to pay a P2,500 fine for their first offense, P3,500 fine for their second offense, and P5,000 fine and or imprisonment not exceeding one year depending on the court's discretion for their third offense.



Arroceros declared permanent forest park

Manila Mayor Isko Moreno yesterday signed an ordinance declaring Arroceros as a permanent forest park.

The 2.2-hectare property, which used to house the Department of Education, Culture and Sports building, was filled with rubble.

Moreno said the ordinance was pursuant to Republic Act 5752 or the Local Autonomy Act, which mandates local governments to establish, develop and maintain a permanent forest, tree parks or watersheds within public land.

The rehabilitation of Arroceros was among Moreno's campaign promises in the last elections.

"The use of the forest park must be consistent with the principles of sustainable development and the right of the people to a balanced and healthy ecology," the ordinance read.

Under the measure, cutting of trees, dumping of wastes and any form of excavation within the forest park are prohibited.

Violators will be fined P2,500 for first offense, P3,500 for second offense and P5,000 and one year jail term for third offense.

The local government will designate peace officers, who will be tasked to issue citations against violators.

It will also create a committee to formulate a management plan for the maintenance and operations of the park.

- Rey Galupo



Arroceros Forest Park, idineklarang permanenteng forest park

Idineklara ng Manila City Government bilang isang permanenteng forest park ang Arroceros Forest Park sa Ermita, Manila.

Nilagdaan ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno ang Ordinance No. 8607, na nagdedeklara sa isang bahagi ng lupa sa Arroceros Street, na dating

kilala bilang "Decs Property," bilang 'permanent forest park.'

Ayon kay Moreno, ang pagpapasa ng ordinansa ay isa sa mga plataporma na ipinangako niya noong panahon ng kampanya para sa 2019 mayoral elections sa lungsod.

Alinsunod rin ito sa Republic Act No. 5752, o ang "Local Autonomy Act,"

na nagmamandato sa mga lungsod upang magtatag, magdebelop at magmanline ng permanent forest, tree parks o watershed sa mga public land.

Anang alkalde, maglalaan ang city government ng P1 milyon para sa operasyon ng parke.

Mary Ann Santiago

'Holmene' of Bacoor proposed as innovative solution

Denmark's ambitious project to create a floating "Silicon Valley" off the coast of Copenhagen which is expected to attract as many as 380 companies in the biotech, pharmaceutical and life sciences sector and create as many as 12,000 new jobs for the Danish people, has a counterpart here in the Philippines.

Announced last year, the Holmene project involves massive land reclamation that would see the creation of nine new islands 10 kilometers south of Copenhagen, adding 3.1 million square meters of new land and 17 kilometers of new coastline in the area.

The Holmene project is seen as an innovative solution to provide space for sustainable commercial development and growth of Denmark, which is one of Europe's smallest countries having an area of just around 43,000 square kilometers or barely half of the entire island of Mindanao.

Citing many similarities in terms of economic benefits and green features between Holmene and their own development plan, Bacoor City leaders view their proposed reclamation project as the local version of Denmark's program as it seeks to reposition the city as a new growth center, comparable to the existing central business districts (CBD) in the National Capital Region.

"The City of Bacoor is known to be the gateway and a bedroom community of Metro Manila. This proposed project aims to create a unique identity for Bacoor with well-planned, integrated and mixed-use development characteristics," Bacoor said in its documents.

"It will also address some of the city's need for extra residential and commercial land, as well as provide much needed community, high quality landscape and public open space to the people of Bacoor," they added.

Bacoor City leaders view their proposed reclamation project as the local version of Denmark's program as it seeks to reposition the city as a new growth center.

They noted that almost 73 percent of Bacoor's total land area, estimated at 4,511 hectares, is already devoted to residential use. On the other hand, the city's agri-fishery area has shrunk to only 6.1 percent of Bacoor's total land area amid creeping urbanization and development of new subdivisions.

By building a waterfront central business district of mixed-use developments, Bacoor seeks to attract economic developments and

provide adequate housing to support the future growth of the city.

Aside from mixed use development consisting of retail, entertainment, cultural and historic preservation area, the reclamation projects also intend to host a Science Park, which can help bring research and technology sector to the Bacoor Bay.

In addition, the projects would provide public green spaces and development that is large enough to become a tourist attraction. Consistent with the city government's policy to encourage urban forestry, the developers will plant trees to enhance the green and sustainable development of the city.

Bacoor's reclamation projects are expected to create about 700,000 new jobs not only for the city's residents but to the entire province of Cavite and adjacent areas. The projects are also meant to attract new investments, create new business opportunities, and spur tourism in the city.

It will also address some of the city's need for extra residential and commercial land, as well as provide much needed community, high quality landscape and public open space to the people of Bacoor.

As for Holmene, its nine islands are likewise meant to play an important role in the area's recreation and natural utility. Each island will be surrounded by a green belt, which the project's architects, Urban Power, say will mean "attractive transitions between land and water."

One of the islands will be home to Northern Europe's largest waste-to-energy conversion plant, where bio-waste and waste water from the estimated 1.5 million residents of the Greater Copenhagen region will be turned into clean water and biogas.

The Holmene islands will adopt other green technologies, including windmills, which will contribute an estimated annual reduction of about 70,000 of CO2 emissions and produce 322,000 MWh of fossil-free energy, consistent with Denmark's commitment to green energy and environmental concerns.

Similarly, the "Green and Blue Network" of the proposed Bacoor reclamation project prioritizes public green space for an environment-friendly and pedestrian-oriented development, thereby indirectly contributing to lesser CO2 emissions and cleaner air.

The design of the Bacoor project ensures the mangrove plantation in the city will continue to flourish.

MBA @tribunephil_mba



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF BACCOOR.GOV.PH

Growth center With green growth in mind, the proposed Bacoor reclamation shall sustain and allow the city's mangrove plantation in Barangay Sineguelasan to flourish and serve as breeding ground for fish and other marine animals.



First Gen sees need for 'paradigm shift' to reverse climate change

FEDERICO Lopez, the chairman and CEO of the country's largest clean energy producer First Gen Corporation (First Gen), sees the need for a "paradigm shift" in the way people think and behave in order to check the continued and worrying rise in Earth's temperature.

During a speech he delivered last week at the 3rd Philippine Environment Summit (PES) in this city, Lopez stressed that we "can no longer measure our success purely by bottom line growth and shareholder value."

"My own measure of success will be judged by how well we can aid the decoupling of GDP growth from carbon emissions," said Lopez who is concurrent chairman and CEO of Energy Development Corporation, the country's largest producer of geothermal energy.

"And on top of that, I believe it will be the role of businesses like ours to go beyond sustainability and into discovering creative new ways to improve and regenerate everything we touch: from our customers to our co-creators, the Earth, communities and our shareholders."

Lopez back in 2016 declared that the Lopez Group would not invest, build, or develop power plants fueled by coal, whose combustion emits massive amounts of carbon dioxide, one of the heat-trapping greenhouse gases (GHGs) being blamed for adverse global warming and climate change.

First Gen's portfolio of power plants runs on geothermal, hydro, wind and solar, which are renewable energy sources; and natural gas, considered the cleanest form of fossil fuel.

According to Lopez, "every decision we make must consider the betterment of all stakeholders in that order. It no longer works the other way around if you consider shareholders the priority. I believe enlightened shareholders also realize that there are no jobs, profits or even remnants of shareholder value on a dead planet."

Lopez said that the continued warming, which is melting away at a faster pace the Earth's permafrost like the Antarctic, could induce at least a three-foot rise in sea levels.

Citing new climate studies, Lopez noted that "many of the permafrost areas known to have melted only inches a year are now subject to 'abrupt thaws' as rapid as 10 feet in days or weeks."

He added that "the fact that we are a coastal dwelling and archipelagic nation, the warming Antarctic should worry us even here."

The First Gen CEO, however, sees hope from the situation.

He noted that "the climate crisis we face today is a golden opportunity for humanity to reexamine our way of thinking and begin rewriting the rules of how our world works.

"This is why it's high time we rethink, reimagine, redesign and rebuild how our world works. It's a paradigm shift like the world has never seen before.

"How we get our energy, the design of our cities, buildings and homes; the materials we use; what we eat and how we grow our food; how we handle our waste; how we use and recycle water; our transport systems and what powers them; words like regenerative agriculture, permaculture, the circular economy, cradle to cradle, net positive buildings, the sharing economy.

"We will also need to see inclusive business models that creatively deal with major social inequality and environmental problems," Lopez explained.

"In short, everything must change. We are living through what will be history's greatest paradigm shift. We no longer have a choice," he stressed.

Lopez does not expect an easy ride to reach his goals. "I know there's a lot to do. But each of us needs to think about where our unique strengths are, and apply those strengths collectively to strategic nodes where we can have the greatest impact on shifting the paradigm.

"For the energy companies under my wing we are focused on 'Forging pathways to a decarbonized and regenerative world'."

In pursuing these pathways, First Gen will tap its geothermal plants as "spearhead" with support from solar and wind. To solve the issue of intermittency of solar and wind, First Gen is developing pump storage hydro plants.

While large scale battery systems remain uneconomical in solving the intermittency of RE plants, First Gen's natural gas-fired power plants will remain the "best alternative" because of their fast ramp-up capability.

But Lopez noted that natural gas plants "are still fossil fuel based and GHG emitting and thus should be phased down and phased out as soon as the renewables-batteries combinations become economically feasible.

"One possibility is also that these plants can be powered by much cleaner hydrogen in the future when and if this becomes possible," he added.

"The thought only makes me feel small and humbled. Because now everything we've been doing so far just feels like Step 1 on a long, dangerous thousand-mile journey," Lopez said.

"We're all imperfect beings in an imperfect world but it doesn't mean we don't try," he said.



Half of world's beaches could vanish by 2100

By Marlowe Hood

CLIMATE change and sea level rise are currently on track to wipe out half the world's sandy beaches by 2100, researchers warned Monday.

Even if humanity sharply reduces the fossil fuel pollution that drives global warming, more than a third of the planet's sandy shorelines could disappear by then, crippling coastal tourism in countries large and small, they reported in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.

"Apart from tourism, sandy beaches often act as the first line of defense from coastal storms and flooding, and without them impacts of extreme weather events will probably be higher," lead author Michalis Voudoukas, a researcher at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, told AFP.

"We have to prepare."

Some countries, such as the United States, are already planning extensive defense systems, but in most nations such massive engineering schemes will be unfeasible, unaffordable or both.

Australia could be hit hardest, according to the findings, with nearly 15,000 kilometers (more than 9,000 miles) of white-beach coastline washed away over the next 80 years, followed by Canada, Chile and the United States.

The 10 countries that stand to lose the most sandy shoreline also include Mexico, China, Russia, Argentina, India and Brazil.

Sandy beaches occupy more than a third of the global coastline, often in highly populated areas.

But new construction, sea level rise, storm surge from hurricanes or typhoons, and reduced sediment from dammed rivers are all eroding these shorelines, threatening livelihoods and infrastructure.

To assess how quickly and by how much beaches might disappear, Voudoukas and colleagues plotted trend lines across three decades of satellite imagery dating back to 1984.

From there, they projected future erosion under two climate change scenarios.

The "worst case" RCP8.5 pathway assumes carbon emissions will continue unabated, or that Earth itself will begin to boost atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations—from, for example, permafrost—independent of human action.

A landmark advance

A less dire scenario, called RCP4.5, would see humanity cap global warming at about three degrees Celsius, which is still far more than the "well below 2C" limit called for in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Under RCP8.5, the world will lose 49.5 percent of its sandy beaches by 2100—nearly 132,000 kilometres of coastline.

Even by mid-century, the loss would be more than 40,000 kilometers.

The increasingly likely RCP4.5 outlook would still see 95,000 kilometers of coastline shorn of its sand by 2100, most of it within the next 30 years.

The UN's science advisory group, the Intergovernmental Panel on Cli-

mate Change, projected in a major report last September a sea level rise of a half meter by 2100 under the more optimistic scenario, and 84cm under RCP8.5.

Many climate scientists, however, say these estimates are too conservative, and have predicted in peer-reviewed work that the ocean watermark will rise twice as much.

Experts not involved in the new findings said they should sound an alarm.

"The study's linkage of global coastal degradation to (fossil fuel) combustion is a landmark advance," said Jeffrey Kargel, a senior scientist at the Planetary Research Institute in Tucson, Arizona.

In Asian delta regions that are home to hundreds of millions, sediment from Himalayan glacier-melt that could rebuild sand deposits is trapped in downstream reservoirs. "Coastal erosion of the Indus and Ganges delta areas of South Asia is expected to be extremely rapid," Kargel noted.

The impact of receding coastlines that still maintain a thinning ribbon of sand should also be considered, said Andrew Shepherd, director of the Centre for Polar Observation and Modelling at the University of Leeds.

"Between a quarter and half of the UK's sandy beaches will retreat by more than 100 meters over the next century, depending on how rapidly polar ice sheets melt," he said.

"Unfortunately, ice losses from Antarctica and Greenland are both tracking the worst-case climate warming scenarios." AFP



POGO workers laundered ₱10b in 'dirty money,' Gordon says

By Macon Ramos-Araneta and Julito G. Rada

AS MUCH as \$447 million or P22.69 billion passing through the Bureau of Customs, was laundered into the country by 47 persons, including Filipinos, from September 2019 until February 2020, Senator Richard Gordon said Tuesday.

In a privilege speech Tuesday, Gordon said that 46.98 percent of the amount or \$210 million (P10.6 billion) was brought into the country by Chinese nationals, mostly workers in Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs).

Gordon, chairman of the Senate Blue Ribbon committee, is set to conduct a Senate probe on the money-laundering crimes and other nefarious activities committed by POGO workers in the Philippines.

Money laundering, Gordon said, is often associated with gambling.

Gordon lamented that it appears that authorities turned a blind eye to the nefarious activities that come with the presence of POGOs in exchange for a few billions in tax revenues or perhaps because of "pastillas" or any other form bribery may take.

He said the influx of suspiciously large amounts of foreign currencies over a short period of time failed to alarm the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

The reasons given for the inflows were foreign exchange, 49.77 percent; investments, 16.23 percent; travel and casino, 15.1 percent; casino, 8.2 percent; business, 2.77 percent; travel, 1.81 percent and not specified, 6.14 percent.

The top five individuals who brought in large sums of money were: ESRodriguez- \$34.6 million or P1.7 billion (45 transactions), JGRodriguez-\$32.6 million

Next page

POGO...

From A1

or P1.6 billion (40 transactions), Mr. Chun-\$26.6 million or P1.3 billion (eight transactions), Mr. Sheng, \$24 million or P1.2 billion (seven transactions) and Mr. Kim-\$21.6 million or P1 billion (seven transactions).

The sums involved could be used to pay off the country's external debts amounting to P82.67 billion as of September 2019, to Australia, Canada, British Virgin Islands and Luxemborg, Gordon said.

The same amount could be used to bankroll the government's flagship projects like the Kaliwa Dam, New Cebu International Container Port, Pangilil Bay Project and the Chico River Pump Irrigation project, he said.

"There is no need for the Philippine government to borrow from Japan for certain flagship projects," said Gordon.

The P22.69 billion, Gordon said can be used to buy condominium units in Bonifacio Global City, and the cities of Pasay, Makati and Parañaque.

He said it can also be used to buy 8,400 units of high-end Toyota Hi-Ace Grandia 2020 model, 5,600 units of high-end Toyota Alpha 2020 model and more or less 6,285 units of Toyota Coaster.

These cars were being used as service vehicles of the almost 500,000 Chinese POGO workers in the country.

Leechiu Property Consultants estimated that there are around 470,000 POGO workers, much higher than the government estimate of around 150,000.

With the presence of POGO workers renting residential properties in the country, Gordon cited a spike in property values.

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said Gordon's revelations would be investigated.

President Rodrigo Duterte also wants a "vigorous" investigation of the reported attempts by suspected syndicates to bring in large sums of foreign money into the country, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said Tuesday.

Dominguez issued a directive to the Bureau of Customs and the Anti-Money Laundering Council after receiving a written report from Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero about several attempts by individuals and groups to sneak in large amounts of US dollars and other foreign currency into the country using travelers arriving at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Guerrero said that last year, an estimated \$370 million or around P18.74 billion were brought into the country by two groups, identified in his report as the "Rodriguez" and the "Chinese" groups.

The BOC chief recommended to Dominguez the creation of an interagency body to keep tabs on the inflow of foreign currency through the country's ports of entry, and to recommend measures to deter the use of these funds for illegal activities.

The Bureau of Customs on Tuesday issued a statement that all foreign currencies brought into the country are legal as long as they are declared.

Foreign currency is freely importable, it is not regulated because the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) does not require import clearance or permit and foreign currency is not dutiable.

NAIA customs deputy collector for passenger's services lawyer Ma. Lourdes Mangaog said that importation of any foreign currency is allowed and the only requirement is to declare the amount.

"We will seize the foreign currency in excess of US\$10,000 when the incoming passenger refuses to declare as required by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas," Mangaog added.

The BOC will get the full information regarding any passenger that brings in various foreign currencies and turns the information over to Anti-Money Laundering Council, Mangaog said.

With MJ Blancaflor and Che Santos



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FEB 12 2020

DENR Administrative Order
No. 2020-06

SUBJECT: AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS AND EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2018-16 OR THE "GUIDELINES IN THE PROCESSING AND ISSUANCE OF PERMITS ON THE REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF TREES AFFECTED BY DPWH PROJECTS"

Pursuant to the Presidential Decree No. 705 as amended, Presidential Decree No. 953, Executive Order No. 23 Series of 2011, Republic Act No. 7161, other relevant laws, rules and regulations, and in order to fast track the processing and issuance of permits on the tree cutting and/or earth-balling affected by priority infrastructure projects of National Government Agencies, the following guidelines are hereby prescribed for compliance of all concerned.

Section 1. Expanding the Scope and Coverage of DENR Administrative Order No. 2018-16

The scope and coverage are hereby expanded to include all applications for the cutting and/or earth-balling of trees for the construction of roads, bridges, flood control and other infrastructure projects for public purposes of National Government Agencies (NGA) provided that the Head of NGA shall submit to DENR the annual list of priority projects.

National Government Agencies shall include DPWH, DOTr, DepEd, DA, DOH, CHED, DOE, and NIA.

Sec. 2. Section 2 of DENR Administrative Order No. 2018-16 shall be amended as follows:

"Section 2. Application Requirements. The following requirements shall be submitted by the concerned National Government Agency to the CENRO with jurisdiction over the projects, to wit:

Item 1. Final and Approved Infrastructure Development Plan with tree charting (e.g. Road Alignment Plan, Building Plan, Detailed Engineering Design, or similar plan) indicating the geotagged location of individual trees affected by the project; to be numbered sequentially, as basis of validation by the DENR during actual cutting operations.

Item 5. The application for Tree Cutting and/or Earth-Balling Permits may be processed and issued even without an approved tenurial instrument.

Item 6. Certified True Copy of Clearance/Resolution from Protected Area Management Board (PAMB). The PAMB Clearance shall include an endorsement for the EMB Regional Office to determine whether the development project or activity is eligible for a Certificate of Non-Coverage (CNC) or should undergo the scoping process under the EIS System.

A development project or activity determined by the scoping process to be environmentally critical, shall undertake a full-blown EIA. A project or activity that is found to be environmentally critical will undertake an IEE instead of EIA. In both cases, an ECC shall be required prior to the commencement of the project or activity (Section 12, Rule 12.2 of the e-NIPAS and its IRR).

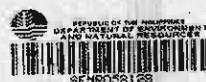
Item 7. Clearance from Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), and Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) among others as may be applicable."

Sec 3. Separability Clause. Should any provision or part of this Order be declared unconstitutional, those not affected shall remain to be in force and full effect.

Sec. 4. Repealing Clause. All other provisions of DENR Administrative Order No. 2018-16 shall remain in force and executory. All circulars, orders, memoranda, and issuances inconsistent herewith shall be amended or repealed accordingly.

Sec 5. Effectivity Clause. This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon submission to the Office of the National Administration Registrar (ONAR) from the UP Law Center.

ROY A. CIMATU
Secretary





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FEB 03 2020

DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No 2020-04

**SUBJECT: AMENDING SECTION 6 OF DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 99-53 ENTITLED "REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE
INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (IFMP)"**

Pursuant to 1987 Constitution, Article 12, Section 2, on the exploration, development, and utilization of natural resources, which may be for a period not exceeding twenty-five years, renewable for not more than twenty-five years, the following guideline is hereby ordered:

Section 1. DENR Administrative Order No. 99-53, Section 6 is hereby amended as follows:

"Section 6. Size of IFMA Area. - The minimum size of the area that may be covered by an IFMA shall be five hundred (500) hectares and the maximum size may depend upon the capability of the applicant to develop and manage into productive condition as well as the requirements of his processing plant(s) existing or to be installed in the area/region; provided, that it shall not exceed forty thousand (40,000) hectares, preferably but not necessarily of one single block of an area; provided, however, that where a TLA is converted into IFMA, the size of the IFMA area may extend up to the size of the TLA area at the time of the conversion.

For purposes of effective management, economic scale or economies of scale, holders of adjoining or economically-distanced small-sized IFMA areas may be allowed to integrate into cooperative, a federation of cooperatives, or corporation the aggregate area of which shall not exceed 40,000 hectares; **Provided, that the original expiration date of the individual IFMAs covered by the integration shall be observed to ensure that the 50-year Constitutional limit on the use of forestlands shall not be exceeded."**

Sec. 2. Review of Previously Integrated/Consolidated IFMAs. All previously integrated/consolidated IFMAs shall be reviewed consistent with this Order and to conform with the 50-year Constitutional limit.

Sec. 3. Effectivity Clause. This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgment of receipt of a copy hereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR).

ROY A. CIMATU
Secretary





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DATE

TITLE:

MAGANDA ang random drug testing na isinasagawa sa mga tsuper ng mga pampasaherong sasakyan.

Ayon sa Land Transportation Office, 116 ang nahuli nilang positibo sa droga mula Hulyo 2019 hanggang Pebrero 2020.

Sinabi ng LTO na 80 ang nahuli sa Metro Manila, 15 sa Calabarzon, 13 sa Central Luzon, 6 sa Bicol Region at 2 sa Mimaropa.

Talaga namang mahalaga ang testing sa mga tsuper sa mga pampasaherong sasakyan dahil malaking panganib sa mga pasahero ang nakadrogang tsuper.

Hindi lang 'yan.

May mga nadadamay ring iba.

Pruweba rito ang bumanggang dyipni sa mga taong nasa kalsada dahil nakadroga ang tsuper.

Isa ang namatay habang marami ang nasugatan.

TRUCK DRIVER DIN

Para kahit papaano ay makumpleto ang usapan dito, dapat ding isama sa random drug testing ang mga tsuper ng mga truck.

Sa dinamirami ng naka-usap nating tsuper ng truck, marami sa mga ito ang gumagamit ng droga.

Ang mga biyaheng long distance at magdamagan na biyahe ay nangangailangan umano ng pampataranta upang hindi sila ganong makaramdam ng pagod at puyat.

Shabu, mga Bro, ang sinasabi nilang pampataranta.

Kaya naman, gaya ng mga nadidisgrasyang dyipni, nadidisgrasya rin ang mga truck.

At ang nakatatakot, kung madisgrasya ang mga truck, mas grabe kaysa mga disgrasya sa mga dyipni o traysikel.

Isama na rito sa truck ang mga bus driver na natsitsismis ding gumagamit ng droga sa parehong reason: hindi antukin at hindi mapagod.

Pero napakadelikado, nakamatay, nakasisira ng mga ar-arian.

TAMA ANG DRIVER'S EDUCATION

Sa ngayon, marami na ang dumaraan sa mga seminar at eksaminasyon ng pamahalaan sa hanay ng mga professional driver, partikular ang mga nalilinya sa pampasaherong sasakyan, gaya ng mga dyipni. Kung mag-aral sila sa patnubay ng LTO at Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board. ay grupo, marami ang bilang.

Kwento ng mga tsuper, maghapon ang pag-aaral saka sila pinapabali sa



DRUG TEST SA PUV AT TRUCK DRIVERS

takdang araw para haman sa eksaminasyon.

Kung papasa sila sa eksaminasyon, binibigyan na sila ng ID.

At napansin ko lang sa mga ID, mga Bro, na napakalilit ang mga letra ng pangalan ng mga tsuper at tanging ang litrato ang madaling makita.

Paano kaya ito?

MGA PUNA

Tinatanong natin ang mga nakapasang tsuper at nakagugulat na marami sa kanila ang walang alam sa mga kriminal na responsibilidad kapag nadisgrasya sila.

Halimbawa ang mga sinasabi ng Anti-Drunk and Drug Driving Act of 2013 o Republic Act No. 10586.

Meron kasing mga parusa kung mahuhuli kang nakainom kahit hindi ka lasing at kung nakadroga ka sa anomang uri ng droga bilang paglabag sa nasabing batas.

Marami sa mga nakausap natin ang hindi alam na sapilitan o mandatory na isasailalim ka sa drug at alcohol test na may confirmatory test kung masangkot ka sa disgrasya o makitaan ka ng hindi ligtas na pagmamaneho gaya ng overspeeding, sobrang bagal at pa-zigzag-zigzag.

Hindi rin nila alam na kung aarestuhin sila ay dadalhin sila sa istasyon ng pulisya para sa kaukulang imbestigasyon at drug at alcohol test.

Lalong hindi nila alam kung gaano sila katagal makukulong depende sa mga pagkakasala nila sa batas.

At wala rin silang alam na nadadawit ang kanilang mga operator sa kagagawan nila sa usapin ng pagbabayad ng mga danyos.

Sinasabi natin ang pagiral ng batas na lto at dapat na klarong pagsarna nito sa driver's education dahil isa itong pamigil sa pagsuong ng mga tsuper sa droga at alcohol bago sila humawak ng manibela.

MUNGKAHI

Magandang isalin ang nasabing batas sa mga panrehiyong lengguwahe para madaling maintindihan.

Sa ngayon, puro sa Ingles nakasulat ito at marami sa mga tsuper ang hirap umintindi ng Ingles.

Maganda naman ang karanasan ng mga tsuper sa Mega Manila ukol sa edukasyon at eksaminasyon na isinasagawa.

Kalimitan, Filipino o Tagalog ang lengguwahe.

At natutuwa ang mga tsuper na Filipino ang mga tanong na dahilan upang madali silang makasagot.

Sabi nila, mahirapan kang sumagot kung naglililiw aliw ang iyong utak habang idinaraos ang maghaponing seminar.

At sinasaluduhan natin ang mga taga-LTO at LTRFB sa kanilang gawain.

Bilang panghuli rito, mga Bro, magandang maimbitahan din, bagama't maaaring hindi obligado ang mga operator na dumalo sa mga seminar.

Kung makalimot ang mga tsuper, magsisilbing tagasundot ang mga operator para sa safe driving at pag-iwas sa mga kriminal, sibil at administratibong pana-nagutan.

MGA KOLORUM

Merong dapat ding pagtuunan ng pansin, mga Bro.

Ang mga tsuper ng mga kolorum na pampasaherong sasakyan.

Hindi kaya marami sa mga ito ang talahib o peke ang mga lisensya o Driver's ID?

Maraming kolorum ang tumatakbo at kasama na rito ang mga may peke ring prangkisa.

Hindi hinuhuli ang mga ito dahil ginagawa silang gatasan ng mga pulis at traffic enforcer.

Nawawala sila kung-may operation ang LTO, LTRFB at Highway Patrol Group.

Dapat na magkaroon dito ng todo-todong kampanya para sa safe driving.

Kapag nakadisgrasya ang mga ito at hinuhuli ng mga awtoridad, sila karaniwan ang mga tumatakas at doon na nagaganap ang mga katakot-takot na disgrasya.

Nadadamay tuoy na mapasama ang mga matitinnong tsuper at nalistorbo sa ligal at ligtas na paghahanapuhay.

Nadadamay ring mapasama ang imahe ng pamahalaan dahil sa mga pulis at traffic enforcer na protektor ng mga ito.

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