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SECRETARY ROY LAYS DOWN HIS PRIORITIES AS DENR CHIEF



DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu delivers his message during flag ceremony

A week after his appointment as the new DENR Secretary, former General Roy A. Cimatu attended his first flag raising ceremony with DENR employees on May 15, 2017.

According to Secretary Cimatu, the first job of DENR Secretary is to ensure the welfare and security of its employees. “*Yan ang trabaho ko, and it would be one of the pillars of my administration. Just like when I was a former officer in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the security and welfare of my men is of utmost importance.*”

The Ex-AFP chief, having a military orientation, declared his first mission. “*Meron na akong nakikitang gagawin natin. Hindi na tayo lalayo; hindi na tayo pupunta sa Mindanao; hindi na tayo pupunta sa mining; we will do something for the environment,*” he stressed. Citing the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, he vowed to protect the environment by strictly and fully enforcing the laws.

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"I intend to listen to all the voices out there and make full use of our powers and resources to ensure that these various concerns will be properly and judiciously addressed."

- Secretary Roy A. Cimatu
Speech during the Turn-Over Ceremony
May 10, 2017, DENR Social Hall

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon.

Two days ago I was advised by PRRD whom all of us fondly call Mayor Digong that I will be his next DENR Secretary. This caught me completely by surprise. Having retired as AFP Chief of Staff in 2002 after 30 years of serving as a soldier of the Republic and, subsequently, on an intermittent basis until 2011, as Special Envoy for OFWs especially those in distressed situations, I had thought that, as General Douglas MacArthur once said of old soldiers, I will just fade away. But as fate would have it, here I am being conscripted yet again by a friend of long standing to serve our country.

Sabi ko nga kay Presidente matanda na ako. Pero sabi niya sa akin: anong matanda, mas matanda ako sa iyo ng isang taon. And so, duty calls. Here I am wading in into a field far removed from soldiery. Please excuse me if I ask that I be given time to scan and study the terrain of the agency which impacts considerably on our very life as a people and the future of our beloved Philippines.

Coming right after the very heated confirmation debates involving Secretary Gina Lopez, a very passionate and ardent advocate of environmental protection and inclusive growth, makes my entry even more challenging. I will try to do my best as President Duterte's point man in the daunting task of protecting our environment in all its forms - from the mines to the lakes and rivers, to the forests, to the plains, to our waters, to our sewers, to the very air we breathe you name it - while promoting the wise and proper use of these God given resources for the public good. That is what I understand being a steward means.

I cannot do this alone. President Duterte cannot do this alone. We will need all hands on deck, first, the men and women of the DENR from the senior officials at the Central Office to the rangers, foresters, geologists even janitors on the ground; then, the various clients of the agency, again from big business to the smallest tinderos and all households using the very resources we have to take care of in a proper and sustainable manner. Even our international partners who care as much as we do about the fate of this one and only planet that we live in will have to be engaged. We have to work together as a team. With teamwork, we can do, so much more in accomplishing the critical responsibilities we carry on our shoulders.

I intend to listen to all the voices out there and make full use of our powers and resources to ensure that these various concerns will be properly and judiciously addressed. For in the end, we at the DENR will only be as effective as our various constituents will help us to be.

So, ladies and gentlemen please help me learn the ropes and earn your respect. We are all in this together. Thank you. May God bless you all!

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DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, with Undersecretary Marlo Mendoza and Armed Forces of the Philippines - Western Command (WesCom) Palawan Lieutenant General Raul del Rosario, visits the site of the massive illegal cutting of trees in Brooke's Point, Palawan.

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Clean air, water quality, and solid waste

On clean air, the Secretary vows to improve air quality in Metro Manila so as to achieve a passing grade for healthy environment. He is optimistic that though improving air quality may take months or years, but with the collective efforts of DENR people and its partners, goals of attaining air quality within acceptable level can be achieved.

On water quality, the new environment chief made cleaning of Pasig River an indicator for success. "Kung malinis natin ang Pasig River and the esteros, success tayo!" He is aware of the gravity of pollution problem in Pasig River that is why he asked the full cooperation and collaboration of his people in the Department. He plans to initiate the intervention by first cleaning the sources of pollution: the Laguna Lake, Marikina River and other tributaries. He looks at Iloilo River and Malandog River in Antique as models of clean rivers whose maintenance and innovations are worth emulating and adopting.

On solid waste management, Secretary Cimatu assured DENR employees that he will find ways to address the uncollected garbage problem in some areas as he expressed concern over the almost 4,000 dump trucks of wastes generated daily in Metro Manila. He will strictly enforce the laws and utilize the task force to make sure that proper solid waste management would be implemented.

Implementing sustainable development

Secretary Cimatu's second mission is to implement and promote sustainable development. According to him, natural resources must be protected and utilized in a responsible manner. They must provide economic benefits to communities within. He also made explicit his stance on responsible mining and his desire to enforce strictly the mining law. "Kung mining na hindi maganda ay foul yan, foul." He added, "Illegal logging will have no place in my watch as it destroys our remaining forests."

Institutionalizing meritocracy

Secretary Cimatu made known before his employees his value on meritocracy. He told them his plan to institute, at all levels in DENR, the principle of recognizing good, honest, and diligent workers. "Men and women who work well and honestly will be recognized, tandaan ninyo yan. If you are doing good, magaling ka sa opisina at nagagawa mo yung trabaho, then you will be recognized. And the recognition is promotion or madagdagan yung biodata mo, and in the next promotion, makakasama ka na," he said. However, he also warned employees about his zero tolerance on corruption. "Corrupt officials and personnel will be exposed and punished." According to the Secretary, there will be no second chance for those who will practice corruption. (Fatima R. Leya)



Sec. Roy Cimatu on his briefing with the bureaus (from top to bottom): MGB, EMB, FMB, LMB and NAMRIA



DENR'S SIX-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN: RESPONDING TO CHALLENGES AND BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR AMBISYON NATIN 2040

by: Alvin D. Gatbonton

Operatives from the DENR and LLDA arrive to inspect one of the fishpens in Laguna de Bay.

Plotted in the 2017-2028 ENR Framework Plan, the DENR new directions for the next five (5) years are geared towards inclusive growth, which corresponds to the government's aspiration of attaining genuine economic growth and social equity. The strategies adopted aim to strengthen the resilience of natural ecosystems and adaptive capacities of communities, promote sustainable utilization of natural resources, and improve the environmental quality sectors.

Though aligned with the agenda of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte as contained in the 2017-2022 Philippine Development Plan (PDP), the Department's plan and strategies are guided by DENR's principles of truth, service and the common good, giving emphasis on social justice and improving people's lives. They build a strong foundation for the National Economic and Development Authority's (NEDA's) long-term vision, Ambisyon Natin 2040, with the current PDP as the first of the four six-year plans that make up the vision.

Effecting "real change"

The DENR's new course is taken due to the government's desire to effect "real change". Although it is marked to be implemented in the next five years of Secretary Roy Cimatu's term, its strategies and programs were designed to help propel the long term development plan, Ambisyon Natin 2040 - a vision that sees the Philippines to be prosperous by 2040.

As explained by Undersecretary Marlo Mendoza, NEDA realized that the country cannot go on anymore with its "business as usual" economic thrust. The six-year medium term development plan that every political administration makes is not enough to respond and sustain future economic and development challenges. The Philippine economy has been overtaken by a mile by Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia in the last 25 years, and in order to compete or at least be *at par* with these neighboring countries, the country needs to be guided by a long-term vision and plan.

Responding to challenges with broader perspective and relevant strategies

It is expected that, in the next 12 years, some environmental and socio-economic challenges would become more pressing than others. Rising population, widespread poverty, changing climate patterns, and related natural disasters were projected to cause serious drawbacks and keep the country from achieving its national development goals.

These are compelling challenges that require imperative responses in the management of ENR. Hence, a broader technical perspective was taken. Developments that have taken place in some sectors, in particular, the effects of policy responses to emerging issues and program directions that have been adopted during the past periods, were deemed considered. The results are comprehensive, relevant, and carefully thought strategies and development approach, accompanied by priority programs that are outcome-based.

Prescribed strategies

1) Strengthen the resilience of natural ecosystems

Denuded forests, silted and contaminated rivers, degraded coral reefs, polluted water bodies, polluted air and land, and depleted groundwater are only some illustrations that describe the country's degraded ecosystems. To address these problems and strengthen the resilience of natural ecosystems, contribute to economic growth, and reduce poverty, the following strategies were identified and prescribed:

- Protection of existing natural forests and restoration and rehabilitation of degraded forests;
- Establishment and improvement in the management of protected areas and new conservation areas;
- Protection of coastal and marine zones;
- Strengthening of forest and wildlife law enforcement;
- Improvement of land management strategy;
- Preparing and coordinating the implementation of the River Basin Master Plan and Area Based Management Plans for Manila Bay;
- Formulation of Integrated River Basin Management and Development Master Plan;
- Adoption of Integrated Water Resources Management Approach;
- Strengthening of the planning and implementation of Environment Programs in Palawan;
- Promotion of environmentally responsible mining and strengthening the provision of geological services to LGUs and public; and
- Development of technologies and generation of information.

Although it (DENR new course) is marked to be implemented in the next five years of Secretary Roy Cimatu's term, its strategies and programs were designed to help propel the long term development plan, Ambisyon Natin 2040 - a vision that sees the Philippines to be prosperous by 2040

► DENR'S SIX-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN, RESPONDING...from page 3

2) Reduce poverty among natural resources dependent communities

Many of the country's poorest citizens depend on forests, fisheries, water, land, and other natural resources for their livelihoods. To address the effects of degraded natural resources, gaps in policies, and weak enforcement of laws on the economic capacities of natural resources dependent communities, the following strategies were appropriated:

- Support CBFM and ISF holders;
- Establish Minahang Bayan;
- Issue PACBRMA and support livelihood of PA occupants;
- Formulate ICM plans and designate marine sanctuaries;
- Accelerate issuance of titles; and
- Develop technologies.

3) Increase the contribution of natural resources - based industries to economic growth

The country is blessed with very rich and diverse natural resources however, the potentials of many of these resources have not yet been fully tapped and utilized to boost economic growth. To increase the contribution of natural resources - based industries to economic growth the following strategies were recommended:

- Improve investment climate for more competitive forest industry;
- Establish mineral reservations in go zones and develop a Mining Industrialization Program;
- Expand Public-Private Sector Partnerships;
- Tap economic potential/create wealth from biodiversity resources;
- Explore full ecotourism potential of protected areas and natural landscapes

4) Improve environmental quality

To improve environmental quality the following strategies were deemed prioritized:

- Reduce air pollution;
- Reduce water pollution;
- Improve compliance by LGUs with the Solid Waste Management Act;
- Toxic chemicals and hazardous waste management;
- Strengthen EIA System.

5) Strengthen partnerships

To strengthen partnerships, improvement of local governance was prescribed.

Other strategies include creation of environmentally sensitive and aware citizenry, improvement and diversification of financing for ENR programs, and improvement of mapping services and access to ENR information.

Adopting Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) approach in implementing ENR strategies

The DENR is in the process of implementing SIAD in the 29 convergence areas nationwide. All DENR Regional Directors (RDs), Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officers (PENROs), Community Environment and Natural Resources Officers (CENROs) or Site Managers who were grouped and assigned to implement SIAD in the 29 convergence areas are all on board

working on their projects in their respective areas. They all have submitted their final Work and Financial Plans and are receiving budget according to their needs.

The site managers are working with other stakeholders/partners. They are adopting a holistic approach in implementing their area development plans, undertaking varied projects and activities such as in fisheries, agro-forestry, industrial, and/or ecotourism, considering multi-sectoral concerns with all stakeholders/partners.

The bureaus, on the other hand, are implementing their newly reformed policies to streamline processes and systems, to prevent corruption, and ensure efficiency and effectiveness of ENR programs.

Their ultimate goals are to ensure the resilience of ecosystems and the environment, enhance the economic capacities of ENR dependent communities, and contribute to economic growth.

Implementing new policies

There are flaws in environmental policies that need special attention. Recently, the DENR has taken time to address these flaws by formulating and drafting new policies. These policies, which will be implemented by different bureaus, were developed to strengthen the enforcement of environmental laws, to prevent destructive activities in the functional watersheds, and to improve upland, coastal and marine biodiversity production. Some policies were intended to enhance the implementation of Environmental Impact System.

Strictly enforcing ENR laws and regulations

The DENR is currently undertaking strict enforcement of environmental laws. Through its National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (NAECTF), composed of seven government agencies, the agency vows to go after large-scale environmental offenders that are causing ENR degradation.

Illegal logging is on top of DENR's list of large-scale environmental crimes that need to be stopped. The NAECTF through the assistance of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has strengthened measures to apprehend illegal loggers and stop illegal logging activities in the country.

The DENR continues its fish pen dismantling operations in Laguna Lake. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte ordered the dismantling of big fish pens and fish cages in Laguna de Bay to allow small fishermen to gain access to their traditional fishing grounds. Fish pens were also ordered dismantled because the fish pen operators have violated the Laguna Bay Fisheries Zoning and Management Plan and have failed to pay fees and charges totalling P50.7 million.

Likewise, the DENR would continue to review, assess, and monitor existing contracts, making sure that they comply with environmental requirements and standards defined by the laws. It would continue to be stringent in entering into agreements and contracts and in issuing permits and certificates like the ECCs for any project or business operation. It would make sure that all decisions and actions of the Department would be in accordance with the rule of law.

Pursuing sustainable ENR development towards genuine and equitable economy

These new directions of DENR are focused on three important aspects of sustainable development: people, environment, and economic growth.

People - empowering them to enhance their economic capacities and physical capabilities to carry out the needed tasks for sustainable development of natural ecosystems;

Environment - developing, managing, and utilizing ENR effectively so as to assure their availability, equitable access, productivity, and sustainability;

Economic growth – pursuing genuine and equitable economy by empowering people and making ENR sustainable. 🌍



Release of wildlife in Angat watershed



Launching of the DENR CALABARZON Bamboo Project in Brgy. Looc, Calamba, Laguna.

IN FOCUS

SECRETARY ROY:

Wading in into a field far removed from soldiery

Secretary Roy A. Cimatu rose from humble beginnings to become, on May 8, 2017, the choice of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte as the new Secretary of the DENR.

A member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1970, he served in the military for 37 years until his retirement as the 30th chief-of-staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in 2002, after which he was appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as special envoy to the Middle East during the Iraq war.

He was born on July 4, 1946 in Bangui, Ilocos Norte, to teacher-war veteran Fidel M. Cimatu, Sr. and public school teacher Clara Agullana. He studied in public schools from elementary up to high school in Bangui. At the PMA, he graduated on top of his class, with a grade of 97.27 in the Infantry Officers Advanced Course – an academic record which still stands.

He went on to graduate from the United States Army Command and Staff College, where he was inducted into the Hall of Fame. He earned a master's degree in business administration from the Ateneo de Manila University's Graduate School of Business, and became a certified helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft pilot. He likewise became a recipient of the PMA Alumni Association's Cavalier Award.

At the turnover ceremony on May 10, 2017 at the DENR Social Hall, Secretary Cimatu humbly acknowledged that stewardship of the environment is a challenge new to him: "Here I am wading in into a field far removed from soldiery. That is why please excuse me if I ask that I be given time to scan and study the terrain in an agency which impacts considerably on our very life as a people and the future of our beloved Philippines."

At the same time, he called for teamwork:

"We will need all hands on deck, first, the men and women of the DENR from the senior officials at the Central Office to the rangers, foresters, geologists even janitors on the ground; then, the various clients of the agency, again from big business to the smallest tinderos and all households using the very resources we have to take care of in a proper and sustainable manner. Even our international partners who care as much as we do about the fate of this one and only planet that we live in will have to be engaged. We have to work together as a Team. With teamwork, we can do so much more in accomplishing the critical responsibilities we carry on our shoulders.

I intend to listen to all the voices out there and make full use of our powers and resources to ensure that these various concerns, some of which oftentimes clash, will be properly and judiciously addressed. For in the end we at the DENR will only be as effective as our various constituents will help us to be."

Secretary Cimatu brings with him to the DENR a track record as an efficient achiever and able negotiator. He was dubbed "General Pacman" for his efficiency in leading the all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front as commander of the Philippine Army's 4th Infantry Division in 2000. As special envoy to the Middle East, he led negotiations for the release of Filipinos kidnapped in Iraq, including truck driver Angelo de la Cruz. He also negotiated the surrender of 326 AFP officers who joined the Oakwood mutiny in 2003.





BUREAUS SET NEW POLICIES FOR AMBISYON NATIN 2040

by: Fatima R. Leya and Alvin D. Gatbonton

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is not only setting its priorities right; it is also laying out plans for the Philippine Ambisyon Natin 2040, a collective vision of the Filipinos for the Philippines in the next 25 years.

No longer in the “business as usual” mode of governance, DENR is adjusting all programs and policies and realigning its budget to fast track social, economic, and environmental development goals.

Environmental governance plays a major role in steering development towards AmBisyon Natin 2040. “If it fails to perform its part, other government agencies would find it hard to perform their parts too. The integrity of the natural environment, key in providing ecosystem services and products, is considered one of the foundations of national economic and social development,” said Undersecretary Marlo Mendoza.

Taking these into account, the DENR National Reprogramming Workshop was conducted last January 24-26, 2017. Attended by DENR regional officials, bureau directors, provincial and municipal environment agency heads, the workshop focused on the agency’s future policy directions. Each bureau drafted new policies and programs based on a holistic standpoint, with contributions from the different sectors.

Biodiversity Management Bureau

The Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) proposed to enhance the policies on Special Use Agreement within Protected Areas (SAPA) to maximize the benefits provided for by Protected Areas (PAs).

Among their salient features, the policies would impose development fees based on the fixed percentage of the zonal value of the land and improvements thereon: 5% of the most recent zonal value of the commercial zone land in the nearest barangay or municipality every year plus 1% value of improvements as premium to the protected area - subject to an increase of 10% every five years. An administrative fee of Php 1,000.00 shall also be paid by the proponent for every SAPA application filed. The development fees shall be paid by the proponent upon approval of the SAPA.

These policies would add premium to ecosystem services provided by PAs. They would generate revenues that can be utilized for improved management and operations of the PAs. They would serve as a regulatory tool or disincentive for increased resource uses beyond the carrying capacities of PAs. They would also increase local economic opportunities, e.g., increased local employment from ecotourism establishments.

Policies for effective implementation of DENR-DA JAO: Mainstreaming Biodiversity-Friendly Agricultural Practices (BDFAP) in and around Protected Areas and Promoting the Same in Wider Agricultural Landscapes were also proposed. Effective implementation of DENR-DA JAO would address unregulated conversion of PAs and KBAs to agricultural lands; prevent destructive agricultural practices causing fragmentation of PAs and KBAs, and alleviate poverty in rural areas.

Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau

As the research, development, and extension arm of the Department, the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) provides technical and research assistance to line bureaus in the course of their program implementation. It invests on developing cutting-edge technologies to enhance delivery of technical services and directs research-based results to improving lives of the poor.

In line with the planned rehabilitation of mined-out areas, the ERDB, in partnership with

BMB, crafted protocols as well as designs needed to develop a roadmap for indigenous and endemic species’ socio-economic viability. It has also released draft guidelines and policies for Mangrove and Beach Forest and Bamboo Plantation Development Projects hinged in E-NGP.

Mangroves and bamboos are seen to have both ecological and economic importance. With targets of 75,000 hectares for bamboo plantation and 25,000 hectares for mangrove plantation allotted in E-NGP, they are expected to provide not only protection but also livelihood to nearby communities.

Forest Management Bureau

The entire Philippines is a watershed, wherein 105 million Filipinos are dependent for their daily needs. However, there are limitations to existing policies on the protection and conservation of watersheds in the country.

Existing policies prohibit activities only within the proclaimed critical watersheds, which includes around 143 critical watersheds supporting NIA irrigation system. Taken into consideration the country’s vulnerability to geo-hazard and climate change, Project NOAH identified at least 2000 watersheds that are in critical state. Further, there are 20 provinces that are susceptible to flooding and landslides.

Hence, policies were drafted to clarify the definition of watershed and reiterate the functions of these watersheds to realize other ecosystem services, such as source of food, water and renewable energy; habitat for flora and fauna, hydrothermal use, carbon sequestration, and health and wellness that communities can benefit from.

The Sustainable Forest Management for a Green Economy Program was also conceptualized. Policy reforms like establishing the Philippine Forest Certification System (PFCS) was seen as a measure to prevent environmental destruction caused by development and harmful human activities. The PFCS would ensure that all wood products are produced legally and from sustainably managed forests.

Policies to streamline the Wood Processing Plants Permits were also proposed. The DENR plans to extend the permits of Wood Processing Plants from 3 years to 5 years. This will meet the domestic demand for wood-based products, attract investors by providing less transaction costs and security of tenure, and create additional 26,000 employments for communities.

Land Management Bureau

In accordance with Duterte administration’s 10 point socio-economic agenda, Land Management Bureau is targeting the distribution of 360,000 patents of residential lands until 2022, lessening the remaining 410,660 hectares of untitled alienable and disposable lands in the country.

In order to accomplish this, policies for land titling processes were enhanced for speedy issuance of patents and improved access to land records, transactions, and services.

The LMB drafted a DENR Administrative Order entitled, “Strengthening the Implementation of DAO NO. 2011-06 and DAO NO. 2007-09 on Public Land Titling in Partnership with Local Government Units (LGUs) by Making Land Titling Services More Accessible and Transparent” to streamline and make it more accessible, and promote transparency in the processing of public land applications. In relation to this, the bureau drafted a memorandum clarifying the non-requirement of tax declaration in filing, accepting, and processing agricultural and residential free patent applications. **► to page 7**

DENR is not only setting its priorities right; it is also laying out plans for the Philippine Ambisyon Natin 2040, a collective vision of the Filipinos for the Philippines in the next 25 years.

► BUREAUS PREPS NEW POLICIES...from page 6

It also drafted a DENR administrative order for the provision of post-titling support to the beneficiaries of free, homestead, and sales patents.

Those policies would make patent application shorter and requirements easier to comply. It would bring land processing and services at the peoples' doorsteps. It would make post-titling services available to the public and would strengthen DENR's partnership with LGUs.

Environmental Management Bureau

The DENR has always acknowledged the valuable contribution and convergence efforts not only of LGUs and other national agencies, but also of the public. The agency believes that the people have the right to be informed, to be heard, and be involved in any project that would have significant impacts on their lives.

Because of this, the EMB has worked on policies that would strengthen public participation on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This includes the public participation of all sectors and stakeholders in the assessment, management and monitoring of environmental impacts. The public will be involved from the onset up to the evaluation stage of the EIA process.

Taking advantage of advanced technologies, EMB proposes to launch the Online Submission of Monitoring Data project. This platform would provide efficient and effective monitoring of programs and projects, and would prevent delays in bringing quality service to the people.

The bureau also proposes to implement the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Sand and Gravel Projects. The Programmatic EIS, aside from being a requirement for securing Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECCs), would help in the orderly, systematic and ecologically balance administration of sand and gravel resources. It would serve to assess the carrying capacity of the river and cumulative impacts of clustered projects on a river system. Through this, liability for damages will be a collective responsibility of all permittees.

The EMB likewise pushes for the revision of Sulfur Oxide Standards for Source Specific Air Pollutants (NESSAP). Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) is one of the leading causes of respiratory diseases which can damage the lungs with the formation of H₂SO₄ inside it. This move will help EMB meet its main objectives of providing safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau

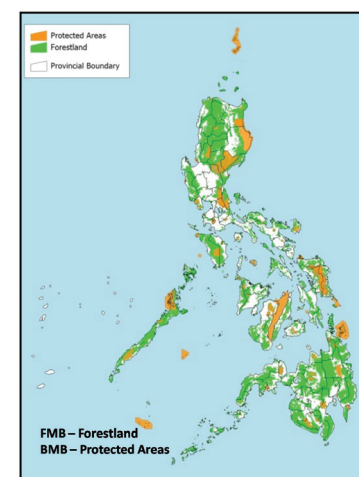
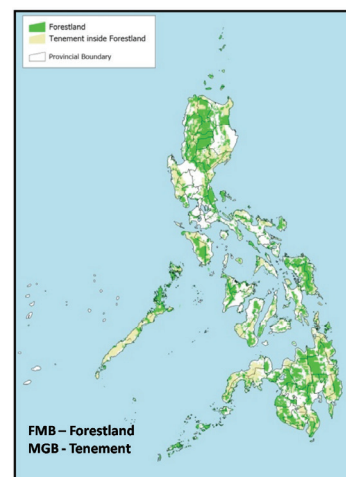
Mines and Geosciences Bureau will revisit the guidelines on Multipartite Monitoring Team to address the gaps in monitoring and processes. This is to ensure that permits issued by the agency do not disregard the welfare of the communities on the ground.

Further, MGB will ensure sustainable development in mining. This involves rehabilitation of mined-out areas and the strict promotion of responsible mining. The bureau plans to augment mining's contribution to the country's revenue and job generation for the surrounding communities.

Green Economy

The DENR is pushing on the Green Economy Program, of which the Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) approach would be adopted.

To help realize this, the DENR launches the Control Map.



The Control Map prescribes a standard map for all the country's environment and natural resources, which will be used as reference or basis for planning and decision making.

This Map integrates all maps used and produced for the different sectors of the environment. It provides easy access for the spatial information collected and produced by the Department. It will also be a useful instrument in DENR's efforts on disaster risk reduction and management. 🌍

► SIAD APPROACH...from page 8

SIAD harmonizes conflicting needs of local communities by encouraging the participation of local groups or organizations, stakeholders, and government agencies in the achievement of wide-ranging objectives of sustainable development in an area. Formulation of projects requires a clear understanding of the way economic, social, bio-physical and spatial aspects of development problems; thus, development goals move beyond a sectoral approach. Though development concerns or issues may vary, depending on the physical, social, and economic nature of areas to be developed, cross-cutting concerns such as poverty, gender, sustainability and economic development are vitally considered.

SIAD is sustainable. Because it is long-term, continuous and inter-generational, it puts environmental concerns and objectives at the forefront along with economic and equity goals. Because it strives for a viable equitable economy, it mobilizes local skills, talents, capital and culture and utilizes local resources in a manner that is determined by the community itself.

It seeks to sustain both the development initiative (process or method) itself and the gains (results and outcomes) of such development interventions. SIAD's participatory approaches builds unity and bind people together in a common goal and vision.

DENR's SIAD strategy guidelines

SIAD, as defined in DENR Administrative Order No. 2017-02, is a development strategy that addresses, in an integrated manner, the ecological, economic, political, cultural, societal, human and spiritual challenges and opportunities in a specific area context and uses the three-fold convergence approach to achieve integral sustainable development especially of poor and marginalized communities, which are vulnerable to climate change with the integrity and intelligences of nature at its core.

The development strategy follows a systematic process, which includes area and site selection, planning, financing, implementation, and evaluation. The utilization of SIAD strategy is based on the guidelines set by DENR:

- **Planning.** The Core Team of each priority development area would prepare six SIAD Action Plans, which will be submitted to the DENR Regional Director and the Undersecretary for Field Operations for initial review. Once the requirements have been completed, the plan will then proceed for further evaluation by the Policy and Planning Service (PPS). If it passes the PPS evaluation, the plan will be endorsed to the Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, Undersecretary for Field Operations and Special Assistant to the Secretary and Civil Society for approval. Once the plan is approved, the SIAD Core Team will now proceed with the preparation of Annual Work and Financial Plan, which will be submitted to PPS for review and to the Undersecretaries for Policy and Planning and Administration and Information Systems, for approval.
- **Implementation.** After the review and approval of the SIAD Action Plan and Annual Work and Financial Plan, the Core Team will commence the implementation on the ground. The SIAD Steering Committee composed of representatives from the DENR, civil society organizations (CSOs), and social entrepreneurs, would be tasked to oversee the project implementation. Since the SIAD strategy promotes convergence efforts, the Core Team must ensure proper and appropriate involvement of CSOs, LGUs, and social entrepreneurs in the areas. It will also monitor and evaluate the ongoing projects in their assigned areas.
- **Funding.** The identified DENR projects and activities will be funded pursuant to Special Provision Item 9 of the DENR budget under Republic Act 10924 or the General Appropriations Act. Those programs that are considered as non-DENR, but are identified in the SIAD strategy, will be funded by partner agencies, LGUs, private sector, etc. The funds will be downloaded from DENR to SIAD areas for utilization. Every project, however, will be subject for audit, assessment, and evaluation, whether it will be continued or terminated.
- **Training.** To ensure effectiveness of SIAD initiatives, the DENR will capacitate all SIAD Core Teams, Secretariats, and Steering Committees through training programs. These trainers will then be responsible for training all SIAD stakeholders in crafting their SIAD plans and implementation. Once the training is done, they will then take the responsibility for echoing and handling trainings in their respective SIAD areas before the actual strategic planning process. 🌍



Convergence with communities in Dinagat Islands

SIAD APPROACH: KEY TO SUCCESSFUL GREEN ECONOMY

by: Martina A. Reyes

The DENR recently launched its Green Economy Program (GEP) to enhance the resiliency and sustainability of ENR while improving the economic condition of ENR dependent communities.

“A nation enjoying and sustaining its natural resources and clean and healthy environment” - this has been the vision of DENR for a number of decades. However, according to Undersecretary Marlo Mendoza, for the past 30 years that the DENR has focused on its mandate, it has not seen this vision transformed into reality.

“We look at the data and it shows that we are not effective, we’re failing actually. Natural forest cover is going down; more rivers are getting polluted, air quality is deteriorating, poverty incidences are going up, and we are importing more wood and non-wood products. We have been giving land access to the poor; but if we look at their quality of life, they have actually become poorer. Looking at these hard facts, the DENR’s direction for the coming years must shift in order to bring about positive impacts, not only on the environment, but also in the lives of the common people,” said Usec. Marlo Mendoza

Such new direction is the focus of the current administration under Secretary Roy A. Cimatu. The DENR recently launched its Green Economy Program (GEP) to enhance the resiliency and sustainability of ENR while improving the economic condition of ENR dependent communities. It is undertaking 29 Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) projects nationwide to achieve its goal of sustainable ENR and equitable economy.

Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) as the key implementing strategy for the localization of PA 21. SIAD has its concept and features adopted from IAD approach, incorporating sustainable development principles to address issues on economic growth, equity, and environment.

The SIAD approach

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) defines SIAD as “a development approach that integrates and aligns the principles of sustainable development in national and local development planning.”

The SIAD approach to development like IAD is area-based. However unlike IAD, where an area for development could be delineated based on geopolitical boundaries, in SIAD, the delineation of boundaries should be based on ecological units such as watershed. In so doing, SIAD can have a realistic overview of the possible challenges and opportunities that exist in an area.

The SIAD strategy is integrated. “Before, we were very sectoral; we implement our plans, programs and projects within the DENR’s mandate. With the SIAD approach, environmental development and management becomes holistic and integrated,” said Usec Mendoza. **► to page 7**

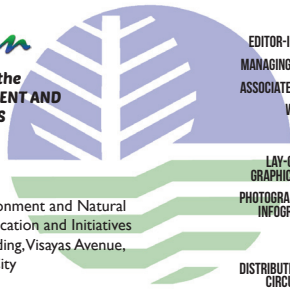
From IAD to SIAD

The Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) approach took root from Integrated Area Development (IAD) approach, which is a development strategy that started as a movement within the United Nations in the 1970s. The IAD was introduced by international aid agencies to developing countries as an alternative to the conventional macro-economic approaches of development. IAD projects had been undertaken as a way of responding to ‘special problem areas’ such as rural areas to address poverty.

Following two world major events on sustainable development - the Rio Summit in June 1992 and the establishment of Philippine Agenda (PA) on September 26, 1996 - the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development in 1999 identified the

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