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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXHIBIT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 JUL 2019

DATE

Address plastic pollution, DENR appeals

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has called on the government, business sector, and other stakeholders to work together to find the best solutions to plastic pollution, which is a serious threat to the health of oceans and a major hazard to marine biodiversity.

DENR Assistant Secretary and concurrent Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Director Ricardo Calderon said a stronger public-private partnership would help translate political and corporate commitment to address plastic pollution into tangible strategies and investible action plans.

"We urge everyone to join the pledge for our environment; a pledge that will institutionalize our collective and col-

laborative action towards addressing the issue of marine debris," Calderon said.

It is in line with DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu's prior call to the Filipinos to "cut down on the use of plastics that end up in the ocean and pose a threat to marine life."

"The task of reversing this issue is as big and wide as the ocean, but small actions can make a huge difference," Cimatu said.

A study conducted by the Ocean Conservancy, a US-based environmental advocacy group, revealed that eight million tons of plastic enter the ocean each year on top of the 150 million tons of plastic that already circulate in the ocean, contributing to loss of species and the contamination of the food chain.

Calderon said that marine plastic

pollution is one of the latest and most alarming issues the world is facing with the Philippines as one of the major contributors to global problem, primarily due to its so-called "sachet economy" where companies are selling products in single-used plastic sachets.

While it was easy to resort to banning plastic sachets, Calderon noted that there are "economic implications" to such move that the stakeholders, particularly the government and businesses, should prepare for.

"As one of the fastest developing countries in the world, with more than 6.6 percent in terms of world trade, one of the drivers of economic growth is basically the sachet economy, the 3-in-1 packages, including the plastic straw, which is basically part of development," he pointed out.



DENR tells Baguio: Clean Balili River

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is urging Baguio residents, particularly those living along the Balili River, to take part in the massive rehabilitation of the waterbody, which is now at a status far worse than the Manila Bay.

In an interview with *The Manila Times*, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management Benny Antiporda said the agency would "seriously" look on the major rehabilitation of Balili River and vowed to act "as soon as possible," noting that the agency would not think twice on penalizing erring citizens or establishments found violating environmental laws and regulations.

"What we're dealing here is something that the DENR cannot do on its own. We need the cooperation of the people of Baguio by coming up

better housekeeping practices and make sure that they fix their water discharges or else they will be penalized," Antiporda told *The Manila Times*.

Following the recent inspection of DENR's Environmental Management Bureau in the Cordillera Administrative Region (EMB-CAR), fecal coliform level in Balili River was at 1.6 trillion most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100ml). The figure is far worse than Manila Bay, which holds a record of 35 million mpn/100ml and significantly higher than the acceptable fecal coliform level for Class A rivers at only 4 mpn/100ml, as per DENR Administrative Order 2016-08.

The DENR's EMB-CAR also found that the treated waters of the 33-year-old Sewerage Treatment Plant drains in the river has severely deteriorated.

"With that level of coliform, I don't think there

are fish species or even corals, living the healthy and sustainable way," Antiporda said.

To kick off the rehabilitation, he said the local government of Baguio was eyeing to relocate the piggeries situated near the Balili River, which were the main reason for the contamination of the river.

"From what I heard, the mayor is looking for a [portion] of land where the backyard piggeries will be transferred permanently and so that the area will just have its common piggery. Without the relocation, it will just go back to its very polluted state," Antiporda said.

He said the DENR was expecting an 80-percent reduction on the current pollution in Balili River once the relocation of piggens had been fully implemented.

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ



OPEN BURNING

INTENSIFY DRIVE VS AIR POLLUTION, LGUS URGED

By **Jhesset O. Enano**
@JhessetEnanoINQ

Even as seasonal winds bring pollution from mainland China to the northwestern Philippines, local governments must step up efforts to check locally generated pollution, such as open burning, according to a Filipino scientist.

Dr. Mylene Cayetano, who leads the Environmental Pollution Studies Laboratory of the University of the Philippines' Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology (UP IESM), made the appeal as she disclosed results of a study early this week that a third of particulate matter collected in Burgos, Ilocos Norte province, had traveled all the way from China.

Biomass burning

The study, which also involved Cayetano, noted local sources of air pollutants, such as biomass burning, which accounted for more than a third, or 33 percent, of total concentration of PM2.5, or particulate matter that are 2.5 microns in diameter.

Naturally occurring particulates, such as sea salt and soil, made up the final chunk, or 33 percent, of the concentration.

Local air pollutants

In the countryside, car emissions are the least of its problems, unlike in Metro Manila and other urban areas ~~where vehicles are to blame~~ for nearly 88 percent of total emissions.

"Those in the provinces cannot claim that their air is clean just because they don't have lots of cars. The practice of open burning continues, including the use of solid fuels in cooking that contributes to indoor air pollution, which is among the leading cause of deaths," Cayetano said.

She said the local air pollutants in the rural areas came primarily from rampant burning of solid waste and rice straws.

The 1999 Clean Air Act exempts traditional small-scale methods of community or neighborhood burning, or "siga," but the Ecological Waste Management Act of 2000 explicitly prohibits open burning of solid waste.

Rice straws

Citing previous studies, the study team, which included main author Dr. Gerry Bagtasá also of the UP IESM and Chung-Shin Yuan of the Institute of Environmental Engineering of Taiwan's National Sun Yat-sen University, said the Philippines had been identified as "a source of biomass burning emissions ubiquitous in Southeast Asia."

A 2009 study estimated an annual open field burning of 10.15 teragrams of rice straws from 2002 to 2006 in the country.

While the "unpleasant visitor" from China may be harder to keep away, the strict enforcement of the country's own laws can help address the local problems on environmental pollution, Cayetano said.

"If we clean up our local pollution, it will still have a sizeable impact," she said. "But since these are traditional practices, it really needs a behavioral and mindset change among the people." INQ



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05 JUL 2019
DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/





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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

10
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 JUL 2019

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Stop illegal quarrying, MGB 7 orders

By **CALVIN D. CORDOVA**

CEBU CITY - Stop illegal quarrying operations and make sure all needed documents when extracting minerals are in order.

This was the stern warning given by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Central Visayas (MGB 7) to quarry operators and stakeholders.

In a statement, the MGB clarified that it has not suspended the permits it issued to quarry and sand and gravel operators in Central Visayas.

The MGB 7 issued the clarification after Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia suspended the permits that the Capitol issued to quarry

operators.

To avoid trouble when delivering minerals or mineral products, holders of the Department Environment and Natural Resources-MGB permits must ensure that the required delivery receipts (DR) and ore transport permits (OTR) are duly filled-out and in order.

The MGB warned that all illegally sourced minerals, mineral products, and by-products including tools, conveyances, and equipment used in the commission of any offense against the Philippine Mining Law will be seized.

Those who will be caught illegally extracting, removing, or disposing minerals may face six months to six years imprison-

ment or pay a fine ranging from ₱10,000 to ₱20,000 or both.

The MGB 7 also advised law enforcers to notify the MGB 7 when making apprehension for the turnover of seized items for proper disposition and investigation.

Efren Carido, MGB 7 regional director, likewise advised that permit holders should ensure that they abide by safety, health and environmental provisions of the mining law and regulations.

The MGB 7 will conduct comprehensive evaluation of the existing permit holders/operators to assess the compliance of the regulations and commitment, including social development and management of host and neighboring communities, Carido said.



P25-B BORACAY ACTION PLAN HAILED

1/2

By **CATHERINE TALAVERA**

The Department of Tourism (DOT) is lauding the approval of the P25-billion Boracay Action Plan (BAP) as it would help sustain the island's rehabilitation.

In a statement, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said the DOT wholeheartedly welcomes the approval of the midterm BAP to complete the island's rehabilitation and continue its sustainable tourism development program.

"By essentially institutionalizing the functions of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) with the approval of the Action Plan, we can clearly see the government's determination to sustain the gains of the initial six-month rehabilitation," Puyat said.

The DOT chairs the Thematic Cluster on Sustainable Economic activities, including tourism and livelihood.

"The President's move assures us of Boracay Island's sustainable tourism development with the BAP serving as the BIATF's guide in ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth in the island with continuing opportunities for all stakeholders," Puyat added.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said Duterte approved the BAP during the 39th Cabinet meeting on

Monday.

In January, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) presented the P25-billion BAP, which will install safeguards from ecological degradation and sustain tourism activities in Boracay.

Tourism stakeholders also welcomed the approval of the BAP.

"Boracay is still an ongoing concern as work is still proceeding to complete the government's plans when it was closed last year. We hope that the funds being allocated will speed up the rehabilitation as well as ensure its sustainability," Tourism Congress of the Philippines (TCP) president Jose Clemente III told **The STAR** in a text message.

"That said, we are also looking forward to having the same kind of assistance for the other tourist destinations around the country that may need further funding to accomplish things similar to Boracay," he added.

The NEDA earlier said the proposed estimated total investment requirement for the BAP is P25.27 billion for all thematic areas, 64 percent or P16.21 billion of which will be allotted for infrastructure.

The indicative number of programs, projects and activi-



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7/2

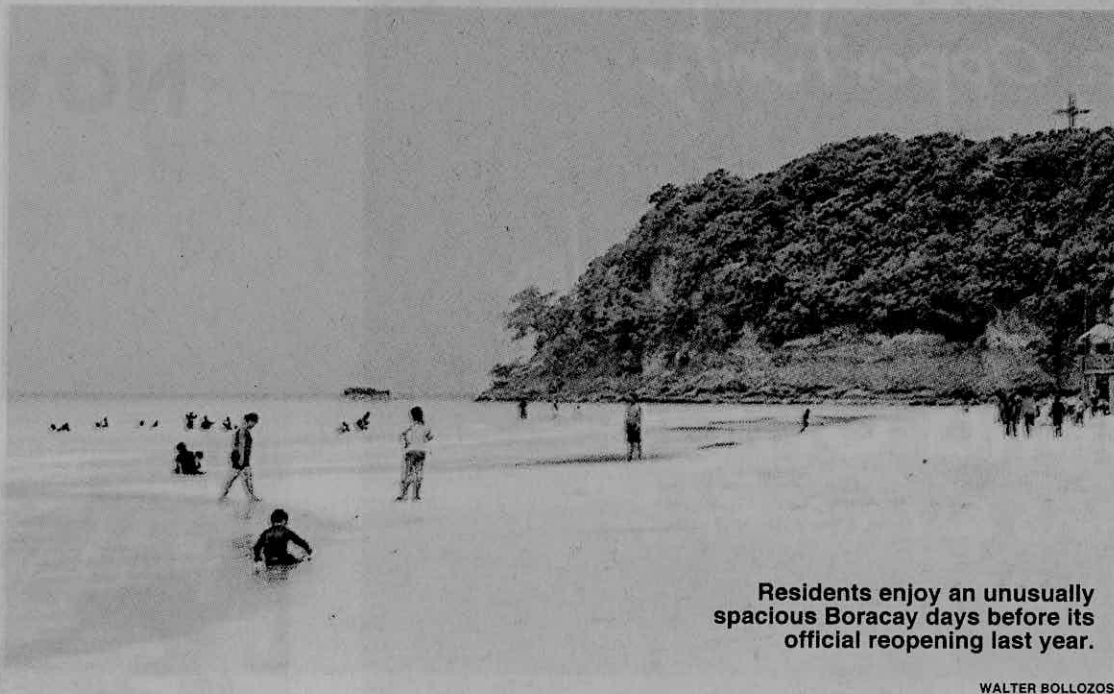
THE PHILIPPINE STAR

D6

travel & tourism

Editor: DOREEN G. YU

FRIDAY | JULY 5, 2019



Residents enjoy an unusually spacious Boracay days before its official reopening last year.

WALTER BOLLOZOS

ties combined under all the thematic areas is 233. The private sector will finance P15.89 billion or 62.9 percent of the total cost, the NEDA said.

The BAP will be implemented until 2022.

At present, the island is following a carrying capacity to ensure its sustainability.

A study commissioned by the DENR showed that Boracay's carrying capacity is only 55,757 people per day, including its residents. Only 19,215 tourists are allowed to be on the island at a certain time, with 6,405 tourists allowed to enter the island per day.

In a bid to ensure the car-

rying capacity of the island is met, the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) earlier implemented a moratorium on the addition of new charter flights to Caticlan and Kalibo.

Tourism Undersecretary Benito Bengzon Jr. emphasized that this only applies to new applications for char-

tered flights.

"Ensuring that we protect the environment, all of these initiatives are in line with the objective we have kept for ourselves, both the government and the private sector," Bengzon said.

"But the challenge here is to really achieve an economic balance between such economic activity and protection of the environment," he added.

Block off dates for the entry of cruise ships to Boracay were also implemented to ensure the carrying capacity of the island is met.

"The close out dates for cruise ships were set to manage the carrying capacity of island, as there is an expected surge in tourist arrivals during the Holy Week and summer time," the DOT earlier said.

The DOT will also implement more close out dates within the year, particularly on Oct. 26 to November in observance of All Saints and All Souls Day, and on Nov. 23 to Jan. 25 for the SEA Games, Christmas and the New Year.



GARBAGE Packs of plastic trash from South Korea remain at Verde Soko's facility in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental province. —JIGGER J. JERUSALEM

Hold order vs firm execs in trash import sought

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A lawmaker has asked the Department of Justice (DOJ) to issue a hold departure order for three Korean nationals and several Filipinos involved in the shipment of garbage from South Korea to Misamis Oriental province last year.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Juliette Uy said it was urgent for the DOJ to issue the order amid reports that officials of Verde Soko Industrial Philippines might have left or about to leave the country.

"According to intelligence information, there may still be one or two of the Koreans in the country, but I fear others have fled already," Uy said in a statement. "Time is of the essence here. That hold departure order is badly needed."

She also asked Prosecutor General Benedicto Malcontento to check how the case

was progressing in a court in Cagayan de Oro City.

Plastic waste

Uy and John Simon, subport collector of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) at Mindanao Container Terminal located in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, sued Verde Soko executives for violating provisions of Republic Act No. 6969, or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990, over the transport and entry of imported trash to the country.

The complaint stemmed from Verde Soko's importation of about 6,500 metric tons of mostly plastic waste from Pyeongtaek City in two batches last year.

Among those facing charges were Koreans Chul Soo Cho (alias Charles Cho), Jae Ryang Cho and Sena Na; and Verde Soko's Filipino officials led by

company president, Neil Alburo.

The company said the tons of garbage from South Korea would be used as materials for its recycling facility inside the government-run Phividec Industrial Estate complex in Barangay Santa Cruz, Tagoloan.

Permit

But the BOC claimed that the shipment was not properly declared as Verde Soko had failed to secure an import permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Uy has been working with Simon in addressing the trash from South Korea, including the reshipment of the 1,500 MT of garbage to its country of origin in January this year. The remaining packs of plastic waste are stored at the Verde Soko facility in Tagoloan. —JIGGER J. JERUSALEM INQ



Ph: A leader in garbage

While the debate raged on about the aftermath of the ramming of a Filipino fishing vessel by a Chinese vessel in our EEZ, there actually were major events going on in the region. The most important one was the ASEAN Leaders' Summit held in Bangkok 20-23 June where notably the President railed against the lack of progress in the negotiation of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea saying this could lead to unforeseen incidents. Which prompts me to say that when the President stays on-script he makes a lot of sense. But it is his off the cuff

FILIPINO WORLDVIEW



**ROBERTO
R. ROMULO**

remarks that draw headlines and so this week the debate has shifted to the Constitution being labeled a toilet paper. I will wait till next week how this will go down to see if it is fit for further perorations. By then the headlines might be dominated by the report of the President's neophyte son running for the Speakership. For now, on to something of real conse-

quence to mankind.

One of the outcomes of the ASEAN Summit was the "Bangkok Declaration On Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region" which indicates just how important this issue has become. Marine debris consists of solid waste generated on land that find their way into the ocean as well as those resulting from activities at sea from fishing, maritime transport and marine tourism. The first consists mostly of plastic which does not biologically degrade while the latter includes discarded ghost nets and waste from ships at sea.

Marine debris

To us landlubbers, we are only made aware of marine debris when we see pictures of dolphins dying of starvation after swallowing a plastic garbage bag as recently happened in Palawan. Or of turtles and sharks trapped in discarded fishing nets and dying of asphyxiation. Poor fish but no big deal right? But sail cross Manila Bay and you will soon find yourself in the middle of a floating island of garbage that stretches across its length. Freedom Island, a 30-hectare mangrove forest and salt marshes that protects the city from surges generated by storms and an important stop for migratory birds, is drowning in garbage. In fact, ocean currents draw all these garbage into five massive patches in the world's oceans. The mother of all of them is the Great Pacific Garbage which lies between Hawaii and California. It measures 1.6 million square kilometers – more than five times the land area of the Philippines. Ongoing research has shown that aside from being unsightly and causing untold numbers of deaths of marine life, such a massive accumulation of plastic has significant health risks for mankind as the plastic dissolve into nanoparticles which eventually find their way into our food chain.

A 2015 report on plastic pollution by the Ocean Conservancy charity and the McKinsey Centre for Business and Environment has shown that China is the biggest

ocean polluter accounting for 3.53 million tons of the plastic waste that ends up in global waters annually. But before we bash China again not only for their destructive fishing methods that destroy and pollute the marine environment - as they deserve to be - we should not exonerate ourselves. The Philippines has the dubious distinction of being the third largest contributor to ocean pollution after Indonesia – globally!! We produce about two million tons of plastic waste and around 800,000 tons of this ends up in the ocean every year.

According to government data, the Philippines generates an estimated 43,684 tons of garbage daily, including 4,609 tons of plastic waste. Due to the lack of proper disposal facilities provided by the authorities combined with plain indiscipline on the part of the public, garbage piles up, makes their way to the sea and either end up clogging coastlines or get eventually sucked up by ocean currents to form these massive garbage patches. Most of the waste generated by the Philippines consists of single-use plastics – a product of our "sachet" or "tingi" culture.

The irony is we have one of the most advanced legislation on waste management in the world. RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 mandated city and municipal governments to organize and sustainably manage the collection and disposal of solid waste. It also directed the closure of open dump sites and created the National Solid Waste Management Commission to oversee the law's implementation. To date, however, there are only 139 operational sanitary landfills servicing just 308 of the country's 1,634 LGUs, and at least 425 illegal dumpsites still operate across the country. And only 24 percent of the country's 42,036 villages had operational MRFs.

Eligio Ildefonso, executive director of the National Solid Waste Management Commission Secretariat blames it on the lack of implementation and political will on the part of local governments and poor garbage disposal habits on the part of the public.

Empowering LGUs

I have mentioned this in my previous columns many times but it bears repeating. Our experience at the Zuelig Family Foundation (ZFF) in carrying out our mission to reduce maternal death has shown, it is in capacitating LGUs and getting them to claim ownership that is the most effective approach. Empowering the local chief executives will ensure the sustainability of a program.

Von Hernandez, global coordinator of the Break Free From Plastic Movement and Froilan Grate, executive director of Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives Asia Pacific also said that this approach worked in the city of San Fernando in Pampanga. There, in 2012, a charity called the Mother Earth Foundation worked with schools on waste reduction that resulted in an estimated 70 percent of the city's waste being recycled that would otherwise have ended up in a local dump site. Today, the city is regarded as a model for decentralized waste management and has been labelled one of the best zero-waste models in Asia-Pacific.

So if it can be done in one locality, it stands to reason that it CAN be replicated. With proper guidance and vision from the top, the rest of the country should fall in line. Otherwise, RA 9003 is worth no more than toilet paper.



We're accountable, too

We must hold countries most responsible for climate change to account," President Duterte told the recent Asean plenary session. Earlier, in a Tokyo visit, he had criticized the lack of sanctions for major polluting countries. He also panned climate talks for "just wasting the time and the money of the people."

It's an understandable frustration. After all, if you're a country that's highly vulnerable to climate-related disasters though contributing only 0.39 percent of global greenhouse gases (GHG), you'll cry foul at how industrialized, less-vulnerable economies are disproportionately producing GHGs. China, for instance, contributes 27 percent of global GHGs, and the United States 13 percent (the United States has also announced its intent to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement).

But while highly industrialized nations do need to own up to a greater share of the climate crisis, countries like the Philippines must not abandon their commitment to address climate change. We are still accountable, not just in the global landscape but more so to our own people.

For a start, despite our pledge to lower greenhouse gas emissions, ours have only gone up. Among our most problematic areas when it comes to emissions are energy and waste generation.

Shifting to renewable energy could be a viable and significant way to slash our GHGs (not to mention our electricity rates), with renewables now considered to be the cheapest and most cost-effective energy source. Yet the Philippines still adamantly relies on coal and other nonrenewable sources for energy generation.

In fact, the Department of Energy reports that coal power generation leaped from 46,847 gigawatt hours in 2017 to 51,932 GWh in 2018. This runs against our climate objec-



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tives, but has been an unrelenting trend in recent decades. Just 10 years ago, our coal power generation was only at 15,479 GWh.

Our dependence on nonrenewable energy sources is compounded by our inadequate solid waste management. Waste is a key source of greenhouse gases, particularly with methane-producing disposal practices such as open burning, unchecked dumping and landfill operation. Architect Felino Palafox Jr. rightly pointed out that our solid waste management must "shift to more sustainable approaches such as waste prevention, recycling and composting."

The long-existing Ecological Solid Waste Management Act attempts to do this by compelling local government units to implement waste reduction, recycling and composting plans. The law also prohibits practices such as open burning and open dumping of waste. It doesn't take much to see that this law lacks teeth—just take an afternoon stroll around any average barangay and you'll find a number of dumpsites, garbage burnings and over-filled or overaged landfills.

Our continued reliance on nonrenewable energy and our neglect of appropriate waste management are only two ways we are failing our climate change mitigation goals. And while we are failing at the mitigation aspect of climate response, we are just as bad at the other aspect: adaptation.

Eight years after Tropical Storm "Sendong" (Washi) and six years after Supertyphoon "Yolanda" (Haiyan), we are still scrambling at risk reduction. A palpable proof is the flooding of our metros triggered by the slightest rains. Strong and science-based waste management policies should again play a part in reducing this perennial problem, coupled with more climate-adaptive infrastructure.

Paradoxically alongside the flooding is the sorry state of water insecurity, which affects not only millions of city dwellers but also neighboring farmlands. Bulacan farmers, for example, have recently had to sacrifice as their irrigation supply was cut to ease the water shortage in Metro Manila. Sadly, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration has noted that the recent heavy rains in the metro did not even reach the Angat watershed, and so the water woes continue.

So while we are complaining about how much other countries are at fault for the climate crisis, our own responsibilities remain unsettled. We're falling short in our own turf, and we can't just keep blaming other countries for it. The need for climate change mitigation and adaptation does not go away even when we think it's unfair. And if we're not answering that need for the global community's sake, at the very least, we must answer it for Filipinos' sake.

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Senate bill bans single-use plastics

SEN. Francis Pangilinan wants to phase out single-use plastic products by prohibiting their importation, manufacture and use in food establishments, stores and markets and by retailers.

The senator filed Senate Bill (SB) 40 or the "Single-Use Plastics Regulation and Management Act of 2019," which bans the use of all single-use plastics one year after the effectivity of the measure and to penalize those who will not enforce it.

"Those who will reuse and recycle will receive an incentive," said Pangilinan, as he deplored the country's inability to manage waste efficiently, which poses

►PlasticsA8

■ PLASTICS FROM A1

Senate bill bans single-use plastics

danger to the environment.

The bill defines single-use plastics as those which are commonly used for plastic packaging and include items intended to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled.

These include grocery bags, food packaging, films and bags, water bottles, straws, stirrers, containers, styrofoam/styros, cups, sachets and plastic cutlery.

Pangilinan cited a 2015 study by the United Nations Environment Program titled *Plastic*

Waste Inputs From Land Into Ocean, which showed that 81 percent of the 6,237,653 kilograms of plastic waste per day in the country is mismanaged.

"The mismanaged plastic waste per day is due to the sachet economy of the country and its problematic waste disposal. The sachet economy occurs because people buy many products in small amounts since they are cheaper," he said.

For each piece of single-use plastic already manufactured and in circulation, retailers

shall charge the consumer a minimum levy of P5. The amount collected will have official receipts.

Of the amount, 20 percent should be kept by the business enterprise, while 80 percent must be remitted on a regular basis to the Special Plastic Fund to be created under the bill.

"For take-outs and selling of food and beverages, a discount of P5 shall be given to consumers for bringing their own reusable or recyclable containers," he said.

The importation of single-use plastics should also be prohibited one year from the effectivity of the proposed law, Pangilinan said.

Business enterprises, individuals, cooperatives, partnerships and corporations, which will engage in the manufacture of alternatives to single-use plastics will be given incentives.

Those who will not heed the prohibition will be penalized with fines or cancellation of business permit.

BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO



Bato seeks death by firing squad vs drug traffickers

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa is pushing for the imposition of the death penalty by firing squad against drug lords who continue to engage in the illegal drug trade despite the government's anti-drug war.

Dela Rosa clarified he would not insist on the firing squad as penalty, saying he will still submit to the decision of the majority in the 18th Congress.

He said the death penalty will be a big help, noting that when he was head of the Bureau of Corrections, convicted drug traffickers told him they prefer the Philippines because there is no death penalty here.

During the Kapihan sa Senado forum yesterday, Bato also said he preferred death penalty by firing squad and this be done in public.

As to the Church and pro-life groups that oppose the death penalty, he said even the Bible has verses about the death penalty. He hoped the Church will understand that his version of the death penalty bill will only be for drug

trafficking.

He said the firing squad should be done in public – such as in Luneta (Rizal park) – so that media can cover it, but children who might see the process should have parental guidance.

His bill on death penalty brings to three the number of measures seeking to impose capital punishment against drug traffickers. The two others were filed by Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Sen. Manny Pacquiao.

Lacson's death penalty bill include the offenses of illegal drugs, plunder, rape, murder, treason, qualified piracy, qualified bribery, parricide, infanticide, destructive arson, terrorism, human trafficking and arms smuggling.

Pacquiao is proposing that importation of dangerous drugs and/or controlled precursors and essential chemicals be given the penalty of life imprisonment to death and a fine ranging from P1 million to P10 million.

He said the penalty of life imprisonment to death and a

fine ranging from P500,000 to P1 million should be imposed against those who coddle or protect drug traffickers.

"Trading, administration, dispensation, delivery, distribution and transportation of dangerous drugs should be penalized with life imprisonment to death and a fine of P1 million to P10 million," Pacquiao said.

Based on the latest report of the Philippine National Police and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Dela Rosa said there are 5,176 drug personalities who died in anti-drug operations; 170,689 arrested; P25.9 billion worth of drugs and equipment seized and 301 drug dens and laboratories dismantled.

Stricter anti-terror law pushed

Last week's suicide bombing in Sulu prompted reelected Rep. Jericho Nograles of party-list group Puwersa ng Bayaning Atleta yesterday to urge the incoming 18th Congress to pass a stricter law against terrorism.

"The Sulu blast could be a foreboding sign that suicide bombing is now becoming a weapon of choice for Muslim extremists in the country, especially in Mindanao," he said.

He called for amending an existing security law to make it stricter by plugging loopholes that he said terrorists, their supporters and financiers exploit.

"Congress should prioritize national security legislation such as amending Republic Act 9372 or the Human Security Act of 2007. Our armed forces and police cannot fully protect us without the law enabling them to do so," he said.

Nograles lamented that the law does not contain "provisions on cyber-terrorism but there are penalties against law enforcers if they arrest or detain a cyber-terrorist." He said Sulu has lately been the playground of foreign terrorists who were behind the Mt. Carmel Cathedral bombing earlier this year.

"Foreign terrorists come to our country either through the backdoor or the airports.

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I think the Anti-Terrorism Council should order a prompt and full review of the existing protocols defending our nation against terrorists and submit to Congress what changes are needed in RA 9372," he said. He said last Friday's suicide bombing attacks at an Army command post in Tanjung, Indanan Sulu that killed eight people and injured 22 others "could be a precursor of more similar attacks."

Nograles cited reports that one detonated his bomb when Army personnel manning a checkpoint accosted him.

After the first explosion, a second suicide bomber reportedly rushed inside the command post and set off the bomb he was carrying.

One of the terrorists was a Filipino. Nograles condemned the attacks as he urged security forces to increase their vigilance.

He said the bombings are an embarrassment for them, especially since they are implementers of martial law in Mindanao.

He also called for the people's cooperation in stopping acts of terrorism.

He noted that Friday's blasts were the third suicide attack in Mindanao in a year: the first by a Moroccan in Lamitan, Basilan in July 2018 and the Mt. Carmen Cathedral

bombing in Jolo in January this year carried out by Indonesian nationals.

Meanwhile, Sen. Francis Pangilinan filed a bill seeking to phase out single-use plastic products by prohibiting its importation, manufacture and use in food establishments, stores, markets and retailers.

Senate Bill 40 or the Single-Use Plastics Regulation and Management Act of 2019 seeks to ban all single-use plastics one year after the effectivity of the measure and to penalize those who will not enforce it.

Those who will re-use and recycle will receive an incentive.

Pangilinan said the bill defines single-use plastics as disposable plastics which are commonly used for plastic packaging and include items intended to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These include items such as grocery bags, food packaging, films and bags, water bottles, straws, stirrers, containers, styrofoam/styros, cups, sachets and plastic cutlery.

Pangilinan cited a 2015 study by the United Nations Environment Program that showed that 81 percent of the more than six million kilos of plastic waste per day in the country is mismanaged.

— With Jess Diaz



US waste driving global garbage glut – study

PARIS: The United States is driving a worldwide waste boom that poses a severe risk to human health, the environment

and the economy, according to a new study of global garbage trends published on Wednesday

► **WasteA2**

■ WASTE FROM A1

US waste driving global garbage glut – study

(Thursday in Manila).

Data on the combined solid, plastic, food and hazardous waste of 194 countries showed that the world now produces an average of 2.1 billion tonnes of trash each year — enough to fill more than 820,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Just 16 percent of this (323 million tonnes) is recycled, while 950 million tons is disposed of “unsustainably,” according to risk management firm Verisk Maplecroft.

Analysis showed that US citizens and businesses produce far more per capita than their fair share.

At an average of 773 kilograms per head, the country generates around 12 percent of global municipal solid waste — approximately 239 million tonnes annually.

This is over three times the global average and more than seven times that of Ethiopia, the least wasteful nation.

In addition, the US’s insatiable consumption is not matched by its recycling capacity.

At 35 percent, the US was ranked one of the worst of the developed nations for recycling and significantly behind countries such as Germany, which recycles 68 percent of its waste.

The report’s authors also warned that recent or impending bans on solid waste imports by a number of Asian importers, including China, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia could make it even harder for big waste-producers to manage the growing problem.

China’s decision to ban 24 varieties of solid waste imports last year, including many plastics, is predicted to create a 111-million-tonne waste mountain by 2030, based on current trends.

Plastic waste pollution in particular has reached epidemic proportions, with an estimated 100 million tonnes of plas-

tic now found in the oceans, threatening marine life and the tourism industry.

Although a number of nations have pledged to reduce consumption of single-use plastics, a monitor said last month that global production was still climbing, led largely by Asia and a shale-gas production boom in America.

Niall Smith, senior environment analyst at Verisk, said it was up to businesses, as well as governments to reduce their waste and invest in more recyclable options.

“Beyond the potential financial impacts, the reputational risks for business are high if they ignore intensifying interest in the issue from consumers and investors,” he said.

On Tuesday, Indonesia said dozens of shipping containers full of waste would be returned to France and other developed countries.

The 49 containers were loaded with a combination of garbage, plastic waste and hazardous materials in violation of import rules, according to customs officials on Batam Island.

The waste came from the US, Australia, France, Germany and Hong Kong.

Last month, Jakarta returned five containers of waste to the US, joining a chorus of Southeast Asian nations that are increasingly unhappy about being used as dumping grounds for trash from Western countries.

The Philippines, meanwhile, returned about 69 containers of rubbish back to Canada last month, putting an end to a diplomatic row between the two countries.

Around 300 million tonnes of plastic are produced every year, according to the Worldwide Fund for Nature, with much of it ending up in landfills or polluting the seas in what has become a growing international crisis. **AFP**



US waste driving global garbage glut

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AFP



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
 SINCE 1800

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

1
 PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
 STORY

BANNER
 STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 JUL 2019

DATE

Water level at Angat Dam continues to rise

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

Water level at Angat Dam continues to increase and is now 161.86 meters as of Thursday morning or 1.86 meters above the 160-meter critical level due to the recent monsoon rains over the watershed area in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Based on the monitoring of Philip-

pine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), Angat Dam's level rose to 161.86 meters on Thursday morning, higher by 0.78 meters from last Wednesday's 161.08 meters.

While it is already higher than its 160-meter critical level, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has

retained the 36 cubic meters per second (cms) water allocation until such time that the Angat Dam's level is sufficient enough to supply the regular demand of consumers in Metro Manila and nearby areas.

The water reservoir's level is still way below its 180-meter minimum operating level and 210-

▶4

Water level at...

◀1

meter normal high water level.

NWRB Executive Director Sevillo David Jr. said that if the water level at Angat Dam further rises, the agency may consider increasing the water allocation for water concessionaires.

Meanwhile, the weather bureau said Visayas and Mindanao will continue to experience some rains due to the trough or extension of a low-pressure area (LPA) east of the country, while Luzon will have fair weather condition due to a weak southwest monsoon or habagat.

PAGASA weather specialist Ariel Rojas said the LPA was estimated at 520 kilometers east-southeast of General

Santos City as of Thursday morning.

It is less likely to develop into a tropical cyclone and may dissipate within 24 to 36 hours, he said.

But the trough or extension of the LPA will continue to bring scattered rain showers and thunderstorms over Visayas and Mindanao.

Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon will only have isolated rain showers due to the weak effect of habagat, Rojas said.

PAGASA advised the public that rains, especially during severe thunderstorms, could trigger possible flash floods or landslides over low-lying and mountainous areas.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Abante
TONITE
MABILIS SA BALITA

3
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 JUL 2019

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____

Tubig sa Angat tumaas na

Bahagyang tumaas ang level ng tubig sa Angat Dam sa Bulacan bunsod ng mga nararanasang pag-ulan sa Luzon sanhi ng bagyong Egay.

Ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) monitoring division, alas-sais nang umaga kamakalawa ay nakapagtala ang dam ng 160.29 meters ng water level na mas mataas ng .44 meters mula sa 159.85 meters na water level ng dam noong Lunes.

Nabatid na maging ang water level sa La Mesa Dam sa Lagro, Quezon City ay nakapagtala ng 72.23 meters na water level na mataas ng .47 meters mula sa 71.76 meters na water level noong Lunes.

Habang patuloy naman ang pagbaba ng water level sa ibang dam sa bansa dahil sa hindi pag-ulan sa mga lugar na kinaroroonan ng Ambuklao Dam sa Baguio, Pantabangan Dam sa Pampanga, San Roque Dam sa Dagupan at Ipo Dam sa Norzagaray Bulacan. **(Juliet de Loza-Cudia)**



Are we back to our wasteful ways of using water?

COMMENTARY

ERNESTO M. ORDOÑEZ

Each one of us must respond urgently to the national water crisis. In Metro Manila, our complacency has been jolted twice already.

When water started flowing again after the first wave of the water shortage, we went back to our wasteful ways. We leave the tap open when cleaning our hands or washing our clothes.

Then the second phase came. Supply from the Angat Dam continued to dwindle for weeks. Supply interruptions in homes persisted.

Did the recent developments finally make us realize how precious water is?

Take note of the following: At least 55 people die every day from water-related causes; 300 out of our 1,500 municipalities are totally without water; and irrigation today provides only 50 percent of supply needs. There is simply not enough water available from our severely diminished water tables and sources.

In view of this, the Movement for Water Security (MWS) made eight recommendations for the government to implement immediately. These were submitted and discussed during the congressional water hearing on June 25, and at the

Department of Agriculture (DA)-attached Philippine Council of Agriculture and Food Climate Change Committee meeting on June 26.

The MWS is composed of farmers, fisherfolk, rural women, professionals, industry and agriculture leaders, Rotary Club officials, Girl and Boy Scouts, etc. The chair is former governor and current Boy Scouts of the Philippines president Roberto Pagdanganan.

The MWS submitted the following eight urgent recommendations to the legislative and executive branches of government:

1. Create a department of water. While waiting congressional approval, prepare an executive order to set up a structure that will coordinate and direct 32 water-related government agencies.
2. Aside from formulating a National Water Roadmap, implement the long-delayed Integrated Water Resource Management framework for our 18 major water river basins.
3. Develop and optimize our water resources by cultivating public and private sector funding mechanisms.
4. The Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education should urgently launch a nationwide campaign for water conservation by involving communities.
5. Local government units and national government

agencies should implement water harvesting starting from the households in order to increase our 4-percent rate to match India's 60 percent.

6. The National Irrigation Administration should prioritize irrigation repairs and rehabilitation in many areas where rates of return have been proven high. This should be supported by farmer monitoring and involvement.

7. The Department of Public Works and Highways and the DA should fast-track the construction of water impounding dams, the way China did so successfully.

8. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources should work with the private sector to address what to do with our 5.7 million hectares of denuded land. The goal is to reverse the downward reforestation trend of 360,357 hectares in 2015 to only 132,741 ha in 2018, and to restore 300,000 ha of mangroves.

The big challenge is for the public and private sector to now join hands and take immediate action. We must manage the water crisis, instead of this crisis managing us, which is sadly happening today. INQ



The author is Agriwatch chair, former secretary of presidential programs and projects, and former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry. Contact is watch_phil@yahoo.com



OGPI TO CONTINUE COMPLIANT, ENVIRONMENT-CONSCIOUS OPERATION AT DIDIPIO MINE

OCEANAGOLD Philippines Inc. (OGPI) has secured approval from the government, through the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), to continue operating the Didipio Mine while completing its renewal process.

The multinational mining company said this development proves that they have remained 100-percent compliant with the government's strict environmental, community development and safety standards.

"We are grateful that MGB continues to see the importance of this industry to the Filipino people," OGPI general manager David Way said. "Their enduring trust motivates us to maintain the conscientious mining practices that we have been recognized for, since we started our operation in the country."

OceanaGold (Philippines) Inc. (OGPI) maintains

that its responsible practices are proof that the industry could grow sustainably. Specifically, fulfilling tax obligations, complying with ISO standards for mining, and exceeding its reforestation commitment have all contributed to Didipio Mine's growth in the past years.

OGPI recently turned over to the local government of Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino PHP 240 million in local taxes for its 2018 operations.

This year, the Didipio mine renewed its certifications for IMS 14001 (Environmental Management System) and OHSAS 18001. These certifications are awarded to companies with

improved environmental and safety performance through proactive environmental compliance, prevention of pollution, as well as creation of excellent safety culture.

In May 2019, Didipio Mine secured its ISO 45001 Energy Management System (EnMS) certification. Didipio Mine is committed to promoting the use of renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, in accordance with RA 11285 or the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Law, recently signed by President Rodrigo Duterte. On top of their existing efforts, such as connecting to the national grid to reduce their carbon emissions and diesel consumption by as much as 89 percent, the operation, OGPI aims to cut 3 percent of its energy consumption by the end of 2019.

"We are one with the Filipinos who are aware of climate change's impact on our way of life, and who are working proactively to shelter the next generation from its effects," Way said. "We welcome the Philippine government's commitment

to renewable energy, and our operations will continue to improve in this aspect."

Going beyond compliance and sticking to international standards, OGPI also ensures that the natural resources around it thrive along with its operations. Through their Mining Forest Programs, the Company has already planted 1.6 million trees in its rehabilitation areas within the Didipio Mine area, covering a total of 1,258 hectares. The reforestation survival rate is 92 percent, well above the country's 80-percent benchmark.

To top off the reforestation efforts, it had progressively rehabilitated almost 95 percent of the site which is no longer used in Didipio Mine's activities.

"The resources we are mining, we know we're just borrowing them; thus, we strive to give back to the environment around us and keep it sustainable," Way said. "We urge the rest of the mining industry, and the residents living in our areas of operation, to help us in this endeavor."



OceanaGold seeks injunction for continued copper-gold mine operations at Didipio

CONTESTING the authority of local government units (LGUs) to stop large-scale mining operations, OceanaGold Corp. has filed an injunction against “unauthorized restraint of its operations” at Didipio mine, a high-grade copper-gold mine in Nueva Vizcaya Province.

Subsequently, OceanaGold, one of the country’s top copper and gold producers, is set to assert its right to continue operation, anchored on the permit it has obtained from national government regulators, and the permitting process it has hurdled under the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

A hearing is set on July 10, Wednesday. In a statement, OceanaGold Corp. said the petition for an injunction was filed in response to an order from the governor of Nueva Vizcaya directing the LGU to stop the company’s operation of the mines on the ground of its expired financial and/or technical assistance Agree-

ment (FTAA) which lapsed on June 20, 2019.

The statement did not reveal to which institution it has filed the injunction.

Anti-mining protesters have been barricading entry and exit routes to the mine in Barangay Didipio in Kasibu town since the company’s FTAA expired last month and has called on President Duterte to nix the company’s application to renew its mining permit on account of alleged massive environmental destruction and human-rights violations committed against the communities.

OceanaGold said that subsequent to the governor’s order, a local government unit prevented a large supply truck from accessing the mine site on Monday, July 1. While operations continue at the mine, the company proactively halted truck movements, including copper concentrate, to prevent the potential for escalation. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



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OceanaGold seeks injunction vs officials of Nueva Vizcaya

By Othel V. Campos

OCEANAGOLD Philippines Inc., a unit of Australian miner OceanGold Corp., said Thursday it filed for an injunction to ensure that its operations continue in Didipio amid the "unauthorized restraint" of its operations by the provincial governor of Nueva Vizcaya.

The miner said in a statement the court would conduct a hearing for the injunction on July 10.

It said Nueva Vizcaya Governor Carlos Padilla ordered local government units to "restrain any operations" of the company. Subsequent to the governor's order, a local government unit prevented a large supply truck from accessing the mine site on July 1, the company said.

"Operations continue at the mine, but the company proactively halted truck movements, including copper concentrate, to prevent the present situation from escalating further," OceanaGold said.

It said that despite external disruptions, there was an uninterrupted supply of copper concentrate for shipment. "Light vehicles, people and food supplies continue to access the site," it said.

OceanaGold said that it lodged its application for the renewal of the financial or technical assistance agreement with the Philippine government in March 2018 and received a confirmation on June 20, 2019 from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau that the Didipio Mine was permitted to continue operations pending the confirmation of the FTAA renewal.

"Authority over the Didipio operation remained with the national government since the Government Code of 1991 does not grant the power or authority to the provincial governor or any local government officer to restrain any aspect of the Didipio operation," it said.

The company said it attempted engagement with the provincial government to resolve the current position but filed for an injunction "for lack of integrity on the local government's side to recognize the legitimacy of Didipio's continued right to operate".



**SAY MO
ATTORNEY?**



**By ATTY. PERSIDA
RUEDA-ACOSTA**

KGG. na Chief Acosta, Ako ay may inookupang lupa nang mahigit 30 taon na at may sukat na 300 square meters sa Lungsod ng Maynila. Ang nasabing lupa ay kalapit ng isang ilog. Gusto ko sanang patituluhan ang nasabing lupa pero ang sabi ng aming bgy. captain, hindi raw puwedeng aplayan ng titulo ito dahil tanging lupang agrikultura (agricultural land) lang daw ang puwedeng mapatituluhan. Totoo po ba ito?

Aaron

Dear Aaron,

Maaari nang aplayan ng titulo (Free Patent) ang mga lupang may klasipikasyon na residential. Ito ay alinsunod sa mga sumusunod na probisyon ng Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10023 (An Act Authorizing the Issuance of Free Patents to Residential Lands) na

Residential lot, puwede nang aplayan ng free patent

nagsasaad na:

Section 1. Qualifications. - Any Filipino citizen who is an actual occupant of a residential land may apply for a Free Patent Title under this Act: Provided; That in highly urbanized cities, the land should not exceed two hundred (200) square meters; in other cities, it should not exceed 500 square meters; in first class and second class municipalities, it should not exceed 750 square meters; and in all other municipalities, it should not exceed 1,000 square meters; Provided, further, that the land applied for is not needed for public service and/or public use.

Section 2. This Act shall cover all lands that are zoned as residential areas, including townships as defined under the Public Land Act; Provided, that none of the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 705 shall be violated."

Sa iyong sitwasyon, dapat mong isaalang-alang na hindi dapat lumalampas ng 200 square meters ang lupang iyong inaaplayan ng titulo o Free Patent. Ito ay sa kadahilanang ang lupa ay matatagpuan sa Lungsod ng Maynila. Ang

Lungsod ng Manila ay maituturing na highly urbanized city. Ganoon din na dapat mong intindihin na ang lupang iyong inookupa ay nakasona sa residential areas.

Nabanggit mo kasi sa iyong liham na malapit sa ilog ang lupang iyong inookupa kaya mas mabuting alamin mo muna ang klasipikasyon nito mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Kung ang naturang lupa ay parte ng ilog, hindi ito maaaring aplayan ng Free Patent dahil tanging mga lupa lamang na may klasipikasyon na residential ang puwede mong patituluhan sa ilalim ng RA No. 10023.

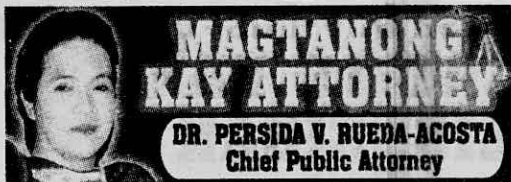
Sana ay nabigyan namin ng linaw ang iyong katanungan. Ang payong aming ibinigay ay base lamang sa mga impormasyon na iyong inilahad at maaaring magbago kung mababawasan o madaragdagan ang mga detalye ng iyong salaysay.

**Ang inyong Lingkod
Bayan,
DR. PERSIDA V.
RUEDA-ACOSTA,
DSD
Punong Mananang-
gol Pambayan**

Paunawa:

Isangguni ang iba pa ninyong usaping legal sa aming opisina sa address na nakasaad sa pitak na ito o kaya ipadala ang inyong katanungan sa aming e-mail address: pao_executive@yahoo.com o tumawag sa PAO hotline: (02) 426-2801; 426-2450; 426-2987; o 929-9436 local 106 o 107 during office hours at local 159 after office hours.

Ang mga serbisyong legal ng PAO gaya ng legal advice, court representation, pagsasagawa ng dokumento, notaryo at iba pa ay libre at walang bayad mula sa kliyente ng PAO sang-ayon sa R.A. 9406 (PAO Law). Sang-ayon din sa nasabing batas, ang katunggali o kalaban sa kaso na matatalo ang magbabayad ng attorney's fee sa PAO para ideposito sa National Treasury. Maaaring isumbong kay Chief Acosta ang sinumang public attorney o empleyado ng PAO na manghihingi o tatanggap ng salapi mula sa kliyente ng PAO sa address na ito: 5th Floor, DoJ Agencies Building, NIA Road corner East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, 1104.



Kaparusahan sa sinumang may-ari ng mga troso na walang legal na dokumento

Dear Chief Acosta,

May mga troso ang aking pinsan na ipinatago sa aming bahay. Kinaumagahan, hinuli ang aking asawa ng forest officers kahit sinabi naming hindi namin pag-aari ang mga ito at legal ang pagputol nito ayon sa aking pinsan ngunit, wala kaming maipakitang permit para rito. Nais kong malaman kung maaari ba nila itong gawin sa amin? — Ces

Dear Ces,

Para sa inyong kaalaman, ang batas na nakasasaklaw sa inyong katanungan ay ang Presidential Decree 705 o mas kilala sa tawag na "Revised Forestry Code". Nakasaad sa Section 68 nito na:

"Section 68. Cutting, Gathering and/or Collecting Timber or Other Forest Products Without License. Any person who shall x x x possess timber or other forest products without legal

documents as required under existing forest laws and regulations, shall be punished with the penalties imposed under Articles 309 and 310 of the Revised Penal Code: x x x" (Binigyang-diin)

Ayon sa nasabing batas, maparusahan ang sinumang may-ari o pinaniniwalaang may-ari ng mga troso na walang mga legal na dokumento o kaukulang permit. Hindi mahalaga kung ang mga troso ay pinutol ng legal. Kapag ang mga ito ay nahuli sa pagtataglay o possession ng tao na walang kaukulang permit o dokumento ay nangangahulugang pag-aari niya ang mga ito. Ito rin ay nakasaad sa kaso ni Ma. Mimie Crescencio vs. People of the Philippines (GR No. 205015, November 19, 2014, Ponente: Honorable former Associate Justice Bienvenido L. Reyes)

"The fact of possession by the petitioner of the 24 pieces of magsihagon lumber, as well as her subsequent failure to produce the legal documents as required under existing forest laws and regula-

tions constitute criminal liability for violation of the Forestry Code. x x x

In the second offense, it is immaterial whether the cutting, gathering, collecting and removal of the forest products are legal or not. Mere possession of forest products without the proper documents consummates the crime. Whether or not the lumber comes from a legal source is immaterial because the Forestry Code is special law which considers mere possession of timber or other forest products without the proper documentation as *malum prohibitum*." (Binigyang-diin)

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

Kung kayo ay may katanungan o nais ibingi ng payong legal, sumulat sa MAGTANONG KAY ATTORNEY ni Persida Acosta, BULGAR Bldg., 538 Quezon Ave., Quezon City o mag-email sa attorney.bulgar@gmail.com



Moreno asks stakeholders to help upgrade Manila Zoo

MANILA Mayor Isko Moreno stood firm on his decision that the Manila Zoo would not be sold but instead would be upgraded.

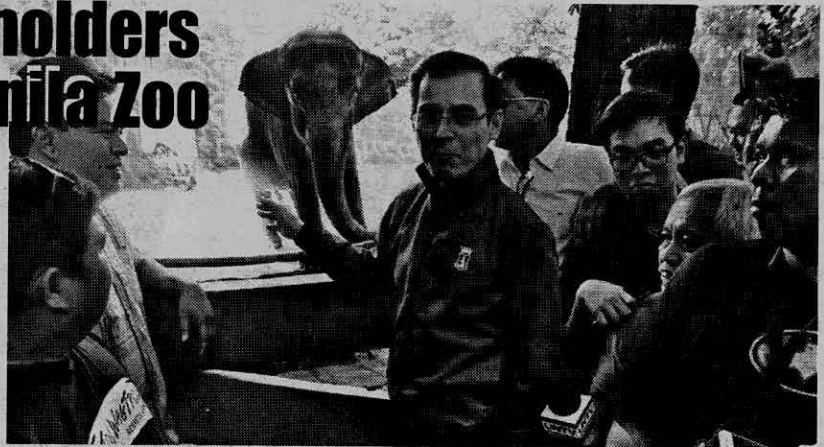
During his visit, Moreno also brought with him 275 chickens confiscated by the Manila Veterinary Inspection Board (VIB) for being 'botcha' or not having passed through proper inspection.

Seeing the zoo dilapidated, Moreno appealed to private organizations,

individuals and companies to help the city government rehabilitate the zoo.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources earlier closed down the zoo for draining untreated sewage straight to the Manila Bay.

Moreno stressed that the zoo will not be privatized, adding that he already rejected the idea when he was still the presiding officer of the city council.



MANILA Mayor Isko Moreno tells media during his visit at the park that the Manila Zoo will not be sold. Photo by Jerry S. Tan

Meanwhile, Moreno entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Emilio Aguinaldo

College (EAC) for 50 percent discount in tuition fees specifically for freshmen who passed the en-

trance exam, and for transferees as long as they are residents of Manila. **Jerry S. Tan**



Isko won't sell zoo

THE Manila Zoo will not be privatized or sold and we are appealing for kind-hearted private individuals, organizations and companies to help in whatever way they can to help preserve and rehabilitate the said facility.'

Manila Mayor Isko Moreno yesterday made this pronouncement as he paid a visit to the said zoo to check on its present status and see what needs to be done to make it more attractive for foreign and local tourists and conducive for learning specially for students.

Moreno said the zoo, the

full name of which is Manila Zoological and Botanical Garden, 'will have to live up to its name as such but given its present condition, it is apparently not even at par with private zoos in other cities such as Malabon.

'We are appealing to private companies and individuals to help us keep the Manila Zoo alive,' Moreno said, as he announced that a study will also be done on how to rehabilitate the zoo with the animals enjoying full safety and protection.

He also said proper authorities have been tasked to study possible ways to

make the zoo fully-compliant with the requirements of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) when it comes to environmental protection.

It will be recalled that in January, the DENR closed down the said zoo due to violations found when it came to environmental protection compliance.

'We can quantify the losses brought about by the closure but I would rather protect the environment. This (zoo revenues) can wait but the environment cannot.

Itchie G. Cabayan



Rody creates inter-agency body for 2021 IMO audit

President Duterte has created an inter-agency council as part of the country's preparations for the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) in 2021.

Duterte signed Executive Order No. 84 weeks after the government called the attention of the IMO regarding the plight of 22 Filipino fishermen who were abandoned by a Chinese ship after it rammed the Philippine fishing vessel at Recto Bank on June 9.

The body is chaired by the secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), with the administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) as vice chairman and representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and Cebu Port Authority as members.

The Philippines will undergo the IMSAS in 2021 and every seven years thereafter.

The audit aims to check the country's compliance with its obligations as IMO member-state, including safety of life at sea, prevention of pollution from ships, standards of training, certification and watchkeeping for seafarers, load lines, tonnage measurement of ships and regulations for preventing collisions at sea.

Under the EO, the council should ensure that its member-agencies comply with the

policies, laws and issuances of the IMO.

"To ensure strict and full compliance with the commitments and obligations of the Philippines as a member-state of the IMO, both at the policy and technical levels, there is a need to carefully plan, manage, direct, coordinate and monitor the corresponding efforts of relevant national government agencies and instrumentalities," read the EO, which Duterte signed on July 2.

The President also ordered the creation of a technical working group (TWG) chaired by the DOTr assistant secretary for maritime, with Marina deputy administrator for operations as vice chairperson.

Other members of the TWG are representatives from the DFA, PCG, PPA, Cebu Port Authority, Commission on Higher Education, National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture, Office for the Transportation Security of the DOTr and the Philippine National Police Maritime Group.

The DOTr should submit to the Office of the President, through the Office of the Executive Secretary, annual reports on the implementation of the order. — Christina Mendez

PHL gears up for IMO

audit of maritime rules

By SAMUEL P. MEDENILLA [@sam_medenilla](#)

THE government said it has started preparing for a comprehensive audit of the country's Philippine maritime regulations which will be conducted by the International Maritime Organization in 2021.

President Duterte issued on Tuesday Executive Order (EO) 84 which mandated the creation of the Inter-Agency Council on the International Maritime Organization Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS).

The council will be responsible for ensuring that the Philippines will be ready for the IMSAS.

It will "plan, manage, direct, coordinate, and monitor the corresponding efforts of relevant national government agencies and instrumentalities" so the country will be able to comply with its obligations and commitments to the IMO.

EO 84 designated the secretary of Department of Transportation (DOTr) as chairman of the council and the Maritime Industry Authority chief as its vice chairman.

The members of the council are representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and Cebu Port Authority (CPA).

It will be assisted by a Technical Working Group (TWG) comprised by representatives from DFA; PCG; PPA; CPA; Commission on Higher Education (CHED); National Map-

ping and Resource Information Authority; Environment Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources; Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture; Office of Transportation Security of the DOTr, and the Philippine National Police Maritime Group.

The TWG will aid the council by submitting the implementation of IMO instrumentalities, and a monitoring mechanism to assess this.

"The Overseas Shipping Service of the Marina shall serve as the

Secretariat of the Council," EO 84 read. The funding for the operation of the Council and TWG will be determined by the Department of Budget and Management.

The Philippines is scheduled to undergo the IMSAS in 2021 and every seven years thereafter.

The IMSAS will cover the regulations in the following areas: safety of life at sea; prevention of pollution from ships; standards, training certification and watch keeping for seafarers; load lines; tonnage measurement of ships; regulations for preventing collisions at sea.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

1
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 JUL 2010

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

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1/2

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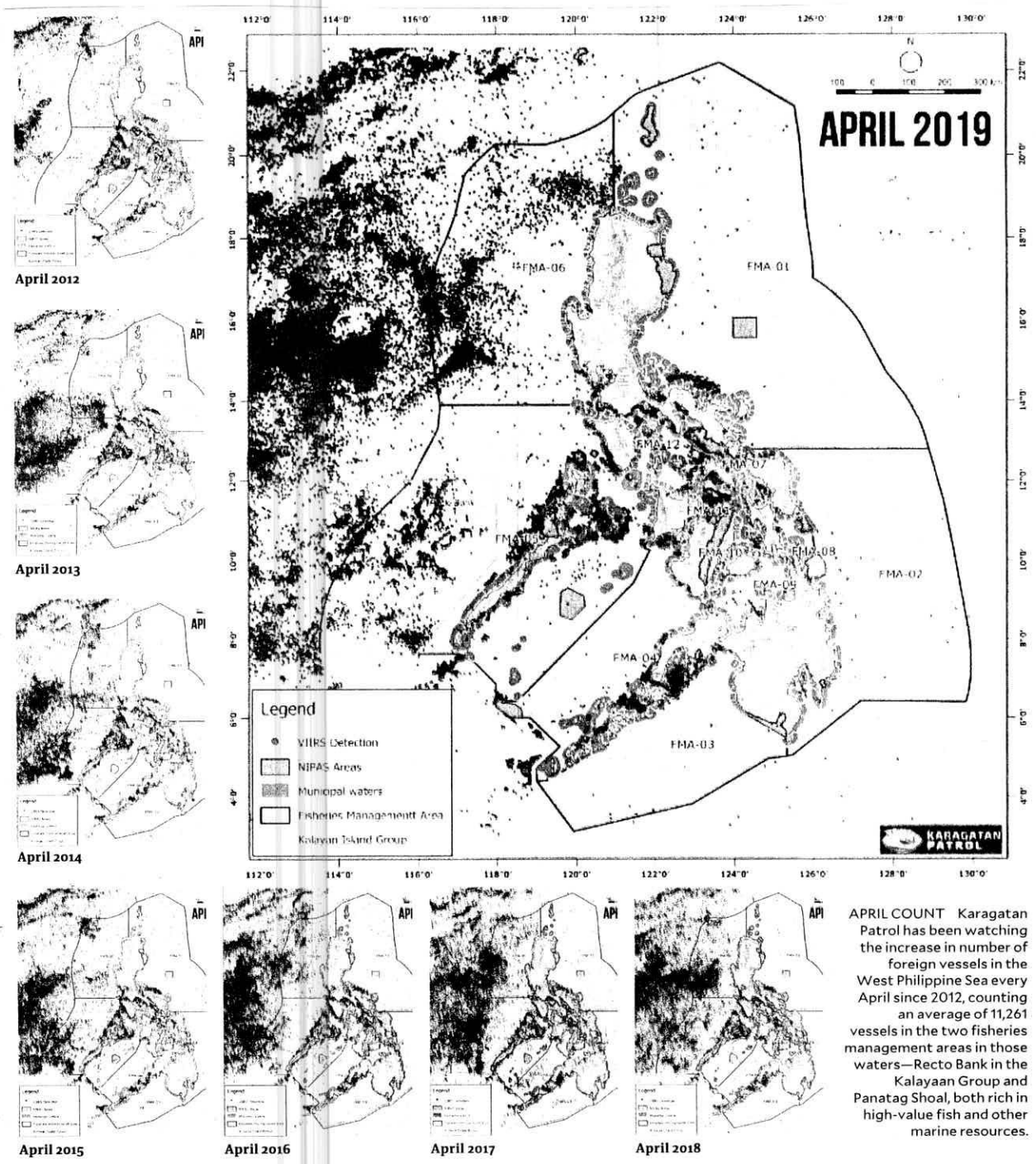
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STORY BY JHESSET O. ENANO

Thousands of foreign fishing vessels encroach on Philippine waters and their activities, if left unchecked, could result in a devastating depletion of the country's marine resources.

2/2



Foreign fishing vessels crowd PH waters

FROM A1

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

More and more foreign commercial fishing vessels have entered the Philippines' fishing grounds, including its municipal waters, in the past few years, threatening depletion of the country's marine resources if their activities remain destructive and unchecked, maritime experts warn.

Data gathered through the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) and analyzed by the fisheries monitoring group Karagatan Patrol showed a dramatic increase since 2012 in the number of industrial-scale vessels in the West Philippine Sea, waters within the country's 370-kilometer exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the South China Sea.

More ships are seen inching toward the country's coastline, with many already encroaching on municipal waters off the provinces of Palawan, Zambales and Mindoro.

China, Vietnam, Taiwan

While the identity of the vessels cannot yet be ascertained, experts agree that the majority could be coming from China and other countries like Vietnam and Taiwan, where maritime enforcers have previously arrested crews for poaching and other illegal activities in Philippine waters.

The weakness of the government's vessel monitoring capability and the lax enforcement of laws on the country's own waters are to blame for the presence of these foreign vessels in the Philippine EEZ, also the designated fisheries management areas, the experts said.

With massive encroachment on Philippine waters, local fishermen and coastal villages suffer the most, according to Jessie Floren, Karagatan Patrol geographic information expert.

"The municipal waters are for marginalized fisherfolk who cannot afford to go to deeper seas," Floren said in an interview on Thursday. "With the entry of these foreign commercial vessels in these areas, the impact would not only be certain individuals, but on entire communities dependent on marine resources."

Under the Fisheries Code, municipal waters are areas within 15 km from the coastline, including offshore islands.

Only fishing boats weighing less than 3.1 gross tons and using passive gears, such as hook and line, are allowed in these waters.

Rampant commercial fishing

But data analyzed by Karagatan Patrol showed rampant commercial fishing in these areas, including waters off northern and western Palawan and the Zamboanga Peninsula.

Beyond its primary use for weather monitoring, VIIRS—a sensor aboard a weather satellite—detects night lights both on land and on water.

Using an algorithm developed by the Earth Observation Group of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, it can also detect "lure lights" or "superlights" that huge vessels use to attract fish.

Karagatan Patrol collated the data every April, from 2012 to 2019, choosing the specific month when cloudless skies offer sharper images.

The maps clearly show that foreign vessels have grossly overpopulated the biodiversity-rich West Philippine Sea since 2012, with high concentrations around the Kalayaan Island Group and off the coastlines of provinces facing the western seaboard.

"Small-scale fishing boats cannot be detected because

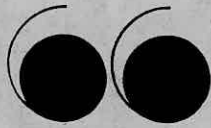
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05 JUL 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/



The municipal waters are for marginalized fisherfolk who cannot afford to go to deeper seas... With the entry of these foreign commercial vessels in these areas, the impact would not only be certain individuals, but on entire communities dependent on marine resources

Jessie Floren

Karagatan Patrol geographic information expert

their lights are very small," Floren said. "These are really commercial, if not industrial scale, fishing activities."

11,000 vessels monthly

Data provided by Karagatan Patrol to the Inquirer showed that an average of 11,261 commercial fishing vessels had been detected every April from 2012 to 2019 in the two fisheries management areas in the West Philippine Sea.

These areas include Recto (Reed) Bank in the Kalayaan Island Group and Panatag (Scar-

borough) Shoal, both rich in high-value fish and other marine resources.

A monthly count in April 2017 alone showed as many as 14,852 fishing vessels in these areas, with more than 10,600 commercial ships in waters off Palawan and around the Kalayaan Islands.

On a daily basis, more than 350 vessels are detected by the sensor in these waters.

These are conservative figures, Floren said, as each dot plotted on the maps can represent more than a single vessel in

a 25-hectare area.

The dizzyingly high volume of commercial vessels in the West Philippine Sea, including those in the country's fishing grounds, can lead to the collapse of fish species due to overfishing and destructive fishing methods, such as bottom trawling and the outright destruction of coral reef ecosystems.

Automatic identification

While all big boats should have automatic identification systems (AIS), Floren said the majority of those spotted in the West Philippine Sea did not have these.

Some have been stationary for a long time, he said.

But maritime law expert Jay Batongbacal said on Thursday that even without the particular identification, there was high likelihood that many of these were Chinese vessels, which had been repeatedly spotted by local fishermen.

The big foreign commercial vessels boast of better technologies than those used by Filipino fishermen—traditional fishing methods and bright lights that can be detected by VIIRS.

Floren noted that similar strong lights were also seen in the sketch by the Filipino fishermen of the Chinese vessel that hit and sank their boat at

Recto Bank on June 9.

"We also have a moratorium on the issuance of commercial fishing vessel licenses since 2014, so technically our number of fishing vessels had not increased since then," said Batongbacal, director of the University of the Philippines' Institute of Maritime Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

"That's precisely because we have a policy to either maintain or reduce our catch capacity. So we are not the ones who are increasing in number in the West Philippines Sea," he said. "Our commercial fishing has been relatively stagnant since 2014, compared to the Chinese's production that has been going up."

Gov't action

Floren said the current situation in the West Philippine Sea should push the government to beef up its monitoring, control and surveillance of vessels entering Philippine waters.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has a vessel monitoring measure, but Floren said this was not enough to cover all areas.

He also said the bureau should exercise transparency in its monitoring.

"They should be transparent with their work to the public, because right now, only the BFAR can access those information," Floren said.

Left unchecked and unregulated, massive-scale fishing can ultimately imperil the lives of communities reliant on the resource-rich West Philippine Sea.

Illegal fishing and reclamation at Panatag Shoal and the Spratly Islands alone cost the Philippines some P33.1 billion annually, according to marine scientists.

Impact on entire region

Destruction of coral reefs, which are important nesting areas and habitats for fish, can adversely impact fish supply from the West Philippine Sea, which is part of the Coral Triangle region, the center of the world's marine biodiversity.

But the destructive and excessive exploitation of resources in these waters would impact not only the Philippines, but also the entire Southeast Asian region, Floren said.

"If we continue to degrade the quality of our resources there, especially the coral reefs, it will aggravate the condition of marine-based production in the Asean region," he said. INQ

2/3



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS
INQUIRER

A4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 JUL 2011

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____

3/3



OLD TECHNOLOGY The big foreign vessels boast better technologies than those used by Filipino fishermen—traditional fishing methods and bright lights that can be detected by a sensor aboard a weather satellite. —WILLIE LOMIBAO



PANELO: DA SHOULD FIRST CHECK EXPERTS' FINDINGS

PALACE WANTS REEF DESTRUCTION PROBED BEFORE TAKING ACTION

By Julie M. Aurelio
@JMAurelioINQ

Malacañang on Thursday said it would direct concerned agencies to investigate reports that the Philippines was losing P33 billion a year from damaged reef ecosystems caused largely by China's artificial island building and illegal fishing in the South China Sea.

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said the Department of Agriculture (DA) should first probe the claim of maritime experts that more reefs face destruction due to foreign encroachment before the government takes any action.

"We don't know about that, we have to let the particular agency or department responsible for that (to investigate)," Panelo said in a press briefing.

He said the DA should conduct a study "to validate that particular finding of one particular group," referring to the



Salvador Panelo

findings by marine scientists and maritime law experts from the University of the Philippines.

"We will always be concerned if it affects the security of the state and if affects the general welfare of the people," Panelo said.

P33.1-B losses a year

Deo Florence Onda, a scientist with the University of the Philippines' Marine Science In-

stitute (UP MSI), on Wednesday cited a 2012 study by a Dutch company, Elsevier, one of the world's major providers of scientific, technical and medical

information, which said the value of a reef ecosystem—benefits, services and climate regulation—amounted to about P18 million per hectare annually.

say that if we do not stop Chinese fishers from our seas, they will likely drain all our marine resources in just a few years," said Jay Batongbacal, director of the UP Institute of Maritime Affairs and the Laws of the Sea.

"In Scarborough Shoal, they even destroy the reefs themselves ... If this continues, the shoal would be completely wiped out in five years," Batongbacal told the forum.

Asked if the government sees the need to prevent Chinese fishermen from destroying more coral reefs, Panelo said the government has not even validated the report.

"When we arrive at that point, we will know what to do. Right now, we don't even know if it's true or not," he said.

"That's why I said the specific department concerned with that should conduct an inquiry into that matter and then the government will undertake measures." INQ



CORAL DESTRUCTION Marine scientists recently found this gouged coral seabed in the Kalayaan Island Group in the West Philippine Sea. Malacañang says it will take action on reef destruction allegedly by illegal Chinese fishermen and China's artificial island building that amounts to billions of pesos in unrealized benefits to the Philippines. —PHOTO COURTESY OF DR.

FLORENCE ONDA OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MARINE SCIENCE INSTITUTE

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information, which said the value of a reef ecosystem—benefits, services and climate regulation—amounted to about P18 million per hectare annually.

Wiped out in 5 yrs

"We aren't joking when we



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 JUL 2019

DATE

PAGE 1/

TITLE:

P33-B nawawala sa Pinas dahil sa nasirang reef system sa West Ph Sea

TINATAYANG nasa P33-B ang nawawala sa Pilipinas dahil sa mga nasirang reef ecosystem sa Panatag Shoal at Spratlys Island sa West Philippine Sea.

Ayon sa siyentipikong si Deo Florence Onda ng University of the Philippine Marine Science Institute, bunsod ito ng ginagawang reklamasyon at iligal na pangngingisda ng China sa katubigang sakop ng bansa.

Ang naturang halaga ay pagtataya batay sa benepisyonang nakukuha ng bansa sa yamang dagat sa naturang dako.

Tinukoy din sa naging pagsusuri na mahigit 1,800 ektarya na ng coral reef sa nasabing mga lugar ang sirang-sira na.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

05 JUL 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Ecowaste supports inspection of overstaying cargo containers

ENVIRONMENTAL advocacy group EcoWaste Coalition (EWC) has expressed support to Commission on Audit's recommendation for a speedy inventory and inspection of overstaying containers in various ports nationwide.

EWC national coordinator Aileen Lucero said the public has the right to know what is hidden in these abandoned vans as she urged the Bureau of Customs to immediately act on this concern.

The group cited CoA's 2018 consolidated annual audit report on the BoC stating a total of 6,985 overstaying containers carrying various articles remained undisposed in various ports for a period ranging from 30 days to more than 25 years.

Misamis Oriental District II Rep. Juliette Uy has also made a proposal to open 880 of the 6,985 overstaying containers saying it may also contain imported garbage and other illegal waste cargoes.

Uy said the 880 overstaying containers were without declared information, uninspected and could not be offered for auction as their contents "may pose risk or hazard to the port."

The CoA said non-disposal of overstaying shipments violates Republic Act 10863, or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

Joel dela Torre

In the House, *Inday*

Loren comes 'home'



people
**JOANNE RAE
M. RAMIREZ**

Even before she threw her hat into the political ring in Antique, then senator **Loren Legarda** has been living her dream there — waking up to the fresh air each morning, watching the sunset every night, eating fruits plucked from the trees in her backyard, and eating fish from Antique's rich waters.

But she noticed that the majority of Antiqueños were not enjoying the bounty of the land and the seas due to lack of knowledge, technology and equipment.

"Living in Antique has brought me closer to nature, living by the sea, seeing the mountains daily. It has brought me closer to the simple, basic needs of my people, who deserve much more than they have had for three decades. Deprivation, poverty have challenged me to help our people. Being in Antique inspires me to make my laws of three senate terms work. I love my beautiful province where the mountains meet the sea, where the mountains kiss the sky," says Loren.

So she fast-tracked the construction of a tuna processing facility and the procurement of mire fishing boats and engines. She supported techno hubs in universities in the province (unfortunately the poorest on Panay Island), which have blast freezers. Then she helped build a community landing site for the fisherfolk.

"I made *kulit* the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to give boats to the fisherfolk. It's a matter of *kulit, kulit, kulit*," said Loren when we visited her last May in San Jose, the capital of Antique.

Since Antique is embraced by the sea from north to south, seas that were a rich trove of fish and tourist dollars, Loren filed the Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2019 as one of the 10 bills she filed on her first day in the House of Representatives.

House Bill No. 632, or the "Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2019" declares the seascape and landscape located in the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao in the province of Antique as an eco-tourism zone, thus according them priority development by the Department of Tourism, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Public Works and Highways, and Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority.

In Loren's hometown of Pandan is the Bugang River, which is known as "the cleanest inland body of water in the Philippines." In 2014, the Senate commended the local government and community of Pandan for their conservation efforts and cited their case a successful model for community-based eco-tourism.

Loren, who is the province's first female representative in the House, also seeks to establish the Antique High School for the Arts to ensure that the talent and exceptional giftedness

1/2

7/2



Antique Rep. Loren Legarda in San Jose, Antique.



Legarda took her oath as representative of Antique before barangay captain Macario Bagag of Mag-aba, Pandan. With her is her father Antonio Legarda (right).



Legarda with former Antique Gov. Sally Perez.

of young Antiqueños are recognized early and nurtured, thereby preserving and promoting Filipino heritage.

Few know that aside from being the home of the late National Artist **J. Elizalde Navarro**, whose mural depicting "the barter of Panay" dominates the lobby of the provincial Capitol, Antique is home to some of the country's most talented artisans.

We met weavers in Bugasong and Tibiao towns who learned the art of weaving *piña*, cotton and *abaca* from their elders. According to the leaders of their associations, Loren immediately got both the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority to support them with threads, looms and invitations to Manila trade fairs.

Another bill she filed that reflects her support of the indigenous fabric of Antique — a tapestry of the province's rich culture as well as source of livelihood — is House Bill No. 636, which provides for the development and protection of the Philippines' handloom weaving industry.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, Antique had the highest incidence of poverty in Panay (18.3 percent) in the first semester of 2018. (According to the report, Capiz is the most prosperous, followed by Aklan and Iloilo.)

The moment Senator Loren decided to run in Antique, her *kasimanwas* baptized her "Inday Loren." "Inday" is a term of

endearment reserved for female children. Indeed, Antiqueños immediately regarded the senator as a beloved daughter coming home to help her province. They say that her many Gella relatives were calling her to come home for "payback time" to the province that nurtured her many accomplished relatives like Malolos Constitution delegate **Ariston Gella** (who was also

the province's first pharmacist), Gov. **Vicente Gella**, Mayor **Pedro Gella**, National Treasurer **Vicentito Gella**, Supreme Court Justice **Calixto O. Zaldivar**, Executive Secretary **Peter Garrucho**, Tourism Secretary **Narz Lim**, among others.

"From Day 1 of the campaign period, I knew that *Inday Loren's* opponents were doomed. It was 'love at first sight' for the Antiqueños," says Loren's aunt, former Antique Gov. **Sally Zaldívar Perez**. "They could feel the sincere desire of *Inday Loren* to improve their lives. Thus, when votes were being counted on May 13 and 14, Loren made history by winning in all 18 towns of Antique by an unusually big majority — 130,000 votes more than her closest opponent."

According to *Inday Sally*, "This is the first time that the senator ran in a local election so her methods were different from the local politicians. For example, she never mentioned her opponent's name, but, in all her speeches, she would always say, '*Ang ating kalaban dito sa Antique ay poverty, ignorance, malnutrition, disease, lack of livelihood opportunities, etc.*' This kind of campaigning clicked with the Antiqueños."

The former governor told us she overheard one old woman telling her husband, "*Abaw si Inday Loren hulog kang langit — guapa, maaram kag may pag-ulikid pid kanaton.*" (*Inday Loren is a gift from heaven — beautiful, intelligent and passionately cares for us.*)

Naturally, *Inday Sally* is unabashedly biased towards Loren. Only time will tell if indeed she is just being biased towards Loren, or just saying it like it is.

It would be nice to see Antique rise with the tides of its beautiful seas. *

(You may e-mail me at joanneraamirez@yahoo.com. Follow me on Instagram @joanneraamirez.)



05 JUL 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Students urged to help save environment, fight crime

QUEZON City students should start protecting the environment and help in crime prevention at a young age.

This was emphasized in the memorandum of understanding signed by the Quezon City Police District (QCPD), QC government, the Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) and the Schools Division Office during the launching of the 24th Police Community Relations Month in Camp Karingal last Monday.

According to QCPD director Brig. Gen. Joselito Esquivel, the agreement aims to promote the importance of environmental protection and crime prevention among students under "Project Batang Bayani and Teacher Magiting".

"Bahagi ng proyektong ito yung mga maliliit na magagawang mga bata (sa pangangalaga sa kalikasan), for example, instead of using one time use plastic straws ay gumamit na lamang ng metal straws, paggamit ng ecobags, at pagse-segregate ng basura," Esquivel said.

QC mayor Joy Belmonte for her part, called on students to be proactive and responsible for the environment even at a young age as a way to assure QC's sustainable development.

Meanwhile, more Navotenos will be given access to free technical-vocational education and training following the inauguration of the fifth and main center of the Navotas Vocational Training and Assessment (NAVOTAAS) Institute.

Mayor John Rey Tiangco and Vice Mayor Clint Geronimo, together with other city and barangay officials, led the inauguration of the 4-storey building at C3 Road, Bgy. North Bay Boulevard South-Kaunlaran.

The inauguration was held in line with Navotas' celebration of its 12th cityhood anniversary recently.

Courses at the NAVOTAAS Institute-Main include Shielded Metal Arc Welding NC II, Gas Tungsten Arc Welding NC II, Automotive Servicing NC I & II, and Electronic Product Assembly & Servicing NC II.

Also available are Electrical Installation & Maintenance NC II, Ref & Air-con Servicing NC II, Animation NC II, Visual Graphics NC II, and Contact Center Servicing NC II.

NAVOTAAS Institute is accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Joel dela Torre and Edd Reyes



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



05 JUL 2019

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BOOSTING THE PHILIPPINES RECYCLING INDUSTRY. *SINIMULAN* ng Coca-Cola Philippines ang proyekto tungo sa isang Mundong Walang Basura sa pamamagitan ng pagkolekta at pag-recycle sa mga bote at lata ng kanilang produkto. (Mula kaliwa) Anna Oposa, Co-Founder ng Save Philippine Seas; Jonah De Lumen-Pernia, Coca-Cola Philippines Public Affairs and Communications Director; Gareth McGeown, Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines Inc. President and CEO; Sung Yong Kim, US Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines, Senador Cynthia Villar; Winn Everhart, Coca-Cola Philippines President and General Manager; Marjorie Jalosjos, DILG ASec.; Atty. Juan Lorenzo Tañada, Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc. Director for Corporate and Regulatory Affairs.



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MAY 20 2019

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
No. 005**

**Subject : Procedures on Electronic Payment Facility for
Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) and
Certificate of Non-Coverage (CNC) Online Applications**

WHEREAS, EMB Memorandum Circular No. 2015-003 provides guidelines for the online CNC Application for Category D Projects.

WHEREAS, EMB Memorandum Circular No. 2015-008 provides guidelines for the online ECC application for single and new Category B Projects requiring IEE Checklist on its application.

WHEREAS, mode of payment of processing fees for both CNC and ECC online applications are through Over-the-Counter Collection (On-Coll) facility wherein the clients will deposit their payments at any Landbank branches nationwide which entails additional cost in transportation.

NOW THEREFORE, in order to ensure the easy and seamless payment of ECC and CNC applications, the Environmental Management Bureau forged a Tri-partite Memorandum of Agreement with the Landbank of the Philippines and the Bureau of the Treasury on 13 December 2017 for the Electronic Payment Portal (EPP) payment scheme. The clients of ECC and CNC online application were given an option to pay thru electronic facility, in addition to the existing on-coll facility of Landbank.

I. Payment Procedures through the EPP

- a) Order of payment shall be generated by the online system upon filing of application
- b) Reference number in the order of payment shall be entered in the electronic payment portal.
- c) The clients will pay via internet the processing fee for ECC or CNC applications using *any Bancnet debit card*.
- d) Upon payment, the system generates and issues online payment confirmation which may be printed or sent through e-mail, as applicable.
- e) Available seven (7) days a week, including holidays, except during system maintenance

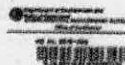
II. Prohibited Acts

No payment shall be accepted through the EMB Cashier for ECC and CNC application filed through the online system. Otherwise, the ECC or CNC applications shall be considered null and void.

III. Effectivity

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and upon submission of three (3) certified copies thereof to the Office of the National Administrative Register of the University of the Philippines Law Center.

ENGR. METODIO U. TURBELLA



Malaya - July 5, 2019



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
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M. Times - July 5, 2019