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# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



# COA calls out DENR on foreign funded projects

By **ELIZABETH MARCELO**

The Commission on Audit (COA) has called out the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) over the delays in its implementation of two foreign-funded projects.

The COA said the delay resulted in the government's paying P10.707 million in commitment fees.

In its 2018 annual audit report on the DENR, the COA said the agency posted "low physical accomplishment" for its Forest

Management Project (FMP) and Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management Project (INREMP), funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Asian Development Bank (ADB), respectively.

The FMP is a 10-year project set to be implemented from July 2, 2012 to July 3, 2022, seeking to rehabilitate degraded forestlands in three critical river basins – the Upper Magat and Cagayan basin, the Upper Pampanga basin and the Jalaur basin in Panay Island.

The project has the end-goal of improving the socio-economic conditions and mitigating disaster risks in the vulnerable communities near the river basins.

The INREMP, meanwhile, is a seven-year project set to be implemented from Aug. 9, 2013 to Dec. 31, 2020, aimed at improving the management of watersheds in four priority river basins – the Chico River Basin in Cordillera Administrative Region; the Wahig-Inabanga River Basin in Bohol Island; the Lake Lanao Basin in Mindanao;

and the Upper Bukidnon River Basin in Bukidnon province with the end-goal of improving the socio-economic conditions of indigenous people and the other poor residents in the surrounding communities.

The DENR's Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Services (FASPS) was tasked to lead the implementation of both projects.

"The FASPS of the DENR manages the implementation of FMP and INREMP, which are both way past their mid-term of implementation," the

COA said.

The audit body noted that as of Dec. 31, 2018, the physical progress of the FMP stood at 76.15 percent as against the 98.58 target percentage of accomplishment for the end of the year.

The COA said physical accomplishment for INREMP stood at 38 percent as of year-end as against the target of 78 percent.

"The continual delay in the implementation defeats the project goal of inclusive growth and poverty reduction for the INREMP and integrat-

ing conservation and development-oriented activities with full participation and capacitation of local communities for the FMP," the COA said.

"It may also affect the timely completion of the FMP and INREMP in years 2022 and 2020, respectively," it added.

The audit body added that because of the delay in the implementation of the projects, the government was made to pay a total of P10.707 million in commitment fees – P6.927 million for INREMP and P3.78 million for FMP.



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### ***DENR sa mga Mayor***

## **Linisin din ang mga ilog, karagatan**

Hiniling ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa mga bagong upong mayor na linisin din ang mga ilog at karagatan na nasa kanilang area of responsibility.

Ito ay ginawa ni DENR Assistant Secretary Joan Lagunda bilang reaksyon sa ginagawang

sundalo habang pinani-niwalaang nagtamo ng maraming casualties ang mga kalaban base sa mga patak ng dugo na nakita sa lugar na dinaanan ng mga ito sa pagtakas. *(Joy Cantos)*

paglilinis ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno sa Maynila partikular sa Divisoria at Quiapo, Maynila.

Ayon kay Lagunda, dapat isama din ng alkalde na linisin ang maruruming estero sa Maynila gayundin ang ilog at karagatan sa lungsod.

Kahapon pinangunahan ng DENR ang mga volunteers at government agencies sa Gate 46 sa Parola compound, Maynila para linisin ang 225 metro na coastal area ng Barangay 275 sa Parola, sa lugar na

ito nagsasalubong ang ilog Pasig at Manila Bay kayat santambak ang basura na nai-pon dito mula sa iba't ibang LGU sa Metro Manila.

Nanawagan din ang DENR sa publiko na huwag magtatapon ng basura sa estero o ilog lalo na na ngayong tag-ulan upang hindi pagmulan ng iba't ibang uri ng sakit at hindi pamugaran ng lamok na may dalang sakit na dengue na karaniwang lumalabas sa panahon ng tag-ulan. *(Angie dela Cruz)*



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## EDITORIAL

### HUWAG NINGAS-KUGON

HINIHING ng higit na nakararaming mamamayan ng Lungsod ng Maynila at iba pang mamamayan na huwag hayaan ni Mayor Francisco 'Isko Moreno' Domagoso na maging ningas-kugon ang paglilinis sa buong lungsod.

Gayundin ang hindi pagpapabaya sa mga nawalan ng pwesto na maliliit na manininda upang hindi naman mabuhay sa gutom at kahirapan ang mga ito.

Kaugnay nito, dahil sa ipinakitang gilas ni Mayor Domagoso sa paglilinis ng mga lansangan mula sa mga sagabal na pawang ilegal, hinihiling na rin mismo ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa pamahalaang lungsod na isama na sa paglilinis ang mga ilog, estero at drainage na sakop ng lungsod.

Lahat ng ito ay ginagawa upang maibsan ang mga katakot-takot na trapik at basura na pinagmumulan ng mga malalaking problema.

Kung matrapik at mabasura, magbubunga ito ng pagkakasakit sanhi ng polusyon, virus at mikrobyo.

Pinipigilan din ng trapik at basura ang pag-unlad ng mga negosyo dahil sa bagal ng transportasyon at pagkakasakit ng mga obrero at namumuhunan.

Marami ring krimen ang nagaganap sa mga matatrapik na lugar gaya ng mga mandurukot sa mga sasakyan at paggamit ng trapik ng mga korap na opisyal at tauhan ng pamahalaang lungsod para mangotong.

May mga kotongan ding nagaganap sa mga pagtatambak ng basura kahit saan.

Hindi rin maisulong ang turismo sa Maynila na pangunahing lungsod ng Pilipinas.

Ayon sa mga mamamayan, magandang pasimula ang mga giyera sa trapik at basura at inaasahang mapalalawak pa ang ganitong pagkilos.



## PABRIKA NA NAGTATAPON NG KEMIKAL IPINASARA NG DENR

INIUTOS ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) sa Region 3 ang pagpapasara sa isang pabrika na nagtatapon ng kemikal sa isang bakanteng lote sa Marilao, Bulacan.

Ang kautusan ay ginawa ni DENR-EMB Region 3 director Lomelyn Claudio laban sa Silver Bridge Factory sa Prenza 2, Marilao.

Noong Miyerkules ay nahintakutan ang mga residente ng Prenza 2 dahil sa pagsi-ngaw ng nakasusulasok na amoy sa loteng pag-aari ng kompanya.

Nagdulot ito ng pagkahilo ng ilang residente. May namatay

na isang senior citizen at dito ibinunton ang sisi.

Agad na umaksyon si Mayor Ricky Silvestre at pansamantalang inilikas ang mga residente sa ligtas na lugar.

Sa pagsusuri, natuklasan na galing ang mabaho at nakahihilong amoy sa waste disposal area ng Silver Bridge Factory na gumagawa ng mga aluminum kitchenware at gumagamit ng ammonium nitrate sa paglilinis.

Sa pagsisiyasat naman ng DENR, nalaman nito na ang mga nagamit na ammonium nitrate ay itinatapon sa waste disposal area ngunit hindi agad natatabunan kaya nagdulot ng nakasusulasok na amoy.

**DANNY GRAVADOR**



# Drilon calls for total ban on waste imports

**CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE**

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon has called for a total ban on all waste imports and heavier fines and imprisonment of up to 12 years against violators. Drilon's Senate Bill No. 18 titled "Waste Importation Ban Act of 2019" seeks to prohibit waste imports, including recyclable materials, from entering the Philippines. The proposal came in the wake of reports that the country is gradually becoming a dump for foreign waste. Drilon cited how the recent garbage from Canada found its way to the Philippines, saying the country has become a cross boundary

disposal site of unwanted and toxic shipments of waste from Australia, South Korea, Hong Kong and Japan. Despite the passage of several laws intended to protect the country from being a destination of imported waste, Drilon said these garbage continue to enter the country to the detriment of the people and the environment. "These incidents indicate that we have become a dumping ground for waste generated by other nations. We must fix our laws that allowed that to happen," Drilon said. "We must then prohibit the importation of all kinds of waste or scrap, including recyclable materials.

We should never allow our country to be a dumpsite," he added. The senator said his bill prohibits even recyclable materials from entering the Philippines, noting how unscrupulous individuals took advantage of the loopholes in the existing laws to bring other nations' garbage into the country. Drilon's bill mandates that all imported wastes should immediately be brought back to the country of origin at the expense of the consignor or importer. "The passage of this measure will no doubt stop the waste trade in the country and send a clear message to other countries that the Philippines

is not a landfill," he said. Under SB 18, any person who misdeclares or brings waste into the Philippines, or assists in the importation of waste products, would face stiffer penalties. "Violators may be fined with up to P15 million and/or imprisoned for eight to 12 years," Drilon said, adding if the offender is a foreigner, he should be deported after serving the sentence. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Customs should strictly monitor the importation and enforce tighter regulations to avoid shipment of waste, including recyclable materials, into the country.



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## SENATOR PUSHES BAN ON WASTE IMPORTS

SENATE Minority Leader Franklin Drilon on Saturday pushed for a measure seeking to impose a total ban on waste importation and prosecute violators with hefty fines or jail term of up to 12 years.

Drilon's Senate Bill No. 18 or the Waste Importation Ban Act of 2019 prohibits all waste imports, including recyclable materials, from entering the Philippines.

The senator came up with the measure on the heels of numerous reports showing that the country is becoming a dumpsite of foreign waste.

He cited how the recent Canadian garbage inside the 103 shipping containers found its way to Philippine shores and how our country has become a cross boundary disposal site of unwanted and toxic shipments of waste from waste exporters like Australia, South Korea, Hong Kong and Japan.

Drilon explained that under his bill, not even recyclable materials can enter the Philippines, pointing out how unscrupulous individuals were using loopholes in existing laws to bring other nations' garbage into the country.

Drilon's bill also mandates that all imported wastes shall be immediately brought back to the country of origin at the expense of the consignor or importer.

"The passage of this measure will no doubt stop the waste trade in the country and send a clear message to other countries that the Philippines is not a landfill," the minority leader said.

Under Senate Bill 18, any person who misdeclares, brings into the Philippines any waste, or assists in the importation of waste products shall be punished by very hefty sanctions and penalties.

"Violators may be fined with up to P15 million and/or imprisoned for 8 to 12 years," Drilon warned.

If the offender is a foreigner, the offender shall be deported after serving the sentence, he added. **Joel Zurbano**



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## Drilon seeks total ban on waste imports

SENATE Minority Leader Franklin Drilon has called for a total ban on the importation of all kinds of wastes, including recyclable materials.

Drilon filed Senate Bill (SB) 18 or the "Waste Importation Ban Act of 2019," which seeks to ban all wastes from entering the Philippines.

The filing of the bill was in response to numerous reports that the country was gradually becoming a dumping ground of foreign waste.

The senator cited the entry of garbage from Canada, Australia, South Korea, Hong Kong and Japan.

He lamented that existing laws protecting the country from being made into a dumpsite of foreign wastes had not stopped the entry of foreign trash "to the detriment of our people and environment."

"We must then prohibit the importation of all kinds of waste or scrap, including recyclable materials. We should never allow our country to be a dumpsite," the veteran lawmaker stressed.

Under SB 18, even recyclable

materials would not be allowed to enter the Philippines. It also mandates that all imported wastes shall be immediately returned to the country of origin at the expense of the importer.

Furthermore, any person who misdeclares, brings any waste into the country or assists in its importation shall be meted hefty penalties.

"Violators may be fined with up to P15 million and/or imprisoned for 8 to 12 years," Drilon warned.

If the offender was a foreigner, he or she would be deported after serving the sentence, he added.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Customs shall be tasked to strictly monitor imports and enforce regulations in order to avoid the shipment of waste into the country.

"The passage of this measure will no doubt stop the waste trade in the country and send a clear message to other countries that the Philippines is not a landfill," Drilon said.

**JAVIER JOE ISMAEL**





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**SOUNDS  
OF SCIENCE**  
**PECIER  
DECIERDO**

## WHY WE SHOULD CARE ABOUT CORAL REEFS

WHY should we take care of coral reefs? As a lover of marine life, I find that question strange. To me, it is not very different from asking, "Why should we care about babies?"

My perspective, however, is a peculiar and privileged one. I have seen coral reefs up close and find them mesmerizing, and I think their aesthetic beauty and the diversity of life they contain has inherent value worth preserving for its own sake.

I understand that not everyone can share this evaluation for many reasons. Even then, I think everyone should still care about coral reefs, if at least for the most selfish of reasons.

Before we look at the reasons why we should care about coral reefs, it helps to review some basic science.

Coral reefs are like the forests of the sea. They are teeming with different kinds of living things and have structures that support complex interrelationships between different living things. Unlike trees, however, corals are not plants. Instead, corals are animals related to jellyfish and sea anemone.

Many species of corals have the amazing ability of building complex structures that provide shelter and protection of other living things. It takes a long time for coral reefs to grow, because individual corals grow slowly. In fact, most corals grow by less than an inch (2.5 cm) per year.

Despite the slow pace of reef-building, corals have had eons to construct their colorful underwater cities. Many islands, such as the atolls of the South Pacific, exist thanks to the activity of corals over thousands of years. The biggest coral reef on Earth, the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia, can be seen from space!

Despite the impressive size of some coral reefs, they only cover less than 1 percent of the vast ocean floor. This makes it even more impressive that coral reefs are home to probably around one quarter of all marine species!

Being home to a large number of fish and other marine species, coral reefs have incalculable value to people who depend on the sea as a source of food.

The Philippine seas are actually part of one of the most important marine areas on Earth—the Coral Triangle, home to more coral species than anywhere else on Earth. This area is also home to six of the seven species of sea turtles and to over 2000 species of fish, including tuna.

According to the World Wildlife Foundation, over 120 million people live in the area within the Coral Triangle and rely on its reefs for food and income.

Coral reefs also serve as protection from storms waves and strong currents. According to the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, coastlines protected by reefs are also "more stable, in terms of erosion, and are also a source of sand in natural beach replenishment."

Coral reefs also provides jobs based on tourism, employing thousands of people in areas where they are healthy enough to attract visitors from far away.

Coral reefs even provide medicines! By studying the vast biochemical repertoire of the living things in coral reefs, scientists discover new medicines that help sick people living hundreds of kilometers away from the nearest shoreline.

The total value of coral reefs to people has been estimated at 172 billion dollars (8.8 trillion pesos) each year.

Unfortunately, coral reefs are under many kinds of threats, ranging from direct physical damage (such as from overharvesting or being hit by ships) to stress from invasive species.

However, the worst threat to coral reefs is probably no other than global warming. Warm waters cause corals to lose the microscoping algae that produce the food corals need. As the globe warms, the ocean warms the fastest.

Another threat related to global warming is ocean acidification, which means that seawater is becoming more acidic. This happens when the excess carbon dioxide that causes global warming becomes absorbed by the ocean. The more acidic seawater makes it more difficult for corals to build their hard skeleton.

According to a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, if we fail to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, more than 99 percent of corals will be in grave danger.

Given how much we depend on them, the collapse of the world's coral reefs is too tragic for comparison. However, science warns us that it will happen if we do not address the climate crisis.

Given how valuable coral reefs are to us, even to those of us who think we do not depend greatly on the bounty of the sea, it is time we start caring about coral reefs. Fortunately preserving the richness of life underwater requires us to simply preserve life above water. In the face of global warming, saving the seas means saving ourselves.



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## Philippine eaglet spotted

Forest rangers are now closely watching the area to ensure the safety of the bird

By Perseus Echeminada

IMPASUGONG, Bukidnon — A young Philippine eagle was spotted by forest rangers perching on its nest in the Kitanglad Mountain Range in this town, a forest ranger officer said yesterday.

Daniel Somera, Superintendent of the Mt. Kitanglad Mountain Range said the young bird is the third eagle seen in its natural habitat in the protected area.

"Forest rangers are now closely watching the area to ensure the safety of the bird," he said.

The bird, also known as the monkey eating eagle or *Kahumbata* to the natives was first seen by forest rangers in April last year trying to fly near its nest. The age of the bird was three months old at that time.

In recent sightings, the bird was spotted flying with its parent, Somera said.

Forest rangers recorded the presence of the birds in the area using cyber tracker, the mobile application used in the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity System.

The Mt. Kitanglad Natural Park is an Association of Southeast Asian Nation heritage park protected mainly by the Higaonon tribesmen. According to the forest rangers in Mt. Kitanglad, at least five to six pairs of eagles are currently inhabiting the area.

The Philippine Eagle the national bird of the country is listed as critically endangered species.



## Chico River Basin Devt Authority proposed

**TABUK CITY, Kalinga:** Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang has refiled a bill seeking the creation of the Chico River Basin Development Authority (CRBDA) to ensure the sustainable preservation of the largest river system in the Cordillera.

The Chico River starts from the Mount Data plateau in Bauko, Mountain Province, snakes through other provinces in the Cordillera and exits through a discharge channel in the Cagayan River.

The proposed bill puts the CBDRA under the Office of the President, so it can carry out an integrated approach to manage the Chico River Basin.

Mangaoang, now on his second term, said the bill is anchored on the state policy to promote the integrated management and development of resources in the country's river basins in the context of a river basin approach to optimize economic and social welfare without compromising the environment and to ensure a fair sharing of the national patrimony between highland and lowland peoples.

He added that the bill would establish the legal framework and mechanisms for the creation of the CRBDA; consolidate all development initiatives within the river basin under the overall framework of a unified river-basin management and development approach; maximize the participation of all stakeholders in the area; establish the most effective approach for sustainable collaboration among all stakeholders; promote equitable sharing of costs and benefits from the basin's natural resources across sectors and communities; and negotiate local and external investment in the area to increase livelihood opportunities for the people within the Chico River Basin.

**DEXTER A. SEE**



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### **Reds kill DENR employee, burn heavy equipment**

An employee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources was found dead at an environmental protection task force office in Barangay Sindon Bayabo in Ilagan City, Isabela on Friday.

Probers said the body of Celso Asuncion, 58, bore multiple gunshot wounds.

Lt. Col. Chievalier Iringan, Cagayan Valley police spokesman, said they received reports that members of the New People's Army's (NPA) Southern Front Committee were behind Asuncion's murder.

In Surigao del Norte, police said suspected NPA guerrillas burned heavy equipment owned by a private firm involved in a road project in Barangay Tagbayani, Sison.

Meanwhile, Col. Adonis Bajao of the Army's 1002nd Brigade said a commander, squad leader and medic of the NPA's Guerrilla Front 71 operating in Sarangani and Davao Occidental recently surrendered and turned over their guns.

- Raymund Catindig, Ben Serrano, Ramil Bajo



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXHIBIT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1800

# MANILA BULLETIN

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## Isabela PENRO employee killed

By **LIEZLE BASA-INIGO**

CAMP MARCELO A ADDURU, Tuguegarao City – A member of the Provincial Environment Regional Office (PENRO)-Isabela Environment Protection Task Force was found dead inside the task force office in Ilagan City, Isabela Friday.

The victim was identified as Celso Asuncion, 58, and a member of the Isabela

Environment Protection Task Force.

Investigators suspect that the perpetrators of the crime belonged to an “agaw armas (weapon snatching)” syndicate may have been responsible for the killing of Asuncion.

They said the same group, which is reportedly composed of New People’s Army (NPA) rebels, also accosted five police officers on Friday.



# Cops condemn killing of DENR employee, disarming of 5 lawmen

THE Police Regional Office 2 headed by Brigadier General Jose Mario Espino yesterday condemned a series of New People's Army atrocities in the region including the killing of a member of the Isabela Provincial Environment and Natural Resources and the disarming of five local policemen.

Espino said that the guerrillas disarmed Corporals Gaudencio Castillo Jr. and Earl Brian Gannaban, both members of the Cauayan City Police Station; Staff Sergeant Fernando Capilian of the Cordon Municipal Police Station; and Master Sergeant Julius Baribad and Cpl. Bryan Balisi, both members of the Divilacan Municipal Police Station.

Castillo, Gannaban and Capilian were in a pickup traveling in Sitio Lagis, Purok 7, Bgy. Sindun Bayabo in Ilagan City around 7:30 a.m. on Friday when stopped at gunpoint by some 25 heavily-armed NPA rebels led by "Ka Uno" and "Ka Damian."

The gunmen divested the three policemen of their short firearms, handheld radios, cash and oth-

er personal belongings before setting them free.

Thirty minutes later, the same group of suspects also disarmed Baribad and Balisi of their Philippine National Police-issued pistols.

Espino said that the five policemen identified two of their tor-

mentors as "Ka Uno" and an NPA amazon known by her alias "Valencia" after being showed pictures of suspected NPA personalities in the area.

The Cagayan Valley police director said that at around 2:45 p.m. on the same day, a concerned

citizen also reported the killing of Celso Asuncion, a 58-year-old member of the Isabela Environment Protection Task Force residing in Bgy. Cabisera 10.

The victim was found killed in his office in Bgy. Sindun Bayabo.

**Alfred Dalzon**



## **Kawani ng DENR nilikida, 5 parak dinisarmahan ng NPA**

**TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan-** Brutal na pinatay ng mga sinasabing rebeldeng New People's Army ang isang kawani ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at dinis-armahan pa ang limang pulis sa liblib na Brgy. Sindon Bayabo, Ilagan City, Isabela noong Biyernes.

Sa report ng pulisya, natagpuan ang duguang bangkay na tadtad ng bala ni Celso Asuncion, 58, kawani ng DENR Provincial Office dakong alas-7:30 ng umaga.

Si Asuncion ang tumatao sa opisina ng Environmental Protection Task Force na nagmamaman at nag-uulat sa mga nagaganap na illegal logging activities sa kabundukan ng Sierra Madre kung saan ginagawa ang Ilagan City-Divilacan Road sa tabi ng Pacific Ocean.

Ayon kay Lt. Col. Chievalier Iringan, tagapagsalita ng Cagayan Valley Police Office, sa hindi kalayuan ay pinigil din ng parehong grupo ng NPA-Southern Front Committee na pumatay kay Asuncion ang limang pulis na dumaan sa lugar sakay ng isang pickup. Dinis-armahan at pinagnakawan pa ng mga rebeldeng pinangunahan ni "Ka Uno" at "Ka Damian" sina Corporals Gaudencio Castillo Jr., Earl Brian Gannaban ng Cauayan City Police Station; Staff Sergeant Fernando Capillan ng Cordon; Master Sergeant Julius Baribad at Corporal Bryan Balisi ng Divilacan na kalaunan ay pinalaya. (Raymund Catindig)

## Kawani ng PENRO, todas sa rebelde

CAMP MARCELO A ADDURU, TUGUEGARAO CITY - Isang miyembro ng Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO)-Isabela Environment Protection Task Force ang umano'y pinaslang ng mga rebelde sa loob ng kanilang opisina sa Ilagan City, Isabela, nitong Huwebes ng hapon.

Ang biktima ay kinilala ng pulisya na si Celso Asuncion, 58, may-asawa, ng Brgy. Cabisera 10, ng nasabing lungsod.

Sinabi sa report na ang mga pumatay kay Asuncion ay responsable rin sa pang-aagaw ng mga armas sa limang pulis-Isabela, kamakailan.

Kaagad na naglatag ng checkpoint ang militar at pulisya sa mga lugar na posibleng daanan ng mga rebelde.

**Liezie Basa Inigo**





*Editorial* **EDITORIAL** *Editorial*

## Mga gov't. employee na adik sa cellphone, awat na!

**B** UKOD sa pakikipagtsismisan ng mga empleyado kahit hindi breaktime, paggamit ng cellphone habang nasa oras ng trabaho rin ang ikinagagalit ng mamamayan.

Ito umano ang karaniwang dahilan kaya mabagal ang serbisyo na kanilang nakukuha sa ilang opisina ng gobyerno.

Dahil dito, inirerekomenda ng Civil Service Commission (CSC) sa mga opisyal ng gobyerno at lokal na pamahalaan na magkaroon ng polisiya para sa paggamit ng cellphone ng kanilang mga kawani sa oras ng trabaho.

Ayon sa CSC, batid nilang magkakaiba ang mandato ng mga ahensiya ng gobyerno at lokal na pamahalaan kaya puwedeng hindi magkakatulad ang gagawing panuntunan kung saan maaari umanong magpalabas ng kani-kanyang memorandum ang mga tanggapan ng gobyerno.

Sa ganitong paraan, maiiwasan ang pagkakaroon ng hindi magandang impresyon ng mamamayan na nangangailangan ng serbisyo-publiko.

Para sa mga empleyado sa gobyerno, walang masama sa paggamit ng cellphone pero, mabuting limitahan ang paggamit nito sa oras ng trabaho.

Ang pagtatrabaho sa gobyerno ay isa ring paraan ng pagsisilbi sa bayan kaya dapat lamang na unahin ang trabaho bago ang sariling interes.



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## Reforestation could cut carbon levels – study

**WASHINGTON:** Good news: We can help halt climate change through a massive campaign of reforestation, according to a new study.

Bad news: It would require covering an area the size of the United States in new trees, and even then some scientists are skeptical about the paper's conclusions.

Such an effort could capture two-thirds of man-made carbon emissions and reduce overall levels in the atmosphere to their lowest in almost a century, according to the research that was carried out by ETH Zurich and published in *Science*.

The study is the first to attempt to quantify how many trees the earth can support, where to plant them and how much carbon they could store.

"We all knew restoring forests could play a part in tackling climate change, but we had no scientific understanding of what impact this could make," said co-author Thomas Crowther.

"Our study shows clearly that forest restoration is the best climate change solution available today."

The researchers studied around 80,000 high-resolution satellite photographs of protected forest areas, from the arctic tundra to equatorial rainforest, to establish a "natural level" of tree cover for each ecosystem.

They then used machine learning to identify 10 soil and climate variables that determine tree cover in each ecosystem, and created a predictive model to map potential tree cover worldwide under current environmental conditions.

The paper found that the earth could support 2.2 billion acres (900 million hectares) of trees that would sequester 205 billion tonnes of carbon.

Surprisingly, it found that these extra trees could be grown in croplands and urban areas, highlighting the major role agroforestry could play in tackling climate change.

The most recent report by the United Nations (UN) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change proposed that limiting climate change to 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit (1.5 degrees Celsius) would require up to an extra 2.47 billion acres of forest by 2050.

The team said their study evaluated the UN claim for the first time, showing where the trees could be restored and how much carbon they could capture.

The scenario, they added, was "undoubtedly achievable under the current climate."

But they warned that the need for action was urgent since a warming climate was already reducing the amount of land that could support new forests.

### 'Too good to be true'

Some experts who were not involved with the study, however, expressed skepticism about some of its findings.

"Restoration of trees may be 'among the most effective strategies,' but it is very far indeed from 'the best climate change solution available,' and a long way behind reducing fossil fuel emissions to net zero," said Myles Allen, a geosystem science professor at Oxford.

"Yes, heroic reforestation can help, but it is time to stop suggesting there is a 'nature-based solution' to ongoing fossil fuel use. There isn't. Sorry," he added.

Martin Lukac, a professor of ecosystem science at the University of Reading, added that one of the paper's weaknesses was its reliance on overly optimistic modeling.

"Planting trees to soak up two-thirds of the entire anthropogenic carbon burden to date sounds too good to be true. Probably because it is," he said.

"Humans have enhanced forest cover on a large scale only by shrinking their population size (Russia), increasing productivity of industrial agriculture (the West) or by direct order of an autocratic government (China).

"None of these activities look remotely feasible or sustainable at global scale."

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