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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Reviving river Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu (middle) proudly shows the memorandum of agreement between the DENR and the local government of Compostela Valley for the rehabilitation of the 24-kilometer Naboc River in the goldmine-rich area of Mt. Diwata.



PAGSAGIP SA NABOC RIVER-Buong pagmamalaking ipinakita ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatú (gitna) ang Memorandum of Agreement sa pagitan ng DENR at ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Compostela Valley para sa rehabilitasyon ng 24-kilometrong Naboc River sa Mt. Diwata, Compostela Valley na kilalang pinagkukunan ng ginto. Ang MOA, na pinirmahan sa opisina ng DENR-Davao Region noong Hulyo 17, 2019, ay akma sa Provincial Task Force Naboc River na binuo ni Cimatú noong isang taon sa bisa ng DENR Special Order (S.O.) 2018-593. Ang S.O. ay ayon sa kanyang priority agenda na buhayin muli ang mga mahalagang ilog ng bansa tulad ng Manila Bay at ang isla ng Boracay. Makikita rin sa larawan sina (mula sa kaliwa) DENR Assistant Secretary for Eastern Mindanao at concurrent Region 11 Director Ruth Tawantawan, Department of Public Works and Highways Region 11 Director Allan Borromeo, Department of Interior at Local Government Undersecretary Epimaco Densing, III at Compostela Valley Province Governor Jayvee Tyron Uy.



US grant boosts local drive vs plastic pollution

THE United States government is helping the Philippines battle marine debris, as it awarded local environment advocate Mother Earth Foundation and public interest network EcoWaste Coalition grants which totaled to about P20 million to support projects the groups had committed to undertake.

"We're proud to work with the Philippines in finding and funding solutions to the plastic waste problem in our oceans," US Deputy Chief of Mission John Law said at the grant-signing event in Quezon City.

Law raised the urgency for action, noting that the invasion of plastics in marine waters is already harming ecosystems and biodiversity, aside from threatening people's health.

"Every year, 8 million tons of plastic waste are [being dumped into] the world's oceans," the US embassy official said, and added such waste material ends up inside the bodies of people who eat fish that ingest the debris.

The grants are part of the Municipal Waste Recycling Program (MWRP) of USAID, the lead US government agency for international development and disaster assistance.

The MWRP "supports solid waste management and water recycling efforts by local and national governments, civil-society organizations and academic institutions in the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam," the US Embassy in Manila said in a statement.

According to Mother Earth Foundation Chairman Sonia Mendoza, the group will use part of their grant to transform the 30 barangay units in Batangas City into zero-waste villages.

"We'll do a house-to-house information and education campaign there to [educate] people," Mendoza said during the sidelines of the grant-signing ceremony.

She noted that achieving

zero waste will help mitigate the flow of debris—particularly plastics—into marine waters.

The foundation, the chairman told reporters, will undertake its project in the next 18 months.

EcoWaste National Coordinator Aileen Lucero said their share of the total grant will fund research on plastics pollution in Manila Bay and waste collection efficiency in the area.

"Data we'll generate will serve as baseline for the national action plan on marine litter," Lucero confirmed.

She also said such information will help the Environment Department assess its marine debris-relevant policies, so the agency can either enhance or change them within the one-and-a-half-year duration of EcoWaste's research project.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda thanked the US government for awarding the grants, as he noted the support would boost efforts in addressing the country's marine-debris problem.

Earlier, the Asean Center for Biodiversity (ACB) called for increased cooperation on mitigating plastics pollution in oceans to avert the further environmental degradation and biodiversity loss there.

"Saving our oceans is not the responsibility only of our governments and marine scientists. Each one of us can do our share to protect our rich marine heritage," ACB Executive Director and the Environment Department's former Biodiversity Chief, Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim said.

"By working together, we can protect our shared oceans," Lim pointed out.

The ACB official made the call as she noted that land-based activities and waste, particularly plastics, already account for more than 80 percent of marine pollution. *Catherine Teves/PNA*



Thirsty still



Val A. Villanueva

BUSINESSWISE

I'M amazed at how many of my readers seem to have not gotten over the issue of water shortage. They ask me to comment on the proposal put forth by President Rodrigo Duterte in his recent State of the Nation Address (Sona) to solve this crisis that has been gripping Metro Manila for months now.

A reader from Bulacan, Alfonso Capili, wrote to say that heavy rains these past days have flooded parts of the province, and yet most of their faucets remain dry. Another reader from Paco, Manila, Generoso Jose, said that the rotational water supply service that Maynilad Water Services Inc. has implemented has been keeping his family awake the whole night. Water service in that area of Manila is from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. "We have to buy drums and fill them up during these unholy hours just to survive a waterless life. This is just another hardship we have to endure, aside from many others."

Water, indeed, is something all of us can't live without. It is lamentable that such a basic service has been wanting, with no quick solution in sight.

I must admit that I skipped watching the Sona because of some health issues, but I did find time to read the transcript of the President's speech. Other than his directive to create a Department of Water Resources and a Water Regulatory Commission, Duterte did not discuss at length how the government plans to alleviate the water crisis: "We weathered one damaging effect of climate change this year. The El Niño were [sic] wreaked havoc in the agricultural sector and caused water shortage in the greater Metro Manila area. We need to pass bill [sic] creating the Department of Water Resources and Water Regulatory Commission."

A brief reprieve is to be expected, but not because a speedy solution has finally been found. The full effect of the rainy season is likely to substantially increase Angat Dam's water reserves to acceptable levels.

A long-lasting solution definitely could not be had in the near term. Building dams takes years. While these dams are being built, I believe that the government should seriously consider leading a nationwide water conservation campaign. Even before pursuing expensive new options for bolstering water supplies, it is critically important, I believe, that we minimize the volume of water used in our homes, farms and industries. When viewed as a water budget-balancing strategy, water conservation—both in cities and farms—typically costs one-third to one-tenth of the expense needed to develop new water sources. Another interim measure that the government should consider is halting water privatization until such time that dams from which these private water firms could draw water are built. At present, all these private water firms get their supply from only one water source.

The government should also make sure that the dams to be built are economically beneficial, and no communities will be displaced.

The construction of the China-funded Kaliwa Dam is supposed to start this month. Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Administrator Reynaldo Velasco says that the Kaliwa Dam in Infanta, Quezon, presents a long-term solution to address the water supply problem.

The engineering design should have been completed by now if the MWSS timetable were to be strictly followed. According to Velasco, Phase 1 of the New Cen-



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A long-lasting solution definitely could not be had in the near term. Building dams takes years. While these dams are being built, I believe that the government should seriously consider leading a nationwide water conservation campaign.

ennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam project will take four to five years to complete, but the government is pushing for a two-year completion. A 27-kilometer tunnel will connect the water source from General Nakar-Infanta in Quezon to a water treatment plant in Antipolo-Teresa in Rizal.

The initial phase of the dam project is expected to provide 600 million liters of water per day (MLD). This will be equally shared between the Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad. The second phase, the Laiban-Kanan Dam, is expected to churn out 1,800 MLD.

Construction of the dam has been getting stiff opposition from the Dumagat tribe, which fears that townsfolk living in the area would be displaced. No matter, Velasco says, because the project is signed, sealed and delivered. "It has been committed. This is a done deal."

But a Dumagat tribe leader is crying foul over the alleged lack of proper consent for dam project. Marcelino Tena, president of Samahan ng mga Katutubong Agta/Dumagat, laments that the MWSS did not seek free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of the tribe that will be affected by the project.

"They did not follow the right process to secure FPIC, they already assessed the water, marked the construction site and constructed an access road going to the site. They said they recognize the FPIC of indigenous peoples and that they should knock on the door before entering our homes, but it's not what's happening; they are forcing, even kicking, us." According to Tena, the project will displace an estimated 10,000 members of the Dumagat tribe. He added that the water regulator has also not provided them with documents regarding the project, such as the engineering design.

Under the official development assistance (ODA) grant from China signed in November 2018, China pledged to provide P12.2 billion or around 64 percent of the P18.7-billion project cost for the Kaliwa Dam. The shift in funding mechanism—from a public-private partnership (PPP) to an ODA grant from China—worries Vice President Leni Robredo. Under the PPP, the country would not shell out any amount, she says. She finds it absurd that 15 percent of the project cost would be shouldered by the government and we still have to borrow the 85 percent from China: "Why would we borrow, when under the PPP, we're not going to spend a cent?"

All things considered, it seems that we can't expect anything fresh and refreshing in the foreseeable future; we just have to moderate our thirst.

For comments and suggestions, e-mail me at mvala.v@gmail.com

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Biz execs name BSP best agency

By ELIJAH FELICE E. ROSALES

[@alyasjaht](#)

HALFWAY into the Duterte administration, private-sector leaders ranked the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) as the best performing agency, while the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) got the lowest satisfaction rating.

In the 2019 Executive Outlook Survey of the Makati Business Club (MBC), the BSP received a satisfaction rating of 97 percent from business executives, from 95.4 percent in 2015.

Behind the Central Bank are the National Economic and Development Authority with 84.5 percent, and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration with 84.2 percent, from 80.3 percent and 89.4 percent, respectively.

Rounding out the best five performing agencies for business leaders are the Department of Trade and Industry with 82.8 percent, from 84.8 percent; and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) with 81.1 percent, from 76.3 percent.

The BSP was one of the agencies that took on the Herculean task of managing inflation, which

SEE "BSP," A2



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BSP...

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hit a record high of 6.7 percent in September and October 2018. The Central Bank raised interest rates by a total of 175 basis points to counter inflation.

After peaking at 6.7 percent, inflation started settling within the government target range of 2 percent to 4 percent, and eased to 2.7 percent in June, according to data from the PSA.

However, the BSP suffered a leadership loss when Governor Nestor T. Espenilla passed away in February after battling tongue cancer for nearly one year. He was succeeded by then-Budget Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno.

MWSS worst

BECAUSE of the water supply problem seen this year, private sector leaders gave the MWSS a satisfaction rating of 21.9 percent, the worst among 69 agencies included in the survey.

Joining the MWSS in the cellar are the Bureau of Customs with 27.6 percent, House of Representatives with 28 percent, Department of Agriculture with 28.4 percent, and the Presidential Communica-

tions Operations Office (PCOO) with 32.3 percent.

"Last year rice prices spiked, fueling inflation after the government failed to import sufficient rice. This year parts of Metro Manila experienced a water shortage," the survey read.

At the height of the water crisis in March, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the country's largest business network, demanded more accountability from east zone concessionaire Manila Water for its failure to prevent and manage the water shortage in Metro Manila. Business groups also demanded that government secure a secondary water source for the nation's capital. Metro Manila sources 96 percent of its water supply from Angat Dam.

In spite of high approval ratings from the public, business executives are divided on the performance of President Duterte's office, as shown in the survey. The Office of the President received a satisfaction rating of 49 percent, and was among the 27 agencies that got a negative score from the respondents.

The survey covered 100 respondents from 100 firms. The respondents were asked whether they are satisfied with last year's performance of 69 agencies.

Water safety warning

SINCE water is life, it is best to remind ourselves regularly of water safety guidelines. On average, city water is fairly safe to drink, according to US water standard. It is filtered, chlorinated and carefully monitored for bacteria, etc. However, tourists from other countries and some local residents not used to drinking city water may develop gastro-intestinal problems from drinking city water. Modern medical science has proven the superiority of purified water as a "healthier drink" over city water. And clean water is essential to our health. We do not need alkaline or ionized water, unless we have an illness that requires them. Today, they are a common scam, victimizing the uninformed and gullible.

What water is it not safe to drink?

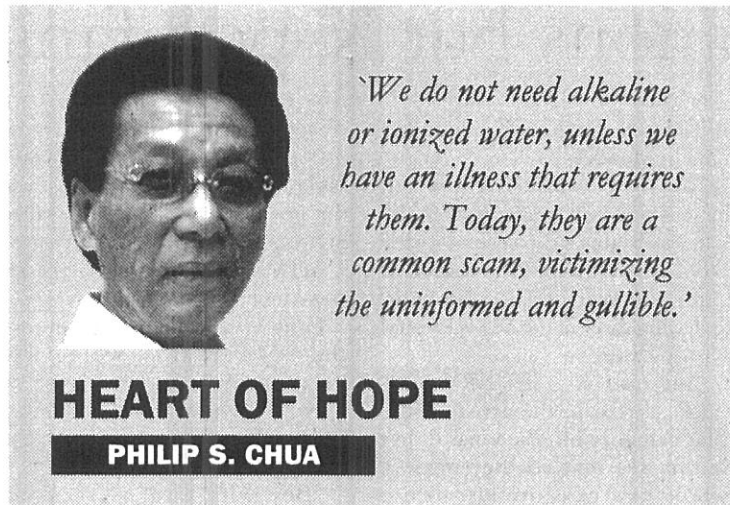
Turbid water that smells and tastes bad is obviously not safe to drink, but clear water that smells normal and does not taste bad could still have contaminants and chemical solids that are harmful to one's health. The safest habit is to drink purified water, one that is processed through an effective water filtration system, called reverse osmosis, and UV light exposure. We do not even need to drink mineral water since we get the needed minerals from our food. Distilled water, which is the purest H₂O, is too expensive. Purified water is salt-free, bacteria/virus/protozoa-free, a most practical health choice, and cheaper too.

What happens when one drinks tainted water?

Depending on the type of bacteria, and how severe the contamination is, the symptoms may range from mild stomach ache lasting a few hours to severe diarrhea (with or without vomiting) with varying degrees of dehydration, lasting days. If untreated, the more severe form of this gastroenteritis may be serious or even fatal, especially among children and the elderly.

Why can't some people tolerate city water?

Bacteria are not the only thing that cause problems in the faucet (city) water people drink. There are also inorganic and organic chemicals that greatly affect the quality of water, its clarity and taste. Some of these chemical "solids" in faucet water bother some people. The adverse effect may be so subtle it may take years or even decades before it manifests itself.



HEART OF HOPE

PHILIP S. CHUA

'We do not need alkaline or ionized water, unless we have an illness that requires them. Today, they are a common scam, victimizing the uninformed and gullible.'

What are the common water contaminants?

There are 3 categories of these contaminants: Inorganic (minerals, which may affect taste of water); organic (from decaying plants, dirt, sediments, bacteria, amoeba and protozoa); and synthetic (urban, agricultural and industrial pollutants, such as PCB, DBCP, TCE and others, as well as chlorine and its by-products, all of which contaminants could cause health problems).

Where do bacterial contaminants come from?

Bacterial contaminants obviously come from human feces and animal excreta, decaying plants, viruses and giardia cysts, that somehow reach the water supply, and which are resistant to chlorine. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognizes 129 toxic "priority pollutants" in water that pose the greatest health hazard.

Where do chemical water pollutants come from?

We, the people, are the culprits, the sources of these chemical pollutants. Gasoline, oil, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, and over 100,000 other agricultural and industrial chemical compounds eventually contaminate our rivers, lakes, and oceans -- our sources of water. They kill fish and other water life, and humans too. Human carelessness or callousness are the main causes of most of the pollution problems in our environment today.

Is chlorine totally safe?

Chlorine, which is internationally accepted chemical to treat city water, is safe and effective to a great extent. However, chlorine

could also combine with naturally occurring organic substances to form chlorinated hydrocarbons known as trihalomethanes (THMs), which are cancer-causing substances. However, the dose and manner used by city filtration programs around the country make water safe. In spite of this, I still recommend drinking bottled water or water that has undergone at least 5 to 6-stage filtration systems.

What are the chemicals that pose major health hazards?

Lead, radon, sodium, nitrates, asbestos, carbon chemicals. Lead could lead to brain damage and seizures, especially in children. Radon causes about 40,000 lung cancer deaths every year. Excessive salt predisposes one to high blood pressure and cardiovascular disorders. Nitrates are dangerous to infants and they may also form nitrosamines that are potent carcinogens in the digestive tract. Asbestosis also causes cancer in the lining of the chest walls and lungs. Carbon chemicals may also increase cancer risk.

What are the other toxic metals in unfiltered water?

These are heavy metals such as mercury, arsenic, cadmium and lead. The sources of these pollutants are industrial chemicals and wastes. These are dumped into the rivers and lakes every minute of the day, poisoning our water supplies.

What is hard water?

This is water saturated with magnesium, calcium, and iron, and many other inorganic minerals. Water in deep wells, lakes, and rivers is hard water. As a rule, boiling water kills most of the bacteria but concentrates the inorganic minerals in it. This is why one sees

"salt-like crystals" or sediments at the bottom of the pot used for boiling water. Many minerals still remain in the water after boiling.

How does one check water at home?

Today, there are TDS (total dissolved solids) meters available. When one buys ZeroWater filter canister or pitcher, a TDS meter comes with it. The complete system is not expensive (\$30-\$40). ZeroWater is a 5-stage filtration system. Example: The TDS reading for water in Las Vegas is about 418 (Zip code 89134, in Sun City, Summerlin). ZeroWater filtered water reads "zero" TDS level. Actually, government standard says: "It is excellent if the TDS is less than 300 mg/L. It is good if the TDS is between 300 to 600 mg/L. It is fair if the TDS is between 600 to 900 mg/L. Since ZeroWater filter also removes good minerals like fluoride, I do not recommend it for daily drinking, especially for children. Occasionally is fine where water is suspect. You can carry this tiny TDS meter with you when you travel.

Which is the best water purification system?

Water purification is now both a science and a technology. Researches in this field, including final post-purification analysis and testing procedures, substantiate the fact that regular faucet water (even boiled) is not the best water for people to drink, that purified water is a lot more superior and healthier to consume, and that reverse osmosis and UV light exposure is the most modern system that is safe and most effective. The 16-stage state-of-the-art purification system, a United States technology using automatic regenerating process (ARP), most superior when it comes to producing truly safe purified water for healthy drinking. In this day and age of polluted environment and health-consciousness, drinking purified water is no longer a luxury but an imperative health necessity for everyone. Sadly, many third world countries do not even have safe drinking water because of the pollution of rivers, lakes, and oceans.

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Water in Angat recedes again

The water level in Angat Dam has been receding again.

Based on the monitoring of the Bulacan provincial disaster risk reduction and management office, the water level dropped to 161.35 meters yesterday from 161.46 meters on Tuesday.

On Monday, the water level was recorded at 161.55 meters.

Water in the dam rose above its critical level of 160 meters on Friday last week amid rains spawned by Tropical Storm Falcon and the southwest monsoon.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said there would be not enough rain until today to increase the water level in Angat Dam.

PAGASA weather specialist Ana Claren said no low-

pressure area or tropical cyclone is expected to enter the country that could enhance the moisture-laden southwest monsoon.

Sevillo David Jr., executive director of the National Water Resources Board, had earlier said cloud-seeding operations over the Angat and La Mesa watersheds would resume after Falcon exits the Philippine area of responsibility.

"The public can support our efforts in preserving water in Angat Dam by enhancing our... conservation through responsible use... including harvesting and recycling of rainwater," David added.

Angat Dam supplies about 97 percent of Metro Manila's water needs.

- Helen Flores, Ramon Efren Lazaro



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Boracay land reform yet to be completed

DAR says 18 hectares still to be distributed to island settlers after Atis received lots

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
@nestorburgosINQ

ILOILO CITY—At least 18 hectares of land identified for agrarian reform on Boracay Island remain to be distributed to beneficiaries, according to the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

The parcels of land will be given to native settlers of the resort island who do not belong to the Ati tribe.

The tribe members, who earlier received a total of 3.2 ha, have declined to receive more land, Stephen Leonidas, DAR Western Visayas regional director, told the Inquirer on Tuesday.

In his State of the Nation Address on Monday, President Duterte cited among his administration's accomplishments the distribution of land to the Ati tribe of Boracay in Malay, Aklan.

Ancestral domain

"So I told the [Department of] Agrarian Reform, 'Go to the place, have it inspected because I will declare the whole of the island a land reform program.' And I gave the islands piece by piece to the Atis, the natives of the place," the President said.

In November last year, Mr. Duterte formally turned over the 3.2 ha of land to 44 families belonging to the Boracay Ati Tribal Organization.



ATI LAND Ati families are said to be among the first inhabitants of Boracay, an island in Malay, Aklan, that has attracted tourists due to its white sand beaches and clear waters.

—MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

The land area is 0.31 percent of the 1,032-ha island, which is among the top tourist attractions of the country.

The parcels of land are covered by five collective certificates of land ownership award (Cloas) in four areas at Barangay Manoc-Manoc, one of the three villages on the island.

Ownership disputes

The government, through the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, issued in 2011 a certificate of ancestral domain title (CADT) to the tribe

covering a 2.1-ha beachfront property in Manoc-Manoc.

The community occupies only a portion of the CADT-covered property due to ownership disputes.

Land claims

Agrarian Reform Secretary John Castriciones, in a press conference here on Wednesday, said that aside from the 3.2 ha already turned over to the tribe, about 16 ha would still be distributed.

He said a deed of transfer covering the 16 ha had been ex-

ecuted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) with the DAR for processing and eventual distribution.

Castriciones said the DAR had also identified residents who have land claims in Boracay.

He said this will help clear the wetlands of the island because many of the beneficiaries are residing in wetland areas.

"We are looking forward to the distribution of these lands in August. We are intending to invite the President (to lead the distribution)...," Castriciones said.

Subdivision plan

Aside from the 16 ha, Leonidas said parcels of land, covering 2.3 ha in Barangay Manoc-Manoc, were being processed for awarding through a collective Cloa to 31 non-Ati families within the year.

He said they were waiting for the completion of the subdivision plan for the area.

The remaining 16 ha being considered for distribution were still being validated by a team composed of personnel from the DAR and the DENR. This involves determining the suitability of the land for agriculture, delineation of boundaries and identification of beneficiaries. INQ



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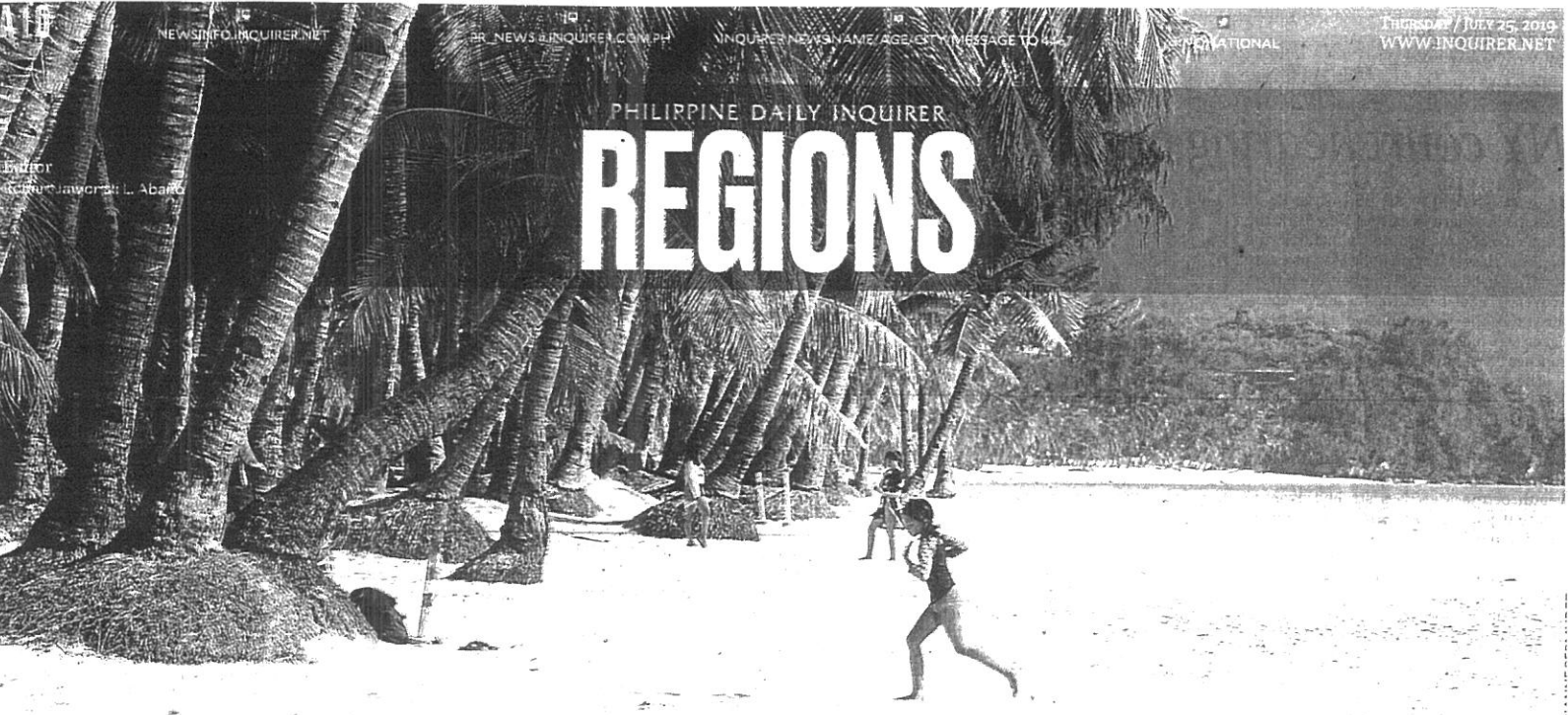
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BORACAY LAND REFORM YET TO BE COMPLETED

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PIECE OF PARADISE The government has placed agriculture areas on the resort island of Boracay in Aklan province under land reform to benefit local farmers and members of the Ati tribe.



Baguio rehab can be done



TO THE
POINT

EMIL P.
JURADO

THE attempts of some Cabinet members to clarify the President's words during Monday's State of the Nation Address, specifically when he said that China was in possession on the West Philippine Sea, make the matter worse.

They are saying Mr. Duterte meant "in position," not "in possession."

The phrase would then have no meaning. That makes the President sound like he does not know what he is saying. With minions like these, who needs enemies, indeed?

The rehabilitation of Baguio City must be taken in its entire context. The attempt of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in collaboration with the Department of Tourism and other agencies, must be taken in the right context. It must not be compared to the efforts in Boracay and other tourist destinations.

Any rehabilitation plan for a city like Baguio must consider why it has deteriorated to such an extent.

Today, Baguio City is overpopulated, with nightmarish traffic conditions. With so many vehicles coming from the lowlands, parking within the city limits is impossible.

Clearly, there has been official neglect and corruption.

There was a time when I loved going to Baguio if only smell the pine trees and experience the cool air. When I was a boy, my father used to take me there. From

Abra, we took the connecting Banguet Auto Line from La Union. My father used to take us to Teachers Village as he tried to earn credit to complete his BS in Education.

When my own children were growing up, my wife and I took them to Baguio as well, staying at Pines Hotel and walking on Session Road.

Now it's almost impossible to wade through Session Road.

There is even an SM mall, usually overcrowded.

“The city has suffered from many years of neglect.”

The only thing that can be done is to rehabilitate places where foreign and local tourists go.

Burnham Park badly needs rehabilitation. The man-made lake is heavily silted, removing the fun in boat riding. There are still bikes and small cars, but parking is a nightmare.

Would you believe that in the peak months, people park along the street and sleep in their vehicles? I wonder where they do what comes naturally.

Wright Park is another place that needs rehabilitation. That's the place where you go horseback-riding. When it rains, the place becomes muddy and riding is no longer fun.

Another sorry place is The Mansion. Access to it has become difficult. There are many ambulant vendors around.

Baguio officials neglected urban planning indeed.

The only place in Baguio where you can smell the pine trees is in Camp John Hay. But that, too, needs rehabilitation.

There is Alphaland's Baguio Mountain Lodges of international businessman Bobby Ongpin. It's a short ride from the city proper. Baguio residents call it the Forbes Park of Baguio because its lodges are pricey. It was built some two years ago and is now being occupied by millionaires from the lowlands.

It's unfortunate that Baguio has suffered from neglect.

The Tourism Department should also focus on the inviting and beautiful beach resorts of La Union. You do not need to go to Boracay if you want great beaches and affordable accommodations.

From there you can go all the way to Ilocos region to experience Ilocano hospitality. Nothing can also compare to the churches in the region. How about it, Madame Bernadette Romulo Puyat?

President Duterte no longer mentioned federalism in his SONA. That does not mean, however, that Congress should forget Charter change. It does not necessarily mean a shift to federalism. There remains the need to remove the restrictive economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution.

Congress should realize that this is the reason the Philippines has been at the bottom of the totem pole.



BAGUIO'S PROPOSED REHABILITATION TO FOCUS ON SEWERAGE, RE-GREENING

BAGUIO CITY: Mayor Benjamin Magalong said the proposed rehabilitation of the Summer Capital would not be as extensive as Boracay but would focus on the rehabilitation of the city's sewerage system and massive re-greening. Magalong said he had initial meetings with Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año to get approval for the proposed one-year moratorium on building construction and tree cutting in exchange for funds to implement the rehabilitation of existing sewerage system. He admitted it would be difficult to totally close Baguio City similar to Boracay island as it would prevent tourists from coming to the city. The city is also the gateway to other parts of the Cordillera.

GABY B. KEITH



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Magsaysay town fights for sea turtles' survival

By GERRY LEE GORIT

MAGSAYSAY, Misamis Oriental – A study by the Australian Academy of Science indicates the world is heating up, and the increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases, such as CO₂, in the Earth's atmosphere are causing the planet's climate system to retain more energy, affecting plants and species.

"The average temperature of the Earth's surface increased by an estimated 0.7°C since the beginning of the 20th century and, according to the most recent projections of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, could rise by 1.6–4.3°C compared to an 1850–1900 baseline by 2100," it said.

This condition is taking a toll on Magsaysay town's precious but endangered species – the hawksbill turtles.

Magsaysay local government officials are making do with whatever they can to preserve the hawksbill turtles found nesting on its beaches.

Kandiis *Kagawad* Rolando Pagara, who has been monitoring sea turtles for 20 years now, said they have already tagged with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources various hawksbill turtles, some of whom were treated for injuries until three Magsaysay villages – Kandiis, Damayuhan and San Isidro – were declared as Wildlife Critical Habitat through Administrative Order 2016-2.

In the so-called "Gateway to Misamis Oriental," provincial and municipal officials struggle against a rise in sea level temperature due to climate change, which impacts on sea turtles nesting on its beaches.

"This is because sea turtles use both marine and terrestrial habitats during their life cycles," explained Pagara, also the focal person for Task Force Pawikan, created by the Magsaysay municipal government to preserve the sea turtles.

Pagara said they have also rescued sea turtles that were tagged by Malaysia.

He said it has been the custom for hawksbill turtles to come back to their places of origin, where they were nestled and once lived. Known for surviving up to 100 years, these turtles have been coming back to the shores of Magsaysay's coastal villages long after they left.

"This is the reason why they are now nesting under houses, because these areas were their nesting places a long time ago when there were no people living there yet," Pagara said.

He said soon the sea turtles may be extinct because the heating up of the atmosphere makes them produce female-only eggs, with only one to 10 percent survival rate.



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MAGSAYSAY AWARDS FOR SEA TURTLES' SURVIVAL

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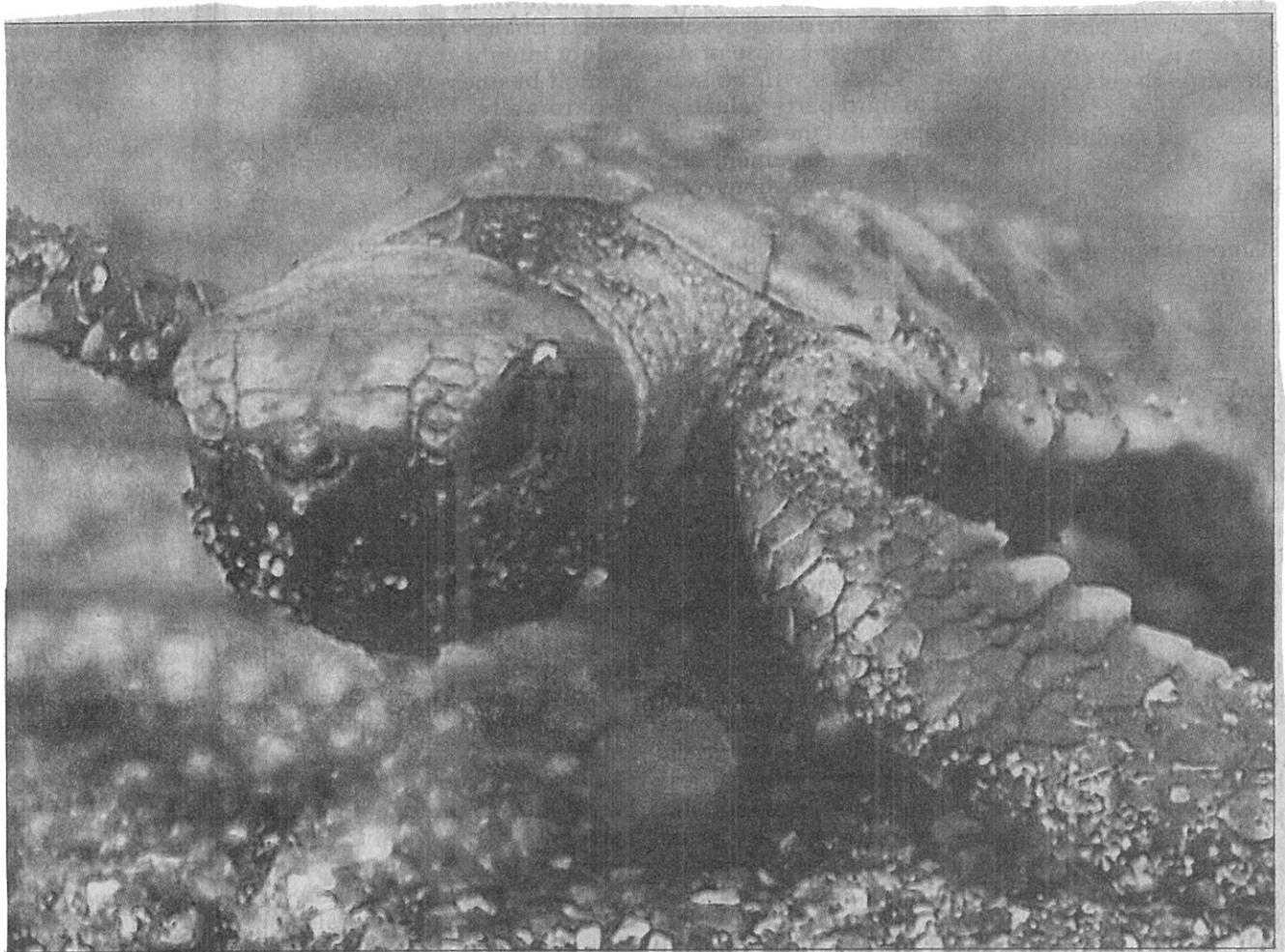


Photo shows a newly hatched hawksbill turtle.

GERRY LEE GORIT



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More LGUs get access to P1-B climate fund

By HELEN FLORES

More local government units (LGUs) will have access to the P1-billion People's Survival Fund for their climate change adaptation projects with the launch of the free PSF e-Learning Platform and Mentoring Sessions next month, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said Tuesday.

CCC secretary Emmanuel de Guzman said the PSF e-Learning Platform and Mentoring Sessions and the rollout of the Communities for Resilience (CORE) Modular Training for the Yolanda Corridor affirm the Duterte administration's commitment to strengthen the country's resilience to the devastating impacts of climate change.

Yolanda Corridor refers to the 171 cities and municipalities affected by Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in November 2013.

"Climate resilience is at the heart of the Duterte administration's development agenda. This inspires us in the CCC to come up with innovative solutions that will enable more LGUs to implement community-led adaptation initiatives," De Guzman said.

Republic Act No. 10174, which was

passed in 2012, is a national funding mechanism to support LGUs in implementing climate change adaptation projects. It maintains an annual allocation of P1 billion.

"CCC has accelerated the implementation of its CORE Program in the past years to help LGUs develop and enhance their Local Climate Change Action Plans and to assist PSF project proponents develop science and risk-based adaptation funding proposals," said CCC PSF unit head Assistant Secretary Romell Antonio Cuenca.

Since the PSF grant approval and disbursement system was established, the PSF board has approved six climate change adaptation projects amounting to P330 million.

These are the disaster risk reduction and management response as coping mechanism to resiliency in

Lanuzá, Surigao del Sur; Siargao climate field school for farmers and fisherfolk in Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte; building resilience through community-based ecological farming in San Francisco, Camotes Island, Cebu; promoting resiliency in climate-informed Gerona, Tarlac; establishment and sustainable management of river ecosystem in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte; and Saub watershed ecosystem rehabilitation and flood risk reduction for increased resilience in Sarangani.

Cuenca said most of the proposals received by the PSF board secretariat at the Department of Finance have been either business-as-usual projects or the type usually funded under regular programs of national government agencies, and not climate change adaptation which the law asks - thus, the low approval rate.

"This year, we are working towards widening the scope of technical support to LGUs for accessing the PSF. An e-learning platform has been developed, and a series of one-on-one mentoring sessions is set for the third quarter. They aim to

improve the soundness and worthiness of submitted proposals and to assist LGUs in developing full-blown proposals from their concept notes," Cuenca said.

The PSF e-Learning Platform, which runs through an open source learning management system, will be conducted via a 12-week online course for LGUs and community organizations to enhance their knowledge on climate and disaster risk and vulnerability assessment, the PSF and its approval processes, and other sources of climate finance.

There will be two batches per year, which will run from August-October and February-June.

Cuenca said the CCC is also launching the PSF Monitoring and Evaluation System where proponents can track their proposals and submit documents online.

In this manner, he said, the process of accessing the fund becomes easier and more convenient and with less cost to proponents. The system will also ensure a more efficient and transparent evaluation and approval process for PSF grants, he said.



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Game app helps increase forest cover

Technology has made it possible for anyone to help plant trees from workdesk or home. An innovative feature of leading mobile wallet GCash makes every transaction a step toward helping increase the country's forest cover.

Launched last month, GCash Forest makes spending and any other transaction on the app an act with a reward that benefits the environment. In partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, World Wildlife Fund and Biodiversity Finance Initiative, GCash has made the app a virtual place where us-

ers can make a real-world impact.

Through GCash Forest, users can help plant trees at the Ipo watershed in Norzagaray, Bulacan, part of a watershed system that supplies nearly all of Metro Manila's water needs.

The more the app is used, the more "green energy points" are earned. With these points one gets to choose the kind of tree to plant in the area of choice at the watershed.

The virtual donor gets an actual certificate of ownership with the tree's serial number, as well as updates on the growth of the tree through the app.



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Environment group lauds bishops' stand against single-use plastics

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

A Quezon City-based ecological group has cited Catholic bishops for taking a collective and strong stance against single-use plastics, which have become a bane for the global environment.

"We welcome the unequivocal statement issued by our bishops toward the elimination of single-use plastics. This should persuade the faithful into shifting to eco-friendly products and packaging materials that are reusable and recyclable," stated Jove Benosa, Zero Waste Campaigner of EcoWaste Coalition.

The EcoWaste Coalition specifically

cited Bishops Ruperto Santos and Alberto Uy of Balanga, Bataan and Reynaldo Evangelista of Imus, Cavite for their recent pronouncements and actions to curb the use of the plastics in their respective dioceses.

Benosa has also called other dioceses, parishes, and Catholic-run institutions such as schools, hospitals, convents, seminaries, and churches to make or strengthen policies and regulations against the consumption, use, and disposal of the harmful material.

Single-use plastics are plastic bags, drinking straws, plates, cutlery, and banderitas (small banners).

"We likewise hope the private

sector, especially the big corporations, will heed the signs of the times and do their part to address the global plastic pollution crisis by seriously cutting packaging and plastic waste," Benosa said.

As reported in CBCP News, Bishop Santos and the clergy have adopted Balanga City's directive restricting single-use plastics. "In our cathedral, we go green. We discourage the use of plastic flowers and decors, but natural plants and flowers. We also set aside tarpaulins," he said.

Meanwhile, Bishop Uy told priests and parishioners in a radio interview to avoid the use of Styros and plastics in any gathering or activity.



Renewable energy tack in SONA lauded

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

Environmentalists lauded President Duterte for emphasizing the need "to fast-track renewable energy (RE) resources to reduce the country's dependence on traditional energy sources such as coal" in his fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA) on Monday.

Renato Redentor Constantino, executive director of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, said, "The President's call to fast-track renewable energy projects to reduce dependence on coal is the signal policymakers need to hear. No less than the country's chief executive is echoing what financial institutions now robustly recognize, that the Philippines is needlessly dependent on economically harmful, unreliable and heavily subsidized polluting coal and imported fossil fuels."

"The country already has \$21 billion worth of stranding coal plant assets in the pipeline, and we already pay more than \$200 million per year in diesel subsidies. But we can achieve energy security and secure more affordable, cleaner power by hastening the transition to renewable energy," the group said.

Constantino also said, "As Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas managing director Lyn Javier said last Friday in their Greening the Finance System launch with private sector groups, 'climate change affects the entire economy, yet the financial sector is not fully aware of the impacts of climate change to our businesses.'"

The Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities is a Manila-based international climate and energy policy group advancing climate resilience and low carbon development.

The Center for Energy, Ecology and Development (CEED) also welcomed the statement issued by President Duterte in his SONA, recognizing "the urgent need to ensure the sustainability and availability of resources and development of alternative ones," and ordering Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi to "fast-track the development of renewable energy sources," and to "reduce dependence on traditional energy sources such as coal."

"We hope that this SONA signals the shift of the administration's energy policy largely favoring coal towards one which harnesses the potential of more RE sources to lower power costs, reduce our carbon emissions, and power a people-centered development. But this hope will be fortified if the President lifts the unjust privilege enjoyed by coal companies through Executive Order 30, at the expense of the environment and the rights of citizens and consumers," said Gerry Arances, CEED executive director.

Executive Order 30 establishes the Energy Investment Coordinating Council, an inter-agency group to be led by a representative of the Department of Energy. It is ordered to "establish a simplified approval process, and harmonize the relevant rules and regulations of all government agencies involved in obtaining permits and regulatory approvals" when it comes to implementing big-ticket energy projects.



Govt urged to lower reliance on coal energy

By Alena Mae S. Flores

ENERGY and environmental think tank Center for Energy, Ecology and Development on Wednesday asked President Rodrigo Duterte and his administration to come up with an executive order on how to “fast-track” the development of renewable energy sources while “reducing” dependence on coal.

Duterte cited during his State of the Nation Address the need to reduce coal dependence.

“We welcome the positive remarks uttered by the president during his SONA, responding to the clamor of the public against dirty, deadly and costly energy from coal and fossil fuels,” said CEED executive director Gerry Arances.

“His statements are significant given that existing energy and power policies largely favor coal,” Arances said.

Coal currently accounts for 39.4 percent of the country’s dependable capacity mix, followed by renewable energy at 31 percent, natural gas at 15.5 percent and oil-based at 14.1 percent.

CEED said coal’s share in the mix would continue to grow given the 30 coal-fired power plants still in the pipeline.

The Department of Energy also predicted that coal would only increase for at least two decades more, according to the Philippine Energy Plan.

“We urge the president to formalize in an executive order the marching orders he gave during his speech to provide clear policy directions to the DoE and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources,” said Arances.



EO para bawasan ang gamit ng coal hiniling

HINIKAYAT kahapon ng Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na maglabas ng executive order na babalangkas kung paano mapapabilis ang pagpangunlad ng renewable energy sources habang nililimitahan ang paggamit ng karbon sa bansa.

Ang panawagan ay base sa ipinahayag ng Pangulo sa State of the Nation Address (SONA) nitong Lunes.

"We welcome the positive remarks uttered by the President during his SONA, responding to the clamor of the public against dirty,

deadly, and costly energy from coal and fossil fuels." "His statements are significant given that existing energy and power policies largely favor coal," pahayag ni CEED Executive Director Gerry Arances.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang halo ng kuryente ay dominado ng bahagi ng karbon sa 51%, at nakatakdang patuloy na lumaki dahil ang 30 na coal fired power plants ay nananatili na nasa pipeline.

Nakikita ng Department of Energy (DoE) na magtataas ang coal sa dalawang dekada o higit pa base na rin sa Philippine Energy

Plan.

"We urge the President to formalize in an executive order the marching orders he gave during his speech to provide clear policy directions to the DOE and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)," giit pa ni Arances

Hinimok din ni Arances si DOE Secretary Alfonso Cusi at DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, upang balangkasin ang mga patakaran o polisiya sa pagpapahintulot sa proseso ng energy projects at coal-fired power plants na nasa pipeline.



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EO ni Duterte hinikayat kontra paggamit ng coal

HINIKAYAT kahapon ng energy environmental think tank ng Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na maglabas ng isang executive order na babalangkas kung paano mapabibilis ang pagpapaunlad ng renewable energy sources habang nililimitahan ang paggamit ng karbon sa bansa.

Ang panawagan ay base sa ipinahayag ng pangulo sa State of the Nation Address (SONA) nitong Lunes.

"We welcome the positive remarks uttered by the President during his SONA, responding to the clamor of the public against dirty, deadly, and costly energy from coal and fossil fuels," pahayag ni CEED Executive Director Gerry Arances.

"His statements are significant given that existing energy and power policies largely favor coal," dagdag ni Arances.

Ayon kay Arances, sa kasalukuyan, ang halo ng koryente ay dominado ng bahagi ng karbon sa

51%, at nakatakdang patuloy na lumaki dahil ang 30 coal fired power plants ay nananatiling nasa pipeline.

Nakikita ng Department of Energy (DOE) na ang coal ang magtatataas sa dalawang dekada o higit pa base na rin sa Philippine Energy Plan.

"We urge the President to formalize in an Executive Order the marching orders he gave during his speech to provide clear policy directions to the DOE and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)," giit ni Arances.

Hinimok ni Arances si DOE Secretary Alfonso Cusi at DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, upang balangasin ang mga patakaran o polisiya sa pagpapahintulot sa proseso ng energy projects at coal-fired power plants na nasa pipeline.

"We do not want the offices mainly mandated to pursue this transition to be the ones contradicting the President's commitment to the People," paliwanag ni Arances.



EO ilabas para mabawasan paggamit ng coal

HINIKAYAT kahapon ng energy environmental think tank ng Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na maglabas ng isang executive order na babalangkas kung paano mapapabilis ang pagpapaunlad ng mga renewable energy source habang nililimitahan ang paggamit ng karbon sa bansa.

Ang panawagan na ito ay base na rin sa ipinahayag ng pangulo sa State of the Nation Address (SONA) nitong lunes.

"We welcome the positive remarks uttered by the President during his

SONA, responding to the clamor of the public against dirty, deadly, and costly energy from coal and fossil fuels," pahayag ni CEED Executive Director Gerry Arances.

"His statements are significant given that existing energy and power policies largely favor coal," dagdag pa ni Arances

Ayon kay Arances sa kasalukuyan, ang halo ng kuryente ay dominado ng bahagi ng karbon sa 51%, at nakatakdang patuloy na lumaki dahil ang 30 na coal fired power plant ay nananatili na nasa pipeline.

Nakikita ng Department of Energy (DOE)

na magtataas ang coal sa dalawang dekada o higit pa base na rin sa Philippine Energy Plan.

"We urge the President to formalize in an Executive Order the marching orders he gave during his speech to provide clear policy directions to the DOE and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)," giit pa ni Arances.

Hinimok din ni Arances si DOE Secretary Alfonso Cusi at DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, upang balangkasin ang mga patakaran o polisiya sa pagpapahintulot sa proseso ng mga energy project at coal-fired power plant na nasa pipeline.



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MASAlamin ni Ed Cordevilla 16TH GAWAD TANGLAW BEST NEWSPAPER OPINION COLUMNIST

ISA SA mga mayamang source ng mineral sa buong daigdig ay ang Filipinas.

Malakihang deposito ng nickel, gold, copper, iron at chromite ang natatagpuan dito.

Nasa US\$1.4 trillion ang halaga ng mga ito na nakadeposito sa bansa. Ngunit ang ating mining sector ay nag-o-operate lamang ng 2.35 percent ng may siyam na ektaryang lupain sa bansa na may mataas na mineral potential — nasa 48 metallic mines at 61 non-metallic mines lamang ang operational.

Magandang pigura ito, ibig sabihin nito ay investments, revenues, mga hanapbuhay, at livelihood kung mapapayagan lamang.

Ang HB 7994 o ang An Act Establishing the Fiscal Regime for Mining Industry ay parti-

kular na nakaumang na mag-impose ng five percent royalty tax sa mining companies na nasa loob man o labas ng mineral reservations. Sa bandang huli ay napagtanto ng mga mambabatas na mas maiging maging maingat at baka mapatay nila ang buong industriya.

ANG PAGMIMINA

Tunay na ang mining sector ay nag-aambag lamang ng mababa pa sa one percent sa gross domestic product (GDP) ng bansa at ang exports naman ay nasa tatlo hanggang apat na porsiyento lamang ang kontribusyon nito, ngunit sa ilang mga rehiyon sa bansa, ang mining industry ang nagsisilbing main economic driver. Ehempla na ang Caraga at Mimaropa kung saan ang ambag ng industriya sa

kani-kanilang ekonomiya ay lumalagpas ng 20 porsiyento.

Samantala, ang proposal ng Chamber of Mines (COMP), sa pamumuno ng chairman nito na si Gerardo Brimo, ay ang sumusunod: 4 percent excise tax, 5 percent sa gross revenues sa nickel mining, 2 percent royalty na nakabase sa income sa open-pit mining ng copper, gold at iba pang metal, 1 percent tax sa

income sa underground mining, at windfall profits tax.

Sinabi ni Brimo na ang windfall profits tax ay nararapat na ma-apply sa income mula sa mining operations bago ang corporate income tax at ito ay nakatali sa operating margins.

“So the higher the margin of a mining company, the higher the tax that will be applied,” pahayag pa ni Brimo.



DU30 PINAPAKILOS SA PAGGAMIT NG COAL

Hiniling ng Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na maglabas ng isang executive order na babalangkas kung paano mapapabilis ang pagpaulad ng renewable energy sources habang nililimitahan ang paggamit ng karbon sa bansa.

Ang panawagan na ito ay base na rin sa ipinahayag ng pangulo sa State of the Nation Address (SONA) noon Lunes.

"We welcome the positive remarks uttered by the President during his SONA, responding to the clamor of the public against dirty, deadly, and costly energy from coal and fossil fuels," pahayag ni CEED Executive Director Gerry Arances.

Ayon kay Arances sa kasalukuyan, ang halo ng kuryente ay dominado ng bahagi ng karbon sa 51%, at nakatak dang patuloy na lumaki dahil ang 30 na coal fired power plants ay

nananatili na nasa pipeline.

Nakikita ng Department of Energy (DOE) na magtataas ang coal sa dalawang dekada o higit pa base na rin sa Philippine Energy Plan.

Hinimok din ni Arances si DOE Secretary Alfonso Cusi at DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, upang balangkasin ang mga patakaran o polisiya sa pagpapahintulot sa proseso ng energy projects at coal-fired power plants na nasa pipeline.



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Paggamit sa 'carbon' limitahan - CEED

Nasa kamay umano ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa pamamagitan ng isang Executive Order (EO) ang solusyon upang malimitahan ang paggamit ng karbon, at babalangkas kung paano mapapabilis ang pagpaunlad ng renewable energy sources sa bansa.

Kaya naman nanawagan kahapon ang energy environmental think tank ng Center for Energy, Ecology and Development (CEED) kay Pangulong Duterte na maglabas ng EO ukol dito.

"We welcome the positive remarks uttered by the President during his SONA, responding to the clamor of the public against dirty, deadly, and costly energy from coal and fossil fuels," pahayag ni CEED Executive Director Gerry Arances. "His statements are significant given that existing energy and power policies largely favor coal," dagdag pa nito.

Ayon kay Arances sa kasalukuyan,

ang halo ng kuryente ay dominado ng bahagi ng karbon sa 51%, at possible pang lumaki dahil ang 30 na coal fired power plants ay nananatiling nasa pipeline.

Nakikita ng Department of Energy (DOE) na magtataas ang coal sa dalawang dekada o higit pa base na rin sa Philippine Energy Plan.

"We urge the President to formalize in an Executive Order the marching orders he gave during his speech to provide clear policy directions to the DOE and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)," giit pa ni Arances.

Maging sina DOE Secretary Alfonso Cusi at DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu ay hinimok ni Arances na balangkasin ang mga patakaran o polisiya sa pagpapahintulot sa proseso ng energy projects at coal-fired power plants.



ZONING VIOLATION TINULIGSA NG KOMUNIDAD

PAGKATAPOS na pagkatapos ng State of the Nation Address ni Presidente Duterte noong Lunes, natanggap ko ang reklamo ukol sa ilegal na pagtatayo ng industrial storage sa isang residential area sa Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

Nang mapakinggan ang SONA ng Pangulo, lalong lumakas ang loob ng mga residente ng Brgy, Banca-Bancao para idulog sa mga awtoridad sa pamamagitan ng inyong lingkod.

At 'yan ang pagkakaiba ni Manong Digong sa mga nakaraang limang presidente, mapagkakatiwalaan na may malasakit siya sa mga ordinaryong Filipino na nagluklok sa kanya sa Malakanyang.

"Magreklamo kayo at makararating sa akin iyan!!!" garantiya ni Manong Digong.

Sa Puerto Princesa, dismayado at galit na galit ang komunidad sa barangay na ito dahil sa tagal ng panahon na tinutulan nila ang establisimiyento ng Morano storage at industrial operation sa kanilang lugar.

Nagtataka sila dahil ang dating pamunuan ng barangay nanguna sa pagtanggap sa anomang industrial/warehouse na alinsunod sa regulasyon sa zoning ng lokal na pamahalaang panlungsod.

Kung bakit itong humaliling mga opisyal ng barangay ay bumaligtad at sinorpresa ang mga residente sa paggawad



DEADSHOT

NI ERWIN TULFO

ng Barangay Clearance sa kompanyang Moreta.

Wala man lang konsultasyon sa stakeholders na residents/homeowners/lot owners at farmers sa residential area. "We call on the new barangay officials to rectify its action and recall or cancel the illegal barangay clearance/permit granted to Moreta," said the statement sent to the DILG Office of the Undersecretary for Barangay Affairs Martin Diño, Office of the Provincial Governor at Puerto Princesa City Zoning Division at City Business Permits Division.

Kaugnay nito, tinatawag-pansin natin ang Department of the Interior and Local Government, gayundin ang Department of Natural Resources and Environment para bigyan ng atensyon ang problemang ito na idinulog sa atin.

Kung kinakailangan, kasuhan na nang tuluyan ang mga hinayupak na lokal na opisyal na malamang nalangisan para payagan ang diumano'y violation ng zoning laws at ilegal na operasyon ng industrial warehouse na 'yan ng naturang kompanya.



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Dahon ng saging, alternatibo sa plastic

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan – Nakaalerto na sa ngayon ang mga tauhan ng Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO) matapos makatanggap ng sunud-sunod na report na ilang food chains sa Boracay ay gumagamit na ng dahon ng saging bilang alternatibo sa plastic.

Ayon kay Alexys Apolonio, senior provincial agriculture officer ng Aklan Provincial Agriculture Office, layunin nito na tuluyang maging plastic-free ang isla.

Nakabubuti aniya ang nasabing hakbang ng mga negosyante ngunit nababahala sila na maabuso ang pagamit nito at maubos ang mga tanim na saging dahil sa mataas na demand ng dahon nito.

Jun Aguirre



KAHANDAAN SA SAKUNAT PELIGRO PARA SA TUNAY NA PAGBABAGO

NOONG ika-16 ng Hulyo (Martes 5:30PM hanggang 7:00PM), ang programa "HEALTH & TRAVEL @ SERBISYO PUBLIKO" sa DWIZ882 kHz ay nagsagawa ng Poll Question para malaman kung ano ang reaksyon at mungkahi ng mga nakikinig at nanood sa programa.

"SANG-AYON KA BA SA NAIS NI PANGULONG DIGONG DUTERTE NA LUMIKHA NG ISANG DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT PARA HIGIT NA MATUTUKAN ANG DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCY?"

Sa bisa ng Executive Order No. 137 series of 1999, pinasimulan ang selebrasyon sa bawat buwan ng Hulyo bilang National Disaster Consciousness Month, ngunit pinalitan ni Pangulong Duterte ang selebrasyon at tinawag itong National Disaster Resilience Month alinsunod sa EO No. 29. Ngayong taon, ang tema ng selebrasyon ay "Kahandaan sa Sakunat Peligro

Para sa Tunay na Pagbabago."

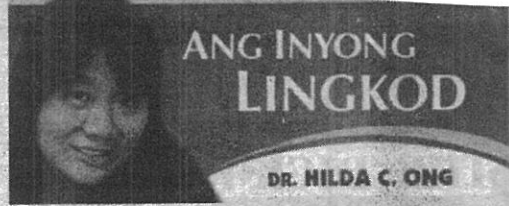
Sa kasalukuyan kasi, sa ilalim ng Republic Act No. 10121, ang NDRRMC o National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council ang siyang on-top sa lahat ng aspekto na may kinalaman sa kalamidad katuwang ang buong Gabinete, lokal na pamahalaan, Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, at ang pribadong sektor.

Eto na ang kasagutan sa Poll Question of the Day

Isang bagong interim office ang binuo ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) para tutukan at paigtingin ang disaster and emergency response efforts ng ahensya sa Metro Manila.

Binuo ni MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim ang METROPOLITAN PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE (MPSO) na pag-iisahin ang lahat ng yunit ng ahensya na may kahalintulad na gawain sa disaster preparedness at emergency response.

"Alinsunod ito sa mandato



DR. HILDA C. ONG

ng ahensya na pagbibigay seguridad sa publiko. Kabilang ang pagbuo at pagpapatupad ng mga programa at polisiya para sa kaligtasan ng publiko, partikular ang paghahanda sa preventive o rescue operation tuwing may kalamidad gaya ng lindol at baha," ani Lim sa isang office order.

Tungkulin din ng MPSO na makipag-ugnayan at magmobilisa ng mga kagamitan at magpatupad ng mga contingency plans para sa rehabilitation at relief operations katuwang ng iba pang ahensya ng gobyerno.

Pangungunahan ni Michael Salalima ang MPSO. Siya rin ang Chief of Staff sa Office of the General Manager at Focal Person sa Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. Kasama sa MPSO ang mga hepe at tauhan ng mga sumusunod na yunit:

- Public Safety Division
- Road Emergency Group

- Metro Manila Emergency Volunteer Corps

- Metro Manila Crisis Monitoring & Management Center

- Rescue Battalion Headquarters & Disaster Preparedness Training Center

"Mas lilinaw at bibilis ang trabaho at layunin ng bawat opisina at mababawasan ang kalituhan sa kung sino ang dapat gumawa ng isang trabaho," pahayag ni Lim.

Tungkulin din ng grupo na bumuo ng sectionalized disaster and emergency response units - Central, North, South, East and West sectors - na dapat ay mabilis na makakaresponde sa mga emergency at kalamidad na nakakaapekto sa Kamaynilaan.

Kasama rin sa kanilang trabaho ang pamamahagi ng napapanahong impormasyon patungkol sa mga mino-monitor na kalamidad at emergencies sa mga opisyal, rumeresponde, stakeholders, at publiko; pagbibigay ng disaster preparedness trainings sa komunidad para mapataas ang kanilang kamalayan at magamit ito sa oras na kailanganin.

Kapag may aksidente naman sa daan, inatasan din ang grupo para rumeresponde at i-report ito, tiyaking tuloy ang daloy ng trapiko sa mga pangunahin lansangan sa Metro Manila sa pamamagitan ng pagtanggap sa mga rikahambalang sa daan.



Gov't agencies reminded to provide PWD express lanes

ALL government offices, especially those providing frontline services, are required to provide express lanes for persons with disabilities.

The Civil Service Commission issued the reminder as the nation observed National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week from 17 to 23 July 2019.

CSC Memorandum Circular No. 20, s. 2017, signed by Chairperson Alicia dela Rosa-Bala, orders all government agencies to "provide express lanes for PWDs or in the absence thereof, priority shall be given to PWDs in all the transactions therein."

The circular is based on the provisions of Republic Act No. 10754, or An Act Expanding the Benefits and Privileges of Persons with Disability, and its implementing rules and regulations.

The CSC has also made the Career Service Examination more accessible to PWDs, as well as the elderly and pregnant women, as part of measures to promote equal employment opportunity in government.

Under CSC Resolution No. 1701159 issued 31 July 2017 and circularized through CSC Memorandum Circular No. 31, s. 2017 dated Oct. 6, 2017, partially and totally blind examinees can take the examination using either the Dictation or the Braille system, with the help of a suitable room examiner and proctor. Those with low vision will be assigned test materials with increased font size.

The deaf or hard of hearing will be guided by a room examiner and proctor with knowledge on sign language or by certified sign language interpreters.

The CSC said that examinees who are PWDs, pregnant women, and senior citizens will be assigned to take the examination in a room located on the ground floor of the testing building for ease of movement.

The time limit for the examination shall be extended for one hour for the visually impaired and the deaf or hard of hearing, thus, four hours and 10 minutes for the CSE-Pen and Paper Test Professional Level, and three hours and 40 minutes for the Subprofessional Level.

However, the CSC said that the time limit for other PWDs covering examinees with both apparent and non-apparent disability, pregnant women, senior citizens, and the rest of individuals classified as regular examinees will remain at three hours and 10 minutes for the Professional Level, and two hours and 40 minutes for the Sub-Professional Level.



TITLE:

DATE

UMAABOT na sa 500 ang patay dahil sa dengue.

Lalaki ang karamihan sa mga natatamaan ng dengue ngunit babae ang karamihan sa mga namamatay.

Bagama't nasa edad 12 ang katamtamang edad ng mga natatamaan, karamihan sa mga natatamaan at namamatayang edad ang nasa 5-9 anyos.

Ang masama pang balita, mga Bro, halos nagdoble na ang tinamaan ng dengue kumpara sa nakaraang taon.

Mula Enero 1, 2019 hanggang Hunyo 29 ngayon ding taon, may na-dengue na 106,630 kumpara sa 57,564 Enero-Hunyo 2018,

Kung magdodoble ang bilang ng mga tatamaan ng dengue, maaaring magdoble rin o aabot sa 1,000 ang mamamatay rito sa katapusan ng taon.

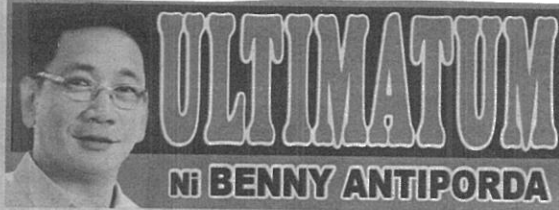
ALERTO SA DENGUE

Nitong Hulyo 15, 2019, nagdeklara ang Department of Health ng national dengue alert.

Inatasan ng DOH ang lahat ng mga pampublikong doktor, nars at iba pa na maglaan ng sapat na oras para asikasuhin ang mga naospital, ihanda ang mga ospital at mga kagamitan gaya ng mga ambulansya, kwarto at iba pa at magsagawa ng mga information campaign laban sa dengue sa mga eskwela at komunidad at iba pa, kasabay na rin ng aktuwal na paglilinis sa kapaligiran.

Magkasabay ang DOH at Philippine Red-Cross sa kampanya laban sa dengue sa pagdidiin ng tinatawag na 4S laban sa sakit.

Binubuo ang 4S ng Search and Destroy sa mga pinangingitlulan ng mga lamok at pinamamahayan ng mga ito; Self-Protect gaya ng pagsusuot ng pantalon at may mahahabang manggas na damit at paglalagay ng kulambo sa pagtulog; Seek Early Solution o pagtakbo agad sa doktor o ospital sa oras na may mga palatandaan ng dengue sa isang tao gaya ng pabalik-balik na lagnat, pagkakaroon ng mga butlig at pagdurugo sa ilong o bunganga; Yes to Fogging o pagpapausok ng hindi nakalalasang kemi-



KUMILOS, MAGTULUNGAN LABAN SA DENGUE

pamatay sa lamok.

Kasama na rin ang National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council sa pambansang alerto at nagdeklara na ito ng blue alert o paghahanda laban sa pagdating ng sakuna.

UMAAPAW NA OSPITAL

Umaapaw na ng pasyente ang maraming pampublikong ospital, lalo na sa Western Visayas na binubuo ng mga lalawigan ng Aklan, Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Antique at Capiz.

Kaya naman nanawagan na ang DOH ng ayuda mula sa PRC na pinamunuan ni Senador Richard Gordon na agad namang nagpadala ng 8 medical tent, kasama ang mga sapat na bilang ng tauhan at kagamitan para sa pag-aasikaso ng mga pasyente.

Umaapaw na ang pasyente sa mga provincial hospital at maging ang mga regional hospital na nakatayo sa Iloilo at Bacolod, Negros Occidental. Ganito rin ang sitwasyon sa San Lazaro Hospital sa Maynila at ilang ospital sa Cavite na namatayan ng mahigit 20 katao.

IBA PANG PINSALA

Ang isa pang mabigat, mga Bro, ay ang napakalaking gastos sa pagpaospital

Kung mayaman-yaman ka at masama ang tamamo gaya ng pagkakaroon na ng pagdurugo sa ilong at pagsusuka't tae ng dugo, aabot ng milyong piso ang gastos sa mga mamahaling ospital.

Kung walang-wala ka at nasa lalawigan ka, maghanda ka ng mahigit P30,000 para sa tatlong linggong pagkakaospital.

Paano kung dalawa o tatlo ang tinamaan sa isang pamilya at paano kung magulang ang tinamaan?

May sakit na nga, hinto pa ang paghahanapbuhay.

Ang gastos ay binubuo ng gastusin ng taga-bantay, bayad sa kwarto, kama at kumot, blood test, pamasaha o gasolina sa

pag-uwi, paggamit ng cellphone at iba pa.

SAKLANG PATAY

Bibihira ang mga nakikipagtulungan sa mga tinamaan ng dengue sa mga pobreng komunidad.

Sariling kayod ng pamilya ang pinanggagalingan ng panggastos hanggang lumubog ito sa utang para sa P30,000-P60,000 gastos sa mga lalawigan.

Ang saklang patay ang inaasahang makatutulong nang malaki pero umaandar lang ito kapag patay na ang may dengue.

Kung malakas ang tayaan, karaniwang sinasagot ng magsasakla ang palamay at palibing pero malas ang pamilyang biktima ng dengue kung may kasabay na pinagkakagastusang ibang patay ang mga magsasakla.

Kung bakit namang tumataya muna sa sugal si kapitbahay bago siya magbigay ng tulong sa may patay na pamilya!

TULONG-TULONG LAHAT

Upang makatulong tayo sa laban sa dengue, magsimula tayo sa ating mga tahanan.

Hanapin nating lahat ang mga natutulog na tubig na pinangingitlulan ng mga lamok, patuyuin o itapon sa tamang basurahan ang mga ito.

Kung may tinamaan ng dengue na kapitbahay, i-report agad sa barangay health center para mabilis na tumulong sina kapitan.

Sa ibang salita, mga Bro, malaking tulong ang magagawa natin sa pagsisimula sa sarili nating tahanan at aktibong pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga barangay.

Huwag nating antayin na magtayo ng tent ang magsasaklang-patay sa ating bakuran.

Anomang reaksiyon o reklamo ay maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa banti-



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

25 JUL 2019

DATE

RED TIDE ALERT SA PALAWAN AT IBA PANG LUGAR -BFAR

PINAALALAHANAN ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ang publiko hinggil sa pananatili ng nakalalasang red tide sa mga pagkaing dagat na nagmumula sa San Pedro Bay sa Western Samar, Lianga Bay sa Surigao del Sur, coastal waters ng Dauis at Tagbilaran City sa Bohol at Balite Bay, Mati City sa Davao Oriental.

Ginawang babala ng ahensiya matapos lumabas sa kanilang pinakabagong laboratory results gayundin sa pag-aara ng local government units (LGUs) na ang

nakokolektang lamang dagat ay positibo sa paralytic shellfish poison kung kaya't pinag-iingat ang mga mamimili.

Nabatid na pinakabagong nagpositibo sa mapaminsalang red tide toxin ang bahagi ng karagatan ng Puerto Princesa Bay sa Puerto Princesa City ng Palawan; Maqueda, Irong-irong, Silanga at Cambatutay Bays sa Western Samar kung kaya't pinaiiwas muna ang mga residente na bumili ng mga pagkaing dagat sa nasabing mga lugar.

BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.





Pagasa Island gagawing tourist spot para di maagaw ng China

NAIS ni Muntinlupa Rep. Ruffy Biazon na seryosohin ng gobyerno ang rekomendasyon ni Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana na gagawing tourist destination ang Pag-asa island.

"With the ongoing rehabilitation of the runway on the island, it would do well to maximize the investment we are putting into the island to consider other productive activities on Pag-asa other than just an outpost," ani Biazon.

Sinabi ng solon na makabubuti rin sa bansa ang paggamit ng non-military at non-confrontational upang mapanatili ang kontrol ng bansa sa teritoryo nito.

"It would be advantageous to open it up to visits by tourists, with sustain-

able, eco-friendly policies in place."

Kung dadagsa ang mga turista, mababawi rin umano ng gobyerno ang gastos nito sa rehabilitasyon ng runway at pagtatayo ng mga kailangang imprastruktura.

"It would also become a means to sustain the civilian population living in the island, which will be an undeniable proof of Philippine possession and position in the West Philippine Sea."

Sinabi ni Biazon na "excited" na siya na makapagdive sa dagat ng Pag-asa island.

"I am confident that it will become a prime destination for divers, similar to other sites in the country like Tubbataha Reef, Apo



REP. RUFFY BIAZON

Reef and many others. It will surely become one of the exciting dive sites of the Philippines which has already become famous worldwide because of its various excellent dive destinations," dagdag pa ng solon. "Should there be an exploration dive to evaluate the feasibility of the concept of Pag-asa island as a tourist destination, I would surely volunteer to be part of it."
—Leifbilly Begas



PAGASA Island INQUIRER



Fishing agreement, 'di na kailangan—DND chief

Hindi na kailangan ang nasusulat na dokumento na magpapahintulot sa mga Chinese na mangisda sa West Philippine Sea (WPS) dahil sapat nang may verbal agreement si Pangulong Duterte kay Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Ito ang sinabin ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, iginiit na ang West Philippine Sea at ilan pang lugar sa paligid ng South China Sea (SCS) ay matagal nang "traditional fishing ground"

Ang WPS ay nasa loob ng 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) ng Pilipinas sa South China Sea.

"I don't think there is a work or drafting of agreement to allow other countries to fish there but the President said that area has always been a traditional fishing ground of so many people around the region, around the South China Sea basin. Hindi na siguro

kailangan pa ng agreement dyan," sabi ni Lorenzana.

"Itong Vietnamese, Taiwanese, Chinese, Japanese even Koreans, and Filipinos, Malaysians and Indonesians—they can also fish because they have always been there," dagdag niya.

Kasabay nito, iginiit ng Defense Chief na ang West Philippine Sea ay "atin" at maaaring pahintulutan ng ating pamahalaan ang iba pang mga bansa na mangisda sa lugar, gaya ng verbal agreement ni Pangulong Duterte sa presidente ng China.

"Atin 'yan pero we can allow them to fish," anang kalihim.

Nitong Martes, sinabi ni Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio na dapat na ratipikahan o tanggihan ng Senado ang nasabing verbal agreement sa pagitan nina Duterte at Xi.

"That agreement, if you allow

China to fish, that requires a treaty or international agreement. That requires the concurrence of the Senate," sinabi ni Carpio sa isang panayam sa telebisyon.

Matatandaang sa State of the Nation Address (SONA) nitong Lunes, binigyang-diin ni Pangulong Duterte na mayroon siyang verbal agreement kay Xi upang payagan ang mga Pilipino at Chinese na makapangisda sa mga pinagaagawang teritoryo.

"Kaya sinabi ko, 'Let us do this mutually'. Of course, when Xi says, 'I will fish', who can prevent him? And sabi ko naman, 'We will fish because we claim it' and sabi ko, 'Please allow because...'. Before that, they were driving away our fishermen. 'Di ba inaabog nila? Kaya sabi ko, 'Do not drive them away because the Filipinos are of the belief that they are also—they claim it,' ani Duterte.

Martin A. Sadongdong