

DATE : 26 JUL 2019

DAY : Friday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



## DENR partners with NGO to clean up Estero de Marala

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Pollution Control Association of the Philippines Inc. are joining forces to clean up Estero de Marala that drains into the Manila Bay.

Secretary Roy Cimatu underscored the importance of collaboration among the national government agencies, non-government organizations, local government units and the community in rehabilitating Manila Bay and its tributaries.

"The parties to this [agreement] will develop a comprehensive program to reduce the degradation of this estero. But because this estero is linked to other water bodies, their cleanup, too, will be part of the equation," he said.

"That will also require coordination with other barangays and LGUs, and the communities along the banks of these water bodies," he added.

Gretchen Fontejon-Enarle, PCAPI president, said environmental protection is not only the duty of the government, but all stakeholders.

"This partnership signifies the importance, the essence of PCAPI, and hoping it will become a benchmark for other associations and organizations to do the same and take part in different environmental advocacies in order to address current environmental issues," she said.

The 2.7-kilometer Estero de Marala is located on the boundary of the cities of Navotas and Manila.

It is linked to the Estero de Vitas in the south, Estero de Maypad in the north, and Estero de Maypajo in the east.

PCAPI is a non-stock, non-profit and non-government organization formed in June 1980 to work hand in hand with the government in the protection of the environment, and prevention, abatement and control of land, air and water pollution.

It adopted Estero de Marala under the DENR's enhanced adopt-an-estero program that aims to collaborate between and among estero communities, donor partners, local government units, other government agencies and the DENR.

**Rio N. Araja**



## DENR at PCAPI kapit-bisig para sa rehabilitasyon ng Estero de Marala

**PARA** linisin ang maruming tubig ng Estero de Marala nagkapit-bisig ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources at Pollution Control Association of the Philippines Inc. para sa rehabilitasyon ng naturang tubig na direktang dumadaloy sa Manila Bay.

Ang Estero de Marala na may habang 2.7 kilometro ay matatagpuan sa boundary ng mga lungsod ng Navotas at Manila. Nakaugnay ito sa Estero de Vitas sa timog (south), Estero de Maypad sa hilaga (north), at Estero de Maypajo sa silangan (east).

Sa ginanap na memorandum of agreement signing sa pagitan ng DENR at PCAPI, ipinunto ni Environment Secretary Roy. A. Cimatu ang kahalaga-

han ng pagtutulongan ng national government agencies, non-government organizations, local government units at komunidad sa isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay at ng iba pang daluyan ng tubig na direktong dumadaloy sa makasaysayang baybayin.

Ayon naman kay PCAPI President, Engr. Gretchen Fontejon-Enarte, ang pagbibigay ng proteksyon sa kalikasan ay hindi lamang nakaatang sa gobyerno bagkus ay sa lahat ng stakeholders.

Ang PCAPI ay isang non-stock, non-profit at non-government organization na itinatag noong Hunyo 1980 at naging kabahagi ng pamahalaan sa pagbibigay ng proteksyon sa kalikasan at sa pagpigil ng paglala ng polusyon sa lupa, ha-

ngin at katubigan.

Nabuo ang pakikiisa ng DENR at ng naturang ahensya sa pangangalaga ng Estero de Marala sa ilalim ng programang Adopt-an-Estero ng DENR, na may layuning mapalakas ang pagtutulongan ng mga komunidad malapit sa estero, mga donor partners, LGUs, DENR at ibang ahensya ng pamahalaan.

Napagkasunduan ng dala-wang partido sa MOA na palawakin ang programa upang mabawasan ang paglala ng kalagayan ng Estero de Marala at magkaroon ng ugnayan ang bawat isa para sa regular na pagpapalano, implementasyon ng mga napagkaisahan sa pagpupulong at matukoy ang bilang ng mga informal settler na naninirahan sa naturang lugar.

**SANTI CELARIO**



## DENR, PCAPI magtutulongan sa rehabilitasyon ng Estero de Marala

Nagkaisang magtulongan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Pollution Control Association of the Philippines Inc. (PCAPI) para linisin ang Estero de Marala na dumadaloy sa Manila Bay.

Ang 2.7 kilometro na Estero de Marala ay matatagpuan sa hangganan ng mga lungsod ng Navotas at Maynila. Ito ay nauugnay sa Estero de Vitas sa timog, Estero de Maypad sa hilaga, at Estero de Maypajo sa silangan.

Sa ginawang lagdaan ng kasunduan sa pagitan ng DENR at PCAPI, sinabi

ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ang kahalagahan ng pakikipagtulongan sa mga ahensya ng gobyerno, mga NGO, mga lokal na pamahalaan at ang komunidad sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay at mga tributaries nito.

“Ang mga partido sa ito, ay bumuo ng isang komprehensibong programa upang mabawasan ang pagkasira ng estero.

Ngunit dahil ang estero na ito ay nakaugnay sa ibang mga katawan ng tubig, ang kanilang paglilinis ay magiging bahagi din ng equation,” ani Cimatu ng mga pagpupulong. **(Riz Dominguez)**



25 JUL 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE



**LABAN KONTRA CLIMATE CHANGE.** Hinimok ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang mga delegado sa pre-State of the Nation Address Forum na ginanap sa Davao City na labanan ang mapaminsalang climate change. Sinabi ni Cimatu na ang pagharap sa hamon ng climate change gamit ang whole-of-nation approach ay nagbunga ng maganda tulad ng rehabilitasyon ng Boracay at Manila Bay. Si Cimatu ang tagapangulo ng Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction.



# DENR stops operation of Palawan palm-oil mill for polluting river

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
@jonlmayuga

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has stopped the operation of Agumil Philippines Inc. for polluting the Calabugan River in Brooke's Point, Palawan.

A cease-and-desist order (CDO) dated July 17 was issued by the DENR against the company, which operates a palm-oil mill in Brooke's Point, for violating Republic Act (RA) 9275, or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.

Prior to the CDO, a notice of violation was issued by the DENR and ordered the company to conduct corrective measures last January and March this year, which the company failed to do.

A team from Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-Mimaropa handed the CDO to Agumil Philippines Mill Manager Arthur Elicanal and also posted notices of the company's violations as part of the execution of the CDO.

In its order, the DENR's Pollution Adjudication Board (PAB) said the firm's facility has discharged

wastewater that exceeded the DENR Water Quality Guidelines and General Effluent Standards.

As such, it is ordered "to cease and desist from undertaking any activity and/or operating machines or equipment generating pollution during the pendency of proceedings before the Board."

In enforcing the CDO, DENR disabled all waterlines of the company.

The company was the subject of a complaint filed by residents and officials of Barangay Calasaguen in January of this year, when they saw dead fish and prawns floating in the town's Calabugan River.

The river, based on the complaint, was also found coated with black and oily liquid allegedly from the processing plant of Agumil Philippines. The oil mill was located in the nearby Barangay Maasin.

During the investigation, the management of the oil mill plant explained that the pipes of their siltation pond were accidentally hit by a backhoe during their regular dredging activity; causing a leak that flowed toward the river.

The Community Environment and Natural Resources (Cenro)

observed that the damaged pipes were only covered with sacks and wrapped with rubber stripped from the interior part of a tire. Officials of Agumil Philippines said that these were temporary measures and would be replaced with a concrete mound.

The Cenro further noted that the outlet of the broken pipes was positioned toward a creek that is a tributary of the river.

The EMB-Mimaropa immediately conducted wastewater sampling on January 24, which showed that the effluent coming from the firm's pipe exceeded the allowable standards on Phosphate-Phosphorus, Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and Oil and Grease (O&G).

"The Pollution Adjudication Board saw that there is indeed a prima facie evidence that Agumil Philippines 'has discharged pollutants that constitute immediate threat to life, and public health, safety, and welfare,' hence the immediate issuance and implementation of the CDO," EMB-Mimaropa Regional Director Drake Matias said.

PAB is a quasi-judicial body cre-

ated under the Office of the Secretary of the DENR. It assumes the powers and functions of the Commission/Commissioners of the National Pollution Control Commission with respect to the adjudication of pollution cases under RA 3931 (An Act Creating the National Water and Air Pollution Control Commission).

Besides stopping Agumil Philippines from generating pollution, the CDO also directed it to show cause why a criminal case should not be filed against it for using a

by-pass, or a diversion of wastewater from its collection system. It also reminded the company that it may be penalized a maximum fine of P200,000 for each day of violation, which is over and above the administrative fines for other violations it has committed.

The regional EMB was tasked to closely monitor Agumil Philippines's compliance with the order.

"The effort to save Calabugan River in Brooke's Point forms part of Secretary Roy Cimatu's priority agenda to restore problematic bodies of water in the country and have clean water for all," Matias said.



# First case: NBI files raps vs 5 for illegal coal trade

By Aie Balagtas See  
@AieBalagtasSee

The National Bureau of Investigation has filed criminal charges against five people allegedly trading coal illegally.

The respondents—William Di, Alexander Di, Margaret Di Go, Rosalita Aguilar and Antonio Remolisan—are incorporators and members of the board of directors of Minerales Tinta Resources Corp.

They were charged with theft of minerals and falsification of official documents in the NBI complaint filed in the Department of Justice on Wednesday.

“Minerales, under the law, is deemed to have stolen the coal that they delivered to the plant of Best Tiwi, consistent with

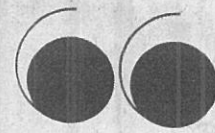
Section 78 of Presidential Decree No. 463 or the Mineral Resources Development Decree of 1974,” the complaint said.

The case buildup and the filing of charges were in line with the Department of Energy’s crackdown on illegal use and purchase of coal, and illegal coal mining and trading.

### Accreditation

In 2012, the DOE issued an order requiring coal traders, suppliers and users to get or renew their accreditation annually. This was intended to weed out illegal coal traders and theft of minerals in the country.

NBI Supervising Agent Mark Santiago said the case against Minerales was the first to be filed following the issuance of the DOE order.



**NBI investigators found that a number of the food manufacturer’s plants were purchasing coal from traders without accreditation from the DOE**

Santiago said the bureau sent subpoenas to the respondents’ business address registered with the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) in order to get their side.

When the NBI checked the address at Meadowood Execu-

tive Village in Bacoor, Cavite province, it turned out to be a residential house.

### False address

“They could not be reached as they provided a false address in all their company registra-

tion with the barangay, local government, SEC and DOE,” the complaint read.

Minerales “engaged in coal trading” at least 18 times from May 2 up to May 31, said Santiago.

One of their clients was Best Tiwi Food Products, which manufactures nuts and crackers at its plant in Barangay Callos, Santa Cruz, Laguna province.

### Unknown sources

Minerales delivered 18 truckloads of coal equivalent to 431 metric tons worth P2,284,300 to Best Tiwi Food Products as certified by Noel E. Tolarbas, plant manager, according to the complaint.

The bureau has yet to determine where Minerales got the

coal it sent to the plant.

NBI investigators found that a number of the food manufacturer’s plants were purchasing coal from traders without accreditation from the DOE.

Some of the buyers were food and beverage companies, such as Zest-O Corp., Syscore and Best Tiwi, Santiago said.

“We are just a buyer from traders,” Zest-O Corp. CEO Fred Yao said in a text message to the Inquirer on Thursday.

The NBI has asked the food manufacturers to cooperate and produce the names of other coal traders, he added.

It reminded them that like coal traders, users or clients, they were criminally liable for patronizing illegally mined or traded coal. INQ



## CBCP pumalag laban sa mga minahan, coal plant

Hinikayat ng Catholic Bishop Conference of the Philippines ang kanilang mga diocese na gumawa ng kaukulang hakbang upang mapangalagaan ang kalikasan sa pamamagitan ng pagkontra sa operasyon ng mga minahan at maruming enerhiya tulad ng mga coal plant.

Ayon kay CBCP president Archbishop Romulo G. Valles, ang hakbang na ito ay bilang pagsunod na rin sa panawagan ni Pope Francis na pangalagaan ang ating kalikasan.

"Guided by Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si, we again call on everyone to care for the earth and

for the poor and embrace 'integral ecology for the sake of our common home. We have to act in order to be able to stop the deterioration of our planet," saad ni Valles.

Alinsunod sa pinalabas ng decree sa Second Plenary Council of the Philippines, isang ecology desk ang kaifangang itayo sa mga social action center. Pangungunahan din ng mga diocese at parokya ang mga hakbang para pangalagaan ang ekolohiya.

"Prevent and reduce biodiversity loss by growing indigenous plants and trees, expanding forests through rain forestation, resisting destructive

mining, dirty energy, the unbridled construction of roads and dams, as well as projects that cut into forested and protected areas. Implement programs that will allow the growth and recovery of forests, ecosystems and biodiversity," tagubilin ni Valles.

Iginiit din nito ang paggamit ng renewable energy tulad ng paggamit ng solar power sa mga kabahayan, simbahan, eskuwelahan at mga seminaryo.

"Join the campaign to immediately phase out coal-fired power plants and all other plants dependent on fossil-fuel, including coal mining," giit ng pangulo ng CBCP





## SKAL tourism awardees named

SKAL International Makati recently announced the 2019 SKAL Tourism Personality Awardees in connection with their 38th founding anniversary celebration on Aug. 22 at the New World Hotel Makati Ballroom.

"These annual prestigious awards are given to persons who gave their utmost services to promote and develop the tourism industry," SKAL president Jaime Bautista said.

"This year, we selected awardees from the government and private sectors, including the entertainment in-

dustry," he added.

Recipients of the 29th SKAL Tourism Personality Awards are:

- Miguel Belmonte (The Philippine STAR/ 2012, 2015, 2016) – SKAL Star Legacy Award Emmanuel Gonzalez (Plantation Bay Resort and Spa) – Food Tourism
- DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu – Eco Tourism
- DILG Sec. Eduardo Año – Eco Tourism
- DOT Sec. Bernadette Romulo-Puyat – Eco Tourism
- Suzie Moya Benitez (Bayanihan) – Heritage and Cultural Tourism

• Cynthia Carrion (Corregidor Foundation) – Historical Tourism Dev't

• Pampanga Vice Gov. Lilia Pineda – Domestic Tourism Dev't

• Patrick Lawrence Tan (Globalink MP Events International) – Exhibition Tourism

• Elizabeth Sy (SM Hotels and Convention) – Hotel

• Arnel Patawaran (Manila Bulletin) – Print Media

• Dina May Flores (Philippine Airlines) – Airline

• Michelle Tiotangco (Kamia Bay) – Resort

• Rafael Dionisio (MAD Travel) – Cultural and Ecolog-

ical Adventure Tourism

• Eat Bulaga's Ms. Millennial Philippines – TV Program Segment

SKAL is a professional organization of tourism leaders around the world, promoting global tourism and friendship.

"It is the only international group uniting all branches of the travel and tourism industry's managers and executives who meet at local, national, regional and international levels to discuss and pursue topics of common interest," SKAL International Makati chairman Robert Lim Joseph



**SKAL INTERNATIONAL MANILA**

Club No. 114

said.

SKAL International has over 15,000 members in 356

clubs in 85 countries, with general secretariat located in Torremolinos, Spain.



P-1

1/2

## Drilon, Marcos move to ban foreign waste

SENATE Minority Leader Franklin Drilon and neophyte Sen. Imee Marcos have filed separate bills asking Congress to pass a law imposing a total ban on imported waste, and providing stiff penalties against violators.

This, even as Drilon, in filing Senate Bill 18 prohibiting and penalizing importation of waste, also acknowledged that the Philippines already has existing laws to protect the country "from being a destination of waste imports."

Drilon expects that the remedial measure will no doubt stop the waste trade in the country "and send a clear message to other countries that the Philippines is not their sanitary landfill."

Marcos's Senate Bill 408, on the other hand, imposes "a total ban on importation of waste and its by-products or residues" and provides fines and penalties, including imprisonment of "not less than eight years and one day but not more than 12 years, or a fine of not less than P1.5 million but not more than P15 million, or both."

Drilon cited the 1990 Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act embodied in Republic Act 6969, enacted to monitor and regulate importation and disposal of hazardous waste; and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (RA 9003) prohibiting importation of toxic waste misdeclared as recyclables.

"Notwithstanding these laws, waste from various countries continue to be imported into our country to the detriment of our people and country," said Drilon, recalling that "the country reeled from shock on learning that Canadian garbage inside 103 shipping containers found its way to Philippine shore."

The senator also noted recent reports that "we have become a conducive cross-boundary disposal site of unwanted and toxic shipments of waste from waste exporters like Australia, South Korea, Hongkong and Japan."

He also recalled Greenpeace International reports that much of this trash was mislabeled as "recyclable" even though the shipments really contained thousands of tons of contaminated plastic and other mixed waste that can no longer be processed.

Drilon said these incidents indicated that "we have become a dumping ground for waste generated by richer nations."

"To put a stop to waste buildup in the country's water and land territories, this proposed measure seeks to impose an immediate and complete ban on all waste imports, including recyclable materials for any reason," added Drilon.

Once enacted into law, he said all importer registration and importation clearances issued by government agencies shall be canceled and no new applications accepted.

Drilon's bill further provides that in order to "avoid waste shipments being snuck in our country guised as recyclables and to ensure that no waste is brought in, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Customs shall implement stricter monitoring of imports and enforce tighter regulations.

SEE "FOREIGN WASTE," A2



P-2

2/2

## Foreign waste. . . CONTINUED FROM A12

"All imported waste shall be immediately brought back to the country of origin at the expense of the consignor, importer and other persons who willfully participated in the importation," Drilon said, adding that "any person who misdeclares or brings into the Philippines any waste, or assist in so doing, or shall receive, conceal, buy, sell or in any manner facilitate transportation, concealment or sale of such goods after importation, shall be punished by very hefty sanctions and penalties."

In her Explanatory Note to Senate Bill 408, Marcos invoked the 1987 Constitution that, she stressed, "mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people, protect and advance their right to a balanced and healthful ecology, and the promotion of general welfare."

Marcos noted that in previous years, China was the "No. 1 destination" for waste recycling, as it began importing secondary raw materials in the 1980s, eventually becoming the world's largest importer of waste.

On January 1, 2019, China banned the importation of four categories across 24 types of solid waste including plastic, paper and textiles, she said.

Following China's ban, other countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Thailand, Vietnam and Taiwan began to receive and recycle the world's waste," she said. Nonetheless, they "also put up measures to limit or entirely prohibit the importation of waste," she added.

Besides the growing importation of waste, official records indicated that "at least three companies in Subic and Cagayan de Oro run by foreigners and employing hundreds of

their own nationals [Chinese and Taiwanese] operate under the guise of recycling," the senator said.

Marcos added that apart from the apparent violation of customs and environmental laws, the employment of foreigners by these companies, allegedly without working permits or other documentation, could also give rise to cases of violations of immigration and internal revenue/tax laws and regulations.

"Neither can security concerns be avoided when a comprehensive directory of these legal or illegally working aliens has not been made available," Marcos said. **Butch Fernandez**

# Call to pass land use act declined

BY EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ

**T**HE National Land Use Act pushed by President Duterte in his recent State of the Nation Address (SONA) will not be passed by the 18th Congress this year, according to a senator.

Senator Cynthia Villar is not optimistic Duterte's call to pass the proposed law will be heeded by lawmakers.

On the sidelines of two-day European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Sustainable Agriculture Forum in Pasay

City on Wednesday, Villar said such national land use policy is not feasible, citing the possibility of incurring the mayors' ire who wanted power over managing their resources, mapping out their agricultural lands for food security, determining hazardous areas, and

delineating protected areas.

"Under the land use act, the land use is determined by the local government. Now, they want to centralized it. Who will remove it from the local government to centralized it? Do you want the ire of all the mayors in the Philippines? That's their power," Villar pointed out.

One of the current administration's priority legislations, the proposed National Land Use Act (NLUA) or House Bill 5240 aims to resolve land use conflicts, mandate the formulation of land use plans at the national

and local levels, and integrate and monitor developments on land use.

In his fourth State of the Nation Address on Monday, Duterte urged Congress to urgently pass the NLUA within 2019, as the measure will allow the country to "meet the demands of the investors coming in" and "serve as basis for the LGUs in crafting respective development plans and help disperse economic activities for the countryside."

"It's not just a campaign promise; it is an economic imperative and a key to our country's sus-

tainable and equitable development. We will encourage investors to develop rural areas and Metro Manila and other mega urban areas," Duterte said.

Villar, however, said: "So we're going to remove the power from them and centralized it? No Congress will do that."

"*Mas marami nga silang hinihingi na ibalik sa government di ba?* More power to the local government or decentralization. Now we're going to centralized it? I don't want to do that," the senator added.

In his two previous SONAs,

Duterte asked the Congress to pass the said bill, which was certified as urgent during the Aquino administration in 2013. While the House passed HB 5240 in May 2017, the bill remained pending since then.

The proposed bill creates a national land use authority that will draft and oversee a national land use plan that will classify land according to its use such as for infrastructure development, agriculture and fisheries production, land conservation and residential developments, among others.



P.1

1/2



MEMBERS of the 18th Congress take their oath at their first regular session on July 22, 2019, at the House of Representative plenary hall. The House leadership has identified 12 priority measures cited in the President's State of the Nation Address among those they will fast-track. NONIE REYES

## House lists 12 priority measures

BY JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ  
@joveemarie

THE leadership of the House of Representatives on Thursday identified the 12 priority measures that will be fast-tracked by the lower chamber next month.

Majority Leader Martin Romualdez made the announcement following a meeting with lawmakers and House officials on Wednesday night.

He said the House will approve "in record time" these 12 measures outlined in President Duterte's recent State of the Nation Address (Sona).

The measures are the National Land Act; Department of Disaster SEE "12 PRIORITY," A12



P.2  
2/2

## 12 priority. . .

CONTINUED FROM A1

Resilience; Coconut Levy Fund; Trabaho bill; alcohol taxes; property valuation; Capital Income Tax; mandatory ROTC for Grades 11 and 12; government rightsizing bill; Energizing micro, small and medium enterprises; National Transport Act; and Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Of these measures, Romualdez said only the National Transport Act and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission were not specifically mentioned by President Duterte in his 2019 Sona. These were, however, among the priority measures Duterte named in his 2018 Sona.

Romualdez said the measures are expected to face easy sailing in the committee deliberations as these were already approved by the House of Representatives in the 17th Congress.

"We discussed ways on how to expedite the approval of pending legislative measures from the committee level to plenary," Romualdez said. The House committees are expected to release the committee reports of these bills by August.

"With the innovations that we are planning to implement in committee deliberations, I am optimistic that we can approve about a dozen of the President's priority measures in record time. Hopefully, the committee reports on these measures will be out for plenary deliberations by the first week of August," Romualdez said.

Under Section 48 of the House rules, Romualdez said "In case of bills or resolutions that are identified as priority measures of the House, which were previously filed in the immediately preceding Congress and have already been approved on third reading, the same may be disposed of as matters already reported upon the approval of majority of the members of the committee present, there being a quorum."

"Once constituted, the committees responsible for these measures may meet for just one session and immediately refer the committee reports for plenary deliberation. This is possible if they invoke Section 48 of the House rules," Romualdez explained. After plenary deliberations, he said the House may even approve these measures on third reading by the last week of August or early September.

Other priority measures outlined by the President in his 2019 Sona were: suspension of excise tax on fuel; new salary standardization law; additional benefits for solo parents; health workers in all barangays; expansion of Malasakit Centers; postponement of barangay and SK elections to October 2022; Magna Carta for Barangays; Department of Overseas Filipinos; Department of Water Resources and Water Regulatory Commission; Fire Protection Modernization Program; National Defense Act; Uniformed Personnel Separation Retirement Pension Bill; National Academy of Sports for High School Students; amendments to Land Bank charter; and development of renewable energy sources.

### Committee chairmen

ALSO on Wednesday, the House of Representatives named the chairmen of several committees to start immediate deliberations on priority measures.

Heading important House committees are: Albay Rep. Joey Salceda for the House Committee on Ways and Means, Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco for Energy, Romblon Rep. Eleandro Jesus Madrona for Public Works and Highways, Cagayan De Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez for Constitutional Amendments, and Palawan Rep. Franz Alvarez for Legislative Franchises.

Earlier, the House named Cavite Rep. Abraham Tolentino as chairman of the Committee on Accounts and Davao Rep. Isidro Ungab, for Committee on Appropriations.



P.1

1/2

## '3 new depts could cause policy chaos, budget lack'

BY ELIJAH FELICE E. ROSALES

*@alyasjah*

**B**USINESS leaders warned the government on Thursday it runs the risk of being derailed by poor policy coordination and budget shortfalls in its plan to put up three new high-level agencies on disaster resilience, water resources regulation and overseas Filipinos.

Private-sector leaders told the BUSINESSMIRROR two of the three departments the government is eyeing to create are redundant with the functions of some existing agencies. Guillermo M. Luz, former private-sector cochairman of the now-defunct National Competitiveness Council, said this might result in a state of confusion between offices and their purposes.

"I think the biggest risk lies in having poor policy coordination and implementation if agencies are

not synchronized nor connected," Luz said in a text message.

"Offhand, I would say that a Department of Water Resources only makes sense if all current water agencies are rationalized and placed under a single umbrella. If this does not happen, then we run the risk of lack of coordination and policy challenges," he explained.

Under House Bill (HB) 8068, filed by then-House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the 17th Congress, the Department of Water, Irrigation, Sewage and Sanitation Resource Management will be put up, rationalizing the powers and duties of the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

SEE "3 NEW DEPTS," A2



## 3 new depts. ♦ ♦ ♦

CONTINUED FROM A1

As a Cabinet-level agency, the department will be headed by a secretary, under whom are five undersecretaries—on finance service; administrative service; planning and engineering services; regulatory and financial assistance services; and operations—who can be aided by as many as three assistant secretaries.

### Funding lack

THE creation of this new bureaucracy for the management of water resources will only result in red tape and funding deficiency, according to Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. President Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr.

If the government intends to manage water resources more efficiently, Ortiz-Luis said existing agencies with such function can be transferred to the Office of the President (OP) under the direct

supervision of the Chief Executive. This way, the highest leader of the land can tweak the policy direction of these offices.

"If we can afford to create another...office with its own officials and employees, if we have spare money, then why not? Otherwise, I will not prioritize the creation of the Department of Water Resources if I were the President. Existing agencies can be transferred under the OP if the government really wants to give them additional power," Ortiz-Luis said over the phone.

"The government should see to it that the creation of these new agencies will not put at risk funding for the important things, which are the infrastructure projects and social programs geared toward uplifting the lives of the poor," he added.

### Department for OFW

LUZ said the creation of the Department of Overseas Filipino Workers is no longer necessary, as the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) is mandated to protect the interests of

all laborers, including overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

"I am not yet clear on the necessity of having a Department of OFWs because we already have the DOLE plus other agencies," Luz argued. "[I am] not sure what will happen to their roles and responsibilities in the future."

The Department of Foreign Affairs and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas under the OP share some of the responsibilities with the DOLE in advancing the interests and protecting the welfare of Filipino migrant workers.

In setting up these proposed agencies, Ortiz-Luis asked: where will the government source the funding for their operations? He reminded the government only one of the four packages under the comprehensive tax reform program has been passed, leaving finance and budget officials with no option but to cut the funding of some departments in favor of these new agencies.

"Obviously, this will be financed by our taxes. However, I do hope the government will not be

imposing additional taxes to operate these new departments. Businesses and consumers alike had just adjusted to the new taxes applied on fuel and sugar," the business leader added.

If there is one office business leaders are in favor of putting up, it is the Department of Disaster Resilience. Luz said the creation of such is overdue, as the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) should have been abolished to pave the way for a single authority tasked to carry out the interagency function.

Republic Act 10121, the NDRRMC's enabling law, has a sunset review provision that allows legislators to evaluate the need for the continued existence of the council five years after the effectivity of the law in 2010, or as the need arises.

"The Department of Disaster Resilience is necessary because the NDRRMC was supposed to be phased out in favor of a new agency with a fresh mandate and expanded responsibilities. I believe that such an agency should have strong private sector participation," Luz said.

P.2

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# 2019 Sona good for agriculture

## COMMENTARY

ERNESTO M. ORDOÑEZ

**P**resident Duterte's State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 22 meant good news for agriculture. There were four important Sona agricultural recommendations made, which we must put in context.

After focusing on "Build, Build, Build" in the first three years of its term, the administration must, during its last three years, focus on "Grow, Grow, Grow," specially in agriculture. With improved infrastructure, but without the other critical elements for growth, the farm sector cannot prosper.

For the last eight years, industry has grown at an average of 6.8 percent; agriculture, a measly 1.4 percent. Worse, in 2018, agriculture grew by only 1.1 percent, slowing further to 0.7 percent in the first quarter of 2019. This has resulted in rural poverty at 30 percent, more than double that of Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam.

The four Sona announcements that can significantly improve this situation are as follow:

•On the creation of new department of water resources and a water regulatory commission. Agriculture uses 70 percent of our

water. But since we only harvest 4 percent of our rain water compared to 60 percent in India's key areas, droughts kill much of our agriculture. Furthermore, the 5.7 million denuded forest hectares cause soil runoffs that destroy our fields and further deplete our low water tables. Our 300,000 lost mangroves no longer protect us from flash floods and deprive us of needed fish for our fishermen's livelihood. Ill-advised irrigation decisions further compound our agriculture problems.

All these involve coordination by different government agencies. But our 32 water-related agencies are not properly coordinated. The new department will address this problem.

However, it may take some time for legislation to take place. Therefore, it is hoped that the President will soon sign a presidential executive order with contributions from the Movement for Water Security and public-private sector groups, and ably guided by the National Economic and Development Authority. It will provide a structure for the needed agency coordination to take place, while waiting for the necessary legislation.

•On the passage of a National Land Use Act in 2019. This will regulate the use of our land and water resources, and classify land according to its use. Farmers, fisherfolk and investors need this law to

provide stability and certainty on what the land will be used for. Consequently, short- and long-term plans can be formulated and implemented. Speculative real estate prospects will no longer take the place on the land needed for our food security.

•On the urgent utilization of the coconut levy fund, which now exceeds P100 billion. However, haste must not result in waste. The formulation of a professionally crafted coconut road map will ensure the optimal use of these funds. It is a tragedy that two out of our three million coconut hectares are mostly idle because nothing is planted between the trees. While we import more than 80 percent of our coffee and cacao, planting these products between the coconut trees will decrease our imports and increase the farmers' incomes from P20,000 to P100,000 a hectare, with only a P60,000 investment. Working for added value instead of relying on low-priced copra can easily increase this income to more than P300,000.

•On Land Bank of the Philippines. He said, "Bumalik kayo where you were created for, and that is to help the farmers...or else I will ask Congress to reconfigure you."

Credit has been the biggest problem of agriculture, where only 2 percent of loanable funds go to this sector. In 2017, Land

Bank, which is the country's agriculture bank, lent P62.5 billion to small farmers and fisherfolk and P84.8 billion to agri-agua businesses. However, this is only 22 percent of Land Bank's P674.5B in loans. The reason is that Land Bank, if it wishes to retain its universal bank status, has to meet stringent financial criteria. This forces it to minimize the risk from agriculture lending. It is perhaps worthwhile for Duterte to now consider reconfiguring Land Bank from a universal bank to a true agriculture bank. This would then be similar to other countries' agriculture banks, which do not have to meet a universal bank's strict financial criteria.

The Sona has opened up at least four doors for agriculture to prosper. It is now up to the public and private sector to join hands and transform the Sona's agriculture rhetoric into development reality. INQ



The author is Agriwatch chair, former Secretary of Presidential Programs and Projects and former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry. Contact him via [watch\\_phil@yahoo.com](mailto:watch_phil@yahoo.com)



## SoNA 2019

**“ Weighing the President’s speech as a whole, I think many Filipinos have a reason to be hopeful.**

This year was the third year that President Rodrigo Roa Duterte delivered his State of the Nation Address (SoNA). As before, more Filipinos than I can remember have tuned in to listen to the President address the pressing issues of the day and elaborate on his plans for the remainder of his term.

For my part, I found the President’s speech reassuring in that much of it was devoted to his overall goal of providing a more comfortable life for all Filipinos. The most important number, to borrow directly from his speech, is the 6 million Filipinos still mired in



**BRIEFING ROOM**  
Harry Roque

poverty, and his speech laid out a comprehensive plan to address their plight.

He promised to increase wages, including the wages of teachers, and push for further tax reforms. He sternly warned agencies that have failed to fulfil their mandates or remain riddled with corruption to shape up, among them the Bureau of Customs and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation. He also touched on

departmental reforms that would make it easier to meet the needs of our populace, including the creation of a Department of Water Resources

and a Department of Disaster Resilience. Among the priority bills he asked Congress to consider are long-awaited measures such as the National Land Use Act.

**“ I found the President’s speech reassuring in that much of it was devoted to his overall goal of providing a more comfortable life for all Filipinos.**

column will not suffice to fully address the WPS and his administration’s handling of the dispute.

I am aware that much of the criticism of the President’s speech has centered on his statements regarding the situation in the West Philippine Sea (WPS). One

(If you have been following me lately, you will know that I have written about it quite a lot of late.) However, I will say that the President was crystal-clear in one respect: he stated plainly that the WPS is ours, no ifs and buts. Again, some may disagree with the President’s tempered approach to the dispute with China, but it should be clear that he does not adhere to China’s position on who owns what and remains committed to our country’s territorial claims.

Weighing the President’s speech as a whole, I think many Filipinos have a reason to be hopeful. Matters of foreign policy aside, his speech promised that we all have much to look forward to. And if I have learned anything from working with this President, what he promises, he delivers.



## 'Possession' or 'position' controversy turns ludicrous

**T**HIS is becoming ludicrous. Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo's explanation of the President's declaration of his helplessness about the situation in the West Philippine Sea because China is "in possession" of disputed geographical features in the area has made matters worse.

Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio is now suggesting that the President disown the statement of his spokesman and chief presidential counsel.

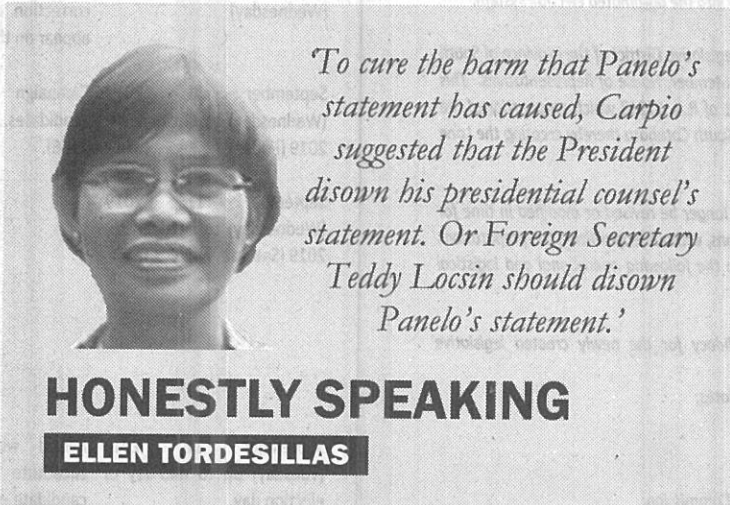
This all started when the President said in his State-of-the-Nation address last Monday that "You know, I cannot go there even to bring the Coast Guard to drive them away. China also claims the property and he is in possession. Yan ang problema. Sila 'yung in possession and claiming all the resources there as an owner. We are claiming the same, but we are not in the position because of that fiasco noong dalawang nag-standoff doon during the time of my predecessor si Albert, ambassador."

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana tried to downplay the adverse implication of that statement by reducing it to a pronunciation error—that what everybody heard President say, "possession" should have been "position."

That was weird.

But it seems the worse has yet to come.

In his post SONA briefing, Panelo clarified that what the President meant was "legal possession."



*'To cure the harm that Panelo's statement has caused, Carpio suggested that the President disown his presidential counsel's statement. Or Foreign Secretary Teddy Locsin should disown Panelo's statement.'*

### HONESTLY SPEAKING

ELLEN TORDESILLAS

He said: "But when you're ba in possession, isang portion lang ang ipu-possess mo? Kapag mayroon kang mga military installation doon, in other words, pinapakita na kaya nilang bantayan iyong buong lugar nila, eh di in possession pa rin sila. Hindi naman kailangan physically. Like when you have 10,000 hectares, do you need to be all over the 10,000 hectares to call it your own? There's such thing as legal possession – iyon. As far as they're concerned sa kanila iyon. And they are in possession kasi they can enforce it eh, iyon ang punto."

Carpio, in an interview with CNN's Pinky Webb in the morning show "The Source," explained the "serious" implication of Panelo's statements. He said the basis of China's claim in the South China Sea is the nine-dashline which was

invalidated by the Arbitral Court in the case filed by the Philippines against China. Even if they are in possession of the geographical features, it's "illegal possession."

Carpio warned: "The moment you say that China is in legal possession, you abandon the ruling, you contradict the ruling and you give China an ammunition to demolish our ruling. China will always cite this statement by the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel that the Philippines has submitted that we are in legal possession and therefore that ruling will not apply anymore because this is a subsequent statement of the Philippines."

Being the President's spokesman, Carpio said Panelo's "legal possession" statement has the effect of being "the thinking of the President."

To cure the harm that Panelo's

statement has caused, Carpio suggested that the President disown his presidential counsel's statement. Or Foreign Secretary Teddy Locsin should disown Panelo's statement.

Or, Carpio said, Panelo should take back his statement. If he doesn't want to take it back, he should say that he was just joking.

Panelo is not taking back his statement nor is he saying he was joking. He is now using another term: "constructive possession."

In yesterday's press briefing, he was asked about Carpio's advice. He took a jibe at the senior justice, saying he was not listening to his analogy. He said: "No. What I meant was in constructive possession. I was making an analogy doon sa ten—hindi ba sabi ko, when have 10 hectares, you don't have to be in the entire 10 hectares. You can still occupy one place and you have legal possession. Analogy lang iyon, what I meant was constructive possession."

"The way Secretary Esperon and Secretary Delfin explained that they are in positional advantage, which means they are in constructive possession by reason of the installation of military—what do you call that, camps... airport... installation... whatever. In other words, they can do something to protect what they claim to be their territory."

China must be laughing.

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com



SPEEDY TRANSITION FROM FOSSIL FUELS

# DENR, DOE TOLD: PUSH GREEN ENERGY, DON'T CONTRADICT DUTERTE

An energy and environment think tank has called on the Duterte administration to issue an executive order to fast-track the development of renewable energy sources while reducing dependence on coal.

The Center for Energy, Ecology and Development (CEED) made the appeal after President Duterte directed Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi in his State of the Nation address on Monday to speed up the development of renewable energy sources and reduce dependence on traditional energy sources such as coal.

Environment groups said the President's statement should be the signal for government officials to speed up the transition to cleaner energy alternatives, including solar and wind.

### Provide clear directions

Gerry Arances, CEED executive director, said an executive order would formalize the President's plan and provide clear policy directions to the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"We also encourage Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi and Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to outline what it means for its standing policies on per-



**SHOW OF FANGS VS FOSSIL FUELS** In a 2018 protest action, environmentalists in T-Rex costumes challenge the country's three biggest coal companies to lead the Philippine transition to renewable and clean energy sources like wind and solar. Coal, a fossil fuel, is a major contributor to global warming. —JAM STA. ROSA

mitting processes concerning energy projects and coal-fired power plants in the pipeline," Arances said in a statement.

"We do not want the offices mainly mandated to pursue this transition to be the ones contradicting the President's commitment to the people."

Both agencies drew flak from green groups after the DENR recently issued an environment compliance certificate to a 15-megawatt coal-fired

power plant in Palawan province.

The plant would adversely impact the public health and biodiversity in the province, dubbed the country's last ecological frontier, according to antioil advocates and residents.

Coal, a fossil fuel that emits greenhouse gases, still dominates the country's current energy mix. It is seen as a major contributor to global warming.

The share of coal was ex-

pected to grow with 30 coal projects in the pipeline, Arances said, even as antioil groups warned that coal-fired power plants were increasingly becoming stranding assets.

The Philippine Energy Plan, formulated by the DOE, also projects increasing coal use for at least two more decades.

Its growth continues even after the passage in 2008 of the Renewable Energy Act, which pushes for a transition away from fossil fuels.

### Clear signal

The Climate Change Commission (CCC), however, said the President's directive sent a clear signal to policymakers, regulators, investors and energy industry executives to promote and invest in more affordable, reliable and cleaner power infrastructure.

"Renewable energy can provide a major share of the Philippine electricity mix in a stable and reliable manner, and at the same time, increase energy self-sufficiency and reduce supply-related risks," said CCC Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman.

"We must act swiftly to transform our energy sector and to deliver its socioeconomic benefits to the Filipino people," he added. —JHESSET O. ENANO INQ



# DOE vows speedy implementation of major renewable-energy policies

By LENIE LECTURA [@llectura](#)

**T**HE Department of Energy (DOE) has vowed to fast-track the implementation of two key renewable-energy (RE) policies following President Duterte's remarks that the country needs to develop more RE sources, and reduce dependence on traditional energy sources, such as coal.

"The DOE is encouraged by the Presi-

dent's comments. Indeed, his leadership will be pivotal for the DOE to implement policies and regulations that ensure the affordability, reliability, security and sustainability of energy in the Philippines for generations to come," said Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi.

These two policies are the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) and the Green Energy Option (GEO).

RPS mandates distribution utilities

to source a minimum portion of energy from renewable sources, thus guaranteeing a market for RE generators. This minimum portion will be increased on a yearly basis.

GEO, on the other hand, will empower consumers to demand that their energy is sourced from renewable resources.

Additionally, the DOE has initiated a proposal to establish a Green Energy Rate for 2,000 megawatts of new

RE generation capacity. The National Renewable Energy Board is expected to submit its recommendations in the months ahead.

Cusi said the Green Energy Rate will not be a feed-in-tariff program and will not be subsidizing the RE generation sector, thus, the need to be competitive with current market rates. Instead, the Green Energy Rate will support the RE generators with securing power supply contracts and selling their energy by setting a baseline price.

"Indeed, it is important that we continue to develop renewable and indigenous energy sources in order to ensure long-term energy security. However, energy security also requires diversification beyond RE," he added.

"LNG [liquefied natural gas] and coal-fired power plants are the bridging-fuel we will need as we transition towards more RE. Until then, conventional energy will continue to play a role in energy diversification and security," said Cusi.

The energy and environmental think tank Center for Energy, Ecology and Devel-

opment (CEED) earlier urged the Duterte administration to issue an executive order that will focus on the development of more RE sources.

"We welcome the positive remarks uttered by the President during his State of the Nation Address, 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's 51-percent share in the power mix will continue to grow given the 30 coal-fired power plants still in the pipeline. The DOE also projects that coal will 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.



## Villar sees local resistance to land use measure

A NATIONAL land use measure is expected to face resistance from local governments because it seeks to take away local powers and give them to a central authority, Senator Cynthia A. Villar said.

"Land use is determined by the local government. Now, they want to centralize it. Who will remove it from the local government to centralize? You are inviting the ire of all the mayors in the Philippines. That's their power," she told reporters in a chance interview.

*"Mas marami nga silang hinihingi na ibalik sa local government (local officials want a lot more powers to be returned to them)... Now we're going to centralize it? I don't want to do that,"* she added.

A national land use measure has been stuck in Congress for years, even after it was certified as urgent by former President Benigno S.C. Aquino III. President Rodrigo R. Duterte also brought up the issue of land use in his last three State of the Nation Addresses (SONAs).

In his most recent SONA on Monday, Mr. Duterte said that the law should be passed within the year.

The proposed National Land Use Act, or Senate Bill No. 1522, which dates from the Second Session of the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress, aims to "provide a policy for the rational, holistic, and just allocation, utilization, management and development of our land resources."

It calls for a National Land Use Commission to create, update, and ensure the implementation of the National Framework Plan, which will be the basis for land use and physical development policy.

The House version, House Bill (HB) No. 5240, or the proposed National Land Use and Management Act of the Philippines, backs the creation of the National Land Use Policy Council (NLUPC). It will be responsible for the execution of the responsibilities under the act, and take on the function of the National Economic Development Authority National Land Use Committee (NB-NLUC), which will then be abolished.

Currently, land use is undertaken by local government units, who are authorized by Section 20 of Republic Act (RA) 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, and the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 54-1995.

They give a city or municipality the power to reclassify agricultural land after determining that the land is not suited for agricultural purposes, or if it has more value as a residential, commercial, or industrial site.

Reclassification is limited to certain levels depending on the category of local government. Highly urbanized and independent component cities can reclassify about 15% of their land; component cities and first to third class municipalities 10%; and fourth to sixth-class municipalities 5%. — **Vincent Mariel P. Galang**



## 'Habagat' weakens, fair weather seen in next few days

By **ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ**

The southwest monsoon or "habagat" will likely remain weak until the weekend, according to the state weather bureau.

A relatively weak southwest monsoon will prevail over Southern Luzon and Western Visayas this Friday, and isolated rain showers and thunderstorms will be confined in these areas, said Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) weather specialist Ariel Rojas.

He added that Metro Manila and the rest of the country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers from localized thunderstorms over the weekend.

Generally fair weather condition will prevail in the next few days but short duration heavy rains may persist especially in the afternoon or evening in most parts of the country, Rojas said.

However, he warned that sudden rains due to severe thunderstorm activity may cause flash floods or landslides in low-lying or mountainous areas.

As the southwest monsoon entered a period of lull almost a week ago, the Angat Dam in

Bulacan has been adversely affected by the insufficiency of monsoon rains over the watershed area in Norzagaray.

As of Thursday morning, the water level at Angat Dam was 161.28 meters, down slightly by 8 centimeters from last Thursday's 161.36 meters.

Its current level is still low, although it is a little over the 160-meter critical level.

Angat Dam needs at least 336 millimeters of one-time rainfall to recover to its minimum operating level of 180 meters.

To reach its 210-meter normal high water level, about 1,267 mm of rainfall, equivalent to four to five cyclones, will be needed.

Authorities, however, are hopeful that Angat Dam may fully recover by next month as the August-September period is the peak of southwest monsoon season and tropical cyclone activity.

Based on historical record, about four to eight cyclones usually form during August and September. The track of tropical cyclones during this period is mostly land-falling or crossing the landmass of Luzon, but still, some cyclones are recurving or do not directly affect the country.



WATER QUALITY MONITORING

# BORACAY, MANILA BAY WOES WON'T HAPPEN IN SARANGANI,

## DENR ASSURES

By Bong S. Sarmiento  
@inqmindanao

KORONADAL CITY—Environment officials are stepping up their watch over the health of Sarangani Bay to avoid the tragedy that befell Boracay Island or Manila Bay, which have been undergoing rehabilitation due to pollution and other development-related problems.

Sabdullah Abubacar, director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Soccsksargen (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, General Santos), assured that Sarangani Bay's waters were safe for swimming, noting that the

DENR was determined to have this quality maintained.

Declared a protected area, the 215,950-hectare bay straddles the towns of Glan, Malapatan, Alabel and Maasim in Sarangani province, and General Santos City.

Apart from swimmers, its pristine waters have also drawn tourists wanting to try water sports and other activities.

### Tourist destination

Sarangani Bay's most popular destination is the town of Glan which has fine, white sand beaches in Gumasa District, touted as the "Boracay of the South."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**SAND SCULPTURE** A sand sculpting competition is among the highlights of Sarangani Bay Festival, which is held in Glan, Sarangani, to promote the province as a major summer destination.

Gumasa hosts the annual Sarangani Bay Festival, billed as one of the biggest summer beach parties in the country that has attracted thousands of

tourists.

Beach resorts operate mainly in the bay's Sarangani section while industrial plants, such as tuna canning factories, operate

in General Santos City.

Abubacar said the DENR was keeping close watch on the operations of beach resorts and other establishments to ensure that they follow regulatory standards.

Of particular concern is the water quality of the bay, which is regularly checked by the Protected Area Management Board, the local governments and other groups, he added.

### Environmental review

Abubacar said Sarangani Bay was designated by the DENR in 2009 as a water quality management area (WQMA). According to the DENR, the designation as WQMA makes

the bay a priority in the government's protection measures to ensure that the water body will remain clean and healthy.

Alex Jimenez, regional director of the Environmental Management Bureau, said resorts and industrial companies were subjected to environmental impact assessment, providing them a guide in ensuring how operations would not pollute Sarangani Bay.

"All results of the tests we have conducted in all the beaches along Sarangani Bay are good and we can assure the public that [the waters] are safe for swimming," he said. INQ





CONSERVATION STRATEGY

# BAGUIO'S PINE EYED AS HERITAGE TREE

BAGUIO CITY—A proposal to declare Baguio's pine as a heritage tree is being reviewed to determine how it would impact on development projects in the city.

The proposal was revived by the city council on Monday only to be tabled because of questions regarding its scope, how it could be enforced, and whether it would prevent developers from cutting pine trees standing on their projects.

The measure reached first reading before the term of the previous council ended in June.

### Moratorium

It sought to penalize violators with a P5,000-fine for harming or cutting pine trees, according to former councilor Leandro Yangot, the main proponent.

Yangot said overdevelopment had rendered the Baguio pine as "an endangered species."

A moratorium on tree cutting is one of the features of a proposed executive order, which Mayor Benjamin Magalong had requested from Malacañang to allow time to rebuild the city's forests while the government undertakes a rehabilitation of its public service facilities such as sewage.

A third of Baguio has tree cover, but only 500,000 of 2.5 million trees are pine species, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Councilor Betty Lourdes Ta-

banda, who heads the city council's committee on laws, said the revived measure should define properly how the government will identify and preserve the trees.

### Ordinance

It should also spell out how trees can be covered by the protection granted by the national government to heritage structures and other culturally important relics, Tabanda said.

Baguio was one of the first cities to enact an ordinance protecting pine trees. The law, approved in 1990, bars people from nailing sign boards or carving on pine trees.

In April, the Supreme Court permanently barred a mall from cutting the trees left on its property here.

### Inspection

On Wednesday night, Magalong and his team inspected a private lot owned by a department store owner and found 45 of 61 trees drilled with holes in an apparent attempt to kill the tree cluster.

The damaged trees were first examined by foresters of the city environment and parks management office.

Magalong directed city government lawyers to sue the property owner, saying the trees could be passed off as dead so they could hasten the release of tree cutting permits.

—VINCENT CABREZA INQ



## Clean Air Initiative slated

Ahead of the upcoming 2019 Climate Action Summit, the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and Climate and Clean Air Coalition announced the "Clean Air Initiative" which calls on governments at all levels to join the Initiative.

The "Clean Air Initiative" calls on national and subnational governments to commit to achieving air quality that is safe for citizens, and to align climate change and air pollution policies by 2030.

### **Governments at all levels can join the Clean Air Initiative by committing to specific actions.**

According to WHO, each year, air pollution causes seven million premature deaths, of which 600,000 are children. According to the World Bank, air pollution costs the global economy an estimated \$5.11 trillion in welfare losses, and in the 15 countries with the highest greenhouse gas emissions, health impacts of air pollution are estimated to cost more than 4 percent of GDP.

Meeting the Paris Agreement on climate change, however, could save over one million lives a year by 2050 and yield health benefits worth an estimated \$54.1 trillion – about twice the costs of mitigation – through reduced air pollution alone.

Governments at all levels can join the Clean Air Initiative by committing to specific actions, including implementing air quality and climate change policies that will achieve the WHO Ambient Air Quality Guideline values; implementing e-mobility and sustainable mobility policies and actions with the aim of making a decisive impact on road transport emissions; assessing the number of lives that are saved, the health gains in children and other vulnerable groups, and the avoided financial costs to health systems that result from implementing their policies and tracking progress, sharing experiences and best practices through an international network supported by the Breathelife Action Platform.

The announcement was made by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Climate Action Summit, Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba, in New Delhi, India, following two days of meetings with representatives of governments, business and civil society.



## Surviving summer

**H**ow does one survive summer in the city?

It is like living in a pressure cooker. One needs to shut the senses to the searing, blinding heat. There is a water shortage. The water and electric bills are up. Temperatures are high.

There is a blanket of noxious diesel fumes spewed by dilapidated vehicles and factory smokestacks. The air smells like acrid burning rubber. A passing shower intensifies the humidity, releasing steam from the scalding pavement. The sparse parks are shrinking in size. The few square meters of open space have parched trees with withered twigs and dangling leaves. The dusty wind whirls over the narrow cracked sidewalks and alleys, scattering bits of paper and tin foil.

One can barely discern the hazy skyline of gray cement, pewter, steel, and glass buildings. Smog covers the distant skeletal structures. Too many skyscrapers are rising.

Mornings are sunny, hot and afternoons are sweltering, enervating. Living creatures seem to vanish in the scorching sunlight.

In the suburbs, birds and butterflies and other animals flee to the shade of the ancient acacia trees.

The flame trees are gloriously abloom despite the heat, but they don't last long due to the grimy air.

However magnificent the new structures are, the metropolis is overbuilt, congested. There are too many towers, too many people, but not enough open parks trees and fountains to cool the

place. Once upon a time, there used to be vast green fields, rolling hills, clear rivers with cool breezes.

After the past 20 years, development fatigue is setting in. At first, development was slowly creeping in. Then, it stripped the landscape and uprooted trees and shrubs. The once pristine river has become a smelly dumpsite, a stagnant canal.

In the older part of town, the urban blight is worse. The city is shrouded in smoke that dissipates only with heavy rain and wind. Then there is the gray acid rain.

The once splendid coastal boulevard is now an avenue with reclaimed land, buildings and casinos.

The pre-war bridges need repairs. The vintage art deco buildings are being demolished instead of being retrofitted and restored. The beautiful centuries-old Binondo church was restored by adding layers of cement to cover the original adobe stones with etched lines to appear like bricks. The statues of saints on the outer walls were spray painted a garish shade of gold.

Heritage advocates should try to remedy the situation by calling a heritage specialist/architect to coordinate with the parish priest or church authorities. The trompe l'oeil ceiling and the relics are photogenic. But the luster and ambiance of the old church are gone.

The luxury hotels that are almost 50 years old are being torn down to give way to skyscrapers. This is to avoid the ban on tearing down heritage structures.

### BEYOND BRUSHSTROKES MARIA VICTORIA RUFINO

Mornings are sunny, hot and afternoons are sweltering, enervating. Living creatures seem to vanish in the scorching sunlight.

City residents, students, professionals, office staff and workers have to brave the horrendous traffic caused by too many vehicles and not enough roads. There are not enough decent, safe modes of public transportation.

Garbage spills onto many sidewalks. Ironically, the trash is strewn outside the fences of immaculately clean homes and gardens. For some odd reason and a character fluke, most people seem to limit neatness and order only to the inner portion of their immediate surroundings.

Beyond the wall, who cares?

The lackadaisical manner and nonchalant attitude are symptoms of a general malaise. One can feel lonely in a city bursting with people.

The bay still has the best sunset in the world. The colorful spectacle is incomparable and awesome. The contrast lies in the murky waters whose stench is repugnant. The floating debris the river brings is the big scourge — loathsome non-biodegradable plastic.

There is hope for Manila Bay. There is a big civic group affiliated

with tourism that is cleaning and saving the bay. They are removing the loathsome plastic.

The monsoon rains have started to wash away some of the filth and grime from the city. The rains bring blessed relief from the heat. The air is cleansed for a while of the soot. The smog disappears and is replaced by a fine mist.

The cityscape appears in soft focus. An Impressionist painting whose sharp angles now have gently blurred edges and soft delicate brushstrokes. Gardens and little parks come alive as grass and weeds sprout wildly. The trees, leaves and flowers glisten with tiny prisms and droplets. The winds cool the air and blow remnants of summer away.

The clouds unleash torrents that cascade over rooftops and splash on to the streets. Water seeps into every crook and cranny and flows into instant streams. After the rain, when the sun peeps through the clouds, the city is bathed in a special glow. Everything smells fresh and new. For a while.

One always has mixed feelings about the rainy season. It could be one's favorite season because of the cooler temperature.

If there were no floods. ■

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PAGE  
UPPER  
  
LOWER  
PAGE 1  
STORY  
BANNER  
STORY  
EDITORIAL  
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25 JUL 2019  
DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

## 'GARBAGE CAFE' TO OFFER MEALS FOR PLASTIC TRASH

NEW DELHI—Hungry, but don't have cash? No problem, bring plastic waste and get a free meal, said the mayor of an Indian city where the country's first "garbage cafe" will open next month.

The small restaurant in the eastern city of Ambikapur will provide hearty food to homeless and poor people, and encourage citizens to keep their streets clean, said Mayor Ajay Tirkey.

**A10**

"Everybody is welcome to donate plastic. The cafe will be mainly run by women ... Preparations are in full swing!" he told Thomson Reuters Foundation on Wednesday.

Single-use plastics are banned in many states, but Indians still generate 26,000 tons of plastic waste every day, accord-

ing to government data.

The waste is often dumped in streets, drains and landfills.

Garbage Cafe, inspired by similar cafes that have opened in countries including Cambodia and Belgium, wants to change that.

In exchange for one kilogram of plastic, the cafe will serve a curry with rice, lentils and papadams, said Tirkey, estimating that would take a couple

of hours to collect.

For half that weight, punters will receive a breakfast of samosas, lentil doughnuts or stuffed flatbreads.

### Plastic road

A waste management system, set up in 2015 and run by women who go door-to-door collecting plastic for recycling, has helped make Ambikapur one of India's cleanest cities.

The city built a road made entirely of plastic in 2015, India's first, and earns 1.2 million rupees (\$17,400) a month selling plastic and recycled paper to private companies, according to Tirkey.

In a similar move earlier this year, a school in northeastern Assam state started providing free schooling to students in exchange for plastic waste. —THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

SON REUTERS FOUNDATION



## Bawal plastik sa Batang Pinoy - Bitog

IUWI ang pinakamahalagang titulo at medalya bilang isang national champion ang paglalabanan ng mahigit na 5,000 batang atleta sa buong bansa sa muling paghaharap-harap sa pinakamaigting na huling yugto ng inoorganisa ng Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) na national youth sporting event sa 15-anyos pababa na Batang Pinoy.

Isasantabi ng mga kabataan ang kanilang unang napagwagiang medalya sa kanilang rehiyon sa muling pagsabak nito sa multi-sports na torneo na tampok ang 26 regular sports na pinaglabanan sa qualifying leg at limang dagdag sa national championships sa pagtungo sa Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

Sinabi ni Batang Pinoy Secretariat head Manuel Bitog na pinakamahuhusay na

batang atleta ang bubuo sa 5,000 kalahok matapos ang serye ng kanilang isinagawang Delegation Registration Meetings sa Mindanao, Visayas, South Luzon at North Luzon simula nitong buwan ng Hulyo.

"We are looking at more than 5,000 athlete-participants in Palawan. Our series of delegation registration meetings since the start of July has helped the PSC to clearly determine the number and profile of competing athletes in the games," sabi ni Bitog.

Sinimulan ng PSC ang DRM sa Mindanao noong Hulyo 3 -5 sa Pinnacle Hotel, Davao City, bago ang Visayas noong Hulyo 10 -12 sa Cebu City Sports Complex. Ang South Luzon na ikatlong pagpupulong ay noong Hulyo 17-19 sa Lipa City Youth & Cultural Center at ang North Luzon noong Hulyo 24 -26 sa Provincial Employment

& Skills Development Center (PESDC) sa Narciso Ramos Sports & Civic Center sa Lingayen, Pangasinan.

Inihayag din ni Bitog ang istriktong pag-iimplementa ng ahensiya sa 'Zero Plastic Policy' sa pagsasagawa ng buong torneo base sa pag-uutos ng Presidential Proclamation No. 760 of 2014 at ang Republic Act 9003 na mas kilala bilang "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000."

Ang national championships ay gaganapin sa Puerto Princesa, Palawan simula Agosto 25 hanggang 31 tampok ang kabuuang 31 sports na kung saan ang cycling, gymnastics, judo, billiards, muay thai, rugby football, triathlon, soft tennis, weightlifting, wrestling at wushu ay diretsong gaganapin ang kampeonato. **(Lito Oredo)**



## PUSONG PANALO

ni Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

(Pagpapatuloy...)

MAS madali ang pagpapatupad ng mga hakbang na may kinalaman sa adaptation at mitigation kung ang pamamalakad at mga ahensiya mismo ay maaasahan at epektibo, kung mayroong puhunan o kapital sa mga makabagong teknolohiya at impraestruktura, at kung ang kultura, pamumuhay, at kaugalian, ay responsible at "sustainable."

Gumawa ang Uni-

ted Nations ng isang grupong nag-aaral sa siyensiyang may kinalaman sa climate change. Ito ang IPCC o ang Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Maaaring makita ang karagdagang impormasyon sa website na ito: <https://www.ipcc.ph>

Ayon sa Fifth Assessment Report ng IPCC, ang mga balakid sa maayos na pagpapatupad ng mga estratehiyang kaugnay ng adaptation

## PANAWAGAN PARA SA EPEKTIBONG AKSIYON

at mitigation para sa climate change: matinding epekto ng urbanidad at malaking populasyon; kakulangan sa kaalaman, edukasyon at kasamayan ng mamamayan (human capital); pagkakaiba sa kaugalian at kultura; mga problema sa pamamalakad at mga pamamaraan sa mga ahensiya at institusyon; walang badyet o pondo para sa mga programang pangkalikasan; hindi sapat na teknolohiya; hindi sapat na kalidad o dami ng mga likas na yaman; kakulangan sa kaunlaran

o pakikiayon sa mga kaganapan; at ang hindi pagkakapantay-pantay.

Para sa akin, ang mga hakbangin o estratehiyang tutugon sa hamon ng climate change ay maaaring maapektuhan ng sobrang politika, kawalan ng pakialam, korupsiyon, at mga sistema at polisiyang hindi epektibo. Ito sa ganang akin ay ang pinakamalaking hadlang para sa Filipinas at maaaring maging batayan sa pagitan ng kamatayan at buhay. Kailangang pagtuunan ng seryosong at-

ensiyon o pansin, at agarang aksiyon.

Bilang isang third world country, limitado ang ating pagpipilian at ating mga mapagkukunan. Bukod pa rito, ang ating bansa ay disaster-prone. Ngunit ito ang ating reyalidad na kailangan nating malagpasan upang tayo ay makaligtas o mabuhay. Kung mas maaaga nating matatanggap at maiintindihan ang mga katotohanang ito, mas malaki ang pagkakataon na tayo ay mananatiling ligtas.



NAKATATAKOT ang mga disgrasya sa sasakyan na sunod-sunod na naganap nitong nakaraang ilang buwan at araw.

Iba-iba ang mga dahilan na dapat pag-aralan at pag-ingatan.

### LASING ANG TSUPER

Simulan natin ang bangga ng isang jeepney at isang trak sa Libmana, Camarines Sur nitong Abril 2019.

Nakainom umano ang tsuper, nag-counter flow at nakabanggaang nito ang trak.

Anim na miyembro ng pamilyang galing sa picnic, kabilang na ang tsuper na si Jorge Montañez, ang namatay.

Nasa 14 namang iba pa ang nasugatan.

### GUSTONG MAKARAMI

Nitong nakaraang buwan naman, bumaligtad ang isang bus ng kompanyang Buenasher dahil umano sa mabilis na takbo nito kahit na malakas ang ulan at halos zero visibility ang

North Luzon Expressway sa parte ng Valenzuela, Bulacan.

Walo ang namatay habang 15 ang nasugatan na karamihan ay grabe.

Sa pakiramdam ng mga pasahero, nagmamadali ang tsuper dahil Biyernes noon at pagbuwelta nito mula EDSA pabalik sa Sta. Maria, Bulacan, inasahan ng tsuper na punom-puno ang pasahero nito para kumita.

Hindi na nga umano huminto para mamasahe-ro sa Walter, Sta. Maria at Bocaue exit na karaniwang ginagawa ng mga bus para madaling makarating ng EDSA at makabuwelta nang puno ang pasahero.

### DUMP TRAK

Nito namang nagdaang mga araw sa Boljoon, Cebu, sumakay sa dump truck ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Boljoon ang maraming estudyante mula sa Nangka Elementary School at San Antonio Elementary School para dumalo sa Department of Education District Nutrition and Cultural Sports Meet.

## 7+11 PATAY SA WALANG PRENO, HULOG SA BANGIN

Habang umaakyat umano ang trak sa isang matarik na bahagi ng kalsada, nanghinga ang trak at hindi nakayanan ng tsuper na pahintuin ito habang dumadausdos.

Dito na nahulog sa bangin ang trak at tumilapon ang mga pasahero, na ilan ang nadaganan.

Patay ang 11 estudyante, kabilang na ang isang may edad, habang 17 ang nasugatan.

### ELF PARA MAKIPAGLIBING

Nitong nakaraang mga araw naman, namatay ang pito kataong bumibiyahe para makilamay at makipaglibing sa namatay nilang kaanak sa Aguineldo, Ifugao.

May tatlo namang nasugatan.

Nawalan umano ng preno ang Elf at nawalan ng kontrol ang tsuper.

Nahulog ang trak sa 10 metrong lalim ng bangin na ikinamatay at ikinasugat ng mga pasahero.

### SINO ANG SUSUNOD?

Mahalaga ang katanungang ito dahil maaaring magkaroon pa ng katulad na disgrasya.

At hindi magandang

tingnan na iasa natin lahat sa Diyos ang ating kaligtasan.

Dapat na may gagawin tayo upang mapigilan o mabawasan man lamang ang mga pinsala.

At maaaring magsimula tayo sa mga karanasang nabanggit.

### MARAMING DAHILAN

Akmang-akma ang batas na nagbabawal ng pagmamaneho nang lasing.

Kung hindi lang lasing ang tsuper ng jeepney sa Camarines Sur, sana naging maingat siya at nasa normal na pag-iisip at kalagayan sa katawan.

Nagmadali namang kumita ang tsuper ng pampasaherong bus na Buenasher kaya siya nagmamadali sa pagpapakabo ng sasakyan kahit pa malakas ang buhos ng ulan at halos zero visibility ang kondisyon ng paligid.

Sana, kung pinanghawakan lang ng tsuper ang batas sa pampublikong sasakyan na kaligtasan ng mga pasahero ang pinakamahalaga, sana hindi siya nagpatakbo ng matulin na naging delikado talaga.

Umekis muna saka bumaligtad ang sasakyan

dahil marahil na rin sa pag-iwas ng ibang sasakyan sa kanyang harapan at madulas na daan.

Nakalimutan niya ang patakaran na "slippery when wet."

### WALANG PRENO?

Ang nangyari sa Ifugao at posible sa Cebu ay kawalan ng preno ang isang malaking dahilan.

Bumulusok o umakyat ang mga sasakyang elf at dump truck pero ang klaring naging mga problema, kawalan ng preno.

Malaking usapin dito ang kakayahan ng mga tsuper na mag-tsek sa kanilang sasakyan bago bumiyaha, lalo na ang preno.

Ang preno ang pinakamahalagang pang-iwas sa disgrasya ngunit kung wala ito, ito rin ang pinagmumulan ng disgrasya.

Hindi pupwedeng ilabas ang sasakyang mahina o alanganin o walang preno dahil sa paghawak ng manibela, ang kaligtasan ang dapat na unang isaalang-alang.

Tiyak na disgrasya at walang matatamang kaligtasan sa ganyang kalagayan ng preno.

### HINDI PAMPASAHERO

Itong mga dump truck at elf ay malinaw na hindi pampasahero at walang pangkaligtasang mga bahagi.

Halimbawa ang ta-

mang dingding at bubong.

Dahil walang tamang dingding at bubong, nang bumaligtad ang mga ito, iniluwang ng dump truck ang mga pasahero at mismo pang mga sasakyang ito ang pumisak o pumatay sa mga naluwang pasahero.

Isa pa, para sa mga tsuper ng mga dump truck at elf, hindi kasingtindi ng patakaran na pangkaligtasan ang pinaiiral kumpara sa mga tsuper ng mga pampasaherong sasakyan.

Gumagawa ang pamahalaan ng mga se-

minar para sa mga pampasaherong sasakyan upang itanim sa utak at kaluluwa ng mga tsuper na ang kaligtasan at buhay ng mga pasahero ang pinakamahalaga.

Sa dump truck at elf, mga bato, buhangin, bakal, bigas at iba pang kargamento ang sakay ng mga ito at hindi tao kaya namang kaiba ang pampasaherong sasakyan na kinakailangan ng pinakamatinding pag-iingat.

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



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City  
Tel Nos. (632) 929-66-26 to 29 • (632) 929-62-52  
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> / E-mail: [web@denrgov.ph](mailto:web@denrgov.ph)

## DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

No. 2019 - 07

### SUBJECT : GUIDELINES ON THE DENR PARTICIPATION TO INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS, CONFERENCES AND OTHER RELATED AFFAIRS

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 77 dated March 15, 2019 entitled, "Prescribing Rules and Regulations and Rates of Expenses and Allowances for Official Local and Foreign Travels of Government Personnel" and DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2009-18 or "Transfer of International Affairs Functions to the Planning and Policy Studies Office," the following guidelines are hereby issued for the guidance and compliance of all concerned.

**SECTION 1. Basic Policy.** It is the policy of the State to ensure that the official local or foreign travels shall cover the following criteria: (1) it is essential to the effective performance of an official or employees mandates or functions; (2) it is required to meet the needs of the department, agency, bureau or office, or there is substantial benefit to derived by the State; (3) the presence of the official or employee is critical to the outcome of the meeting, conference, seminar, consultation or any official activity to be attended; and (4) the projected expenses are not excessive or involve minimum expenditure.

#### SECTION 2. Objectives.

- 2.1 To provide a rational mechanism in the formulation of the national position to pursue during conferences or related affairs.
- 2.2 To provide a system of organizing the delegation to conferences, meetings, negotiations and related events.
- 2.3 To provide for an efficient and facilitative preparation and processing of necessary documents for international travel of the delegates to international conferences, meetings, negotiations and related affairs.

**SECTION 3. Scope and Coverage.** This Order covers the participation of DENR officials and employees to High-level Meetings, including Preparatory and Working Group meetings, and Technical and Experts Group meetings in the fulfilment of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) International Agreements/Commitments. This shall also include invitations for speaking engagements or receiving awards from foreign governments/institutions or international agencies/organizations provided that these are within the purview of the international agreements/commitments as enumerated below and are funded by the inviting entity.

These international agreements/commitments are classified into the following:

- 3.1 United Nations (UN) Conventions;
- 3.2 Asia Pacific Agreement;
- 3.3 Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) and sub-regional cooperation; and
- 3.4 Other Multilateral and Bilateral. Agreement entered into by the Philippines not covered by the above classifications such as RAMSAR and CITES.

**SECTION 4. Formulation of the Philippine Position to the Conference Agenda.** The formulation of the Philippine position to conferences shall follow the policy formulation process under DAO No. 2016-09, and shall be subject to approval of the Secretary or the Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs.

**SECTION 5. Organization of the Conference Delegation.** The following procedures shall be observed in organizing the delegation:

- 5.1 Ministerial meetings shall be attended by the Secretary or a DENR official whose rank is not lower than an Assistant Secretary;
- 5.2 Senior Officials' meetings shall be attended by an Undersecretary or DENR Official whose rank is not lower than a Director;
- 5.3 Technical conferences shall be attended by the Heads of Bureaus or Attached Agencies or Assistant Head or the concerned Division Chief; and
- 5.4 The size of the delegation shall be organized at the minimum level. For support staff deemed necessary in the attendance to the above affairs, the most relevant Bureau or Attached Agency shall recommend a technical personnel in addition to those identified by the attendees themselves.

**SECTION 6. Preparation and Processing of Necessary Travel Documents.** The preparation and processing of the necessary papers for international travel involving DENR officials and personnel such as nominations and international funding requests, as well as requests for travel authority and other related papers needed for participation to international commitment conferences and meetings and negotiations shall be prepared by the Policy and Planning Service - Policy Studies Division and will be endorsed by the Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs to the Office of the Secretary for approval and signature. The Human Resources Development Service (HRDS) shall be provided copies of travel authority or a quarterly basis for incorporation to the report to the President.

All nominations and requests for travel authority and other related papers and communications for other foreign, travels, scholarships, training programs, fellowships, study grants, workshops, seminars not covered in Section 3 shall be prepared by the HRDS.

**SECTION 7. Repealing Clause.** All existing Orders, Memoranda and Circular or portions thereof Which are inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 8. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Order shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other portions or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

**SECTION 9. Effectivity.** This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgment of receipt of a copy hereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR) and the UP Law Center.

ROY A. CIMATU  
Secretary

