

DATE : 02 MAR 2019

DAY : Saturday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



DENR joins World Wildlife Day celebration

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources has lined up several activities to mark the local celebration of World Wildlife Day 2019 starting today.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said this year's celebration of the World Wildlife Day dubbed "Life below Water: for People and Planet" is very timely in the midst of the ongoing rehabilitation of the heavily polluted Manila Bay.

"This reminds us of the importance of the marine life as one of the natural resources that we need to sustain," said Cimatu.

The DENR together with other government agencies and local government units, launched the massive cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay last Jan. 27.

Since then, several establishments have been issued cease and desist orders, notices of violations and show cause orders for discharging untreated wastewater into the bay.

Cimatu said the government is keen to have Manila Bay rehabilitated and maintained to a level fit for swimming and other recreational activities; restored to its traditional use as a fishing ground; and reinstated as a vital wetland area.

He said that World Wildlife Day 2019 and the Manila Bay rehabilitation align closely with Sustainable Development Goal 14 — Life below water, which focuses on marine species.

Among the activities

set for the celebration until March 5 includes an exhibition of a mural painting and other paintings featuring marine wildlife species and the Benham Rise.

Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez of the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau, said this year's celebration serves as an opportunity to renew commitments, award deserving authorities in promoting environmental laws, and inculcate knowledge on the marine species among the youth.

Rodriguez added that the DENR, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Tourism will come up with a joint administrative order to renew their commitment for marine wildlife tourism on March 4.

She said the DENR has also partnered with the United States Agency for International Development-Protect Wildlife Project for the 6th Wildlife Law Enforcement Award, which recognizes distinct individuals who have provided invaluable assistance and unqualified support to DENR in enforcing the provisions of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Act of 2001, which will be held on March 5 at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City.

In its past years, the DENR has also conferred the award to more than 300 recipients from various enforcement partner agencies, civil society organizations, and private individuals.

There will also be a simultaneous event in the afternoon for the academe, including the 4th National Wildlife Quiz Bee "to encourage the students to give attention to wildlife both nationally and internationally and to raise their awareness and appreciation of the Philippine wildlife conservation."

Cory Martinez



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Soldiers join Manila Bay cleanup

Some 1,163 soldiers trooped to the coastal areas of Las Piñas and Parañaque yesterday to help clean up Manila Bay.

The activity coincided with the start of the month-long celebration of the Philippine Army's 122nd founding anniversary.

Army Vice Commander Maj. Gen. Rizaldo Limoso and Ignacio Almira, assistant regional director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), led the cleanup at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area.

Active and reserve personnel of the Army participated in cleaning the 175-hectare wetland ecosystem.

The Army said the area is a critical habitat that serves a vital role in the survival of threatened, restricted-range and congregatory bird species.

The Philippine Navy, Philippine Air Force, Maynilad, San Miguel Corp., city environment offices of Parañaque and Las Piñas, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, CAVITEx and National Capital Region Police also showed their support for the Manila Bay rehabilitation.

The activity is part of the Army's cleanup drive involving other major units across the country in partnership with the DENR.

"The Army is committed not only to defend and serve the country, but also contribute to its progress, including a clean and healthy environment for the next generation," Limoso said.

The Philippine Army said it conducted the activity in support to the government's campaign to preserve the environment.

- Michael Punongbayan



21 tonelada ng basura nahakot sa baybayin ng Navotas

Aabot sa 21 toneladang basura ang nahakot ng mga tauhan ng Bureau of Fire Protection at ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Navotas sa baybayin ng Manila Bay na sakop ng lungsod, kamakalawa.

Pinangunahan ni Mayor John Rey Tiangco ang isinagawang «clean-up drive» katuwang ang nasa 250-tauhan buhat sa Bureau of Fire Protection,

mga fire volunteers, at mga street sweepers ng lokal na pamahalaan sa baybayin ng karagatan sa Brgy. Bagumbayan North.

Sinabi ni Tiangco na nasa 21,000 kilo o 21 tonelada ng basura ang nahakot sa aktibidad.

Ang clean-up drive ay isinasagawa kada linggo sa iba't-ibang barangay sa lungsod bilang ayuda sa ikinasang «Battle for Manila

Bay» nitong nakaraang Enero na layong linisin ang look ng Maynila.

Patuloy na nanawagan si Tiangco sa mga residente na naninirahan sa baybayin ng dagat at ilog na tigilan na ang irresponsableng pagtatapon ng basura sa katubigan dahil sa perwisiyong dulot nito sa pagbabaha at pagkasira ng kalidad ng tubig. (*Daniilo Garcia*)



Txt BRIGADE

Mga reporter ng bayan

I-text sa 09293852536

Maging reporter ng inyong lugar. I-text lang ang inyong mga nakikitang ilegal, katiwalian at krimen para makarating sa mga awtoridad. Ang inyong cellphone number at seguridad ay aming pangangalagaan.

- Editor

Mga mayor dapat kasuhan sa maruming Manila Bay

Gud am po Mr. Rey Martinez, Rawis, Tondo, Mla. ng Txt Brigade. Kayo po wala ba kayong napapansin sa ating kapaligiran bilang isang taga-parating sa kinaaukulan tulad ng Txt Brigade, mga Reporter ng Bayan? Itoy tungkol sa Manila Bay na inyong ipinahayag noong Miyerkules, buwan ng Pebrero 6, 2019, na may number na dito e-txt sa 09293852536. Mr. Rey Martinez, puwede po ba akong magbigay ng mga unsolicited suggestion sa ating kapaligiran tulad ng Mla Bay? Bakit di po ninyo isama ang mga river, esteros, at ang drainage channels natin na ipagkasala ang lahat ng Mayors sa hindi pagpapatupad ng batas ayon sa kanilang mandato, at ang mga kapitan na may kapabayaan ganoon din ang mga mayor kaya pag bumaha lahat ng basura pupunta uli sa Manila Bay. Mr Rey Martinez, hamon po sa inyo itong aking unsolicited suggestion. Maraming salamat at gud am muli.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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DENR, cops clueless in death of forester

COTABATO CITY—The police remained virtually clueless in the probe of the killing last Thursday of a forest enforcer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat.

Environment Secretary Frank Cimatu has sent DENR Assistant Secretary Jim Sampulna to meet with the family and colleagues of slain forester Kandatu Bansil, who headed the Forest Law Enforcement Unit of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat.

“Officials and employees of the DENR XII lament the death of Forester Kandatu A. Bansil of the CENRO in Tacurong City,” said Sampulna.

Local police report said the 51-year-old Bansil was shot dead by an unidentified gunman on Feb. 21, in Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat.

But Saga Akmad, the CENRO head in Tacurong City, said nothing much came out of the police investigation from the day Bansil was shot dead early morning in nearby Lambayong, his hometown.

Sampulna said he spoke in defense and sympathy to the bereaved family, as “Secretary Roy A. Cimatu gave instruction to provide the family with assistance most needed and to monitor the result of the investigation.”

DENR Regional Executive Director Nilo Tamera said it was not far-fetched that the employee’s murder was work-related.

“The work of a forester is not an easy task. It is somehow associated with risk especially when they are assigned in the field and armed only with their desire of combatting illegal logging activities,” Tamera said, adding he was saddened by department’s loss of a sincere and dependable worker. **Nash B. Maulana**



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The Manila Times

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PH nickel output seen rebounding

PHILIPPINE nickel mining production may slightly rebound this year to 2028 as suspended mining firms are expected to resume operations, a Fitch Group unit said.

In a report released Friday, Fitch Solutions said that while the sector realized an average of 22.7 percent decline in production from 2016 to 2018 due to closure of open-pit mining, it would "begin rising again this year."

The optimism was being buoyed by the decision of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu to lift the ban on open-pit mining. Instead, the affected firms were just suspended indefinitely until they ensure to meet environment compliance.

Once they settled previous violations, they may start their productions, the DENR chief also said in November last year.

Some of the firms mandated to cease operations by former DENR Secretary Gina Lopez in 2017 were Zambales Diversified Metals Corp., Krominco Inc., Mt. Sinai Exploration and Development Corp., Libjo Mining Corp., Wellex Mining Corp. 1 and 2, Carrascal Nickel Corp., and AAMPHIL Natural Resources Exploration and Development Corp.

"We expect Philippine production to slowly rise over the coming years as currently suspended mines become operational once more," Fitch Solutions said.

Nickel production in the Philippines is expected to grow by an average of 1.7 percent year-on-year over 2019 to 2028, it noted.

Fitch Solutions said domestic miners, including SR Metals, Global Ferronickel, Nickel Asia Corporation and CTP Corp. are expected to still rule the nickel production.

"Nickel Asia, in particular, will remain the driver of nickel production in the Philippines, especially as its Taganito and Cagdianoa mines, the first and second largest in the country respectively, have not been hit by the recent closures and suspensions," it added.

LISBET K. ESMAEL



PH mining sector earnings higher at ₱122 B in 2018

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLORE**

The Philippine mining sector is still benefiting from China's move to raise its stainless steel production that despite a continuous decline in output, the overall value of what it has produced in the entire 2018 managed to rise to ₱121.94 billion.

A latest data from Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) showed that the Philippines' metallic mineral production value went up by 10.42 percent from ₱110.43 billion in 2017 to ₱121.94 billion in 2018, an ₱11.51-billion increase.

This was the second year in a row that the metallic minerals industry was saved by the improving global prices. At the local scene, the industry continues to suffer from lower output amid regulatory uncertainties and a threat of higher tax.

Except for copper and chromite, majority of mineral commodities saw a decline in their respective output, with nickel still suffering the most from the audit that former Environment Secretary Regina Paz Lopez conducted two years ago.

Of the 2018 metals output, nickel direct shipping ore and mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide continued to lead the pack in terms of value with 45.25 percent share, or ₱55.18 billion.

Gold was in second spot with 36.74 percent contribution, or ₱44.81 billion, followed by copper with 16.96 percent share, or ₱20.68 billion. The remaining 1.05 percent, or ₱1.28 billion came from the combined contribution of silver and chromite.

To be specific, nickel direct shipping ore and mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide's production value rose by 16 percent from ₱24.65 billion to ₱28.59 billion, an increase of ₱3.94 billion.

China continued to be the country's top export market for nickel, followed by Japan.

"The strong demand from China for its stainless steel production kept metal prices in better levels. China remains the largest market for metals over 50 percent of the global consumption," MGB said.

Philippines is currently one of the world's biggest exporters of nickel, the primary material in the production of stainless steel.

But for 2018, the country's nickel production

was also down by 4 percent from 27.09 million dry metric tons (DMT) to 25.91 million DMT year-on-year.

This, as ten or 30 percent of the 30 listed nickel companies reported zero production due to care and maintenance program and suspension by the government.

Philippine Nickel Industry Association (PNIA) President Dante Bravo said in earlier interview that the new policy restricting miners to conduct massive digging within their mine sites, among others, will still make it hard for the country to produce more of the said mineral commodity this year.

He was referring to Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Department Administrative Order (DAO) on progressive rehabilitation, which aims to minimize the disturbed area of a mining project at any given time.

Bravo said the country's 2019 nickel ore shipment may further go down by 10 to 20 percent from the 30 million wet metric tons (WMT) or the more than 20 million MT of projected nickel output for 2018.

Aside from this, there is also a huge concern among mining companies about the higher tax the government may impose this year as part of the next phase of administration's Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN).

Now, a potential new fiscal regime on mining is now being deliberated in Senate, which would pave the way for the lifting of the ban on new mining projects.

Meanwhile, copper production volume and value went up by 1 percent and 7 percent, respectively, from 280,394 DMT and an estimated value of ₱19.30 billion in 2017 to 282,391 DMT with estimated value of ₱20.68 billion in 2018.

As of now, there are only four mines in the country that produce copper.

Precious metals gold and silver, on the contrary, exhibited declines in their production records in 2018.

Gold incurred a 9 percent and 2 percent deficit in volume and value, respectively, from 22,749 kilograms (kg) valued at ₱45.80 billion in 2017 to 20,765 kg valued at ₱44.81 billion in 2018.