



Kalikasan

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ALL ROADS LEAD TO BORACAY ISLAND

Reopening set on October 26

The new Boracay is more attractive as it has regained back its almost pristine waters and powdery sands!

October 26 is the day to watch for! This will be the day when the exquisitely beautiful Boracay Island will welcome back all those who long to see her once again. All roads will lead wanderlusts and island lovers back to Boracay Island, so to speak.

No less than DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu announced the date for Boracay's reopening. In fact, he encouraged all the "law compliant" establishments to secure bookings for the reopening as early as now.

The non-compliant businesses will remain closed until they fully complied with the environmental requirements. Most of those that will remain close are yet to secure permits for

water discharge and use of generator sets. The DENR will also be vigilant in their compliance to the Ecological Solid Waste Management, especially on waste segregation and proper disposal.

Boracay Island, touted as the world's most famous beach was shut down from tourists last April 26, 2018 to give way for the six-month rehabilitation. This was after the pronouncement of Philippine President Rodrigo Roa Duterte that the island is a "cesspool".

On April 26, 2018, Regional Director Jim O Sampulna led DENR 6 officials and personnel in joining the conduct of an island-wide clean-up. The activity signified the ultimate goal of rehabilitating Boracay Island and that it will not

be closed for nothing.

Before and during the closure, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), intensively conducted the daily and weekly monitoring of the island's water quality. This is to ensure that the rehabilitation efforts are making an impact on the water surrounding the island. The same will be the basis for declaring Boracay a "cesspool no more".

With the use of Mines and Geosciences Bureau's (MGB) Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), buried illegal pipes on Boracay's White Beach (also known as beachfront) were detected. It was made easier and faster with the manual help of the

► ...more on Page 4

DENR to conduct inventory of tourism sites

DENR 6 Regional Director Jim O Sampulna directed all PENR Officers to heed the order of DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu to conduct an inventory of tourism sites in their respective areas of responsibilities. This is consistent with Director Sampulna's role as the current chairman of the Regional Ecotourism Committee (REC) pursuant to Executive Order 111 Series of 1999.

"The Boracay Island experience has been an eye opener on the environmental problems plaguing our ecotourism sites. We will now work harder to strictly enforce environmental laws to avoid the same problems," said Director Sampulna.

During one of the national executive committee

meetings, Secretary Cimatu made the marching order among DENR Regional Directors to make an inventory of emerging tourism sites in their respective areas and formulate management plans to avoid problems akin to Boracay Island.

"We want to make sure that the problem in Boracay will not be repeated. We will make sure that there is proper sewerage treatment facilities in the tourist sites, the easement zones are followed and that there will be no encroaching in forestlands," Cimatu said.

The DENR is also studying the impact of tourism on wildlife and marine resources in order to formulate restrictions in the interest of protecting their natural habitat.###



TINMR IN GUIMARAS



LAKE MARUGO IN CAPIZ

CDD spearheads World Water Day celebration

On March 22, 2018, the Conservation and Development Division (CDD) spearheaded the conduct of World Water Day celebration in the island of Boracay through various activities.

A coastal clean-up was done in the morning in two areas, namely: Puka beach and Ilig-Iligan beach, participated by volunteer students, teachers and DENR 6 personnel numbering to

270. A total of 235.6 kilos of wastes, mostly plastic bottles, were collected in two areas.

With the theme "Together for our Reefs", the World Water Day observance impressed upon the students and teachers of Lamberto H. Tirol National High School the need to do their part in the protection and conservation of the marine resources.

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The coral reefs in the Philippines are considered to be the richest and most diverse among the mega diverse countries, ranking third in the world. Our country has more than 9,600 square miles of reef ecosystems, serving as home to a variety of astonishing marine life. The Philippine Reefs possess 421 of the 577 species of known coral, 19 species of sea grasses and 30 mangrove species.

In the afternoon of the same day, the poster and slogan making contests were conducted among the students at the school campus. There were three winners in both categories, with the criteria (for both contests) as follows: Creativity and Presentation – 30%; Relevance to the theme – 40%; and Originality – 30%.###



DENR 6 educates young minds to protect wetlands

World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on the 2nd day of February and the 2018 theme: "Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future", is anchored on the importance of the urban wetlands across the world.

DENR Region 6 conducted a bird watching activity at Brgy. Tubigan, Zarraga in the early morning, followed by a school forum and a photo exhibit at Bungso-an Elementary School in Brgy. Nabitasan, Leganes on February 2, 2018 in observance of World Wetlands Day.

The said activities aimed at increasing the awareness and appreciation of the community,

including the youth, on the importance of wetlands and the different species of wildlife found therein.

"The youth are the best agents of change. Young as they are, we should let them understand how important wetlands are in our lives. We need to let them know about the global challenge of integrating the importance of wetlands in the planning and development process of cities and other urban areas. They need to learn that wetlands are prized lands and not wastelands," said Regional Director Jim O Sampulna.

Urban wetlands make cities livable in many

important ways. They reduce flooding, replenish drinking

water, filter wastes, provide urban green spaces and are a source of livelihoods.###



Animals back to the wild



It always felt good to head back home. And for the animals, going back to the wild must felt freedom for them as well.

In observance of the World Wildlife Day last March 3, 2018, the Conservation and Development Division (CDD) led the release of two Reticulated pythons inside the Maasin Watershed Forest Reserve (MWFR) in Brgy. Daja, Maasin, Iloilo.

The animal release was done after the lecture on the importance of wildlife conservation and protection inside the watershed.

“Plants and animals found in Panay are called

endemic. Most of them are in critically endangered status and we should be aware of that and help protect and conserve them,” said Development Management Officer (DMO) II Melba Salditos, also the PAMBCS Acting Chief.

On the other hand, the joint team from Community ENR Offices of Bago and Kabankalan of PENRO Negros Occidental released back to the wild eleven Reticulated pythons, two monitor lizards, two Grass owls and one Philippine sailfin. Technical staff observed proper wildlife handling in their release activity.



This year's theme: “Predators Under Threat” draws attention to the plight of big cats, predators in the wild, that have been on population decline at an alarming rate over the past century. Thus, many global and national actions were made to save the iconic species.###

Earth Day 2018 calls for a stop on plastic pollution

The DENR 6, in cooperation with CENRO Boracay, Business Association of Scuba Shops (BASS) and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Malay participated in the celebration of Earth Day 2018 in the island of Boracay on April 22, 2018.

With the theme: “Green the Cities, Green the Oceans”, sets of buoys were installed in Boracay Island's three different diving and snorkeling sites namely: Coral Garden, Angol Point and Tambisaan Reef in order for the boatmen to have an area where they can moor their boat anchors to further protect the coral reefs in the island.

The scuba divers also did the underwater clean-up and collected a total of 184 kilograms of debris thereby drawing people's attention to put an end to plastic pollution. Among the wastes collected were ropes, plastic bottles and tires.

“We are celebrating our 40th year of Earth Day with the theme: ‘Green the Cities, Green the

Oceans”. I hope these plastic buoys will not end up as plastic pollution in our seas, because other than celebrating Earth Day, we are also celebrating the International Year of the Reef (IYOR). Among the habitat of our ocean, it is the reefs that are very significant,” said Jesse L. Vego, Assistant Regional Director for Management Services.

“We encourage the people not to use plastic and rather go for reusable and biodegradable things. Especially harmful to our land and water are the single-use plastic products such as straw, sachets of coffee, shampoo, cooking oil, toothpaste, and many others,” said Regional Director Jim O Sampulna.

Addressing the problem on solid waste and protecting our biodiversity is one of the ten priority programs laid down by DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu. He believed that it is when the people address the problem on solid waste that we can have a clean air and clean water.###



Do more beyond Earth Hour

The Environmental Management Bureau spearheaded the observance of Earth Hour 2018 last March 24 at SouthPoint SM City Mall, Iloilo. This 2018 marked the 11th year celebration of Earth Hour.

“Earth Hour reminds us that while we are on the front lines of climate change, we are also the first line of defense. Our actions today, have the power to transform what the world will look like for the generations to come – this is our time to change climate change,” said EMB 6 Regional Director Sophie T. Manuel in her message.

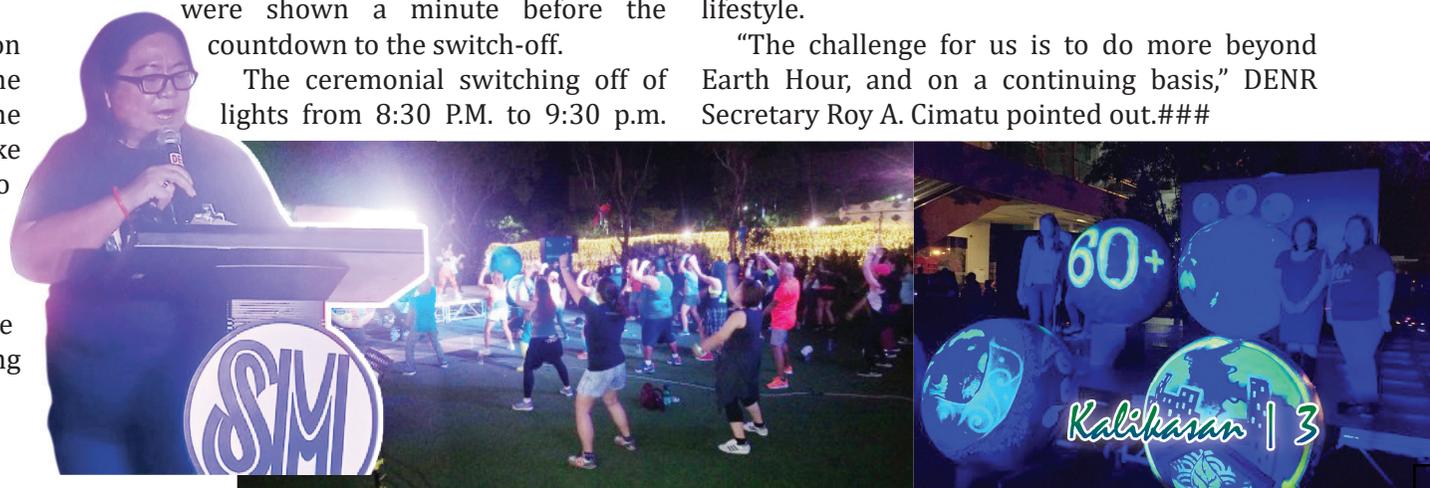
With the theme: “Let Nature Shine”, more than six hundred Ilonggos have joined in the celebration and glowed in the dark using glowing

sticks and bracelets instead of candles as they enjoyed the different activities prepared such as the dance workout, hip-hop dance performances. Also, environmental audio-visual presentations were shown a minute before the countdown to the switch-off.

The ceremonial switching off of lights from 8:30 P.M. to 9:30 p.m.

was the highlight of the celebration. A neon light illuminated the “60+” sign on a manmade globe, encouraging the public to conserve energy and to also make a difference by living a more sustainable lifestyle.

“The challenge for us is to do more beyond Earth Hour, and on a continuing basis,” DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu pointed out.###



All Roads Lead...from page 1

100-strong army trainees from the 3rd Infantry Division in Camp Peralta, Jamindan, Capiz, who were each armed with a shovel for digging.

Fondly naming them as "Boracay Centurion", Secretary Cimatu instructed them to "search and destroy" the illegal pipes deemed as the culprit in polluting Boracay's waters. The "Boracay Centurion" was able to finish the job in one day in what could have, for regular workers, took a month to accomplish. A total of 26 pipes were

excavated by the team on May 25, 2018, twenty eight (28) days after the closure.

Meanwhile, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is working hard for the road construction projects, which is seen to address traffic congestion in the island. DPWH personnel are working 16 to 24 hours a day, to complete the widening of Boracay's main roads, the circumferential road and the more than 5-kilometer diversion road from Cagban port.###

DENR 6 requires DPWH to replant trees

The regional office of DENR in Western Visayas has entered into an Affidavit of Undertaking with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to make tree replacement mandatory.

This strategy was conceptualized by Regional Director Jim O Sampulna in the light of media query whether the trees located along the road in the municipality of Pototan, Iloilo will be replaced once they get cut down for the road widening project of the DPWH.

Trees in Pototan town served as a beautiful



green belt for many years and the road connect the way to the provinces of Iloilo and Capiz.

"The Affidavit of Undertaking will be our instrument to assure both parties that we will abide by the requirement spelled out under Memorandum Order No. 2012-02 or the Uniform Replacement Ratio for Cut or Relocated Trees," said Director Sampulna.

The said Order required the permittee to replace each tree cut with at least one hundred (100) seedlings, all preferably of indigenous species with at least one meter in height to be planted by the permittee in close coordination with the DENR.

Edna Mae Cañete, assistant engineer of DPWH's 2nd Engineering District admitted that they have weak implementation of the tree replacement program, but pledged that DPWH will replace the trees cut.

"The trees were actually planted by the local government unit through a resolution and the LGU has allowed the trees to be cut for the road expansion. But just the same, we need to ensure the replacement of those trees and the Affidavit of Undertaking will be our instrument," Director Sampulna stressed.###

Water focal persons tackle latest NWRB policy

Water focal persons coming from the DENR 6, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and National Irrigation Authority (NIA) met and tackled the latest National Water Resources Board's (NWRB) policy on water use last May 18 2018.

The NWRB is the agency that regulates all water-related activities in the country that may have an impact on the physical environment and the economy. The deputation was made through NWRB Resolution No. 15-1116 under Article 80

of the Presidential Decree 1067 or the Water Code of the Philippines.

The DENR then created the Water Resources Utilization Section (WRUS) under the Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division (LPDD) at the regional offices, which is also pursuant to the approved Rationalization Plan. WRUS now serve as NWRB's deputy in the DENR regional offices which perform some function relative to the regulation of water use to complement the existing NWRB deputized agents.

As part of its deputized functions, the WRUS shall conduct continuing inventory of water users, identification of water sources and preparation of water sources inventory map.

All water belong to the State, thus, a water permit should be secured for the following uses: domestic, municipal, irrigation, power generation, industrial, fisheries, livestock raising and others such as recreation, commercial, memorial park, etc.###



PA gets Orientation on Patent Issuance

Philippine Army (PA) Officers attended the one-day orientation on DENR's patent issuance for them to be able to kickstart the processing of their land titles for their respective military camps.

Spearheaded by Regional Director Jim O Sampulna together with Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services Livino B. Duran, the orientation discussed the procedures on land acquisition.

"As a former AFP Chief of Staff, DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu knew how unscrupulous land syndicate encroaches on our military camps. Thus, he ordered to prioritize the issuance of tenurial instrument to all military/naval/air force military reservation within our jurisdiction," said Director Sampulna.

"This is to also protect the interest of the AFP from encroachment, usurpation, illegal occupation and adverse claims of ownership made by the public and private entities to our military camps," he added.

Anthony C. Caro, Real Estate Office (REO) Chief of the 3rd Infantry Division (ID) in Camp Peralta, Jamindan, Capiz made a presentation of Workable Potential for Special Patent.

He presented the names of the different military reservations, to wit: 1. Camp General Luna in Iloilo City; 2. Camp Hernandez in Dingle, Iloilo; 3. Camp General Carreon in Calinog, Iloilo; 4. Camp Monteclaro in Miag-ao, Iloilo; 5. Camp Peralta in Jamindan, Capiz; 6. Camp Bula in Mambusao, Capiz; 7. Camp Gerona in Murcia, Negros Occidental; 8. Camp BGEN Silvino R De Goma in Candoni, Negros Occidental.

Hector S. Garrido, Chief of the Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division (LPDD) tackled the Orientation on the Requirements and Procedural Rule in the Processing and Issuance of Special Patent/Proclamation.

The different military camps, air base, naval base, training grounds, fortifications and other military facilities used directly or indirectly by AFP for defense can be processed for titling through varying schemes such as the issuance of presidential proclamation and special patents pursuant to DAO 2016-21 or the Guidelines Governing The Processing of Requests for Proclamations and Issuance of Special Patents Over Agricultural Lands.

Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has awarded the first military camp land title in Western Visayas to Camp Major Jesus M. Jizmundo in Brgy. Libas, Banga, Aklan with a total land area of 10.3040 hectares.###



Environment Month 2018

#BeatPlasticPollution

Environment Month 2018 focused on the theme: “#BeatPlasticPollution, If you can’t reuse, refuse it!” thereby echoing the call to individually battle against the use of plastics which is a growing concern in many parts of the world.

The DENR in Region 6 kicked off the celebration by joining a caravan spearheaded by the provincial government of Iloilo on June 4, which made the rounds on the city’s main thoroughfares. It culminated with the launching of Mr. ART, a mascot made of recycled plastic products, at the Iloilo PENR Office.

On June 5, 2018, the DENR 6 kicked off the observance of World Environment Day with a Zumba dance at the regional office courtyard followed by a short opening program, an environmental photo exhibit and office clean-up.

Regional Director Jim O Sampulna, in his message, encouraged all employees to avoid using single-use plastics and to bring their own canister to lessen plastic wastes in the environment.

“Plastic pollution has infiltrated our oceans and is causing danger to marine life. Let us help, for even in small ways such as properly disposing our plastic wastes, we contribute to lessening the impact of plastic pollution to the environment,” Sampulna said.

Other activities conducted by DENR 6 for the Environment Month were as follows: Coral Triangle Day on June 9 in Boracay Island; Radio Guestings on June 10, 17 and 24; Mines and Geosciences Workshop on June 14; Green Film Festival in partnership with SM City Iloilo on June 19; Greenducation Seminar Workshop on June 22; Arbor Day in Tapaz, Capiz on June 25; Bloodletting Activity on June 26 at the DENR Regional Office; Spoken Poetry on June 27; Volleyball Competition on June 28; and Culmination Activity, which recognized all environmental partners in the implementation of the Department’s programs and projects on June 29.###



REGION VI, WESTERN VISAYAS



DENR 6 leads Arbor Day 2018

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 6 with a hundred strong employees joined the One Million Trees in One Day: One in One Project of the Capiz Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (CaPENRO) in the province of Capiz last June 25, 2018. This is in celebration of the Arbor Day which was institutionalized by virtue of Republic Act 10176 or the Arbor Day Act.

A total of 9,600 acacia mangium seedlings were planted by the combined team of DENR regional office, PENRO Capiz, CENRO Mambusao, 61st Infantry Battalion (IB) of the Philippine Army (PA), Philippine National Police

(PNP) Tapaz, Integrated Social Forestry People’s Organization (PO), Roxas Elementary School and Candelaria National High School. The planted seedlings spanned approximately nine (9) hectares at Brgy. Roxas 8, Tapaz, Capiz.

Capiz PENR Officer Bernabe H. Garnace and Mambusao CENR Officer Armin A. Halili led the DENR 6 team.

Other employees of the agency were assigned to other planting sites along with other ninety-three (93) organizations coming from the different national government agencies, academes, private sectors, and residents from the sixteen (16) municipalities of Capiz and Roxas City,

the capital town.

Five hundred thousand (500,000) seedlings were provided by DENR 6 while the rest were provided by the Department of Agriculture (DA), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Local Government Unit (LGU) of Bacolod City, PENRO Capiz, CaPENRO, Capiz State University (CapSU) and other partner agencies and the private sectors.

Trees species planted were indigenous forest trees, mangroves, and fruit bearing trees.###





eNGP exceeds target on seedlings production for 2018

More than six million seedlings under the enhanced National Greening Program (eNGP) were raised by the DENR 6, exceeding its 5M target that was projected in the approved 2018 Work and Financial Plan.

A total of 6,082,991 seedlings were successfully raised by the six PENR Offices in Western Visayas as June 28, 2018, to wit: PENRO Aklan raised 587,309 seedlings; PENRO Antique with 1,020,229; PENRO Capiz with 499,865; PENRO Iloilo with 1,386,415; PENRO Guimaras with 26,307; and Negros Occidental with 2,562,866.

The seedlings production attained a 113.03 percent accomplishment for the year. Meanwhile, target for the plantation establishment is set at 7,129 hectares, which is targeted to be completed by the month of September 2018.

Agroforestry trees, bamboo, high valued

crops, timber, fuelwood, coffee and rattan are the seedlings targeted for the eNGP.

Under Executive Order 193 or the Expanded National Greening Program (eNGP) is the extended program of National Greening Program (NGP) aims to cover all the remaining unproductive, denuded and degraded forestlands nationwide which can prevent environmental-related risks such as soil erosion, landslides, and flooding, for the CY 2016 to 2028.

“Aside from the fact that this program helps to mitigate the effects of climate change, it also creates other ripple effects such as lowered poverty incidence, revived watersheds and conserved biodiversity for future use. We, at the DENR, will continue to strongly implement this program for the betterment of our people especially in the upland areas,” said DENR 6 Regional Director Jim O Sampulna.###

MALANDOG RIVER “Antique’s Next Big Thing!!!”

Known as the landing ground of Bornean Datus who made a pact with our ancestors belonging to the Ati tribe, Malandog River is where civilization began to flourish and spread throughout the lowlands of Panay Island. Thus, it became the cradle of Panay civilization.

Such historicity makes Malandog River in Hamtic, Antique a place to be preserved but not only for its historical value rather, also for its environmental sustainability.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu saw Malandog’s potential for ecotourism and decided to do something about it. “It is where the Malay landed and started civilization before spreading to other places in Panay,” he said. “This is the country’s ancient tourist destination, since it played host to foreigners yet in 12th century,” he added.

In supporting Secretary Cimatu’s plan, DENR 6 Regional Director Jim O Sampulna readily gave instruction to the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) to first conduct a water quality monitoring on Malandog River.

Taking the cue, the Provincial ENR Office (PENRO) in Antique also conducted series of barangay consultations and environmental lectures to heighten the awareness of local folks on the need to understand the importance of proper solid waste

management, clean water, and clean air.

Secretary Cimatu also established the Malandog River Task Force to look into the rehabilitation and water quality of the river. He further gave instruction to Director Sampulna to give due attention to the place called Bariri, the barangay located at the mouth of Malandog River. “That place called Bariri – we must make it clean,” he added.

Governor Rhodora J. Cadio, who called Cimatu the “son of Antique” and lauded him for his unselfish support to the province, would lead the Task Force as the over-all commander on the side of the local government unit. As to the DENR over-all commander, the Provincial ENR Office in Antique led by PENRO Andres T. Untal will take charge, under the direct instruction of Regional Director Sampulna.

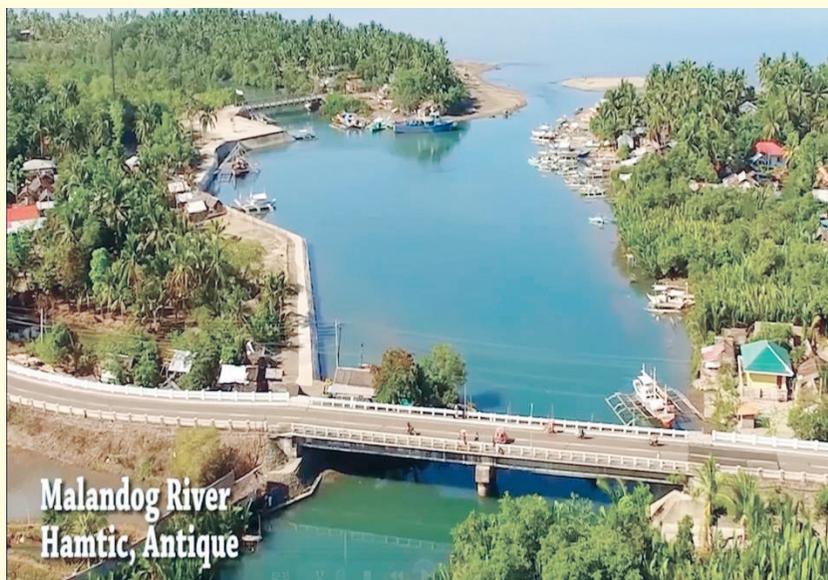
“Senator Loren Legarda already plans to clean-up the Malandog River and there is a need for us to educate the people around it, since those are the

same people who make Malandog River a waste basin,” Cimatu said. He further expressed his desire along with support from the LGU to tap experts and historian to verify the claim of the historicity of the Malandog River and to prepare the plan on how the river should look for it to become an ecotourist site. The plan shall then be submitted to the office of Senator Loren Legarda.

During one of the meetings, LGU Antique disclosed that it has a budget of Php40-M for 2018 intended for the river clean up.

Cimatu shared Antiqueños dream of restoring the Malandog River back to its once pristine state. Inspired by what he had learned about the revival of the Iloilo River, Cimatu is batting for the potential of Malandog River along with its historical value to rise above its present state and become a renowned ecotourism spot in Antique.

Indeed, very soon, Malandog will become Antique’s next big thing!###



DENR 6 spearheads Coral Triangle Day

On June 9, 2018, the DENR Region 6 celebrated the Coral Triangle Day in Boracay Island by conducting the coastal and underwater clean-up. The event also became part of the rehabilitation that is being carried out in the island.

The 2018 Coral Triangle Day adopted the theme: "Together For Our Reefs" and was spearheaded by the Conservation and Development Division (CDD). Divers coming

from the different scuba divers associations in the island actively supported DENR divers. The theme also encouraged all sectors to work together in order to address the different challenges affecting the health of our reefs such as Crown of Thorns (COTs), known as voracious coral predators.

The Coral Triangle is envisioned to be an annual, open-sourced event that brings together individuals, organizations, and establishments on one special day of the year to shed light on ocean conservation and the numerous ways to protect and conserve the Coral Triangle.

Coral reefs are touted as the rainforests of the seas. The Coral Triangle, on the other hand, is said to be the underwater equivalent of the



Amazon, with rich and diverse marine species than anywhere on the planet. It spans 647 million hectares of land and sea, spanning the territories of six countries, namely: Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste.

It is host to 76 percent of all known corals, 37 percent of the world's known coral reef fish species are found there. Six of the seven world's marine turtle species live in the Coral Triangle and 130 million people are directly dependent on its marine natural resources.

The celebration of the Coral Triangle Day is also in consonance with the declaration of the year 2018 as the "International Year of the Reef".###



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DENR 6 approves FLUPs for Capiz and Guimaras

Forest Land Use Plans (FLUPs) of Maayon and Pontevedra towns in Capiz province and Guimaras island-province were approved and distributed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Western Visayas last June 21, 2018.

It takes almost a year to finish a Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) before it can be fully utilized by the municipality/province, but in the long run, everything worth it.

“Crafting out a FLUP requires technical capability and entails tedious processes. We are talking here of defining your resources, what kind of forestlands you have and many details for inclusion which would impact on your planning methods as well,” said DENR 6 Regional Director Jim O Sampulna.

After the FLUP approval, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was also signed which spelled out the obligations of both parties to effectively co-manage their respective forestlands and forest resources.

DENR 6 has already approved 21 FLUPS since 2014 in the different areas in the region and is already going to conduct a technical review for the five (5) FLUPs in the municipalities of San Dionisio, Sara, San Rafael, Batad and Lemery, all in the province of Iloilo.###



DENR 6 supports “Biyaya ng Pagbabago” program launching

DENR 6, through its Handog Titulo program, distributed a total of seven hundred sixty-five (765) agricultural patents covering 728.6135 hectares to the beneficiaries coming from the twenty-six (26) municipalities of Iloilo province.

This is in support to the launching of the “Biyaya ng Pagbabago: Tungo sa Masagana at Matiwasay na Buhay Pilipino”, an anti-poverty program of the government launched last May 19, 2018 at the West Visayas State University (WVSU) PESCAR Gymnasium, Iloilo City.

Spearheaded by the Office of Participatory Governance (OPG), it is a program in partnership with 12 government agencies. The program officially launched through a ribbon-cutting ceremony which was led by the OPG officials namely: Director IV Visayas Cluster Wendell Martin Cabrera, Assistant Secretary Jeck Otero, Assistant Secretary Rowell Pelarde, ASEC Jonas George Soriano and USEC Lorraine T. Badoy from the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO).

DENR 6–PENR Officer Iloilo Raul L. Lorilla lead the conduct of Handog Titulo Program to Ilonggo beneficiaries.

“DENR Western Visayas is one with the President’s goal in alleviating poverty in country. In support, the agency will further develop and strengthen its programs and projects that are in line with the anti-poverty program such as the Handog Titulo, National Greening Program and more,” said DENR 6 Regional Director Jim O Sampulna said.

The “Biyaya ng Pagbabago Program: Tungo sa Masagana at Matiwasay na Buhay Pilipino” is one of the major initiatives of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte which aims to lessen poverty incidence throughout the country with 21% down to 14%, and to improve the living conditions of the people especially the marginalized and most impoverish which will lead to the attainment of Ambisyon Natin 2040 in line with the framework of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2020.###



UP-NIP turns over ARRAS tool to DENR 6

One unit of Teardrop Platform was turned-over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 6 by the representatives of University of the Philippines- National Institute of Physics (UP-NIP) in Diliman, Quezon City, last June 20, 2018.

The said Teardrop Platform is a tool developed under the Automated Rapid Reef Assessment system (ARRAS) project and was first tested in the waters of Sagay Marine Reserve in Negros Occidental. It contains a GPS (Global Positioning System) Echosounder which can record videos that can be stitched into panoramas and captures salient data such as depth and location of the reef.

Compared to the usual underwater transect, this ARRAS tool can be used to monitor the health of coral reefs in less time and is cost-effective. It is an automated reef assessment which can image and assess 25 km of coastline a day.

“With this Teardrop Platform, we can now have reliable data of the real scenarios of our coral reefs in the region. This can help us make sound decisions on the interventions we will implement to improve the health of our coastal and marine ecosystems,” said DENR 6 Regional Director Jim O Sampulna.###

