

DATE : 03 SEP 2019

DAY : Friday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Loggers kill ranger in Palawan forest

Exec asks gov't agencies, Congress to consider arming DENR enforcers

By **Jhesset O. Enano**
and **Maricar Cinco**
@Team_Inquirer

Following the murder of a forest ranger by suspected illegal loggers in Palawan province, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Thursday renewed its call for Congress to craft a law that would allow the agency's enforcement personnel, particularly those who face threats from environmental criminals on a daily basis, to be armed with guns.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said the agency was "hurt" over the news of the killing of Bienvenido Veguilla Jr., 44, a forest ranger assigned to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of El Nido town, on Wednesday afternoon.

"It really hurt us to hear that something like this had happened again," he told the Inquirer on Thursday. "We are calling on our legislators and concerned government agencies to consider arming our frontline DENR officers."

Guns for Palawan rangers

In a telephone interview on Thursday, Henry Adornado, DENR regional director in Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan), said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Palawan Gov. Jose Alvarez in June signed an agreement for the purchase of 150 shotguns to be issued to forest rangers in Palawan.

He said the agencies were still working on the guidelines but the guns should be available by October.

"It's just unfortunate that this happened [before the issuance of guns]," he said.

Veguilla was actually carry-



Bienvenido Veguilla Jr.

ing his own .45-caliber gun when attacked by six suspected illegal loggers.

Adornado said Veguilla and five other rangers had just patrolled the forests in Barangay Pasadeña when they heard the whirring of chainsaws. "They followed the sound and there they found [the illegal loggers]," he said.

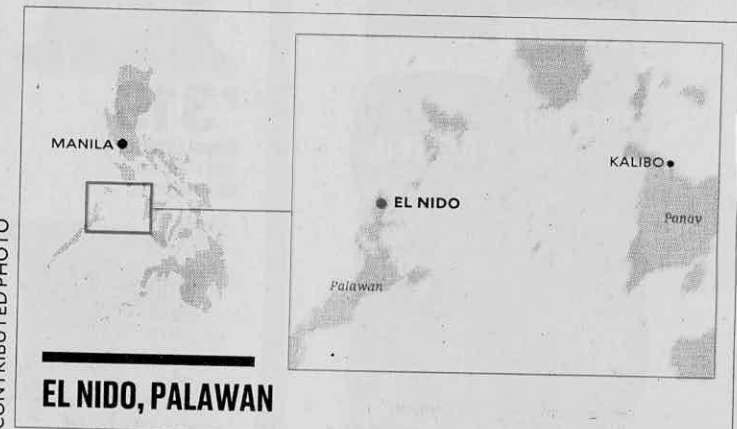
He said the suspects scampered away, prompting Veguilla's team to confiscate the tools and the cut lumber.

The forest rangers were on their way back to their office when the suspects, armed with a bolo and an improvised shotgun, returned.

"They were cornered. Some [were positioned] behind them while the others were in front of them," Adornado said.

The rangers ran toward different directions but Veguilla was hacked from behind. Veguilla was able to shoot one of the suspects, Fernan Flores, in the abdomen but he was again hacked in the head. Veguilla died on site.

Police arrested the wounded Flores and another suspect, Gerardo Fulgencio. Authorities were



EL NIDO, PALAWAN

SOURCE: Inquirer graphics

GRAPHICS

hunting four other suspects.

Adornado said they recovered about 1,000 board feet of wood products that the loggers left behind. The police also recovered two chainsaws and the bolo that was used to kill Veguilla.

Seeking justice

Adornado condemned the attack while Veguilla's colleagues at the DENR sought justice.

"[Veguilla] was a very simple man; never complained [about his job]," said Nilo Ramoso, a former colleague of Veguilla's in El Nido.

Ramoso, who is now with the DENR central office, said Veguilla started as a contractual DENR employee in the early 1990s, before El Nido was declared a government protected area.

Veguilla, according to Ramoso, was dedicated to his job and was active in patrolling Palawan's forests and waters for violators of environmental laws.

This was not the first of such attack against DENR enforcement personnel.

In September 2017, Ruben Arzaga, barangay chair of Villa Libertad and member of the El Nido-Taytay Managed Re-

source Protected Area board, was shot and killed while he was arresting suspected illegal loggers at Sitio Batbat.

In August that year, government forester Lito Eyala was shot and wounded by a suspected timber poacher while his team was patrolling the mountains of Barangay Bacungan in Puerto Princesa City.

The attacks against DENR personnel had then prompted Cimatu to consider the possibility of arming environmental patrollers. A former chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Cimatu also said that he would ask the military and the police to train foresters in security protocols and firearm use.

The Philippines has long been considered a dangerous country for environmental defenders. International organization Global Witness, in a recent report, ranked the Philippines as the most murderous country for environmental activists in 2018.

A total of 164 defenders were killed last year, while countless more were silenced through death threats, arrests and lawsuits, the group said. INQ



Palawan forest ranger hacked to death

A forest ranger was hacked to death by suspected illegal loggers in El Nido, Palawan on Wednesday.

Bienvinido Veguilla, 44, was attacked by a certain Fernan Flores and his companions, Lt. Col. Socrates Faltado, Mimaropa police spokesman, said.

Faltado said the victim and five other forest rangers responded to reports that illegal loggers were cutting trees in Sitio Kinagawan, Barangay Pasadena.

He said the forest rangers were on their way back to their office after confiscating a chainsaw when the suspects armed with a gun and bolos blocked their path.

Faltado said Veguilla managed to shoot Flores, who was arrested.

A manhunt for the other suspects is underway.

- Emmanuel Tupas, Ed Amoroso



DENR forester hacked dead by illegal logger

AN ILLEGAL logger attacked and killed a forest ranger of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in El Nido, Palawan on Wednesday.

According to police reports, Bienvenido Severino Veguilla Jr., sustained hack wounds after he was attacked by Fernan Flores.

Flores was later arrested by responding policemen.

Veguilla reportedly tried to fire back using his service firearm and wounded Flores, who was later brought to Palawan Northern District Hospital in Taytay, Palawan.

Flores four other companions were able to escape. Two of them were identified as Cardo Fulgencio and Glen Fulgencio.

The same police report said Veguilla and five other DENR forest rangers were patrolling the area when they received an information on the alleged illegal logging activities in Sitio Kinagawan, Barangay Pasadena.

The team proceeded to the area to verify the report and caught Carding Fulgencio in the act while reportedly in the act of cutting logs and lumbers using a chainsaw. The suspects immediately fled after they saw the forest rangers. **With PNA**



DENR FOREST RANGER KINATAY NG ILLEGAL LOGGERS

PATAY ang isang forest ranger ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) matapos siyang pagtatagain ng mga hinihinalang illegal loggers sa El Nido, Palawan kamakalawa.

Kinilala ng pulisya ang biktima na si Bienvinido Severino Veguilla Jr., 44.

Isang suspek ang naaresto ng mga awtoridad, kinilalang si Fernan Flores.

Ayon sa ulat, bago binawian ng buhay sanhi ng mga taga sa katawan ay nagawapa ni Veguilla na paputukan ng kanyang service firearm

si Flores.

Sugatan si Flores at ginagamot ngayon sa Palawan Northern District Hospital sa Taytay, Palawan.

Lima pang kasama ni Flores ang nakatakas at nakalalaya, ang dalawa ay kinilalang sina Cardo Fulgencio at Glen Fulgencio.

Sinabi sa ulat na kasama ni Veguilla ang lima pang DENR forest rangers sa pagpapatrolya nang makatanggap sila ng impormasyon hinggil sa illegal logging activities sa Sitio Kinagawan, Barangay Pasadeña.

Agad nagtungo ang grupo sa lugar para beripikahin ang report at nakita nila si Carding Fulgencio na namumutol ng troso at mga puno, gamit ang chainsaw.

Gayunman, nagtakbuhan ang mga suspek nang makita ang forest rangers.

Pabalik na sa kanilang opisina ang mga forest ranger dala-dala ang kinumpiskang chainsaw nang harangin sila sa daan ng mga suspek na armado ng jungle bolo, homemade shotgun at sila'y nilusob.

Nakatakbo ang mga kasa-

ma ni Veguilla at siya ay nakorner kaya pinagtataga ng mga salarin.

Nakabunot ng baril ang biktima, pinutukan at tinamaan si Flores. Nadakma ng mga rumespondeng pulis si Flores habang nakatakas ang kanyang mga kasama.



DENR forest ranger tinodas

PATAY ang isang forest ranger ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) matapos pagtatagain ng mga hindi pa kilalang salarin sa El Nido, Palawan nitong Miyerkules.

Kinilala ang biktima na si Bienvenido Severino, 44 anyos.

Sa ulat, habang nagsasagawa ng law enforcement operation ang biktima sa bahagi ng Barangay Bagong Silangan, El Nido, bigla na lamang itong pinagtataga ng nasa 6 na lalaki.

Patuloy ang hot pursuit operation at imbestigasyon ng mga pulis sa insidente.

Hindi pa malinaw kung may kinalaman sa pagiging forest ranger ng biktima ang pamamaslang.

(Mark Obleada)



Pinagtataga
sa ulo

DENR forest ranger kinatay ng illegal loggers

Nina JOY CANTOS at RHODERICK BENEZ

Isang 44-anyos na forest ranger ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang nagbuwis ng buhay habang ginagampanan ang tungkulin matapos pagtatagain sa ulo ng kanyang mga sinitang illegal loggers na naaktuhang nagpu-

putol ng punong kahoy sa kagubatan ng Sitio Kinagawan, Brgy. Pasadeña, El Nido, Palawan nitong Miyerkules ng hapon.

Kinilala ni Police Lt. Col. Socrates Faltado, tagapagsalita ng Police Regional Office (PRO) IVA ang biktimang si Vianinido Severnio Veguilla

Jr alyas "Toto", residente ng Brgy. Bagong Bayan, El Nido ng lalawigan.

Ayon kay Faltado, nangyari ang pama-maslang sa biktima sa kagubatan ng nasabing lugar dakong alas-5:00 ng hapon.

Batay sa ulat ng pulisya, nagsasagawa ang grupo ni Veguilla ng National Greening Program

(NGP) inspection sa lugar at may nakita silang kalalalahanan na nagpuputol ng mga kahoy gamit ang chainsaw na agad nila itong kinumpiska habang mabilis naman nagsitakbuhan ang mga suspek.

Pabalik na ang biktima kasama ang kanyang grupo sa kanilang

opisina nang bigla na lamang silang tinambangan ng anim na suspek at pinagtataga sa ulo at iba pang parte ng katawan si Veguilla na halos mawasak ang bungo nito.

Nasawi sa insidente ang biktima habang nasakote naman ng mga nagrespondeng operatiba ng pulisya si Feman

Flores alyas "Broyna". Patuloy ang masusising imbestigasyon ng

mga otoridad sa kasong ito at pagtugis sa mga nakatakas na suspek.



FOREST RANGER NG DENR, KINATAY NG ILLEGAL LOGGER

PINAGTATAGA hanggang sa masawi ang forest ranger ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng umano'y illegal logger na hinuhuli ng una sa El Nido, Palawan, kamakalawa ng hapon.

Hindi na umabot ng buhay sa ospital sanhi ng mga tinamong sugat sa iba't ibang bahagi ng katawan ang biktimang si Bienvenido Severino Veguilla, 44.

Nasugatan naman ang suspek na si Fernan Flores matapos mabaril ng biktima sa kalagitnaan ng kanilang pambubuno.

Patuloy na nagpapagaling ang suspek sa Palawan Northern District Hospital sa Taytay na may tama ng bala ng baril sa kanyang braso.

Nakatakas naman ang kasamahan ni Flores na magkapatid na sina Cardo at Glen Fulgencio at tatlo pa nilang kasapi sa grupo.

Lumalabas sa inisyal na imbestigasyon na si Veguilla at lima pang DENR forest rangers ay nagpapatrulya sa lugar nang makatanggap umano sila ng tawag na may illegal logging activities sa bahagi ng Sitio Kinagawan, Bgy. Pasadena.

Agad nagtungo ang grupo ni Veguilla sa tinukoy na lugar kung saan nakita nila si Fulgencio at naaktuhan ang ginagawang pagputol sa ilang mga puno gamit ang chainsaw.

Mabilis na tumakas ang mga suspek nang maispatan ang papalapit na si Veguilla.

Pabalik na sana si Veguilla sa kanilang outpost bitbit ang nakumpiskang chainsaw nang bigla silang harangin ng mga suspek na may dalang itak at homemade shotgun at sila ay inatake.

(Jeff Tumbado)



DENR Forest ranger hacked dead by loggers in Palawan

By John Roson

A FOREST ranger of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources died after being hacked while conducting an operation against illegal logging in El Nido, Palawan, Wednesday afternoon.

Killed was Bienvinido Severino Veguilla Jr., a resident of Brgy. Bagong Bayan, said Lt. Col. Socrates Faltado, MIMAROPA regional police spokesman.

Local police arrested suspect Fernan Flores alias "Broy," whom Veguilla had shot and wounded.

The incident occurred

around 5 p.m., in Sitio Kinawangan, Brgy. Pasadeña.

Members of the DENR Law Enforcement Team from Taytay and El Nido led by Veguilla, along with some park rangers, were conducting patrols when they learned that illegal logging was being carried out in protected areas there, Faltado said.

One Cardo Fulgencio was spotted cutting logs and lumber using a chainsaw, but he and his group ran to their house as the DENR team approached.

Veguilla's team confiscated the chainsaw and were bringing it to their office, when

Cardo's group blocked their way, armed with a bolo and homemade shotgun, Faltado said.

Cardo, Glen Fulgencio, and Flores cornered Veguilla as three other armed cohorts stood nearby, he said.

Flores then hacked Veguilla, who still managed to shoot the former with his service firearm, Faltado said.

Flores was later brought to the Palawan Northern District Hospital in Taytay.

Police are still tracking down Cardo, Glen, and their three still unidentified cohorts, and are preparing charges against them and Flores.



Forest ranger killed by 6 illegal loggers

A 44-year-old forest ranger was killed defending a protected area from six suspected illegal loggers in El Nido, Palawan last Wednesday.

Police Brig. Gen. Tomas Apolinario, director of the Philippine National Police Region 4-B (Mindoro Occidental and Oriental, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan), identified the victim as Department of Environment and Natural Resources forest ranger Bienvenido Veguilla Jr.

Apolinario said one of the six suspects was arrested after he was shot during the attack.

He said Veguilla and four other forest rangers were conducting patrol when they were informed of illegal logging activities in the El Nido-Taytay Managed Resource Protected Area in Barangay Pasadena.

"The areas where the suspects were cutting are considered protected areas. Cutting of trees in those areas are strictly prohibited," said Apolinario.

The forest rangers arrived in Sitio Kinagawan at around 5 p.m. and saw one of the suspects, identified as Carding Fulgencio, cutting trees.

The forest rangers tried to arrest them but the suspects fled and left behind the chain saw which was later confiscated, PNP-Region 4-B spokesperson Police Lt. Col. Socrates Faltado said.

"The team of the victim confiscated the chainsaw and decided to bring the same to their office for documentation when the group of the suspects blocked their way while armed with a bolo and a homemade shotgun," said Faltado.

Apolinario said Veguilla was cornered by three of the suspects led by Fulgencio. The two other suspects were identified as Glen Fulgencio and Fernan Flores.

While Flores was hacking the victim, Veguilla was able to shoot him. The other suspects then attacked Veguilla.

"The responding personnel of El Nido Municipal Police Station arrested Fernan Flores who has a gunshot wound," said Apolinario. Flores was taken to the Palawan Northern District Hospital.

"Documentary pieces of evidence are now being prepared for the filing of appropriate cases against the suspects, including the three other unidentified loggers," said Apolinario.

A manhunt has been launched against the five illegal loggers. **(Aaron Recuenco)**



Forest ranger pinatay sa taga ng mga illegal logger

PATAY ang isang forest ranger ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) matapos itong pagtatagain ng mga iligal na nagtotroso na kanilang nahuli Miyerkoles nang hapon sa Barangay Pasadena, El Nido, Palawan.

Dead on-the-spot matapos magtamo ng mga taga sa iba't ibang bahagi ng katawan ang biktimang nakilalang si Bienvinido Severino Veguilla Jr. alyas Toto, 44-anyos, forest ranger ng DENR at residente ng Barangay Bagong Bayan ng nabatid na bayan.

Samantala, nadakip naman ang isa sa anim na suspek na nakilalang si Fernan Flores, isa sa mga tumaga sa biktima, habang pinaghahanap naman ang limang

iba pa na sina Cardo Fulgencio, Glen Fulgencio, at tatlong iba pa na inaalam pa ang pagkakakilanlan.

Ayon kay Police Lt. Col. Soc Faltado, spokesperson ng Police Regional Office Mimaropa, naganap ang insidente dakong alas-singko nang hapon nang maaktuhan ng mga tauhan ng DENR Law Enforcement Team 4-CENRO Taytay at El Nido na pinamumunuan ng biktima ang mga suspek na aktong gumagamit ng chainsaw at iligal na nagpuputol ng puno sa Sitio Kinagawan, Barangay Pasadena ng bayang ito.

Nang mamataan ang DENR team, iniwan ng mga suspek ang kanilang chainsaw at nagsitakas ang mga ito.

Dinala naman ng mga forest ranger ang chainsaw ng mga suspek para sana sa gagawing dokumentasyon subalit hinarang sila ng mga suspek na armado ng shotgun at itak.

Nakuha namang makatako ng mga forest ranger subalit nakorner ang biktima dahilang upang pagtatagain siya ng mga suspek.

Subalit bago mapatay ay nabaril pa nito si Flores na tinamaan sa katawan.

Nadakip si Flores habang nagpapagamot ito sa Palawan Northern District Hospital sa Taytay, Palawan.

Patuloy naman ang manhunt operation ng pulisya sa iba pang suspek sa krimen. **(Edwin Balasa)**



BANTAY GUBAT TINAGA HABANG NAGPAPATROLYA

PALAWAN - ISANG forest ranger ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pinagtataga hanggang sa mamatay sa Sitio Kinawangan, Barangay Pasadeña.

Sa ulat ng Palawan Provincial Police Office, nakilala ang biktima na si Bienvinido Severino Veguilla Jr., alyas "Toto",

44-anyos, at residente sa Barangay Bagong Bayan, El Nido.

Agad namang nadakip ang isa sa mga suspek na si Fernan Flores, alyas Broy, habang nakatakas naman ang iba pa.

Samantala, target naman ng manhunt operation ang mga kasama nitong nakatakas na kinilalang sina Carding Fulgencio, Glen Fulgencio at tatlong iba pa.

Ayon sa DENR, kasalukuyang nagpapatrolya ang mga miyembro ng Law Enforcement Team 4 ng DENR-CENRO (City Environment and Natural Resources Office) Taytay-El Nido Office nang itawag sa kanila ang nagaganap na illegal logging sa protected area ng Barangay Pasadeña.

Pinuntahan ng grupo ang lugar para berepikahin ang impormasyon at dito naaktuhan si Carding Fulgencio na nagpuputol ng puno gamit ang chainsaw.

Nakatunog ang ibang kasamahan nito at agad na nagsitakbuhan.

Naiwan naman ang chainsaw, kaya binitbit na lamang ng mga tauhan ng DENR para idokumento sa opisina subalit lingid sa kanilang kaalaman ay inabangan pala sila ng mga suspek.

Nakatakbo ang ilang DENR personnel pero na-corner si Veguilla at tinaga ni Flores bagaman nabaril siya ng biktima.

Inaresto ng PNP si Flores na nagtamo ng tama ng bala at dinala sa ospital. **VERLIN RUIZ**





Probe Bulacan sanitary landfill, Senate, DENR told

By Zaida delos Reyes

AN environmental group yesterday urged the Senate and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to immediately investigate the Wacuman sanitary landfill in Norzagaray, Bulacan for violations of laws and for being a threat to health.

The Alliance for Consumer and Protection of Environment (ACAPE) led by its president, Jun Braga, sounded the alarm on the irregularities of the Wacuman sanitary landfill for allegedly not following national and local environmental laws.

In letters addressed to Sen. Cynthia Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources; Sen. Bong Go, chairman of the Senate Committee on Health; and DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, ACAPE asked for help in addressing the various issues concerning the landfill.

"We are requesting your good office to look into the irregularities and violations of the Wacu-

man sanitary landfill located in Norzagaray, Bulacan, which directly harms both the environment and the community," the green group said.

ACAPE said the Wacuman sanitary landfill failed to apply for permits to operate from the local governments of San Jose Del Monte (SJDM) and Norzagaray in Bulacan.

Chairman Gloria Dequito Cardona of Bgy. Paradise III in SJDM said there was no public consultation nor public hearing on the operation of the sanitary landfill.

The group said the landfill also violated Rule 14, Sec. 1 of Republic Act 2002 or the Philippine Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which states that the location of the facility shall be consistent with the overall land use plan of the local government unit.

ACAPE found out that the landfill is not included in the land use plan of either SJDM or Norzagaray.

The Philippine Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 also states that the Sangguniang Bayan or the host

LGU shall adopt a resolution confirming compliance with the siting, design criteria and standards that satisfy public sensitivity requirements.

ACAPE said Wacuman failed to secure a SB resolution to proceed on the operations of the landfill.

Philippines laws stipulate that a landfill facility should be located at a minimum distance of 50 meters away from any perennial stream, lake or river and that its operation will not affect environment resources, including aquifers, groundwater reservoirs, or watershed areas.

The group said Wacuman's facilities are adjacent to a water system, which is in violation of 300-meter distance requirement under DENR Administrative Order 50, Series of 1998.

The group likewise cited a Supreme Court en banc decision in which Bulacan LGUs were required to protect the Manila Bay.

"To our dismay, Wacuman facility is adjacent to a water system that flows within San Jose del Monte which are direct

tributaries of Angat river that flows to Angat reservoir. The river and creeks that flow within SJDM, where Wacuman is situated, are direct tributaries of Angat river," the group said.

"Among the natural waterways of SJDM are the Kipungkok, Sto. Cristo, and Sta. Maria river systems. These rivers are connected to Marilao river, a direct tributary that flows to Manila Bay."



Sanitary landfill sa Bulacan inireklamo sa DENR, kay Sen. Go

ISANG sanitary landfill o basurahan sa Bulacan ang inireklamo sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources at kay Sen. Bong Go ng isang organisasyon dahil umano sa paglabag ng mga operator nito sa mga batas sa pagtatayo ng landfill.

Ayon kay ACAPE president Jun Braga, sumulat na umano sila sa DENR, kay Sen. Go, at maging kay Sen. Cynthia Villar ukol sa paglabag umano ng mga operator ng Wacuman sanitary landill sa ilang pambansa at lokal na batas para sa pagtatayo nito.

Ayon naman sa kapitan ng Brgy. Paradise, San Jose del Monte City na isa sa mga apektado ng landfill na nasa boundary ng Norzagaray, Bulacan at SJDM, walang ginawang konsultasyon ang mga operator ng basurahan sa mga apektadong lugar bago ito itinayo.

Ayon sa pangulo ng Alliance for Consumer and Protection of Environment (ACAPE) na si Jun Braga, itinayo umano ang landfill nang hindi kasali sa land use plan ng bayan ng Norzagaray at SJDM.

Wala rin umanong lokal na resolusyon mula sa mga nasabing bayan at lungsod para pahintulutan itong itayo.

Normal umanong laman ng resolusyon ang mga bawal at hindi bawal kaugnay ng pagtatayo ng isang sanitary landfill dahil marami raw ang maaapektuhan nito.

Labag din umano ito sa Republic Act 2002 o ang Philippine Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 na nagsasabing ang isang landfill ay dapat nakatutugon sa overall land use plan ng LGU.

Nakatayo umano ang basurahan malapit sa isang katubigan o water system at nilabag nito ang 50 metrong dapat na layo sa aquifers, ground-

water reservoirs, or watershed areas.

Laban din umano ang landfill sa patakarang 300 metro na dapat ang layo nito mula sa katubigan batay sa batas naman na Philippine Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Bukod sa dumi mismo na itinatambak sa nasabing basurahan, natatapon din ang mga basura o katas nito sa San Jose del Monte River at ang natural waterways ng SJDM na Kipungkok, Sto. Cristo at Sta. Maria river systems.

Konektado naman ang mga ito sa Marilao River na direktang dumadaloy naman patungong Manila Bay.

Hinihiling ng ACAPE na dapat siyasatin ang mga nasabing paglabag ng Wacuman sanitary landfill dahil hindi lang nakasasama ito sa kalikasan kundi maging sa kalusugan at kabuhyhan ng mga apektadong komunidad.



Environmental group, Villar, Go, DENR silipin ang Wacuman sanitary landfill sa Bulacan

**WACUMAN SANITARY
LANDFILL SA BULACAN
PERWISYO**

HINILING ng isang environmental group sa Senado at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na agad imbestigahan ang Wacuman Sanitary Landfill sa Norzagaray, Bulacan, na lumabag sa ilang batas at nagiging banta sa kalusugan.

Naalarma ang Alliance for Consumer and Protection of Environment (ACAPE), sa pangunguna ng Presidente nitong si Jun Braga, sa perwisyon idudulot ng Wacuman Sanitary Landfill dahil hindi ito sumunod sa pam-bansa at lokal na environmental laws.

Sa liham na ipinadala kina Sen. Cynthia Villar, chairperson ng Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources; Sen. Bong Go, chairperson ng Senate Committee on Health; at DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, humingi ng tulong ang ACAPE hingil sa iba't ibang isyung kinahaharap ng Wacuman Sanitary Landfill.

"We are requesting your good office to look into the irregularities and violations of the Wacuman Sanitary Landfill located in Norzagaray, Bulacan which directly harms both the environment and the community," pahayag ng grupo.

Ipinaliwanag ng ACAPE na nabigo ang Wacuman Sanitary Landfill na mag-aplay ng mga permit upang makapag-patakbo mula sa mga lokal na pamahalaan ng San Jose Del Monte (SJDM) at

Norzagaray sa Bulacan.

Dahil dito, nilabag din ng landfill ang Rule 14, Sec. 1 ng Republic Act 2002, ang Philippine Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, na nagsasaad na ang lokasyon ng pasilidad ay dapat na naaayon sa pangkalahatang plano ng paggamit ng lupa ng LGU. Nalaman ng ACAPE na ang landfill, hindi kasama sa land use plan ng alinman sa SJDM o Norzagaray.

Nakasaad din sa Philippine Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 na ang Sangguniang Bayan o Lungsod na host ng LGU ay dapat magpatibay ng resolusyon na nagpapatunay sa pagsunod sa siting, design criteria at standards na matutugunan ang public sensitivity requirements.

Sa kasamaang palad, tulad ng sinasabi ng ACAPE: "Wacuman failed to secure Sangguniang Bayan Resolution from its area of operation as there was no resolution passed confirming the compliance with the pertinent design criteria and standards that are necessary to proceed on the operations of landfill in the area."

Itinatakda ng mga batas

ng Pilipinas na ang pasilidad ng landfill, dapat na matatagpuan sa pinakamababang distansya na 50 metro mula sa perennial stream, lawa, o ilog at ang operasyon nito hindi makakaapekto sa environment resources kabilang ang mga aquifers, groundwater reservoirs, o watershed areas. "The location of facility is a violation of Presidential Decree (PD) 1152 which prohibits landfills along the banks of rivers and streams. Wacuman's facilities are adjacent to a water system which is in violation of 300 meters distance requirement under DENR Administrative Order No. 50 series of 1998," ayon sa ACAPE.

Nabanggit din ng grupo ang isang desisyon ng Korte Suprema sa En Banc sa MMDA, et al. kumpara sa mga nababahalang mga residente ng Manila Bay. G.R. Nos. 171947-48 na may petsang Pebrero 15, 2011 kung saan kinakailangang protektahan ng LGUs ng Bulacan ang Manila Bay sa pamamagitan ng paggawa ng aksiyun laban sa mga pabrika, komersyal na mga establisimiento, pribadong bahay, at iba pa na lumalabag sa kapaligiran.



03 SEP 2019

DATE

Sanitary landfill sa Norzagaray pinaimbestigahan ng Envi group

UMAPELA sa Senado at sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang isang environmental group upang imbestigahan ang sanitary landfill sa bayan ng Norzagaray, sa lalawigan ng Bulacan.

Tinukoy ng Alliance for Consumer and Protection of Environment (ACAPE) ang Wacuman Sanitary Landfill na anila ay may paglabag at banta sa kalusugan ng mga residente.

Sinabi ni ACAPE president Jun Braga, lumalabag sa national at local environmental laws ang Wacuman.

Kaugnay nito, sumulat ang ACAPE kina Sen. Cynthia Villar, chairperson

ng Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources; Sen. Bong Go, chairperson ng Senate Committee on Health; at kay DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, para tugunan ang usapin sa Wacuman Sanitary Landfill.

Ayon sa grupo, dapat siyasatin ang paglabag nito dahil bukod sa hindi magandang dulot sa kalikasan ay nakasasama rin ito sa komunidad.

Sinabi ng ACAPE na nabiligo ang Wacuman Sanitary Landfill na mag-apply ng permits to operate mula sa LGUs ng San Jose Del Monte (SJDM) at Norzagaray.

Nilalabag umano nito ang Rule 14, Sec. 1 ng Republic Act 2002, o ang Philippine Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 na nagsasabing ang lokasyon ng isang landfill ay dapat nakatutugon sa overall land use plan ng LGU.

Natuklasan ng ACAPE na ang nasabing landfill ay hindi kasama sa land use plan ng SJDM o Norzagaray.

Nakasaad din sa batas dapat may resolusyon ang Sangguniang Bayan o ang LGU para sa operasyon ng isang landfill upang matiyak ang pagsunod nito sa standards at requirements.

Pero ayon sa ACAPE walang nakuhang reso-

lasyon mula sa Sangguniang Bayan ang Wacuman.

"Philippines laws stipulate that a landfill facility should be located at a minimum distance of 50 meters from any perennial stream, lake, or river and that its operation will not affect environment resources including aquifers, groundwater reservoirs, or watershed areas.

"The location of facility is a violation of Presidential Decree (PD) 1152 which prohibits landfills along the banks of rivers and streams. Wacuman's facilities are adjacent to a water system which is in violation of 300 meters distance requirement under DENR Administrative Order No. 50 series of 1998," dagdag ng ACAPE.

Sinabi ng grupo, nagdaragdag ng dumi sa San Jose del Monte river ang landfill at ang natural waterways ng SJDM na Kipungkok, Sto. Cristo, at Sta. Maria river systems ay konektado sa Marilao River na direktang dumadaloy patungong Manila Bay.

Una nang sinabi ng kapitan ng Barangay Paradise III sa SJDM na walang public consultation o public hearing na ginawa bago ang operasyon ng landfill.

(MICKA BAUTISTA)



'SPEEDY PROCESS'

IMPACT REPORT ON KALIWA DAM 'DEFICIENT, NOT CONCLUSIVE'

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

An environmental scientist on Thursday described the environmental impact statement (EIS) report crafted by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System on the proposed Kaliwa Dam as being beset with technical deficiencies that do not fully reveal the extensive impact of the P18.7-billion project on the environment and surrounding communities.

Ruben Guieb, a retired scientist who had worked for the US government, said he was surprised that the EIS report submitted to the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) was accepted by the agency, considering it was "deficient and not conclusive."

The EIS report is a requirement for the issuance of the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) by the EMB, which would essentially allow the project to proceed.

"My overall assessment is that the report lacks technical and scientific approach to show the impact of the project... At this point, I think the document should not be used because it is deficient and not conclusive," Guieb said in a press briefing.

Questionable sampling

Among the issues that the scientist noted was the "questionable sampling" used to assess the project's impact on land, water and air in the project site.

"What the report contained were mostly general

descriptions," he said. "If your survey methodology is questionable, how can you say that the natural resources on land actually and truly represent what is out there?"

Guieb also assailed the unusually speedy process in the impact assessment, considering the complexity of the project.

The report was done over the course of only four months, from March to July, before the public hearings took place in August.

For projects as huge as the Kaliwa Dam, public scoping, data gathering and assessment usually take years, according to Guieb.

Low-quality information

"That is a signal that the technical information may be of low quality. So it should not be a basis of the DENR EMB in the issuance of the ECC," he said.

The Stop Kaliwa Dam Network urged the government anew to scrap the project, citing the controversies and issues hounding the dam that is considered to be the solution to Metro Manila's water woes.

These include the irregularities in the bidding process that was raised by the Commission on Audit, as well as the continued resistance of the indigenous communities whose ancestral lands would be inundated should the project push through.

Aaron Pedrosa of the multisectoral coalition Sanlakas said the project appeared to be railroaded so that the Philippine government could secure a loan from the Export-Import Bank of China. INQ



Proposed reclamation projects stoke fear of eviction among Manila Bay squatter families

BY RODERICK L. ABAD [@rodrik_28](#)
Contributor

VARIOUS cause-oriented organizations expressed fears on Thursday that some 230,000 squatter families would be evicted if reclamation projects along the world-renowned Manila Bay were to push through.

"We fear that thousands of informal-settler families [ISFs] living along Manila Bay will face massive evictions," Kabalikat sa Kaunlaran President Jeorgie Tenolete said in a forum, entitled "Benepisyo o Perwisyo: Pag-aaral at Pagsusuri Ukol sa Reklamasyon sa Manila Bay [Benefit or Harm: Studying the Effects of Reclamation on Manila Bay]," at the Duerr Auditorium, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde in Manila.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), he added, has already informed the concerned families that the 20-meter easement from the bay will be implemented.

"This announcement has already caused great fear for many of us," he said, while citing that around 15,000 families are in danger of displacement at the Baseco compound alone—the main beneficiaries of their group.

Last January, the government, through the DENR, launched a massive cleanup initiative dubbed "Battle for Manila Bay." This P47-billion program running for seven years aims to reduce the fecal coliform bacteria level in its waterways along Roxas Boulevard.

"We lauded the government's and civil society's efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay. The poor like us, have been advocating the cleanup of the bay," Tenolete said.

In fact, he added, members of Kabalikat sa Kaunlaran supported this effort by planting 1,000 mangrove trees in Aplaya, Baseco.

"They are now tall and sturdy. We made slippers, bags and plate mats out of the water lilies along the rivers and the bay for our livelihood projects, as a way to reduce waste in the bay," the group's president said.

Despite the cleanup drive, however, different organizations doubt its real goal. They suspect that behind it is a motive to expedite the approval of plans on reclamation.

"We want to be clear that the poor people are not against the Manila Bay Rehabilitation, they are participating in all the cleanup efforts," Urban Poor Associates Executive Director Alicia Murphy said for their part.

"What they are against is that, while they have been participating in the rehabilitation of the bay, the government has been planning to reclaim lands. This, for them, defeats the purpose of bringing the bay back to its former glory," she noted.

Murphy cited the previous bad experience of evicted residents who once lived in places developed by the state.

"Chances are they will be evicted or relocated to far areas where there are no basic services nor means of livelihood," she said.

Details about the government's reclamation projects remain uncertain even in the Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan (MBSDMP) that was finalized by the National Economic and Development Authority and the Government of the Netherlands in May 2019.

The MBSDMP only states that if there will be reclamation in the bay, they must be "responsible" to follow environmental laws and policies regarding the provision of assistance to affected families like the Urban Development and Housing Act.

While the government does not disclose any information regarding the planned land reclamations along Manila Bay, the map obtained by the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas or Pamalakaya from the presentation of Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) last year showed that these developments will start from the end part of Bataan up to Pampanga, Bulacan, Metro Manila and Cavite.

For Prof. Jay Batongbacal of the UP Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea, the communities to be displaced in these areas must invoke their right to information since they will be affected by these projects.

In an interview after the forum, he told the BUSINESSMIRROR that they should demand the PRA to reveal all the projects and their pertinent details publicly.

"Based on that, there is a need to have a serious and sincere public consultation on the planning stage, and not approve these projects because the investors are already there," Batongbacal said.

"They should also ask their local government units to really represent the decisions of their constituencies. If they don't accept the reclamation projects, then there should be no reclamation projects, as simple as that," he added.



Belmonte backs renaming ecopark after Lopez

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte has expressed support for proposals seeking to rename the La Mesa Ecopark after the late environment secretary and green advocate Gina Lopez.

"We support the move of our city council to rename the La Mesa Ecopark after the late Gina Lopez. Her legacy deserves to live on in that park," she said in a statement on Wednesday.

"She will always be one of my greatest role models of a crusader who stopped at

nothing to see her dreams for a better Philippines come to fruition," she added.

Belmonte earlier paid tribute to Lopez, who passed away on Aug. 19 at the age of 65.

"We worked with her on cleaning up our waterways and in deputizing environmental warriors in our city," she said, citing their plan to rehabilitate the Salam Compound in Barangay Culiati and transform it into a tourist destination.

"We hoped to provide

livelihoods to the women and educational opportunities to the children. Sadly, we never finished the project we started because she was stricken with illness," she added.

The mayor said she has already requested the city council, led by Vice Mayor Gian Sotto, to expedite the proposed resolutions that will rename the public park after the late philanthropist.

Two councilors, Winston Castelo and Candy Medina, filed separate resolutions seeking to rename the public

park as Gina Lopez Ecopark.

Lopez, former chairperson of ABS-CBN's *Lingkod Kapamilya* Foundation, established *Bantay Kalikasan* in 1999 as the foundation's environmental arm to aid victims of natural calamities.

Through the project, she championed the rehabilitation of the 2,700-hectare La Mesa Watershed and the development of the 32-hectare La Mesa Ecopark, which reopened to the public in 2004.

- Janvic Mateo



QC dads: Rename La Mesa Dam Ecopark after Gina Lopez

Two Quezon City councilors have filed separate resolutions seeking to change the name of La Mesa Dam Ecopark to Gina Lopez Ecopark. The resolutions of Winston Castelo and Candy Medina stemmed from environmentalists' suggestion that the ecopark be named after the environmentalist and philanthropist, who passed away on Aug. 19. "Her legacy lives on in the hearts of those who care for the welfare of Mother Nature. It is only fitting that she be memorialized where her legacy continues," Castelo said in a statement. In 1999, Lopez founded Bantay Kalikasan as ABS-CBN Foundation's environmental arm. Through Bantay Kalikasan, she spearheaded the rehabilitation of the 2,700-ha La Mesa Watershed and the development of the 32-ha La Mesa Dam Ecopark. The watershed is a protected area that preserves the only major dam and reservoir serving as the primary source of potable drinking water for Metro Manila residents. A two-day public wake for Lopez was supposed to be held at the ecopark last month to recognize her contributions to its development although the plan was canceled due to bad weather. In a statement, Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte said she had already asked the city council to expedite the approval of the resolutions. "Her legacy deserves to live on in that park," she added. —MARIEJO S. RAMOS



Belmonte backs renaming La Mesa Ecopark after Gina Lopez

By Alvin Murcia

The initiative of the Quezon City Council to rename La Mesa Ecopark after the late former Environment Secretary Gina Lopez was backed by Mayor Joy Belmonte.

Lopez passed away on 19 August at 65. "We support the moves by the council to name La Mesa Ecopark after the late Gina Lopez. Her legacy deserves to live on in that park," Belmonte said.

Quezon City councilors Winston Castelo and Candy Medina filed separate resolutions seeking to rename the La

Mesa Dam Ecopark to the Gina Lopez Ecopark.

The mayor said she has already requested the Quezon City Council, headed by Vice Mayor Gian Sotto, to expedite the aforementioned resolutions amid calls from environmentalists to rename the park in honor of Lopez's legacy for the environment.

Lopez, chairman of ABS-CBN's Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation, established Bantay Kalikasan in 1999 as the foundation's environmental arm to aid relief to victims of natural calamities such as typhoons in the country.

Through Bantay Kalikasan, Lopez championed the rehabilitation of the 2,700-hectare La Mesa Watershed and the development of the 32-hectare La Mesa Ecopark.

The mayor recently paid tribute to Lopez in a Facebook post, saying their working relationship revolved largely on her love for the environment and her passion for all that she did to protect it for a sustainable future.

"We worked with her on cleaning up our waterways and in deputizing environmental warriors in our city," Belmonte said.



House honors Gina Lopez

THE House of Representatives honored the late environmentalist and humanitarian Gina Lopez by adopting a resolution expressing profound condolences to her family and citing her exemplary public service.

The House adopted on Wednesday night Resolution 301 highlighting the contributions of Lopez when she was secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and chairman of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission.

The resolution was filed by House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano, Majority Leader Martin Romualdez and Minority Leader Bienvenido Abante.

"A hugely popular and driven philanthropist, environmentalist and humanitarian, Ms. Lopez was bold and fearless in her advocacies, which served as an inspiration to many, a personification of their hopes for a clean and healthy environment with sustainable natural resources for all," the resolution read.

Lopez passed away on August 19 due to multiple organ failure.

Prior to her stint in public service, Lopez was chairman of the ABS-CBN Foundation International and its sociocivic programs such as *Lingkod Kapamilya Bantay Bata 163*, *Bantay Kalikasan* and *Operation Sagip*.

She also continued her advocacies on the environment by hosting "G Diaries," a television show that focused on environmental innovations.

"Ms. Lopez dedicated her life to public service with unyielding passion and devotion, and her passing is truly a great loss to her family, friends, the underprivileged and all those lives she touched," the resolution added.

Meanwhile, Quezon City Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo earlier filed House Bill 4185, which seeks to rename the La Mesa Eco Park as the Gina Lopez Park, after Lopez who was a "staunch vanguard of environmental protection."

GLEE JALEA



Gina Lopez markado ang paglalarawan sa Pasig River

Ibinahagi ni Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) executive director Jose Antonio 'Pepeton' E. Goitia sa kanyang Facebook account ang mga hulig mensahe ng yumaong dating kalihim ng DENR at PRRC Chairperson Gina Lopez kaugnay sa Pasig River.

"Pasig River is the main water artery of the nerve center of the country," pambungad ni Lopez, yumao kamakailan dahil sa multiple organ failure.

"The state of the Pasig River has great adverse impact not only on the surrounding area—but on our nation as a whole."

Markado ang paglalarawan ni Lopez sa Pasig River dahil ikinukumpara niya ito sa human nervous system.

"There was a time when we tried to remove that five-slide illustration, and we were surprised that she still looked for it," pagbabalik-tanaw ni Information Officer III Alyssa Chrizelle N. Miclat.

Iginawad kay Lopez ang una at tanging Sea-

cology Prize na naipagkaloob sa isang Filipino kung saan binigyan-din kung paano nabiyayan ng malinis na tubigan ang France, Germany at Singapore—sa aspektong ekonomiya at sikolohiya bilang isang bansa.

Pinaalala ni Lopez na: "It [rehabilitation of Pasig River] can be done. I have high hopes that under the Duterte administration, this will happen."

Nilinaw ni Goitia na direktang nagmula sa cellphone ni Lopez ang mga kataga na hinugot.

"Ma'am Gina composed and sent this message directly from her phone so we knew that the words used were what exactly came to her mind that very moment. What a heartfelt message she personally put together!" paghanga ni Goitia kay Lopez sa paglalarawan dito bilang isang lider na makamahirap at makakalikasan.

Nalathala ang final message ni Lopez tungkol sa Pasig River sa maiden issue ng The RiverMan magazine na may limited print run na 1,000 kopya.



"IT CAN BE DONE" – SEC. GINA LOPEZ

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kung saan binigyan-diin kung paano nabiyayaan ng malinis na katubigan ang France, Germany at Singapore –sa aspektong ekonomiya at sikolohiya bilang isang bansa.

Hinangaan niya ang gobyerno ng Filipinas dahil sa seryosong paglilinis sa Manila Bay at umaasa siyang ito rin mismo ang ipatutupad sa paglilinis ng Pasig River.

"For the [rehabilitation] effort to have dramatic effect, it needs the strong arm approach of government coupled with compassion so that



what exactly came to her mind that very moment. What a heartfelt message she personally put together!" paghanga ni Goitia kay Lopez sa paglalarawan dito bilang isang lider na makamahirap at makakalikasan.

"We're still saddened by her passing. We promised to keep her light shining in the rehabilitation of the Pasig River and to always keep the poor people in mind. I agreed with her that at the end of the day, the poor people suffer the most from neglect of environment," dagdag ni Goitia.

Nalathala ang final message ni Lopez tungkol sa Pasig River sa maiden issue ng The RiverMan magazine na may limited print run na 1,000 kopya.

Libreng makukuha ang kopya ng The RiverMan sa PRRC office samantalang ang electronic copies ay maaring hugutin sa Freedom of Information portal.

minimal people are adversely affected", pagdidiin ni Lopez.

Bilang pangwakas sa mensahe, pinaalala ni Lopez na: "it [rehabilitation of Pasig River] can be done. I have high hopes that under the Duterte administration, this will happen."

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PUSPUSAN na ang paglilinis sa kani-kanilang nasasakupan ng mga barangay chairman at mayors gaya ng makikita sa larawan kung saan lumusong ang mga trabahador ng Makati City Environmental Department sa maruming tubig ng mga estero na punong-puno ng basura na itinatapon ng mga residente sa Brgy. San Isidro. Ayon sa mga naglilinis, ito na ang pangalawang hakot ng truck ng basura sa nasabing lugar.

Kuha ni **WILFREDO A. CLAMOR**



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Mahal ni Ex-DENR Sec. Gina Lopez ang Pasig River-PRRC

Inilarawan ni Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) executive director Jose Antonio "Pepeton" E. Goitia na mahal ng yumaong si dating DENR Secretary at PRRC Chairperson Gina Lopez ang Ilog Pasig.

Ayon kay Goitia, na markado ang paglalarawan ni Lopez at ikinukumpara niya ang Pasig River bilang "human nervous system" at halimbawa na rito ang mga sinabi nito na: "Pasig River is the main water artery of the nerve center of the country. The state of the Pasig River has great adverse impact not only on the surrounding area- but on our nation as a whole".

Si Lopez ang una at tanging Seacology Prize na naipagkaloob sa isang Filipino kung saan binigyan-diin kung paano nabiyayaan ng malinis na tubigan ang France, Germany at Singapore sa aspetong ekonomiya at saykolohiya bilang isang bansa.

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"What a heartfelt message she personally put together!", paghanga ni Goitia kay Lopez sa paglalarawan dito bilang isang lider na maka-mahirap at maka-kalikasan.

Nalathala ang final message ni Lopez tungkol sa Pasig River sa maiden issue ng The River Man magazine na may limited print run na 1,000 kopya na libreng maku-kuha sa PRRC office, samantalang ang electronic copies ay maaring hugutin sa Freedom of Information portal.

EV ecosystem is top priority in gov't roadmap – DTI Usec Aldaba

By PINKY CONCHA COLMENARES



There are many reasons why mobility in the Philippines should shift to the use of electric vehicles (EVs) and the health of its population is the major one.

According to a recent study by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

(DENR), vehicle emission contributes 69 percent to the air pollution problem in the country. Ninety percent of that comes from Metro Manila.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said there are currently 4,362 registered EVs in the Philippines as of December 2018. Meantime, there are only 83 EV players in the country, 54 of which are manufacturers/importers.

Dr. Rafaelita "Fita" Aldaba, undersecretary for Innovation and Competitiveness of the DTI, said that EV belongs to the top priorities of the Philippines in the new innovation industrial strategy.

Dr. Aldaba was the speaker at the fourth Society of Philippine Motoring Journalist (SPMJ) Forum held at Seda Hotel at the BGC, Taguig, last week. The forum is co-presented by the Association of Vehicle Importers and Distributors (AVID), led by its president, Ma. Fe Agudo, who is also the CEO

of Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (HARI).

The forum is also part of AVID's Landscape series of talks, a semi-annual political and economic briefing which aims to provide a full assessment of the current environment for the automotive business.

At the SPMJ Forum, Dr. Aldaba cited a survey of Frost and Sullivan in Southeast Asia, which showed that 46 percent of Filipinos are "eager" to buy an EV.

The Philippines took the top spot in the survey, followed by Thailand, 44 percent; Indonesia, 37 percent; Malaysia, 33 percent; Vietnam, 33 percent; and Singapore with only 23 percent.



Dr. Rafaelita Aldaba, undersecretary for Innovation and Competitiveness of the DTI (file photo).

To develop an EV ecosystem, Aldaba said the government is promoting xEV (Electrified Vehicle) and EV manufacturing, as well as the building of charging infrastructure in the country.

"The Philippines has five percent of the global nickel reserves stored as laterite ores and the country also comprises four percent of the total global cobalt reserves and these two metals, nickel and cobalt, are inputs for the manufacturing of batteries," she underscored.

Under the country's Inclusive Innovation Industrial Strategy (i3S), Aldaba said that xEV was among the top 12 priority sectors being developed.

Since it is still a "very young and very new" industry, Aldaba said, they were looking into the viability of giving incentives.

She said "incentives are crucial to change the behavior of market players and promote demand for xEV and private investment across the value chain."

Among the incentives that are in the planning board are the removal or reduction of tariffs; incentives for parts and components; excise duty or vat exemption for equipment and parts. For end users, the incentives can be priority in registration and issuance of plate numbers; exemption for the "coding" scheme; free parking in commercial establishments; provision of space for charging stations; annual vehicle registration exemption and three year registration interval.

She explained that the road to EVs is already prepared by existing government EV policies and programs. Among these are the Clean Air Act that will phase out Euro 2 and Euro 4 vehicles; an executive order on zero tariffs for EV components and parts for assembly of hybrid, electric, flexible fuel and CNG motor vehicles; the E-trike project to deploy 100,000 units nationwide to replace traditional gasoline-fed tricycles.

The SPMJ Forum is held quarterly as a project of the organization composed of motoring journalists.



The Hyundai Kona Electric on display at the recent Philippine Electric Vehicle Summit.



DOF wants incentives reviewed every 2 years

By **CHINO S. LEYCO**

The Department of Finance (DOF) said yesterday that tax incentives given to companies must be reviewed every two years as the Philippines has been overly generous, giving away ₱1.12 trillion in tax perks to a select group of 3,150 companies from 2015 to 2017 alone.

In a statement, Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III said it is necessary to institute a system similar to that of the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC), which has made it a practice to conduct regular audits of mining companies once every two years beginning in 2017.

According to the DOF, the government's premier revenue maximizing agency, the estimated amount of ₱1.12 trillion given away as incentives over that three-year period was more than twice the current (2019) budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), which is ₱549.4 billion.

Such foregone revenues include income tax incentives, tax incentives on Customs duties and tax incentives on import value-added tax (VAT). "Incentives are called as such because they

are there ostensibly to encourage firms to operate in an industry we want to develop, reinvest their earnings, train their people, create quality jobs, invest in less developed areas or places recovering from conflict or calamity, and so on," Dominguez said.

The finance chief pointed out that every peso granted as a tax incentive is a peso off the budget

that could have otherwise been spent on infrastructure, health, education or social protection programs that benefit all, and not just for a few.

"It thus behooves the government to perform a regular audit of these companies to see if these beneficiary-firms have indeed made use of their incentives to make an overwhelmingly positive impact on society," Dominguez



CARLOS G. DOMINGUEZ III

said.

"Otherwise, the government would not be doing its job of finding out on a regular basis if these incentives are being put to good use by the favored companies," he added.

The DOF previously revealed that the Philippines is the only major economy in the world with a system that grants incentives to companies in perpetuity or "forever."

While other countries in the ASEAN like Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Indonesia have a cap of 5, 10, 15, or 25 years for the incentives they grant, some companies in the Philippines continue to receive incentives every year, even after they have been getting them for as long as nearly 40 years already, without any in-depth

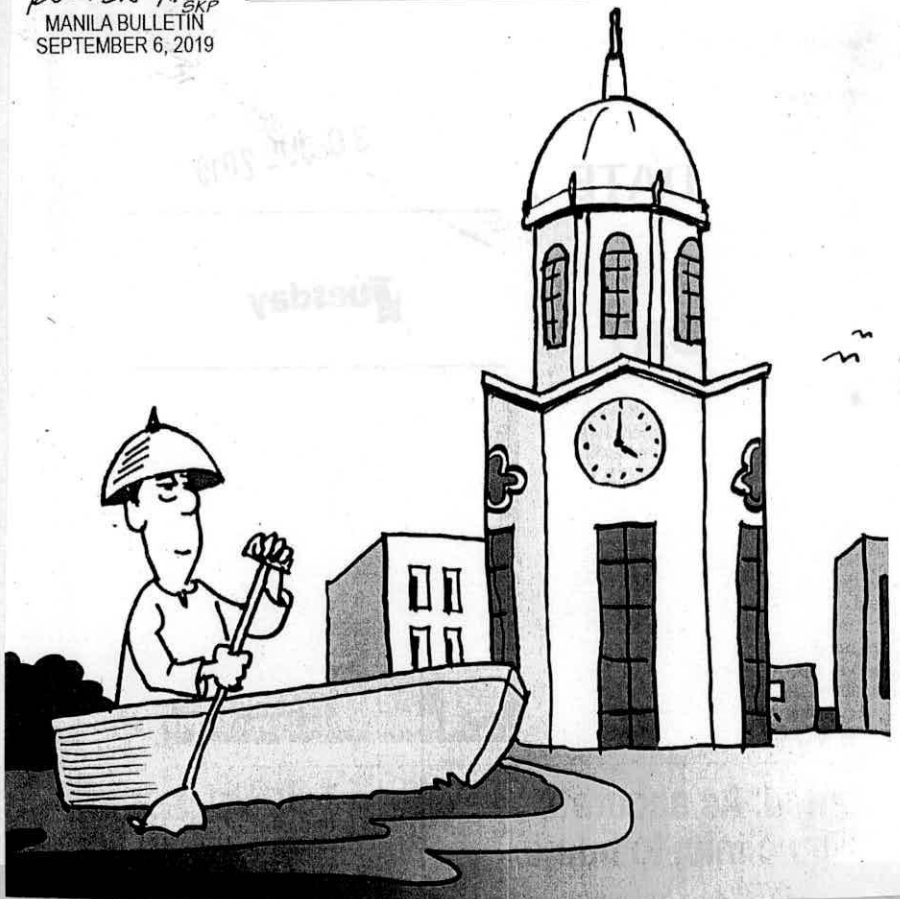
review of the costs and benefits.

President Duterte said in his State of the Nation Address (SONA) the proposed corporate income tax (CIT) and incentives reform package would benefit micro, small and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs).

A select group of some 3,000 companies, including those on the elite list of Top 1,000 corporations, enjoy incentives that allow them to pay discounted tax rates of between 6 percent and 13 percent of net income only.



Roni Santiago
BKP
MANILA BULLETIN
SEPTEMBER 6, 2019



Jakarta, Manila, and other sinking cities

INDONESIA'S President Joko Widodo has announced that his country has decided to move its capital from Jakarta to a new site in East Kalimantan province on the island of Borneo. Jakarta, he said, has so many problems, including constantly gridlocked traffic, but its biggest problem is that it is sinking.

The city's population of about 10 million has extracted so much underground water, causing the land to sink about 6.7 inches a year. At the same time the sea level is rising as icebergs melt in the polar regions. In the last 30 years, Jakarta has sunk around ten feet from a combination of land subsidence and a rise in ocean levels due to climate change.

President Widodo said Indonesia will create a new capital city in Borneo, hundreds of miles northeast of Jakarta. Kalimantan is known for its beaches and dense rainforest. It is said to be relatively free from earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Construction of the new capital is expected to cost \$33 billion and take about 10 years, but the government could start transferring as early as 2024.

Jakarta is No. 1 in a list of ten major cities in the world that are sinking. Second in the list is Manila, Philippines, followed by Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) in Vietnam; New Orleans in Louisiana, United States; Bangkok, Thailand; Osaka, Japan; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Shanghai, China; Venice, Italy; and Alexandria, Egypt. These are only the

"top ten" facing the greatest threat from rising sea levels. Worldwide, there are said to be about 4,000 large coastal cities vulnerable to rising sea levels.

The problem in Manila was first noted in the 1960s when industrialization led to the construction of many infrastructure projects in many rapidly growing cities in the country. Today, after a heavy rainfall, many areas in Metro Manila get flooded, although streets are usually back to normal after one day because of flood control projects.

The government stopped the widespread pumping up of groundwater decades ago, but a recent study by the World Bank said the ground is still sinking in Metro Manila. The greater threat today is from rising sea levels due to climate change melting the polar icebergs.

Manila's problem is not as serious as that of Jakarta. We don't expect any plan to move the nation's capital elsewhere. But because of other problems such as the traffic, some government offices are moving outside of Metro Manila. The Department of Transportation is already at Clark City in Pampanga.

Meanwhile, we continue to seek solutions to problems that make living and working in Metro Manila difficult. We hope to solve them soon and we hope Manila will not sink as much as Jakarta so that we will continue to have it as our historic capital.



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ESCAP MEETING IN BANGKOK

Disaster risk resilience – key to protecting vulnerable communities



By **ARMIDA SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA**

The past five years have been the hottest on record in Asia and the Pacific. Unprecedented heat waves have swept across our region, cascading into slow onset disasters such as drought. Yet heat is only part of the picture. Tropical cyclones have struck new, unprepared parts of our region and devastatingly frequent floods have ensued. In Iran, these affected 10 million people this year and displaced 500,000 of which half were children. Bangladesh is experiencing its fourth wave of flooding in 2019. Last year, the state of Kerala in India faced the worst floods in a century.

This is the new climate reality in Asia and the Pacific. The scale of forecast economic losses for the region is sobering. Including slow-onset disasters, average annualized losses until 2030 are set to quadruple to about \$675 billion compared to previous estimates. This represents 2.4 percent of the region's GDP. Economic losses of such magnitude will undermine both economic growth and our region's efforts to reduce poverty and inequality, keeping children out of schools and adults of work. Basic health services will be undermined, crops destroyed, and food security jeopardised. If we do not act now, Asia-Pacific's poorest communities will be among the worst affected.

Four areas of Asia and the Pacific are particularly impacted, hotspots which combine vulnerability to climate change, poverty, and disaster risk. In transboundary river basins in South and Southeast Asia

such as the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna river basin, floods alternate with prolonged droughts. In Southeast Asia and East and Northeast Asia, earthquakes, tsunamis, and landslides threaten poor populations in the Pacific Ring of Fire. Intensifying sand and dust storms are blighting East, Central and Southwest Asia. Vulnerable populations in Pacific small islands developing states are five times more at risk of disasters than a person in South and Southeast Asia. Many countries' sustainable development prospects are now directly dependent on their exposure to natural disasters and their ability to build resilience.

Yet this vicious cycle between poverty, inequalities, and disasters is not inevitable. It can be broken if an integrated approach is taken to investing in social and disaster resilience policies. As disasters disproportionately affect the poor, building resilience must include investment in social protection as the most effective means of reducing poverty. Conditional cash transfer systems can be particularly effective as was shown in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. Increasing pre-arranged risk finance and climate risk insurance is also crucial. While investments needed are significant, in most countries these are equivalent to less than half the costs forecast to result from natural disasters.

The use of technological innovations to protect the region from natural disasters must go hand in hand with these investments. Big data reveal patterns and associations between complex disaster risks and predict extreme weather and slow onset disasters to improve the readiness

of our economies and our societies. In countries affected by typhoons, big data applications can make early warning systems stronger and can contribute to saving lives and reducing damage. China and India are leading the way in using technology to warn people of impending disasters, make their infrastructure more resilient, and deliver targeted assistance to affected farmers and citizens.

Asia and the Pacific can learn from this best practice and multilateral cooperation is the way to give scale to our region's disaster resilience effort. With this ambition in mind, representatives from countries across the region are meeting in Bangkok this week at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to explore regional responses to natural disasters. Their focus will include strengthening Asia-Pacific's Disaster Resilience Network and capitalizing on innovative technology applications for the benefit of the broader region. This is our opportunity to replicate successes, accelerate drought mitigation strategies and develop a regional sand and dust storm alert system. I hope the region can seize it to protect vulnerable communities from disaster risk in every corner of Asia and the Pacific.

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana is under-secretary-general of the United Nations and executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).



DOE sets Oct. 28 deadline for oil, gas players to submit applications on East Palawan Basin

BY LENIE LECTURA

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THE Department of Energy (DOE) has set an October 28 deadline for the submission of applications to find petroleum reserves in the East Palawan Basin.

One applicant has so far nominated East Palawan Basin as its preferred location to conduct exploration activities in search for commercially viable deposits of oil and or gas.

The DOE withheld the identity of the applicant pending the opening of other bid offers from expected challengers set on October 28.

"Deadline for the submission of documents by counter proponents—60 days from date of publication by the nominating party. The nominating party published the existence of their application on August 28," said the DOE in a notice.

Challengers must submit their application documents at the DOE records management division and pay the corresponding application fee of P1 million on or before October 28.

"Opening of the documents will be held at the DOE-Audio Visual Room on the same day of submission deadline, October 28," added the agency.

East Palawan Basin is referred to as "Nominated Area [NA] 4."

The DOE earlier received nominations for prospective areas in Southeast Luzon Basin (NA

3) from Superior Shipyard, Inc.; Northwest Palawan Basin (NA 2) from Troika Giant Power Corp.; and Sulu Sea Basin (NA 1) from Sulu Sea Energy Resources Development Corp.

The agency also offered 14 "pre-determined areas" but only received offers to explore four areas. There were no offers for the remaining 10 PDAs.

Ratio Petroleum Ltd. submitted an offer for Area 3 (East Palawan Basin); Sulu Sea Energy Resources Development Corp. and Esmaulana Global Ventures Company Inc. for Area 6 (Sulu Sea Basin); Philodrill Corp. and PXP Energy Corp. for Area 7 (Sulu Sea Basin).

Esmaulana Global Ventures Company Inc. also submitted a separate proposal for Area 10 (Agusan-Davao Basin).

The DOE said it will continue to encourage investors to participate in the Philippine Conventional Energy Contracting Program (PCECP).

"If you look at the context of the Philippines, we are currently competing against markets from Africa, we're currently competing for investments from the US. In a lot of these international companies, the tendency really is to shall we say invest in areas that are very, very stable, where the risk is less," DOE Assistant Secretary Leonido Pulido pointed out.

Despite the current situation involving the contentious

areas, the agency said investors remain eager to explore the area for petroleum resources. "In fact, noteworthy companies, particularly Shell Philippines Exploration BV and NWP Ventures, both UK-based companies, have, likewise, nominated blocks for petroleum service contract applications within the disputed areas. Multiple companies, including Spanish firm Repsol, have also shown interest in farming in the West Philippine Sea area," said the DOE.

Moreover, the agency said other interested parties are awaiting the government's policy direction in the West Philippine Sea and have expressed their desire to explore the area should the current Moratorium due to Force Majeure be lifted.

"We do have an existing territorial dispute. In the discussions that we've had with different agencies around the world, we do recognize that the Philippines is not exactly marketable. So there is difficulty, there is a challenge there and we are working on that," said Pulido.

The department had expressed hope that the contracting round would result in finding another Malampaya, the offshore Palawan project that fuels five power plants in Batangas province with a combined capacity of 3,211 megawatts.

That natural gas field is estimated to be depleted by 2022-2024.



New whale sharks counted in Donsol

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

One hundred and four new whale shark individuals have been identified in Ticao Pass off the coast of Donsol between January and June 2019, according to a report from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Philippines.

Whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*), local known as butanding and classified as Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on their Red List of Threatened Species, is a filter-feeding carpet shark and the largest living fish species in the world. Each whale shark can be identified based on the unique pattern of spots behind its gills, which serves as a "fingerprint" for identification. Just as no two human fingerprints are alike, no two whale sharks have the same spot pattern.

WWF noted that the addition of these new sightings puts the total number of whale shark individuals spotted in Donsol at 676 since the monitoring began in 2007. "This represents nearly 40 percent of all the 1,724 whale sharks identified in the Philippines. The number of individuals spotted in 2019 is also the largest in several years, with only 22 new individuals spotted in Donsol between 2017 and 2018."

The whale sharks were sighted during this year's photo identification activities conducted by WWF-Philippines. In the first half of this year, 168 individuals – with 64 re-sightings alongside the 104 newly identified ones – were noted.

Very young whale shark

juveniles were also identified among the 168 individuals that were spotted. Their presence suggests that the Ticao Pass may be a pupping ground for whale sharks, further increasing the ecological significance of the area.

"These whale sharks that pass by Donsol aren't just important due to their value to local tourism. More than that, they play an important systemic role in providing resilience to the local ecosystem," said WWF-Philippines Donsol project manager Manuel Narvadez Jr.

"The number of whale sharks spotted in Donsol indicates that its waters are now rich with plankton, which is their primary food. They have even come here with their young," he added.

WWF-Philippines has been active in Donsol, Sorsogon since 1998 and has actively worked with the local government for more than two decades for the conservation of Ticao Pass and the local whale sharks.

The whale shark census, which monitors the number of whale shark individuals passing through Donsol, began in 2007. A thriving eco-tourism industry centered on communal participation in the conservation of the whale shark has helped Donsol rise from a fifth-class municipality on its way to first-class.

Conservation activities in the Ticao Pass between WWF-Philippines and the local government unit of Donsol will continue in the coming years.

WWF-Philippines is currently exploring options of

expanding the current Marine Protected Areas (MPA) or establishing new ones in neighboring Masbate municipality to further protect the Ticao Pass and its inhabitants.

"Whale shark tourism at Donsol is a long established

eco-tourism venture, which the WWF-Philippines team helped get up and running. After so many years, it is very gratifying to see local communities and the whale sharks continuing to benefit," said Andy Cornish, leader of

"Sharks: Restoring the Balance," WWF's global shark and ray conservation program.

"Protecting more marine areas near Donsol could play a key role in enhancing protection for these endangered ocean nomads for generations

to come," he added.

WWF's global program "Sharks: Restoring the Balance" includes work to conserve whale sharks in Ecuador, Mexico, Pakistan and Tanzania, in addition to the Philippines.



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NLEX installs solar panels on toll plazas

By **BETHEENA KAE UNITE**

Solar panels have been installed on major and newly-expanded toll plazas at the North Luzon Expressway in a bid to incorporate the use of clean, renewable energy in its operations.

Seven toll plazas, according to NLEX Corporation, are now equipped with grid-tied solar power system. These are the Balintawak Barrier, Bocaue Barrier, Mexico Toll Plaza, Angeles Toll Plaza, San Fernando Southbound Toll Plaza, Karuhatan Interchange Toll Plaza and the Meycauayan Southbound Toll Plaza, which was the pilot area of the project in 2018.

Solar power is usable energy produced by collecting sunlight and converting it into electricity through photovoltaic cells or solar cells.

According to NLEX Corporation President and General Manager Luigi Bautista, they have

since incorporated sustainable energy in their business operations, noting that they now have solar-powered devices such as closed-circuit television cameras, emergency call boxes and roadway lighting.

"This time, we're implementing it in our toll plazas not only to generate energy savings, but more importantly, to lessen our carbon footprint," Bautista said.

"We are aware of the impact of infrastructure development on climate change. As an ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental Management System) certified company, the NLEX Corporation strives to encourage green practices and comply with environmental responsibilities," Bautista added.

he solar power project is estimated to produce more than 430 KWH of electricity annually which is equivalent to 108 tons of recycled wastes and more than 5000 tree seedlings grown for 10 years.



TITLE:

ISANG ahensya ng pamahalaan ang lumilitaw na napakahalaga sa bansa, ang Department of Science and Technology.

Sa laban lamang ng bansa sa dengue, kintang-kita ang kahalagahan ng DOST.

Ang Department of Health na pangunahing ahensya na nagbabantay sa kalusugan ng mga Filipino ay dapat na makipagkapit-kamay rito at hindi dapat na sagabal sa ginagawa ng DOST.

LABAN SA DENGUE

Dalawang larangan na sa laban sa dengue ang pinasok ng DOST.

Isa ang pagdiskubre ng gamot laban sa sakit at ang isa, paggawa ng dengue kit para malaman kung may dengue o wala ang isang tao.

Ang mga gamot ay nasa mga tabi-tabi lamang at pupwedeng paramihin at ang dengue kit ay pupwedeng gamitin maging sa mga barangay o sa bahay mismo.

PLATELET AT DENGUE

Ang platelet o thrombocyte sa salita ng mga doctor ay bahagi ng dugo na gumagawa ng clot o pambara sa paglabas ng dugo sa mga ugat ng tao.

Kapag na-dengue ang tao at bumagsak ang platelet sa 10,000-20,000 kada microliter ng dugo, magdasal-dasal ka na o halos gulay na ang isang tao at maaaring anytime, kahaharapin na niya si San Pedro.

Ito'y dahil maaaring duguin na ang utak at iba pang bahagi ng katawan ng tao at lalabas ang dugo sa mata, buonganga, ilong at puwit.

Severe dengue na ang inabot mo.

Dapat ang bilang ng platelet ng tao ay nasa 150,000-400,000 kada microliter.

TAWA-TAWA AT PAPAYA

Itong tawa-tawa at papaya, mga Bro, ay mabisang pamparami ng platelet kung na-dengue ka at babagsak na ang bilang ng platelet mo mula sa 150,000 kada microliter.

Itong dalawang pananim ay may quercetin na pamparami ng platelet.

Sa pag-testing sa mga daga, aba, 194



SALUDO, SUPORTA SA DOST

porsyento ang itinataas ng platelet sa loob lamang ng 24 oras.

Tinesting nang hiwalay at magkasama at pareho sila epektib sa pagpapataas ng platelet.

Sa dengue, sinisira ng dengue virus ang platelet hanggang sa mawalan na ang katawan ng tao ng panggawa ng clot o pambara sa dugo na nais lumabas.

Madali lang ang ginagawa ng mga siyentistang Pinoy sa paggawa ng tawa-tawa at papaya.

Ang tawa-tawa, nilalaga ang lahat mula sa dahon hanggang sa mga katawan at ugat nito.

Dahon naman ang ginagawa sa papaya.

Lahat ginagawang tsaa.

MEDIKAL KIT

May mga siyentistang Pinoy naman ang nakagawa na ng gamit o kit para malaman sa isa o dalawang oras kung may dengue o wala.

May mga ospital nang gumagamit nito.

Balak ngayon ng mga siyentista ang magparami nang husto ng kit na ito hanggang sa magkaroon na ang lahat ng barangay nito.

Nasa 54,000 ang barangay sa buong Pilipinas na tiyak na makikinabang kung maparami talaga nang husto ang dengue kit.

Ayon sa mga siyentista, sa unang araw pa lang ng lagnat, malalaman na agad kung may dengue o wala ang tao sa pamaagitan ng dengue kit.

Ang maganda, nasa P500 lang halaga nito samantalang sa Amerika, 100 dolyar bawat isa.

ESTUDYANTE, SIYENTISTA

Magandang bañggitin na sinimulan ang pagtesting sa tawa-tawa at papaya noon pang 2014 sa San Pedro College sa Davao City noon pang 2014.

Pinarangalan ang mga pharmacy student ng nasabing kolehiyo ng Grupo Medica Award ng Philippine Council for Health Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology

(PCHRD-DOST).

Kinikilala rin ng Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC) ang papaya at tawa-tawa na nakadaragdag ng platelet pero kinakailangan pang pag-aralan ang mga ito ng husto para hindi malison ang mga umiinom ng tsaa mula rito.

Sa gitna ng lahat, nakagawa na ang Herbanext na nakabase sa Negro Occidental ng kapsula ng tawa-tawa para gamitin laban sa dengue.

Inaprubahan na ito ng Drug and Food Administration hindi bilang gamot kundi food supplement at isponsor din ditto ang (PCHRD-DOST).

DENGVAIXIA VS TAWA-TAWA

Ngayon nga ay may mga nabibili nang kapsula na nasa P350 kada 90 kapsula ng tawa-tawa na pupwedeng inumin ng dalawa o tatlong beses sa isang araw.

Halos ganito rin ang presyo ng mga tsaa nito.

Sa kabilang banda, mga Bro, itong Dengvaxia ay nagkakahalaga ng P4,000-P6,000 kada turok at itinuturok ito ng tatlong beses kada anim na buwan.

Ang tanong ngayon: bakit hindi isinusulong ng mga taga-DOH ang pagpapaigi ng tawa-tawa at papaya at tila sinisiraan pa ang mga ito?

Isa pang tanong: Bakit marami sa DOH at maraming doctor ang nagpipilit na ibalik na ang Dengvaxia sa mahal kong Pinas?

Anak ng tokwa, pera ang kasagutan, mga Bro, pera-pera-pera at pera pa.

Pero ang masasabi natin, saludo tayo sa (PCHRD-DOST) na nagbibigay ng mga gamit, pondo at iba pang ayuda sa ating mga siyentista.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring ipa-rating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.