



29 July 2021

Summit na pinangunahan ng DENR pinagtibay ang resolusyon para puksain ang environmental crimes

Pinagtibay ng 4th National Environmental Law Enforcement (NELE) Summit na pinangunahan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na nagtapos kamakailan, ang tatlong resolusyon para mapigilan at labanan ang environmental crimes.

Ang NELE summit na ginanap noong Hulyo 14 hanggang 16 ay nagresulta sa pagpapatibay ng resolusyon para aprubahan ang “five-year indicative plan” ng National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee-Sub-committee on Environment and Natural Resources; suportahan ang pagpapatibay sa panukulang Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB); at ang paghiling sa agarang pagpasa ng bill ng mag-aamiyenda sa Republic Act 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Kabilang sa mga signatories sa mga resolusyong ito ay ang DENR, Department of Agriculture, Philippine National Police-Maritime Group, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Transportation at ang Department of National Defense.

Sa kanyang keynote message, binigyang-diin ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang mahalagang papel ng partner agencies ng DENR sa mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng environmental laws habang hinimok din nito na maging mapagmatyag, at panatilihin ang pagiging katiwala at tagapagbantay ng kapaligiran.

Inamin din nito na ang DENR ay may mga limitasyon sa pagpapatupad ng batas dahil kung bakit mahalaga ang kooperasyon ng partner agencies upang matiyak ang mahigpit at epektibong pagpapatupad ng environmental laws.

"During the current pandemic, restrictions on interzonal movements and numerous checkpoints have driven violators to become more creative. If we can use drones with cameras to monitor forests, the coasts and the seas, so too can the enemy," saad ni Cimatu sa kanyang keynote address na binasa ni DENR Undersecretary for Attached Agencies at Chief of Staff Rodolfo Garcia.

"The DENR, by itself, cannot enforce all environmental laws across our archipelago. The challenge requires a whole-of-government response, as well as the cooperation of stakeholders outside the government, from host communities and the private sector to friends abroad," dagdag ni Cimatu.

Ayon naman kay DENR Undersecretary for Enforcement Benito Antonio de Leon, ang resulta ng summit ay ang "general framework for the effective and efficient enforcement of environmental laws for the next five years."

"The Summit gave an overview of major developments in each of the concerned sectors. Milestones on the enforcement of blue, green, and brown laws in the last 15 years were also presented," saad ni de Leon.

Sinabi pa ni de Leon, ang NELE Summit participants ay binigyan ng kaunting impormasyon sa "transnational organized crime, papel ng Bangsamoro Government sa pagbibigay ng environmental protection at enforcement, at ang pagbuo sa EPEB.

"These inputs were used in the identification of gaps and development of an action plan that allowed us to finally craft the 4th NELE Action Plan for the next five years," dagdag nito.

Ang NELE Summit ay nagsilbing lugar para sa pagbibigay ng update tungkol sa pinakabagong developments sa environmental law enforcement, kabilang na dito ang bagong batas at polisiya, implementing guidelines, programs at tools.

Binigyang halaga din dito ang "technology conceptualized, developed, and implemented by member agencies, and reporting by the member agencies of accomplishments and other activities implemented."

Naging lugar din ang summit na ito para matiyak ang patuloy na koordinasyon at kooperasyon mula sa environmental law enforcement agencies, at pagbibigay ng pagkilala sa partner agencies at institutions maging sa bawat indibidwal. ###

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

PRESS RELEASE

*Strategic Communication
and Initiatives Service*

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28 July 2021

DENR nakikita ang pagbuti ng water quality sa Manila Bay sa pagtatayo ng Libertad STP

Umaasa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ang pagtatayo ng Libertad sewage treatment plant (STP) at wastewater interceptor ay magpapabuti sa water quality ng Manila Bay.

"The current fecal coliform level in Libertad Outfall 1 is at 160 million MPN (most probable number) per 100 ml (milliliters). But with the groundbreaking of yet another STP coupled with wastewater interceptor in partnership with MMDA (Metropolitan Manila Development Authority), we will be able to boost our capability to mitigate water pollution," pahayag ni Cimatú sa ginanap na groundbreaking ceremony sa pagtatayo ng Libertad STP at wastewater interceptor sa Pasay City kamakailan.

Ipinaliwanag pa nito na layunin ng Libertad STP na linisin ang wastewater na nanggagaling sa Tripa de Gallina na tinukoy na siyang “main polluter” at nagdidiskarga ng wastewater sa Libertad Channel patungo sa Manila Bay.

Sinabi nito na ang mga proyekto tulad ng pagtatayo ng Libertad STP at wastewater interceptor ay bahagi ng pagsunod sa 2008 Supreme Court writ of continuing mandamus upang ma “cleanup, rehabilitate at preserve Manila Bay.”

Ayon naman kay MMDA Chairman Benhur Abalos, ang pagtatayo ng bagong STP ay makatutulong upang matugunan ang isyu ng mabahong amoy at maibalik ang maayos na kalidad ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Ang Libertad STP ay kayang magsala ng 10 million liters ng wastewater kada isang araw at mayroon itong catchment area na 779 hectares. Ito rin ang ikalawang STP sa pakikipagtulungan ng MMDA. Ang una ay ang gumagana nang solar-powered STP na matatagpuan sa Roxas Boulevard sa Manila na binuksan noong isang taon.

Ang DENR ang magpoponda sa pagpapatayo ng STP habang ang MMDA naman ang tututok sa maintenance at operation ng treatment plant.

Inaasahang matatapos ang pagtatayo ng STP at wastewater interceptor sa Nobyembre 2021.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatú na plano ng DENR na gamitin ang “treated wastewater” sa pagdidilig ng mga halaman at para na rin sa mga truck ng bumbero sa Pasay City.

Binigyang-diin pa nito na hindi susuko ang gobyerno para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay habang plano rin ng DENR na magsagawa ng cleanup sa bahagi ng Manila Bay sa Navotas City.

"There's still a lot of work to be done along the Navotas Fish Port. This is my target towards the end of the year. If not, I still have six months," saad ni Cimatú na pinamumunuan din ng Manila Bay Task Force.

Ayon pa dito, nagsasagawa na rin ng cleanup sa mga probinsiya ng Cavite, Bataan, Bulacan at Pampanga upang mabigyan ng solusyon ang problema sa polusyon sa Manila Bay.

"I believe that a multi-sectoral and participatory approach would yield more palpable results toward minimizing pollution and protecting the water bodies that empty into Manila Bay," sabi ni Cimatú. ###



26 July 2021

DENR pinuri ang mga katuwang sa pagsisikap na malinis ang Manila Bay

Nagsagawa ng thanksgiving event ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang kilalanin ang pagsisikap ng estero rangers maging ang mga kabahagi mula sa government sector, civil society at DENR field offices sa kanilang patuloy na pagsuporta sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Ito ay ginanap noong Hulyo 14 na inisyatibo ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu kasabay ng pagsasabi sa mahalagang kontribusyon ng “environmental frontliners” sa Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

"I commend all the estero rangers and partners for your unwavering sacrifices and hard work to clean up Manila Bay. I truly appreciate your efforts which resulted in the success of our program," pahayag ni Cimatu.

Umabot sa 73 estero rangers ng DENR-National Capital Region (NCR) West Field Office (WFO) ang dumalo sa event at cleanup activity sa beach area ng Manila Baywalk.

Ang aktibidad na ito ay inorganisa ng DENR-Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service na pinamumunuan ni Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda.

Kabilang din sa mga dumalo sa event ang mga kinatawan mula sa Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Department of Public Services-Manila, Career Executive Service Board, DENR personnel mula sa NCR-WFO, Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO) at Task Force Tayo ang Kalikasan.

Ang naturang event ay isa lamang sa mga thanksgiving activities na nakalinya ng DENR para sa mga partners nito na kabahagi sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

"The arduous task to bring back the glory of Manila Bay is a collective effort, and I'm truly grateful to our partners for remaining steadfast in our work. This rehabilitation will not only be beneficial to us but for the next generations," saad ni Cimatu.

Batay sa datos mula sa MBCO, umabot na sa 14,701.60 cubic meters ng solid waste ang nakuha ng DENR at MMDA mula sa Enero hanggang Marso 2021.

Ang pagkolekta sa mga basura ay mula sa sunod-sunod na cleanup activities sa Manila Bay at sa mga nakakonektang waterways at ilog dito gamit ang trash traps, trash boats at matiyagang pagkuha ng mga volunteers at estero rangers.

Bilang paghahanda naman sa southwest monsoon o “habagat” season sa bansa, nagpakalat na si DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline A. Caanan ng 50 estero rangers at 10 marshalls sa Manila Baywalk area.

Sa kasalukuyan, nakakolekta na ng 5,131 sako ng solid waste at 408 ng wood at bamboo poles mula Hunyo 23 hanggang Hulyo 14.

Mayroon na ring 587 estero rangers ang ipinakalat ng DENR-NCR-WFO sa mga lungsod ng Maynila, San Juan, Pasay, Mandaluyong at Makati.

Ayon na rin sa DENR monitoring, walo sa siyam na monitoring stations sa kahabaan ng Manila Baywalk ang nakapagtala ng mababang fecal coliform level.

Ang pinakamalaking pagbaba ay naitala sa Padre Faura Station kung saan ang fecal coliform level noong 2019 ay 7.61 million at ngayong Marso 2021 ay umabot na lamang ito sa 3,300. ###

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25 July 2021

Cimatu appeals for strict enforcement of Water Code, local ordinances within Manila Bay region

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has called on local government officials within the Manila Bay region to ensure the proper implementation of the Philippine Water Code and local policies and ordinances to prevent polluting the country's water resources while helping secure the livelihood of fisherfolk communities.

Cimatu issued the statement after he came upon fish cages and makeshift houses built on the municipal waters of Cavite, which is part of the Manila Bay, during a visit to the province on July 16.

"The municipal waters are being managed by the mayor. If there are fish cages, these should have permits. Without a permit from the mayor, these are unauthorized," Cimatu said.

"If these fish cages are regulated, it will avoid bamboo poles from being swept to the baywalk in Manila especially during the habagat or southwest monsoon, and during the typhoon season," he added.

Bamboo poles are among the trash that is swept and washed up to the shoreline of Manila Bay.

Cimatu said the high coliform level in the municipal waters can also be traced to the makeshift houses built next to the fish cages.

"The caretakers of the fish pens live there, thus it is possible that because of inadequate or non-availability of sanitation facilities, coliform level has exceeded the standard value," Cimatu said.

"While we would like to encourage their livelihood, it should not be at the expense of destroying the environment," he added.

Cimatu also emphasized that the local chief executives should abide by Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 and RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, or face suspension.

"At least now, many LGUs are complying. Still, the government can file cases if needed," he said.

The DENR chief remains hopeful that the Manila Bay rehabilitation will be finished in six or seven years but the cleanup in the portion of Metro Manila can be accomplished by the end of 2021 or in the remaining six months of 2022.

"We also have to deal with the informal settlers. They have to be resettled otherwise we cannot completely clean Manila Bay," he added.

The Manila Bay region consists of four coastal provinces, namely Bataan, Bulacan, Cavite, and Pampanga.

"What we cannot finish will be there in the plan. That is what the next administration, regardless of affiliation, must continue because it is in the continuing mandamus ordered by the Supreme Court," Cimatu said.###

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24 July 2021

DENR pinangunahan ang pagtatanim ng 1K mangrove species sa pagdiriwang ng National Disaster Resilience Month

Pinangunahan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) noong Sabado, Hulyo 17 ang pagtatanim ng 1,000 mangrove trees sa Macabebe, Pampanga bilang bahagi ng selebrasyon ng National Disaster Resilience Month.

Sa pamamagitan ng Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCID), nanguna ang DENR sa 130 participants mula sa Lions Club International District 301-D2, National Bicycle Organization, Easy Swim Philippine Life Savings, Inc., Manila Standard at Barangay Consuelo, sa pagtatanim ng dalawang variant ng Philippine Rhizophora, na isang klase ng tropical mangrove trees.

Ang Philippine Rhizophora species na ginamit sa planting activity ay kinabibilangan ng bakauan-lalaki (*Rhizophora apiculata Blume*) at bakauan-babae (*Rhizophora mucronata Lamarck*).

Hinikayat din ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns at Supervising Undersecretary ng SCIS Benny D. Antiporda ang mga lumahok na iwasan ang salitang “compliance” at nagpaalala pa ito na “to serve without expecting anything in return.”

"The word compliance is only for people who are expecting something in return after what they have done," pahayag ni Antiporda.

Binigyang-diin pa nito na ang mga Filipino "need not wait for the government to solve the problem, but to act on the problem and save the next generation."

"If we don't act on it, five years later might be too late for the next generation," aniya.

Ayon kay Antiporda, ang pagtatanim ng mangrove trees sa Macabebe, Pampanga ay "relevant to the celebration of the National Disaster Resilience Month because mangrove trees help towns and provinces to be resilient from natural disasters."

Ayon kay Pampanga Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Laudemir Salac, ang napiling mangrove planting site ay ang epicenter ng Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program sa Region 3.

"With the daily cleanup activities that we conducted in this area, we were able to bring down the coliform level from 14,000 to 14 most probable number (MPN) per 100 milliliters," saad ni Salac.

Ang standard level para ang coastal water ay maituring na Class SB ay 100 MPN/100 ml na nangangahulugan na ito ay pwede para sa swimming, skin diving at iba pang recreational activities.

Ang National Disaster Resilience Month ay ipinagdiriwang tuwing Hulyo ng bawat taon base na rin sa Executive Order 29 na nilagdaan noong 2017 na layuning “to emphasize the importance of disaster risk reduction management and the need to understand disaster risk, enhancing community disaster preparedness, strengthening risk governance, and investing in disaster risk reduction.”

Sa pamamagitan ng temang “Tamang Pamamahala’t Kahandaan, Kaalaman at Pagtutulungan sa Sakuna at Pandemya’y Kalasag ng Bayan,” ang pagdiriwang ngayong taon ay naglalayong bigyang diin ang kahalagahan ng papel ng disaster risk governance at pagtutulungan ng mga Pilipino upang malampasan ang mga hamon dulot ng pandemya at magkaroon ng “green and resilient normal.” ###

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
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18 July 2021



DENR NAGPASALAMAT SA ‘ENVIRONMENTAL FRONTLINERS’ NG MANILA BAY. Nagsagawa ng maikling programa si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service Director Hiro V. Masuda (kaliwa) sa Manila Baywalk noong Hulyo 14 upang magpahayag ng pasasalamat sa 73 estero rangers dahil sa kanilang patuloy na kasipagan bilang ‘environmental frontliners’ para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay. Ang water quality sa beach nourishment project ay higit na naging malinis kung saan ang coliform level ay bumaba sa 17,000 most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100ml) mula sa napakataas na 2.2 million mpn/100ml. Ang programa ay sinimulan sa cleanup (inset) na dinaluhan ng mga tauhan ng Metro Manila Development Authority, Department of Public Services ng Lungsod ng Maynila, at ng Career Executive Service Board. Sumali rin sa gawain, na pinasimulan ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang DENR National Capital Region-West Field Office, Manila Bay Coordinating Office, at ng Task Force Tayo ang Kalikasan ng DENR. ###

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17 July 2021

River rehab at solid waste management kasama sa priority programs ni Cimatu

Prayoridad ni Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang pagsasagawa ng malawakang clean-up sa mga ilog at tamang pamamahala ng solid waste sa nalalabing termino nito sa kagawaran.

"We will continue our programs such as the Battle for Manila Bay and Boracay rehabilitation. Now it's also the battle against garbage and dirty rivers in your respective CENROs (Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices) and PENROs (Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices)," sabi ni Cimatu sa mga DENR provincial at regional officers sa ginanap na mid-year assessment ng priority programs ng ahensya noong Hulyo 5.

Upang matiyak ang tagumpay ng mga gawain sa ilalim ng mga priority programs, inatasan ni Cimatu ang mga regional officials at field officers ng DENR na pangunahan ang paglilinis ng mga ilog at pamamahala sa solid waste.

"I want an inventory of all rivers with corresponding fecal coliform count within your jurisdiction by next month. Henceforth, all regional offices should rehabilitate and clean degraded rivers and other water bodies starting with those in highly urbanized cities," saad ni Cimatu.

Kasabay nito, inatasan din ng DENR chief na lumahok ang PENROs at CENROs sa mga management meetings sa DENR Central Office "to further boost their morale and sharpen the professionalism of frontline workers."

"The PENROs and CENROs are to be included in the management conferences because they are the DENR's frontline managers and should therefore be present in our command conferences," dagdag ni Cimatu.

Ang DENR ay may kabuuang bilang na 76 Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officers at 140 Community Environment and Natural Resources Officers sa buong bansa.

Ang management conference ay ang "highest level meeting" na ipinatatawag ng DENR Secretary na kadalasang dinadaluhan ng mga opisyal sa central office, bureau at service directors, at regional executive directors.

"I still have a little than a year to go. I would like to see the mark of professionalism from the central office down to the PENROs and CENROs," sabi pa ni Cimatu. ###



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15 July 2021

DENR enlists support of Cavite LGUs to rehabilitate Manila Bay

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has partnered with the local government units (LGUs) of Cavite for effective pollution reduction and solid waste management in Manila Bay.

"Manila Bay has a wide range of environmental problems that need to be addressed, one of which is the accumulation of solid waste coming from different waterways," said DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Pollution reduction and solid waste management activities in Cavite province are part of the ongoing efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny D. Antiporda led the inspection of rivers in Cavite, including Imus River in Bacoor and Ylang-Ylang River in Noveleta on June 23 where he observed floating debris that led to the waters of Manila Bay.

Cimatu has instructed DENR-Calabarzon Regional Executive Director Nilo B. Tamoria to prioritize the management of solid waste that comes from the coastal areas within the province of Cavite.

Antiporda, who also heads the Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force, noted that the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) and the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) will be coming up with strategies to solve the solid waste problem in the province.

According to Antiporda, the top priority is to build a clustered sanitary landfill as a temporary solution to Cavite's garbage waste disposal problem.

During the Cavite Cluster Task Force meeting last June 24, Governor Jonvic Remulla admitted that the province failed to establish its own sanitary landfill due to land limitations.

"We came up with a coalition of sanitary landfill operators wherein we told them that we will no longer tolerate sanitary landfill operators only, but they need to implement what we called the total solid waste management solution to the problem," Antiporda said.

A total solid waste management solution to the problem calls for landfill operators to be complete with a composting facility, recycling facility, and residual diversion. Through this, less garbage could end up in the sanitary landfill itself.

Creating clustered sanitary landfills could make a big difference in controlling Cavite's solid waste going to the rivers, after Remulla bared that about 2,000 tons of garbage a day goes to the river due to lack of solid waste management facility.

"We will study and try to come up with a very strategic approach in different municipalities and cities *para po masiguro natin na* once and for all, *ma-solve po natin ang problemang ito*," Antiporda said.

He also encouraged the LGUs of Cavite to help in the employment of environmental marshals in each barangay to ensure that residents comply with solid waste management laws particularly in the segregation of waste.

They may also monitor neighboring barangays to encourage them to do the same especially when a water body flows through several barangays.

Moreover, Antiporda called for trained and competent river rangers who will not only help in the cleanup of waterways but also guard the rivers from illegal environmental activities. ###

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15 July 2021

DENR nanghingi ng tulong sa Cavite LGUs para sa Manila Bay rehab

Magtutulong ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at ang local government units (LGUs) ng Cavite para sa epektibong pollution reduction at solid waste management sa Manila Bay.

"Manila Bay has a wide range of environmental problems that need to be addressed, one of which is the accumulation of solid waste coming from different waterways," saad ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Ang pollution reduction at solid waste management activities sa probinsiya ng Cavite ay bahagi ng isinasagawang pagsisikap para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Noong Hunyo 23 nang pangunahan ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny D. Antiporda ang inspeksiyon sa mga ilog sa Cavite kabilang na dito ang Imus River sa Bacoor at Ylang-Ylang River sa Novoleta kung saan ay nakita nito ang mga lumulutang na basura na dumidiretso sa Manila Bay.

Inatasan ni Cimat si DENR-Calarzon Regional Executive Director Nilo Tamoria na bigyang prayoridad ang pamamahala sa solid waste na nanggagaling sa coastal areas ng probinsiya ng Cavite.

Binigyang-diin ni Antiporda na siya ring namumuno sa Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force na ang National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) at ang DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) ay gagawa ng mga istrategiya upang masolusyunan ang problema sa solid waste sa probinsiya.

Ayon kay Antiporda, ang una sa prayoridad ay ang pagtatayo ng clustered sanitary landfill bilang pansamantalang solusyon sa problema ng Cavite sa pagtatapon ng kanilang mga basura.

Inamin naman ni Governor Jonvic Remulla sa ginanap na Cavite Cluster Task Force meeting noong Hunyo 24 na ang kanilang lalawigan ay nabigong makapagpatayo ng kanilang sariling sanitary landfill dahil na rin sa limistasyon sa lupa.

"We came up with a coalition of sanitary landfill operators wherein we told them that we will no longer tolerate sanitary landfill operators only, but they need to implement what we called the total solid waste management solution to the problem," sabi nito.

Upang magkaroon ng total solid waste management solution sa problema ay kinakailangan ng mga landfill operators na magkaroon ng composting facility, recycling facility, at residual diversion. Sa pamamagitan nito, kaunti lamang na basura ang mapupunta sa sanitary landfill.

Ang paggawa ng clustered sanitary landfills ay magkakaroon ng malaking pagbabago sa pagkontrol ng basura ng Cavite na napupunta sa mga ilog, ito ay matapos isiwalat ni Remulla na aabot sa 2,000 tonelada ng basura kada araw ang napupunta sa mga ilog dahil na rin sa kakulangan ng solid waste management facility.

"We will study and try to come up with a very strategic approach in different municipalities and cities para po masiguro natin na once and for all, ma-solve po natin ang problemang ito," sabi ni Antiporda.

Hinikayat din nito ang LGUs sa Cavite na tumulong upang mag-employo ng environmental marshals sa bawat barangay upang matiyak na ang mga residente ay sumusunod sa solid waste management laws partikular na ang paghihiwalay ng mga basura.

Kinakailangan ding i-monitor ng mga ito ang kalapit na barangay upang hikayatin na gumaya sa kanila lalo na kapag ang water body ay dumadaloy sa iba't-ibang barangay.

Bukod dito, nanawagan din si Antiporda ng "trained and competent" river rangers na hindi lamang tutulong para sa cleanup ng mga waterways bagkus ay magbabantay din ang mga ito sa illegal environmental activities. ###

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15 July 2021

NSWMC approves solid waste management plans of 21 LGUs

The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) has approved the 10-year solid waste management (SWM) plans of 21 local government units (LGUs) on July 8.

Of the 21 approved plans, four are in Ilocos Norte, four in Misamis Occidental, two in Zambales, two in Bohol, two in Lanao del Norte, and one each in Nueva Ecija, Quezon province, Negros Oriental, Misamis Oriental, Surigao del Sur, Benguet, and Mountain Province.

To date, the NSWMC reported a total of 1,103 approved SWM plans, which is already 64 percent of its target nationwide.

"These SWM plans shall be the foundation for the effective solid waste management of cities and municipalities through the leadership of their local executives," said Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary and NSWMC Chair Roy A. Cimatu.

"These newly-approved plans are commitments of the NSWMC to capacitate LGUs. The commission shall continue to support them by approving fully compliant and sound SWM plans and overseeing the implementation of these plans," he added.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns and NSWMC Alternate Chair Benny D. Antiporda said the commission is optimistic that it will be able to reach its total target of 1,716 SWM plans soon.

"Upcoming deliberations and reviews of other SWM plans of LGUs that are not yet approved will continue in the coming months," Antiporda assured. "We will not waver until

all LGUs in the country effectively practice the proper reuse, collection, processing, and disposal of wastes in their respective jurisdictions.”

The DENR is investigating LGUs who have not yet submitted their 10-year SWM plan and legal actions will be taken against them by the end of third quarter 2021.

Under Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, LGUs, through their local solid waste management boards, are tasked to formulate their respective 10-year SWM plans consistent with the National Solid Waste Management Framework of the NSWMC.

The SWM plans include strategies on waste diversion, waste collection efficiency or coverage, collection and disposal of residual waste, operation and maintenance of SWM equipment and facility.

To complement the SWM strategies, specific actions incorporated in the recently approved plans include the creation of ordinances and policies, the establishment of materials recovery facility, sanitary landfill (SLF), COVID-19 waste management plan, designation of a municipal environment and natural resources offices, and the implementation of information, education, and communication campaign.

The NSWMC is also currently working on the implementation of the total solid waste management solution for SLFs, which will integrate the appropriate technology and strategy in the sorting, recovery, processing, and disposal of different kinds of solid wastes to ensure its optimum use, and eventually reduce the quantity of wastes and extend the lifespan of the landfill. ###

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
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Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

PRESS RELEASE

***Strategic Communication
and Initiatives Service***

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15 July 2021

NSWMC inaprubahan ang solid waste management plans ng 21 LGUs

Inaprubahan ng National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) ang 10-year solid waste management (SWM) plans ng 21 local government units (LGUs) noong Hulyo 8.

Sa 21 inaprubahang plano, apat dito ang sa Ilocos Norte, apat sa Misamis Occidental, dalawa sa Zambales, dalawa sa Bohol, dalawa sa Lanao del Norte at tig-isa sa Nueva Ecija,

Quezon province, Negros Oriental, Misamis Oriental, Surigao del Sur, Benguet at Mountain Province.

Ayon sa NSWMC, sa kasalukuyan ay umabot na sa 1,103 ang naaprubahang SWM plans kung saan ay 64 percent ito ng kabuuang target sa buong bansa.

"These SWM plans shall be the foundation for the effective solid waste management of cities and municipalities through the leadership of their local executives," saad ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary at NSWMC Chair Roy A. Cimatú.

"These newly-approved plans are commitments of the NSWMC to capacitate LGUs. The commission shall continue to support them by approving fully compliant and sound SWM plans and overseeing the implementation of these plans," dagdag pa nito.

Sinabi naman ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concern at NSWMC Alternate Chair Benny D. Antiporda, umaasa ang komisyon na maaabot nito ang kabuuang target na 1,716 plans sa hinaharap.

"Upcoming deliberations and reviews of other SWM plans of LGUs that are not yet approved will continue in the coming months," pagtitiyak ni Antiporda. "We will not waver until all LGUs in the country effectively practice the proper reuse, collection, processing, and disposal of wastes in their respective jurisdictions."

Nagsasagawa ang DENR ng imbestigasyon ng mga LGUs na hindi pa nakakapagpasa ng kanilang 10-year SWM plans at magsasagawa ng legal actions laban sa kanila sa katapusan ng third quarter ng 2021.

Sa ilalim ng Republic Act (RA) 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, ang LGUs sa pamamagitan ng kanilang local solid waste management boards ay inaatasang gumawa ng kanilang 10-year SWM plans na naaayon sa National Solid Waste Management Framework ng NSWMC.

Kabilang sa SWM plans ang "strategies on waste diversion, waste collection efficiency or coverage, collection and disposal of residual waste, operation ang maintenance of SWM equipment and facility."

Upang maging akma sa SWM strategies, kabilang sa mga isinasama sa inaprubahang plano ay ang paggawa ng ordinansa at polisiya, pagbuo ng materials recovery facility, sanitary landfill (SLF), COVID-19 waste management plan, pagtalaga ng municipal environment and natural resources offices, at pag-implementa ng information, education and communication campaigns.

Kasalukuyan ding tinatrabaho ng NSWMC ang mga sumusunod: "implementation of the total solid waste management solution for SLFs which will integrate the appropriate technology and strategy in the sorting, recovery, processing, and disposal of different kinds of solid wastes to ensure its optimum use, and eventually reduce the quantity of wastes and extend the lifespan of the landfill. ###



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14 July 2021

Cimatu: DENR on track to achieve its 2021 targets despite pandemic woes

Amid the setbacks posed by the pandemic, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) remains optimistic that the agency could achieve its 10-point priority environmental agenda for 2021.

"True, there are key activities under the DENR's 10 priority programs that have been stalled or slowed down due to COVID-19 restrictions, but many of these targets have been accomplished already beyond expectations," Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said during the mid-year assessment of the DENR's priority programs last July 5.

The DENR conducted the assessment of its 10 priority programs—the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP); Manila Bay Rehabilitation; Forest Protection and Anti-illegal Logging program; Clean Air; Clean Water; Solid Waste Management; Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation; Scaling-up of Coastal and Marine Ecosystem; Geo-Hazard, Groundwater Assessment and Responsible Mining; and Improved Land Administration and Management—covering the period between January and May 2021.

Despite the "restricted conditions," Cimatu said that seven regions managed to undertake plantation establishment activities under the ENGP.

These involved 17,696 family-beneficiaries for the planting and maintenance of about 1.97 million seedlings.

"Although hampered by the health protocols and travel restrictions brought about by the COVID-19, the implementation of ENGP is on track in most of the regions," DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cuna explained.

He noted that about 98 percent of the total annual target area is set for plantation establishment in the third quarter as "the seedlings become plantable and ready for outplanting."

Cuna also reported that the DENR was able to conduct 923 apprehensions in illegal logging which resulted in the confiscation of 1,444 sacks of charcoal, 721,500 board feet of undocumented forest products valued at P24.7 million, and some 400 conveyances and implements.

Moreover, through the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System, 53,040 kilometers or 61 percent of the annual target of 86,868 kilometers were patrolled by 3,532 forest patrollers.

This has resulted in the detection of 3,367 potential illicit activities, of which 1,479 cases were classified as "requiring post-patrol responses" and responded to by teams dispatched from the nearest DENR field offices.

The DENR also conducted the closure of all 335 open dumpsites in the country, exceeding its target of 219 dumpsites by 152.97 percent and the inspection and monitoring of 519 treatment, storage and disposal facilities registered nationwide or 390 percent of the annual target of 133.

On improved land management, a total of 11,167 agricultural and 7,902 residential patents were issued which already exceeded the annual target by 277.57 and 110.92 percent of 4,023 and 7,124, respectively.

"We are on our way towards the completion of our mission and those challenges did not deter you from giving your share in moving our 10 priority programs," Cimatu told DENR officials and some 650 field officers who joined the virtual event. ###

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14 July 2021

Cimatu: DENR nasa tamang landas upang makamit ang 2021 target kahit na may pandemya

Kahit na may mga sagabal dulot ng pandemya, positibo pa rin ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na maabot nito ang 10-point priority environmental agenda para sa 2021.

"True, there are key activities under the DENR's 10 priority programs that have been stalled or slowed down due to COVID-19 restrictions, but many of these targets have been accomplished already beyond expectations," saad ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa ginanap na mid-year assessment ng DENR's priority programs noong Hulyo 5.

Ginanap ng DENR ang assessment ng 10-priority programs kabilang na dito ang— Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP); Manila Bay Rehabilitation; Forest Protection and Anti-illegal Logging program; Clean Air; Clean Water; Solid Waste Management;

Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation; Scaling-up of Coastal and Marine Ecosystem; Geo-Hazard, Groundwater Assessment and Responsible Mining; and Improved Land Administration and Management—sakop ang petsa mula Enero hanggang Mayo 2021.

Bagama't may mga hadlang dulot ng “restricted conditions,” sinabi ni Cimatú na pito na rehiyon ang nakapagsagawa ng plantation establishment activities sa ilalim ng eNGP.

Kabilang dito ang 17,696 family-beneficiaries para sa pagtatanim at pagpapanatili ng humigit-kumulang na 1.97 million seedlings.

"Although hampered by the health protocols and travel restrictions brought about by the COVID-19, the implementation of eNGP is on track in most of the regions," paliwanag ni DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment Juan Miguel Cuna.

Binigyang-diin nito na 98 percent ng total annual target area ang nakatakdang magkaroon ng plantation establishment sa third quarter kung kailan handa na ang mga seedlings para itanim.

Iniulat din ni Cuna na nagkaroon ng 923 “apprehensions” ang DENR laban sa illegal logging na nagresulta sa pagkakakumpiska ng 1,444 sako ng uling, 721,500 board feet ng undocumented forest products na nagkakahalaga ng P24.7 million, at may 400 conveyances at implements.

Bukod dito, sa pamamagitan ng Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System, 53,040 kilometers o 61 percent ng annual target na 86,868 kilometers ang nabantayan ng 3,532 forest patrollers.

Ito ay nagresulta sa pagkatuklas ng 3,367 “potential illicit activities,” kung saan ay 1,479 na kaso ang itinuturing na “requiring post-patrol responses” at narespondehan ng grupo na nai-dispatch mula sa pinakamalapit na DENR field offices.

Naipasara na rin ng DENR ang lahat ng 335 open dumpsites sa bansa kung saan ay lumampas ito sa target na 219 dumpsites ng 152.97 percent at nagsasagawa rin ng inspection at monitoring sa 519 treatment, storage at disposal facilities na nakarehistro mula sa buong bansa o 390 percent ng annual target na 133.

Para naman sa land management, umabot sa 11,167 agricultural at 7,902 residential patents ang naisyu kung saan ay lumampas ito sa annual target ng may 277.57 at 110.92 percent mula sa 4,023 at 7,124, ayon sa pagkakasunod.

"We are on our way towards the completion of our mission and those challenges did not deter you from giving your share in moving our 10 priority programs," sabi ni Cimatú sa DENR officials at sa may 650 field officers na sumali sa virtual event. ###



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13 July 2021

Cimatu: Environmental law enforcement summit timely to revisit, update ENR policies

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will conduct the 4th National Environmental Law Enforcement (NELE) Summit on July 14-16, 2021, to provide updates on efforts to prevent and fight environmental crimes.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said that holding the NELE summit during this health crisis is "a good opportunity to revisit the environmental law enforcement (ELE) components to make sure they are updated, and to make sure that the policies are relevant and timely."

"There could never be a much better time for holding the NELE summit, as it is during this quarantine that we have more challenges in apprehending environmental law violators who are taking advantage of the immobility and lesser resources that we have," Cimatu said.

According to Cimatu, holding the NELE Summit this 2021 is "especially significant, especially when most environment and natural resources (ENR) laws are already 20 years old and older, and during this time that the agency gears up for the creation of an Enforcement Bureau."

"The previous NELE Action Plan has already expired last 2020. With this summit, we hope to create a new Action Plan that would serve the needs of the ever-changing and evolving modern society," Cimatu said.

With the theme, "Sustaining inter-agency collaborations for intensified ELE towards a better environment amidst pandemic," the NELE Summit has been a venue for updating the latest developments on ELE, such as new laws and policies, implementing guidelines, programs, and tools and technologies.

It has also been the venue for ensuring continuous coordination and cooperation among the agencies involved and giving recognition to partner-agencies and institutions, as well as individuals.

During the summit, participants are expected to share their respective agencies' and branches' major highlights or milestones on ELE for the last 15 years; identify the contribution of the agencies in mainstreaming environmental and natural resources protection in the national strategies and policies; and formulate responsive strategies that will expedite actions for urgent ENR concerns in support of Philippine development.

They are also expected to receive information on the state of the environment, that is, state of the forest and protected areas including the caves and wildlife resources, urban environment and marine and coastal areas including the fishery resources; review selected ELE technologies and identify needed advancement to cope up with the current enforcement needs and changes; and assess the implementation and update the ELE action plan. ###



13 July 2021

Cimatu: Environmental law enforcement summit napapanahon na muling bisitahin at ma-update ang ENR policies

Magsasagawa ng National Environmental Law Enforcement (NELE) Summit sa Hulyo 14 hanggang 16, 2021 ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang magkaroon ng update sa pagsisikap na mapigilan at labanan ang environmental crimes.

Ayon kay Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang pagsasagawa ng NELE summit ngayong may health crisis ay "a good opportunity to revisit the environmental law enforcement (ELE) components to make sure they are updated, and to make sure that the policies are relevant and timely."

"There could never be a much better time for holding the NELE summit, as it is during this quarantine that we have more challenges in apprehending environmental law violators who are taking advantage of the immobility and lesser resources that we have," saad ni Cimatu.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu, ang pagkakaroon ng NELE summit ngayong 2021 ay "especially significant, especially when most ENR laws are already 20 years old and older, and during this time that the agency gears up for the creation of an Enforcement Bureau."

"The previous NELE Action Plan has already expired last 2020. With this summit, we hope to create a new Action Plan that would serve the needs of the ever-changing and evolving modern society," sabi ni Cimatu.

Sa temang "Sustaining inter-agency collaborations for intensified ELE towards a better environment amidst pandemic," ang NELE summit ang magiging lugar upang magkaroon ng update ang mga makabagong developments sa ELE tulad ng mga bagong batas at polisiya, implementing guidelines, programs, tools at technologies.

Ito rin ang lugar upang matiyak ang patuloy na koordinasyon at kooperasyon ng mga ahensiyang sangkot at pagbibigay ng pagkilala sa partner-agencies at institusyon maging sa mga indibidwal.

Sa gaganaping summit, inaasahan na ang mga lalahok ay magbabahagi ng major highlights or milestones on ELE for the last 15 years ng kanilang mga agencies at branches; identify the contribution of the agencies in mainstreaming environmental and natural resources protection in the national strategies and policies; and formulate responsive strategies that will expedite actions for urgent ENR concerns in support of Philippine development."

Inaasahan din na makatatanggap ng impormasyon sa kalagayan ng kapaligiran, partikular ang kondisyon ng kagubatan at protected areas kabilang na dito ang kuweba at

wildlife resources, urban environment at marine at coastal areas kasama na dito ang fishery resources, repasuhin ang mapipiling ELE technologies at matukoy ang mga kinakailangang pagbabago upang makasabay sa napapanahong pangangailangan at pagbabago sa pagpapatupad ng batas; at mapag-aralan ang implementasyon at i-update ang ELE action plan.
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11 July 2021

10 indibidwal kinilala ng DENR para sa community initiatives on climate and disaster resiliency

Inanunsiyo na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamamagitan ng kanilang Gender and Development Office and Climate Change Service ang tatlong nanalo ngayong taon para sa “Mga Kwentong KLIMA-likasan Tungo sa Katatagan: A Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards sa ginanap na virtual ceremony noong Hulyo 2.

Pitong kalahok din ang nabigyan ng special citation para sa mga katagoryang Youth Empowerment, Gender Empowerment, Originality, Sustainability Initiatives, Community Participation, Ecological Waste Management, at Disaster Risk Reduction.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang 2021 Resiliency Awards ay ang pagbibigay ng pagkilala sa mga Filipino “movers and workers” na gumagawa ng pagbabago para mapalakas ang climate and disaster resiliency.

"We recognize all the winners as our environmental heroes. They, who tirelessly work to protect our environment and natural resources deserve honor and acknowledgment," sabi ni Cimatu.

"No work and no project to save our planet are ever too small or too big because everyone can make a difference and can provide a solution to climate change – individuals, organizations, communities, and local governments," pagdidiin pa nito.

Si Annadine Marzinares ng local government unit (LGU) ng Botolan, Zambales ang nakasungkit ng first place para sa kanyang entry na “Women Leadership, Trailblazers of Environmental Sustainability,” na nagpapakita ng mga programa at proyekto ng Botolan

municipal government upang magkaroon ng environmental sustainability sa kanilang munisipalidad.

Kabilang na dito ang fabrication at installation ng artificial reef na may coral transplantation, mangrove and forest reforestation, at solid waste management.

Nakuha naman ang second place ni Reynaldo Gonzales of Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources sa Zamboanga City para sa kanyang "Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction (GHG): Zamboanga City Initiatives for Climate Change Mitigation."

Inilalarawan sa entry na ito na ang Zamboanga bilang isa sa model cities ay isinama ang reduction ng greenhouse gas emission bilang bahagi ng kanilang Local Climate Change Action Plan o LCCAP.

Si Maria Clarita Limbaro ng local government ng Bayabas, Surigao del Sur ang nagkamit ng third place para sa kanyang entry na "Sagip-Wakatan Program: Kwentong KLIMA-likasan ng Bayabas, Surigao del Sur."

Ang Sagip-Wakatan program ay isang annual mangrove reforestation, replanting, at coastal cleanup initiative ng municipality ng Bayabas na layuning mapanatili at maisaayos ang mangrove cover density upang makatulong na maprotektahan ang komunidad laban sa mapaminsalang epekto ng storm surges, tidal waves, tsunami, at soil erosion.

Nagbigay din ng special citation mula sa pitong kalahok sa ginanap na virtual ceremony.

Youth Empowerment -- Carvel Acabal ng National Anti-Poverty Commission's Children Basic Sector and Kalambulan Youth Organization (KAYO) in Zamboanga del Sur para sa "KAYO: Extraordinary Youths in Extraordinary Times."

Gender Empowerment -- Nyla Cordero ng Kalayaan Organic Practitioners Association in Laguna (KOPA) para sa "Nyla Cordero's Story: Empowering Women on Climate and Disaster Resiliency in the Community."

Originality -- Adela Jamelo of Panatao Plastic Waste Recycling Association sa Surigao del Norte para sa "From Waste to Wealth Project."

Sustainability Initiatives -- Danielle Ann Ravalo ng Graymont (Philippines) Inc. in Las Piñas City para sa "Juan Earth: Efforts in saving the only thing we all have in common."

Community Participation -- Auria Primavera Gonzales ng Metropolitan Naga Water District (MNWD) sa Camarines Sur para sa "MNWD Integrated Watershed Management Program: The Beginning of a Promising Story."

Ecological Waste Management -- Ian Chester Solver ng Parish Youth Ministry-Basud, Youth ng Poblacion Uno-Basud, Camarines Norte para sa "Binhi ng Pag-asa (Seed of Hope)."

Disaster Risk Reduction -- Zia Sagoso mula sa General Santos City para sa kanyang lahok na "Green Initiatives: A Better Life and Environment."

Ang mga nanalo ay makatatanggap ng P50,000, P40,000 at P30,000 para sa first, second at third prizes, ayon sa pagkakasunod.

Samantala, makatatanggap naman ng P15,000 bawat isa ang ang mga special citation awardees.

Binati naman ni DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-Teh ang mga nanalo para sa kanilang kontribusyon na sinabi pa nitong “nothing less than a mark of passion, dedication, commitment, and love for our campaigns and advocacies for the environment and our peoples.”

Nakatanggap ang DENR ng halos 100 entry mula sa iba’t-ibang sulok ng bansa para sa “Mga Kwentong KLIMA-likasan Tungo sa Katatagan: A Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards.”

Ang parangal na ito ay sumusuporta sa Global Good Stories Movement, na layuning kilalanin ang mga kuwento ng bawat indibidwal – mapalalaki man o babae – at grupo tungkol sa epekto ng climate change at disaster sa kanilang komunidad, at kung paano nila ito nilulutas sa pamamagitan ng mga programa para sa environmental protection at conservation, climate change, at disaster risk reduction.

Ang Global Good Stories Movement ay isang pagkilos ng mga tao na parehong naniniwala sa "we can change the story of the world by changing the storyline."

Ang mga naging hurado para sa pagkilala ngayong taon ay sina Commissioner Rachel Herrera ng Climate Change Commission, Director Tecson Lim ng Department of National Defense-Office of Civil Defense, at Mr. Mahar Lagmay, Executive Director ng University of the Philippines Resilience Institute.

Sinuri ang mga entries batay na rin sa Climate and Disaster Resiliency content (60 percent); visual appeal of photograph and video (30 percent); at geographical reach of the initiative (10 percent). ###

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10 July 2021

Cimatu pinangunahan ang paglulunsad ng watershed conservation campaign

Habang patuloy sa paglaban sa banta ng climate change na kinahaharap ng watershed areas ng bansa, inilunsad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang

nationwide campaign upang palawakin ang watershed conservation and protection efforts katuwang ang grassroots communities.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang kampanya na tinawag na Save Our Watershed (SOW) ay magsisilbing plataporma upang hikayatin ang partnership at pakikipagtulungan mula sa national hanggang sa grassroots level.

"We hope that the spirit of the 'Save Our Watershed' ripples through to all our DENR regional offices, foreign-assisted projects, and local government units with initiatives on watershed conservation," saad ni Cimatu.

Idinagdag pa nito na layunin din ng kampanya na hikayatin na magkaroon ng local ordinances para mas lalong ma-promote ang conservation at protection ng watersheds.

"There are more than 130 critical watersheds in the country that desperately need immediate protection and rehabilitation to minimize erosion and improve water yield," sabi ni Cimatu.

"For us to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change-induced disasters, people's support to government actions, therefore, is still the key," pahayag pa ni Cimatu.

Para sa national level, hangad ng kampanya na makagawa ng draft executive order (EO) na magsisilbing blueprint para sa magkaugnay at magkaparehong pagkilos para maprotektahan, mapangalagaan at mapanatili ang serbisyong naibibigay ng watersheds sa bansa tulad ng water supply para sa irrigation, domestic use, power generation at biodiversity.

Ayon pa kay Cimatu, ang pinakaimportanteng elemento ng watersheds ay ang puno, ipinunto pa nito na hindi matatawag na watershed ang isang lugar kung walang mga puno.

Umaasa naman si DENR Assistant Secretary at concurrent Forest Management Bureau Director Marcial Amaro na matatapos nila ang draft EO bago matapos ang taon o sa fourth quarter para maisumite sa Office of the President.

Sinabi pa ni Amaro na ang mga stakeholders, kabilang ang national at local authorities, local government units, at coastal communities ay kukunsultahin para sa draft EO alinsunod sa polisiya ng DENR sa pagsunod sa "reef-to-ridge approach" para sa watershed conservation.
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08 July 2021

DENR tinutukan ang PH illegal wildlife trade sa pre-event ng environmental law enforcement summit

Bilang paghahanda sa nalalapit na 4th National Environmental Law Enforcement (NELE) Summit sa Hulyo 14 hanggang 16, 2021, nagsagawa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng pre-event noong Hulyo 7, Miyerkules upang matutukan ang masamang epekto ng illegal wildlife trade sa bansa.

Para sa pre-event, tinalakay nina DENR undersecretaries Benny Antiporda, Edilberto D. Leonardo, at Benito de Leon, kasama si Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Wildlife Resources Division Chief Atty. Theresa Tenazas ang iba't-ibang aspeto at lawak ng illegal wildlife trade sa isang media briefing.

Kabilang sa mga tinalakay ay ang mga hamon sa DENR wildlife enforcement officers, online illegal wildlife trade, at mga salient points upang maging mas mahigpit ang Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resource Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 kasama na ang mga "context and threats, policy gaps, and its proposed revisions for amendment."

Napagusapan din ang madalas na kinakalakal na species kasama na ang illegal wildlife trading hot spots at strategies for combating illegal wildlife trade.

Ipinaliwanag din ng mga opisyal ng DENR ang kahalagahan ng nalalapit na NELE Summit at binanggit na isang workshop ang ginanap noong Marso 11-12 upang pag-aralan ang enforcement of green laws (forestry, flora and fauna), blue laws (water bodies such as estuaries, rivers, lakes, bays and oceans), brown laws (mining, land, and solid waste management), prosecution, and the roles of supporting agencies before the actual event.

"Hopefully, during this pre-event for the upcoming environmental law enforcement summit, we can make the Filipino people realize the magnitude of what we are lobbying and continuously advocating," saad ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Layunin ng NELE Summit na makapagpresenta ng mga nagawa ng environmental law enforcement tulad ng "laws and policies, implementing guidelines, programs, and tools, and come up with a new NELE Action Plan for 2021-2028."

Magsisilbi rin itong lugar upang matiyak na patuloy ang koordinasyon at kooperasyon ng mga environmental law enforcement agencies at pagbibigay ng pagkilala sa partner agencies at institusyon maging sa bawat indibidwal.

Ayon kay Cimatu, upang mapanatili ang "momentum" ng Senate hearing noong nakaraang Hunyo 30 para sa mga panukulang batas na magpapalakas sa RA 9147, ang DENR ay kinakailangang "must continue to reverberate the drumbeat of calls to enact a law that will provide a more stringent legal framework to punish illegal wildlife traders."

"The sophistication of these illegal wildlife traders gives us the sense of urgency to clamor for the immediate legislation of the Senate bills concerning this matter," aniya.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang illegal wildlife trade sa Pilipinas ay tinatayang aabot sa halagang P50 billion kada taon, kabilang na dito ang market value ng wildlife at ng resources nito, ecological role at value, pinsala sa habitat na nagawa sa paghuli at pagkawala ng potential ecotourism revenues.

Sa nakalipas na sampung taon, ang DENR ay nakakumpiska ng P248-million halaga ng wildlife specimens.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu na ang bilang na ito ay nakaaalarma at "could invite more criminal minds and unscrupulous individuals, especially during this time of crisis—if they are left with merely a slap in the wrists."

Noong Mayo 26 nang pumasa na sa House Committee on Appropriations ang substitute House Bill na pinamagatang "An Act Providing for the Conservation and Protection of Wildlife Resources and their Habitats, and Appropriating Funds Therefore, Repealing for this Purpose Republic Act No. 9147" or the "Wildlife Resources Conservation And Protection Act," na inisponsoran ni Occidental Mindoro Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato at labing-limang iba pang representante.

Kasalukuyan namang tinatalakay sa public hearing ng Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change kasama ang Committee on Finance at Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and Futures Thinking ang Senate Bills 2078 at 2079 na iniakda nina Senators Cynthia Villar at Juan Miguel Zubiri, ayon sa pagkakasunod. ###

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07 July 2021

DENR hinimok ang mas mahigpit na tuntunin sa sewage discharge ng marine vessels

Nanawagan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na magkaroon ng mas mahigpit na pagbabantay at pag-uulat sa sewage discharge ng marine vessels upang matiyak ang epektibong implementasyon ng Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

Iminungkahi ito ni DENR Undersecretary at Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force Head Benny D. Antiporda sa Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) upang maiwasan ang polusyon mula sa sewage sa nakaraang pulong kasama ang DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), shipyard associations at marine vessel owners.

"In six years, a lot has changed already. Marine vessels have already increased in number and our population has grown. Maybe it would be better if we talk about the solution, which is coming up with a suited policy on how to control or stop the pollution in Manila Bay," saad ni Antiporda sa PCG.

Iminungkahi nito ang pangangailangan na magkaroon ng mas maayos na data monitoring at reporting ng "sewage from the source, treatment, collection, coordination with agencies, and disposal to sufficiently support the Manila Bay rehabilitation."

"We cannot track the vessels if they discharge it within Manila Bay or outside the bay. Maybe we could come up with something that could safeguard the bay from discharges," paliwanag ni Antiporda.

Ayon kay PCG National Capital Region-Central Luzon Commodore Leovigildo Panopio, "the PCG takes the task of marine environmental protection seriously."

Dagdag nito, kasalukuyang bumubuo ang ahensya ng mga programa at polisiya ukol sa pagpapatupad ng mga batas at regulasyon na layuning protektahan ang marine ecology.

Sinabi rin nito na may isinasagawang pag repaso ng mga Memorandum Circulars (MCs).

Ayon naman kay Lieutenant Precious Omalsa, "there should be no discharges of sewage from the vessels in the Manila Bay region since it will not satisfy the ruling under the PCG MC 10-14.

Base sa ruling, ang mga barko na nagtatapon ng "comminuted" o disinfected/treated sewage ay kinakailangang may layong mahigit sa four nautical miles mula sa pinakamalapit na shoreline.

Samantala, ang mga barko naman na nagtatapon ng hindi "comminuted" o disinfected/treated na sewage ay kinakailangang may layong mahigit sa 12 nautical miles mula sa pinakamalapit na shoreline.

Ibinigay na halimbawa ni Omalsa na ang sasakyan na may layong four nautical miles mula sa Metro Manila ngunit may lapit namang dalawa o tatlong nautical miles sa Bataan, na ang ibig sabihin, ang pagtatapon ay hindi pa rin labas sa Manila Bay region.

"Cleaning up the bay is not literally getting a pail of water and filtering it. It is more of stopping or minimizing the pollution, for the environment, for nature to heal itself. But sad to say, due to too much pollution, it cannot heal itself anymore," dagdag ni Antiporda.

Ang pulong na ito ay ginanap upang matiyak ang pagsunod ng marine vessel owners at organizations sa memorandum at upang magkaroon ng alituntunin kung paano makatutulong ang maritime sector sa gobyerno para sa isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay. ###



06 July 2021

**DENR kinilala ang solid waste management achievements sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni
Cimatu**

Nilinaw ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns Benny D. Antiporda na matagal nang nagsasagawa ang ahensiya ng mga paraan para sa pagsasaayos at rehabilitasyon ng iba't-ibang river systems sa bansa kabilang na dito ang Pasig River.

Inilabas ni Antiporda ang pahayag na ito upang linawin ang sinabi ng isang global study na ang mga ilog sa Pilipinas ang tinatawag na “top plastic emitters.”

"Again, even prior to the publication of the said study, the DENR has already launched various efforts on environmental protection and conservation under Secretary Roy A. Cimatu's leadership," saad ni Antiporda sa ginanap na press conference noong Hunyo 28.

Ang Ocean Cleanup-led study na inilabas sa international journal Science Advances ay nagsabi na ang mga ilog sa Pilipinas ay kasama sa top 10 sources ng ocean plastic pollution. Ang Pasig River ang tinukoy na “top plastic emitter.”

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda na ang pag-aaral na ito na gumamit ng “probabilistic approach” at batay lamang sa secondary studies, ay hindi ipinakita ang tunay na kalagayan ng mga ilog.

Ipinaliwanag pa nito na kung isasama ang “strong-willed leadership and efforts to mitigate pollution under the present administration, the study would show a different result.”

Aniya, ang solid waste management kabilang na dito ang plastic wastes ay ginagawan ng aksiyon partikular na sa mga daluyan ng tubig patungo sa karagatan hindi lamang sa iba't-ibang mitigation strategies, technologies, at law enforcement bagkus maging sa manpower.

Patuloy ding tinutulungan ng DENR ang mga LGUs upang makapagpatayo ng kanilang materials recovery facilities (MRFs).

Sa kasalukuyan ay 11,546 na MRFs na ang naipagawa na nagbibigay ng serbisyo sa 14,450 barangays sa buong bansa.

Ngayong taon ay nakumpleto na rin ng DENR ang pagpapasara sa lahat ng 335 illegally operating dumpsites sa bansa kahit na may mga restriksiyon dulot ng COVID-19 pandemic.

Noong 2020, nakapagpagawa na rin ng 241 sanitary landfills. Itinatag din ng DENR ang Coalition of Solid Waste Management Providers para sa mas epektibong paraan sa solid waste management.

Ang National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) na pinamumunuan din ni Cimatu ay nakapag-apruba na ng solid waste management plans (SWM) ng 22 LGUs nitong Mayo 2021 kaya't umakyat na ito sa bilang na 1,082 SWM plans o 63% na target sa buong bansa.

Ayon kay Antiporda, umabot na rin sa 1,333 estero rangers ang kinuha ng DENR-National Capital Region para sa cleanup ng waterways at water bodies sa buong rehiyon.

Sinabi pa nito na ang Manila Bay Rehabilitation na sinimulan noong 2019 ay layuning linisin ang lahat ng waterways na nagsisilbing daluyan ng tubig patungo sa Manila Bay kabilang na dito ang Pasig River.

Ang Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office ay nagpakalat na rin ng mahigit sa 100 River Warriors at River Patrollers upang magtanggag ng solid waste at iba pang nakalutang na debris sa mga waterways sa Pasig River System at upang magbantay sa ilog laban sa mga violators.

Simula noong Enero hanggang Mayo 2021, patuloy ang isinasagawang cleanup operations sa Pasig River kung saan ay nakakuha ng 136,564 sako ng basura o 4,096,920 kilograms ng solid wastes.

Noong isang taon, may 216,000 na sako na katumbas ng pitong tonelada ng solid waste ang naalis mula Pebrero hanggang Disyembre.

Ayon kay Antiporda, ang Estero de San Antonio Abad at Estero Magdalena ang ilan sa mga estero na natanggalan na ng solid wastes.

"We have done our part in dealing with this solid waste problem of the country. In this present administration, you can see that it is only President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and Secretary Cimatu who really cared for our waterways," ani Antiporda. ###

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05 July 2021

DENR iminungkahi ang sanitary landfill sa Cavite bilang tugon sa problema ng basura

Plano ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na magtayo ng isang compliant sanitary landfill (SLF) sa probinsiya ng Cavite upang matulungan ito na pamahalaanan ang problema ng basura na nakakaapekto sa isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng ng Manila Bay.

Si Cimatú, na pinamumunuan din ang Manila Bay Task Force kasama ang ilang opisyal ng DENR, ay nakipagpulong kay Cavite Governor Juanito Victor “Jonvic” Remulla at mga alkalde ng probinsiya upang pag-usapan ang mga paraan upang mahiyakat ang kooperasyon ng mga ito para mabigyan ng solusyon ang mga isyu tungkol sa solid waste at water quality management sa anim na pangunahing ilog sa Cavite.

Sa pulong, binanggit ni DENR Calabarzon Regional Executive Director Nilo B. Tamoria ang anim na pangunahing ilog na dumadaloy sa Manila Bay. Ito ay ang Imus River, Zapote River, Rio Grande-Ylang-Ylang River, Cañas River, Labac River at Maragondon River.

“We cannot complete the rehabilitation of Manila Bay if we will not solve the garbage problem in the province. There is a very big connection between that,” sabi ni Cimatú sa mga opisyal ng Cavite sa ginanap na pulong sa Oasis Hotel sa Imus City noong Hunyo 24.

“The only way for us to solve the problem of Manila Bay is to solve the garbage problem and water quality of the rivers in Cavite,” dagdag pa nito.

Dumalo sa ginanap na pulong ang mga alkalde mula sa mga lungsod ng Cavite, General Trias, at Trece Martires, at munisipalidad ng Amadeo, GMA, Indang, Mendez, Naic, Silang, at Tanza.

Ayon kay Remulla, ang solid waste management ang numero unong problema ng Cavite kung ang pag-uusapan ay ang kapaligiran, sinabi pa nito na tinatayang ang 50 percent ng solid waste sa probinsiya ay napupunta sa mga ilog at aabot ito sa 2,000 tonelada kada araw kung saan ang 90 percent dito ay napupunta sa Manila Bay.

Ipinaliwanag pa ng provincial chief executive na 21 sa 23 lungsod at munisipalidad sa kanilang probinsiya ay walang kakayahang makapagpatayo ng sariling solid waste facility dahil na rin sa kakulangan sa lupa, kung kaya’t umapela ang gobernador ng tulong mula sa DENR para makapagpatayo ng SLF.

Ipinaliwanag ni Cimatú na dahil na rin sa nakaraang pag-ulan, ang mga basura mula sa ilang waterways kabilang na ang galing sa mga ilog ng Cavite ay naaanod sa Manila Bay na nakasisira sa pagbabago sa Baywalk area kung ang pag-uusapan ay ang coliform level at solid waste collection.

Idinagdag pa nito na ang pagdami ng mga basura sa mga ilog ay dahil na rin sa pagpapasara sa lahat ng dumpsites sa probinsiya para sa pagpapatupad ng Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

“I’d like to appeal to the Mayors of Cavite to please help us,” sabi ni Cimatú kung saan ay ipinaliwanag pa nito na ang local government units (LGUs) ang responsable sa waste segregation at disposal.

Samantala, iminungkahi rin ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns at Cavite Cluster Task Force head Benny D. Antiporda ang ilang istrategiya na maaaring ipatupad ng LGUs upang mabigyang solusyon ang problema sa kanilang lokalidad.

Kabilang na dito ang pagkakaroon ng “environmental marshals” sa mga barangays, “influencing behavioral change, enforcement of policies and city ordinances, and checking the environmental compliance of various industries and establishments in their respective areas of responsibility.”

Ayon kay Antiporda, handa ang DENR na tulungan ang LGUs para sa kanilang isinasagawang cleanup activities tulad ng paglalagay ng trash traps, “employing additional river rangers at managing the wastes generated by informal settlers.”

Kabilang din sa dumalo sa pulong ang City Environment and Natural Resources Officers; Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officers; at mga kinatawan mula sa Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Manila Bay Coordinating Office, at regional offices ng DENR, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Environmental Management Bureau, at Department of the Interior and Local Government. ###

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04 July 2021

Anti-lead policy ng DENR nasungkit ang special award sa Future Policy Award 2021

Nasungkit ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang Special Award para sa policy on lead in paint sa Future Policy Award 2021 na kilala rin sa tawag na “Oscar on Best Policies.”

Noong Hunyo 29 nang ianunsiyo ng German-based World Future Council (WFC) na ang DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2013-24 o ang Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds ay isa sa limang makatatanggap ng prestigious award.

Ang Pilipinas ang kauna-unahang bansa sa Southeast Asia na makatatanggap ng award.

Ayon kay Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang naturang pagkilala ay magmamarka bilang isang malaking tagumpay ng DENR para gawing lead-free ang Pilipinas.

"We cannot be any happier with this great news. This is a landmark achievement of the DENR as we campaign for a lead-free country," sabi ni Cimatu.

Ipinaliwanag pa ng DENR chief na ang award na ito ay indikasyon lamang na nasa tamang landas ang Pilipinas sa “regulating, phasing out, at banning chemicals” dahil sa peligrong maidudulot nito sa katawan ng tao at sa kapaligiran.

"As I have mentioned before when we were announced to have been shortlisted, this just goes to show that we are doing right in our campaign to prevent the serious risks of materials with lead content could pose to public health and the environment," pagdidiin pa ni Cimatú.

Ang Section 4 ng DAO 2013-24 "mandates the prohibition of the use of lead and lead compounds in the production/manufacturing of packaging for food and drink, fuel additives, water pipes, school supplies, cosmetics, and paints."

Batay sa polisiya, ipinagbabawal ang produksiyon ng pintura bilang "pigment, drying agent," o intensiyunal na paggamit na may higit 90 parts per million o ppm na nakasaad na "threshold limit."

Ang Pilipinas ang isa sa tatlong makatatanggap ng Special Award kasabay ang Sri Lanka at Columbia para sa kanilang polisiya para sa "highly hazardous pesticides and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants."

Samantala, ang resolusyon ng Kyrgyzstan para sa pag-apruba ng chemical hazard classification system and hazard information requirements at ang phase out lists ng Sweden ng mga kemikal na mapanganib sa kapaligiran at kalusugan ng tao ay kasama naman sa nabigyan ng Gold Awards.

Ang Future Policy Award ay ang natatanging kumikilala sa mga legislation at polisiya para sa benepisyo ng kasalukuyan at susunod na henerasyon sa international level.

Umabot sa 55 policies mula sa 36 na bansa ang nagkaroon ng nominasyon para sa award.

Ang WFC research team ay naglabas ng 12 shortlisted policies noong Mayo.

Ang limang nanalong polisiya ay kikilalanin sa pamamagitan ng online awarding ceremony sa Hulyo 6 dakong 10 pm (oras ng Pilipinas). ###

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03 July 2021

Task Force na pinamumunuan ni Cimatú sinimulan na ang dredging sa navigational lane ng Cagayan River

Sinimulan na nitong Hunyo 25 ang dredging operations upang mabuksan ang eight-kilometer common navigational channel sa bunganga ng Cagayan River.

Ayon kay Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary at Task Force Build Back Better (TF BBB) chair Roy A. Cimatu, ang pagtanggap ng bara ay magbibigay daan para sa rehabilitasyon at reopening ng Aparri port na mahigit sampung taon nang hindi napakikinabangan.

"This forms part of the Duterte Administration's program to rehabilitate the country's important vital river systems in disaster prevention while restoring their importance as vehicles of progress to the country's economy," saad ni Cimatu sa ginanap na groundbreaking ceremony sa Barangay Toran, Aparri, Cagayan.

Noong Pebrero 17, ang DENR sa pamamagitan ng Inter-Agency Committee on the Restoration of the Cagayan River ay lumagda sa tripartite memorandum of agreement sa Great River North Consortium at Riverfront Construction para sa dredging at maintenance ng navigational lane.

"The dredging activity targets to deepen the mouth of Cagayan River to about 12 meters from its present depth of only four meters to significantly improve the river flow from the upstream portion. Consequently, it will prevent or minimize the likelihood of flooding in areas along its path covering the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Isabela, and Cagayan," sabi ni Cimatu.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang operasyon na ito ay akma sa pagsisikap ng TF BBB na tanggalin ang sa sandbars sa Cagayan River kung saan tatlo sa mga ito ang prayoridad na tuluyan nang matanggal sa Agosto.

Nagsagawa rin ng inspeksiyon ang DENR chief kasama si Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary at TF BBB co-chair Mark Villar sa sandbar clearing operation sa Lal-lo, Cagayan bago simulan ang groundbreaking ceremony sa Aparri.

Tinukoy na ng DPWH ang 19 na sandbars na tatanggalin ngunit inirekomenda and agarang dredging sa tatlong sandbar na higit na humaharag sa daloy ng tubig-baha sa Aparri Delta patungo sa Babuyan Channel.

Ang tatlong sandbars na ito ay tinatayang mayroong volume na seven million cubic meters na sumasakop sa 235 ektarya.

Ito ay matatagpuan sa Brgy. Bangag, Lal-lo, na may sakop na 11.4 hectares at may 334,305 cubic meters na buhangin; Brgy. Casicallan Norte, Gattaran na mayroong 89 hectares at 2.7 million cubic meters ng buhangin; at Brgy. Dummun, Gattaran na may sakop na 174.70 hectares at may buhangin na 4.04 million cubic meters.

"Granting favorable weather conditions, we are optimistic to finish the removal of all three sandbars within the year or in August, at the earliest," saad ni Cimatu.

Ang pagtanggap sa sandbars ay sinimulan nitong Pebrero 2021.

Ayon kay Cimatu, 86.33 percent ng sandbar sa Magapit Narrows sa Lal-lo, Cagayan ang natatapos na.

Samantala, ang pagtanggap sa sandbar sa Dummun, Cagayan ay sinimulan nitong Hunyo 14. Kabilang dito ang pagtanggap sa tinatayang 882,707 cubic meters ng bara na inaasahang matatapos sa loob ng 170 araw. ###

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02 July 2021

DENR ipinahinto ang illegal quarrying activities sa Lian, Batangas

Anim na katao ang inaresto ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) dahil sa pagsasagawa ng mga ito ng quarrying activities sa Lian, Batangas kahit na walang kaukulang permiso.

Ayon kay Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang pag-aresto sa quarry workers ay "another proof of the DENR's continuing commitment during this quarantine period even when mobility restrictions are still impeding enforcement operations."

"The arrest of this group of individuals is also a testimony why we need an enforcement bureau in the DENR. Through this health crisis, we laud the continuing endeavors of the men and women serving the Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS) to apprehend the culprits," sabi ni Cimatu.

Nagsagawa ng joint-surveillance activity ang DENR-ELEPS kasama ang Environmental Crime Division ng National Bureau of Investigation, Armed Forces of the Philippines, at DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau sa CALABARZON upang alamin ang ulat na patuloy ang isinasagawang quarry operations sa Sitio Matuod, Barangay Binubusan, Lian kahit na may inilabas na cease and desist order sa may ari na nakilalang si Francis Limjoco, III.

Noong Hunyo 24 nang magsagawa ng operasyon ang mga operatiba kung saan ay nakumpiska ang apat na unit ng backhoe, at limang dump trucks kabilang ang "illegally sourced minerals" na tinatawag na *andesite* na isang volcanic rock na tinatayang may halagang P32,038,500.

Base sa "list of existing holders" ng Special Permit to Transport and Dispose ng Batangas Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, walang transport permit ang ipinagkaloob sa bayan ng Lian.

Naglabas din ng sertipikasyon ang DENR-MGB sa CALABARZON na nagsasabing walang balidong Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) na ipinagkaloob sa naturang munisipalidad.

Ang MPSA ay isang kasunduan “wherein the government shares in the production of the contractor, whether in kind or in value, as an owner of the minerals. In return, the contractor shall provide the necessary financing, technology, management, and personnel for the mining project.”

Kabilang sa mga sinampahan ng kasong paglabag sa Section 103 ng Republic Act (RA) 7942 o ang Philippine Mining Act of 1995 sina Rodel Marinduque, Francis Dacuya, Claudio Tamayo, Jovencio Malabanan, Roger Betonia, at Sonny Marinduque.

Nakasaad pa sa Section 103 ng RA 7942 na "any person extracting minerals and disposing the same without a mining agreement, lease, permit, license, or steals minerals shall be imprisoned from six months to six years or pay a fine from P10,000 to P20,000." ###

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01 July 2021

DENR nakaaresto ng 31 illegal wildlife traders simula ng magkaroon ng pandemya

Patuloy ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pagpapatupad ng batas laban sa illegal wildlife activities kahit na may limitasyon dahil sa pandemya at katunayan nito ang pagkakaaresto sa 31 wildlife traders simula Marso 2020 hanggang Mayo 2021.

Ayon kay Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang pagkakaaresto sa illegal wildlife traders at poachers ay "a testament to the DENR's effective enforcement of Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001."

"While we admit that the 20-year old RA 9147 needs to be amended, we at the DENR are doing our best to equip our indefatigable wildlife enforcers who never ceased in apprehending illegal wildlife traders and poachers during the COVID-19 pandemic," saad ni Cimatu.

Ipinaliwanag nito na ang DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) ay patuloy na pinalalakas ang kapasidad ng wildlife enforcers sa pamamagitan ng trainings at seminars sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng wildlife law enforcement kabilang na dito ang national at international laws, paghihigpit sa pagmonitor sa seaports at airports at pakikipag-ugnayan sa iba pang law enforcement agencies.

Nagpahayag naman ng suporta si DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns at concurrent BMB Director Edilberto Leonardo upang maamihendahan ang RA 9147.

"Illegal wildlife trade is considered a transnational crime. The current law that exists no longer impedes perpetrators in engaging in this act," saad ni Leonardo.

"The technology brought about by the internet also serves as a new platform for these culprits, which a 20-year old law cannot penalize severely," pahayag pa nito.

May ilang batas na rin ang inihain sa kongreso kabilang na dito ang House Bill na pinamagatang "An Act Providing for the Conservation and Protection of Wildlife Resources and their Habitats, and Appropriating Funds Therefor, Repealing for this Purpose Republic Act No. 9147 or The "Wildlife Resources Conservation And Protection Act."

Ang bill na ito, na inisponsoran ni Occidental Mindoro Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato at labing-lima pang mambabatas, ay inaprubahan na sa House Committee on Appropriations noong Mayo 26.

Ang importanteng nilalaman nito ay ang "defining and penalizing the crime on wildlife trafficking; calibrating and upgrading the penalties in general, especially the penalty for illegal acts such as killing or destroying wildlife species, trading or attempting to trade wildlife, collecting, hunting, or possessing wildlife and transporting of wildlife.

Ayon kay Leonardo, napapaloob din sa probisyon "that each and separate distinct count of violation shall be prosecuted and penalized separately, regardless of intent, unity or connections of the acts resulting into the violation."

"We also hope that the House Bill empowers us to penalize culprits based on the number of specimens involved in every illegal act and the circumstances surrounding each proven violation," saad ni Leonardo.

Nakahain din sa senado ang Senate Bills 2078 at 2079 o ang Revised Wildlife Resources Conservation ang Protection Act of 2021 na inihain nina Senador Juan Miguel Zubiri at Senator Cynthia A. Villar, ayon sa pagkakasunod.

Nagkaroon na rin ng public hearing noong Hunyo 30, 2021 ang parehas na batas sa Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change.

Layunin ng panukalang batas na ito na mapigilan ang large-scale, transnational, at organized crime ng wildlife trafficking, re-calibration ng penalties at probisyon ng administrative adjudication. ###

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30 June 2021

DENR at NBI nakakumpiska ng P2.9-million halaga ng agarwood

Nakumpiska ng bagong tatag na Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) katuwang ang National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) ang P2.9-million halaga ng agarwood mula sa dalawang illegal traders noong Hunyo 15.

Ayon kay ELEPS Director Reuel Sorilla, 18 kilograms ng agarwood na may halagang P2.9-million ang nakuha kina Mark Gil Espino at Nathaniel Avelino sa parking lot ng isang coffee shop na matatagpuan sa West Avenue, Quezon City.

"But the real worth of the contraband is placed at ₱29 million, or at least 10 times more than its market value, if we will factor in the environmental services that were lost as a result of the illegal cutting of these threatened trees," sabi ni Sorilla.

Kabilang sa mga nakuha sa mga suspek ang Asian utility vehicle, cellular phones at weighing scale.

Aniya, nagsimula ang pagtatrabaho ng mga operatiba ng DENR at NBI laban kina Espino at Avelino noong Nobyembre 2020 matapos makatanggap ng impormasyon mula sa concerned citizen si NBI Agent Habeas Corpus ng Environmental Crime Division.

Ipinaliwanag pa ni Sorilla na dapat isama sa pagsuma ng kabuuang halaga mula sa environmental crime ang lost environmental services "to drive home the point that a standing tree is way far better than an apprehended undocumented tree."

"This is where Secretary Roy A. Cimatu's marching order to ELEPS is anchored. Our paramount objective is one of preemptive defense to deter the commission of environmental crimes by strengthening DENR's institutional capacity to prevent illegal logging. But if we have to run after the perpetrators, then we will do it," saad ni Sorilla.

Ang illegal trade ng agarwood ay naging dahilan ng walang habas na pagputol ng Lapnisan at Lanete na kapwa nabibilang sa national list of threatened Philippine plants batay na rin sa DENR Administrative Order 2007-01, ayon kay Rogelio Demelletes, Jr., DENR senior ecosystems management specialist at ELEPS officer.

"It is very difficult to tell if a tree has produced agarwood, and so this results in the indiscriminate cutting of Lapnisan and Lanete," paliwanag ni Demelletes.

Ang agarwood ay produkto ng pagtubo ng klase ng fungal infection na tinatawag na Phialophora parasitic sa loob ng Lapnisan at Lanete.

Kapag infected na, pinangangalagaan ng puno ang sarili nito sa pamamagitan ng paggawa ng aromatic resin na tinatawag na aloes, isang maitim at moist substance na dahan-dahang pumapasok sa heartwood hanggang ito ay maging "agarwood."

Sina Espino at Avelino ay kasalukuyang nakapiit sa detention cell ng NBI sa Maynila habang hinihintay ang kasong paglabag sa Republic Act 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources and Protection Act at Presidential Decree 705 o ang Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

Ang mga lumabag sa batas na ito ay maaaring makulong ng anim hanggang 12 taon at pagmumultahin ng P100,000 hanggang P1 million. ###

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
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Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

PRESS RELEASE

**Strategic Communication
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29 June 2021

DENR-MGB: PH mining sector nakapagbahagi ng P102.3B sa GDP; nagbigay ng P379B para sa environmental programs noong 2020

Nakapagbahagi ng P102.3B ang Philippine mining industry sa Gross Domestic Product (GDP) noong 2020 kahit na may mga kinahaharap na pagsubok dahil sa COVID-19 pandemic, ito ang inilabas na ulat ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) noong Hunyo 21.

Base sa ulat, tinataya ng DENR-MGB na aabot sa halagang P132.69 billion ang metallic mineral production ng gold, nickel ore, mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide, scandium oxalate, chromite at iron.

Ang kabuuang halaga ng minerals, mineral products, at non-metallic mineral na nagawa at na-export sa nakalipas na taon ay aabot sa US\$5.2 billion.

Samantala, nakapagbigay rin ang mineral industry ng halagang P25.52 billion para sa national at local taxes, fees at royalties.

Iniulat din ng DENR-MGB na ang mining sector ay nakapaglaan ng P379 billion para sa implementasyon ng Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program hanggang noong Disyembre 2020.

Nakasaad pa dito na ang mining at quarrying activities ay nakalikha ng 184,000 trabaho at P25.71 billion ay inilaan para sa Social Development Management Program (SDMP).

Umabot din sa 36.87 million seedlings ang naitanim sa 28,717.37 hektarya ng lupa para sa Mining Forest Program hanggang noong Disyembre 2020.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, lumalabas sa ulat kung gaano kalaki ang naitulong ng mining industry sa paglago ng ekonomiya ng bansa kahit na mayroon pandemya.

"Amidst the pandemic that we are experiencing, the mining industry strived and did its part. We are happy to know that this has been the outcome of the mining operations in the

country over the past year," sabi pa ni Cimatú sa ulat na nakasaad ang economic, social at environmental contributions ng Philippine mining industry.

"Contrary to what others are saying, this is an indication of how massive the contribution of the mining industry is to our economy," dagdag pa nito.

Sa kasagsagan ng COVID-19 pandemic noong 2020, inatasan ni DENR-MGB Director Wilfredo G. Moncano ang regional offices na payagan ang mining companies na ayusing muli ang kanilang hindi nagamit na SDMP funds upang suportahan ang mga apektadong komunidad.

Tiniyak naman ni Cimatú sa publiko na patuloy na mamanan ng DENR ang operasyon ng mga mining companies at palakasin ang implementasyon ng kanilang safety at health, environmental at social development, at management programs. ###

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June 28, 2021

Cimatú nakikita na ang pandemya ang pagkakataon para pangalagaan ang kalikasan, palawakin ang green spaces

Umabot sa 144 seedlings ng endemic tree species ang inisyal na itinanim sa Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center (NAPWC) sa Quezon City bilang bahagi ng pagsusumikap ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) na mapangalagaan ang green spaces sa urban areas sa gitna ng pandemya.

"By planting trees especially in urban areas, we have been nurturing nature and green spaces that can be beneficial to humans as it can contribute directly to health by reducing stress and improving the overall quality of life," pahayag ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatú na binasa ni Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda sa ginanap na paglulunsad ng Buhay-Ilang sa Siyudad Project ng DENR-BMB sa NAPWC noong Hunyo 22.

Kabilang sa 144 seedlings ng native at endemic tree species ang banaba (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*) at mussaenda (*Mussaenda philippica*), ang itinanim sa paglulunsad ng proyekto.

Kasama rin sa mga species na ito ang white lauan (*Shorea contorta*), apitong (*Dipterocarpus grandiflorus*) bagtikan (*Parashorea malaanonan*), dalingdingan (*Hopea foxworthyi*), guiyo (*Shorea guiso*), hagakhak (*Dipterocarpus validus*), manggasinoro (*Shorea assamica ssp. philippinensis*), yakal (*Shorea astylosa*), akle (*Serialbizia acle*), igang (*Syzygium garciae*), lipote (*Syzygium polycephaloides*), ipil (*Intsia bijuga*), siar (*Peltophorum*

pterocarpum), supa (*Sindora supa*), tindalo (*Azelia rhomboidea*), at batino (*Alstonia macrophylla*).

Ang mga seedlings ay itinamin sa tatlong lugar sa NAPWC kasama na ang Grand Rotonda na malapit sa opisina ng BMB; sa Cherry Lane na umaabot sa lakaran malapit sa Quezon Avenue gate; at sa lugar ng Buhay-Ilang sa Siyudad sa loob ng NAPWC kung saan ipinagbabawal ang ang ano mang physical development at pananatilihin upang maipakita ang "nature in its undisturbed state, and will provide ecologically representative examples of natural environment."

Ang paglulunsad ng proyekto at tree-planting activities ay dinaluhan ng 229 DENR executives, senior officials, at personnel at mga kinatawan mula sa Philippine National Police, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Bureau of Fire Protection, at Bureau of Corrections.

Ang tree-planting activity ay bahagi ng DENR-BMB arboretum project na layuning maging imbakan ng Philippine native at endemic trees ang NAPWC.

Layunin din nito na mapalakas ang adbokasiya ng DENR-BMB na gamitin at mapalaganap ang native tree species para sa tamang paghatid ng ecosystem services.

Mapupunan din nito ang Urban Biodiversity Program ng bureau na siyang gumagawa ng mas strategic framework sa pagsusuri ng kalagayan ng biodiversity sa urban areas.

Kasama ang primary objective na epektibong mapangalagaan ang green spaces sa urban areas, layunin din ng Urban Biodiversity Program na mapanatili ang pamamahala at mabawasan ang banta sa biodiversity sa urban areas upang mapanatili ang ecosystem services para sa kasalukuyan at susunod na henerasyon.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns at concurrent BMB Director Edilbero Leonardo, ang pangarap ng bureau na gawin ang plant inventory ng NAPWC mula exotic at invasive species patungong native tree species ay sinimulan noong isang taon at iniimplementa ng yugto.

"In June last year, a ceremonial tree planting activity was conducted by the Bureau at NAPWC planting a total of 107 seedlings of which all are part of the 96 Philippine threatened tree species," saad ni Leonardo.

Kasunod dito ay ang enrichment tree planting activities na isinagawa noong Nobyembre 2020 at Abril 2021 kung saan ay nakapagtanim ng kabuuang 12 at 60 seedlings, ayon sa pagkakasunod.

Sinabi pa ni Leonardo, ang pinakahuli ay nitong unang linggo ng Hunyo kung saan ay 36 native tree species ang itanim sa kahabaan ng park's perimeter fence malapit sa panulukan ng Elliptical Road at Quezon Avenue.

Umaasa si Leonardo na sa pamamagitan ng tree-planting activities ay makakapag "contribute to the efficient delivery of ecosystem services" at the NAPWC in order for the park to "not only be an oasis in the middle of a highly urbanized environment, but also a learning

laboratory for biodiversity conservation and education on different native and endemic plants and animals."

Ang NAPWC ay isa sa nabibilang na natitirang green spaces sa Metro Manila at kasama rin ito sa 94 legislated protected areas nationwide.

Nauuri din ito bilang national park sa bisa ng Republic Act 7586 o ang National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992 na inamiyendahan ng Republic Act 11038 o ang Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018. ###

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27 June 2021

DENR nilinis ang major water bodies, waterways upang mabawasan ang epekto ng pagbaha

Nakipag-partner ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Rotary Club of Binangonan para malinis ang Laguna de Bay at maibalik ang biodiversity at maging maayos ang daloy ng tubig para sa nalalapit na panahon ng tag-ulan.

"The cleanup of water bodies does not only contribute to biodiversity conservation. They also mitigate flooding, which is part of climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction," sabi ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

"This makes it an invaluable part of the DENR priority programs," dagdag pa nito.

Pinangunahan ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda, ang isinagawang Laguna de Bay Clean-up Drive Project noong Hunyo 11 kasama si Rotary Club of Binangonan president Jerome C. Antiporda at mga miyembro ng Philippine Coast Guard.

Ang aktibidad na ito ay bahagi ng selebrasyon ng ika-120th Foundation Day ng Rizal Province kasabay ang ika-22nd founding anniversary ng Rotary Club of Binangonan.

Naging katuwang sa cleanup project at tree planting activities sa iba't-ibang lugar sa munisipalidad ang 4Ps (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program) beneficiaries, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology-Binangonan Municipal Jail, Tulong Pilipinas Movement Binangonan Rizal, Binangonan Riders United, Guardian Brothers, Philippine National Police, at ang Bureau of Fire Protection at iba pang organisasyon.

"Malaki po ang maitutulong nitong proyektong ito hindi lamang sa Laguna de Bay, kundi pati na rin sa ibang karatig tubig nito tulad ng Pasig River at Manila Bay," saad ni Antiporda.

Ang Laguna de Bay na kilala bilang largest freshwater lake sa Pilipinas at pangatlong pinakamalaki sa Southeast Asia ay isa sa pinakamalaking pinanggagalingan ng isda sa bansa. Ang labasan ng tubig nito na Napindan Channel ay konektado sa Manila Bay sa pamamagitan ng Pasig River.

Tulad ng ibang water bodies sa bansa, ang biodiversity sa baybayin ay patuloy na nanganganib dahil na rin sa pag-unlad ng ekonomiya, paglaki ng populasyon at industriyalisasyon.

Patuloy din ang pagdami ng water hyacinth na mas kilala sa tawag na water lilies na tinatawag ding "invasive species" na pumipigil sa maayos sa daloy ng tubig.

"Huwag po sana tayong magsawa sa pangangalaga ng ating kalikasan at kapaligiran, sapagkat dito nakasalalay ang maayos, malinis, at maunlad na kinabukasan ng ating mga anak at ng ating Inang Bayan," sabi pa ni Antiporda.

Inatasan din ni Antiporda na siya ring namumuno sa Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force (APTF), ang kanyang mga miyembro na gawing prayoridad ang pag-alis ng water hyacinth sa Laguna de Bay at Pasig River.

Sinabi pa nito na kukunin din ang serbisyo ng mga mangingisda upang mapabilis ang paglilinis ng mga bodies of water na ito. ###

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27 June 2021

DENR hinikayat ang MM residents na makiisa sa vertical gardening, tumulong na mapalawak ang green spaces

Nanawagan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa publiko partikular na sa mga naninirahan sa Metro Manila na gamitin ang vertical gardening techniques upang mapalawak ang green spaces sa metropolis.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, "we can derive so much benefit from these green spaces, which include green walls, green roofs, vertical gardens, urban forest parks, linear forest along walk ways, transport routes and river systems."

“These networks of green spaces improve air quality, reduce heat, increase energy efficiency, and reduce noise pollution, and provide habitats for wildlife,” sabi ni Cimatú.

Ang pagkakaroon ng vertical gardens ay hindi lamang nakapagbibigay ng proteksiyon sa biodiversity at nakadaragdag sa green spaces bagkus ay nakatutulong din ito sa kalusugan ng publiko, dagdag ni Cimatú.

"It will help relieve stress of average Filipinos by enhancing the aesthetics of their surroundings, especially during this time of health crisis," saad ni Cimatú.

Sinabi naman ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda, na may ilan pa ring green spaces sa Metro Manila kabilang na dito ang Ninoy Aquino Parks ang Wildlife Center (NAPWC) kung saan matatagpuan ang DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau, University of the Philippines-Diliman, at Ateneo de Manila University, pawang sa Quezon City, Arroceros Forest Park sa Maynila at ang Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park.

Upang maragdagan ang green spaces at palawigin ang biodiversity sa urban areas, sinusulong ng DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) ang Urban Biodiversity Program sa mga lokal na pamahalaan. Kabilang sa programa ang Urban Forest Bathing, at ang promosyon ng green infrastructures.

Tumutulong ang Urban Forest Bathing sa pagtaguyod ng kabutihan sa kalusugan ng mga kabubatan at green spaces. Ang green infrastructures ay mga gusali o inprastruktura na sumusuporta sa green energy at nagdudulot ng benepisyo sa kapaligiran.

Sa pamamagitan ng pagtaguyod ng Urban Biodiversity, nailalapit sa kalikasan ang mga naninirahan sa siyudad.

"We can only do so much based on our existing laws in preserving the green spaces in Metro Manila, but even an ordinary citizen can help us in this endeavor. Kahit maliit na lupa niyo—backyard lang—eh malaki na rin pong tulong iyan," saad ni Antiporda.

Idiniin pa nito na "the trend of plantitos and plantitas has helped a lot to reverse the impacts of the fast infrastructure development in the National Capital Region (NCR)."

Samantala, nabanggit din ni Antiporda na bagama't ito ay nakatutulong, ang pangangailangan sa ornamental plants ay nagdulot ng pagdami ng plant poachers.

"The DENR, through the BMB, is doing its best to catch these poachers because what they are doing is against Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001," aniya.

Hindi dapat bumili ang mga plant hobbyists ng illegally-traded plants lalo na ang non-native plants "because of its possible adverse impacts to the environment that may result in bringing pests and diseases that may infest other species of plants," babala pa nito.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda, ang departamento ay "committed to augment the green spaces in the NCR in the best ways that it can and promote the use of native species."

Ipinaliwanag pa nito na ang development plans sa urban areas na nangangailangan ng pagputol ng puno ay kinakailangang sumunod sa DENR's tree-cutting policy.

"The DENR mandates that for every tree cut in urban areas, 50 to 100 replacement trees should be planted in areas outside NCR," aniya.

"We encourage everyone to join us in our mission to protect the environment. Magtulung-tulong po tayo. Hindi lang po para sa henerasyon na ito kundi para sa mga susunod pang henerasyon," dagdag pa nito. ###

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26 June 2021

DENR target na maipamahagi ang land parcel sa Taytay, Rizal sa termino ni PRRD

Umaasa si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda na maipamahagi ang land parcel ng Lupang Arenda sa Taytay, Rizal sa termino ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte dahil na rin sa patuloy na pakikipag-usap sa mga ahensiya at informal settlers na nagnanais na mapunta sa kanila ang pag-aari.

Pinabibilis na ni Antiporda, na siya ring Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns, ang proseso sa pamamahagi ng lupa sa pamamagitan ng pagaayos ng mga isyu ukol sa 20,100-square meter (sq. m.) na lote na matatagpuan sa Barangay Sta. Ana.

"I'm trying to fast track this, but of course, it should be within the bounds of the law. I look forward that by the next time we meet, it would already be for the awarding of titles. I even hope to have our very own President Duterte to award these titles," saad ni Antiporda sa ginanap na pulong sa pagitan ng land claimants at concerned government agencies noong Hunyo 1, 2021.

Sa ilalim lang ng termino ni Pangulong Duterte nabigyan ng atensyon ang kaso.

Dagdag ni Antiporda, nababahala si Environment Roy A. Cimat sa tagal ng delay at umaasang maayos ito sa lalong madaling panahon.

Sa nasabing pulong na ginanap sa DENR Central Office, inayos ni Antiporda ang isyu tungkol sa pagproseso ng land titling sa tulong na rin ng iba't-ibang tanggapan kabilang na ang DENR regional office, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), lokal na pamahalaan ng Taytay at ng Samahang Masigasig Tapayan Homeowners Association, Inc. (SAMATHOA).

Ang naturang lupa ay bahagi ng 50,300-sq. m. na lote na inaapela para sa kanilang pag-aari ng matagal nang naninirahan sa Lupang Arenda na kung saan ay nakatupad na rin ang mga ito sa mga kinakailangang requirements at clearances para matituluhan ang lupa.

Initalag din ni Antiporda sa ginanap na pulong ang “concerns” sa 20,100-sq. m. lot na sinertipikahan ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) na “above the reglementary 12.5-meter elevation at labas din ito sa shoreland ng Laguna Lake.

Sa ilalim ng residential free patent program, ang PENRO-Rizal ang naatasan na magproseso sa titling applications ng naturang lote para maipamahagi.

Samantala, inatasan din ni Antiporda ang PENRO-Rizal at SAMATHOA na magsumite ng ulat kada 15 araw sa progreso ng aksiyon o ng matutukoy na isyu para para sa monitoring at tulong ng kanyang komite.

Nangako naman si DENR-Calabarzon Regional Executive Director Nilo Tamoria na maglalaan ito ng technical assistance at oversight function sa kanyang field offices.

Sa ulat ni PENRO-Rizal Officer Ernesto Diso, Jr., mayroong 297 lote ang kabilang sa 20,100-sq. m. land parcel kung saan ay 101 na aplikasyon na may carpeta ang naisumite at nasuri na ng PENRO.

Ngunit sinabi pa nito na mayroon pang 196 na lote ang nakalaan para sa “application for the residential free patent.”

Pinaalalahanan din nito ang SAMATHOA na abisuhan ang kanilang mga miyembro na magsumite ng kanilang tax declaration para sa lupa na kanilang inuukupa dahil ito ang isa sa mga kailangan para sa pagtititulo ng lupa.

Para naman sa bahagi ng SAMATHOA, sinabi ni Alliance of People’s Organization in Lupang Arenda (APOLA) president Vicente “Enteng” Barlos na nakahanda silang sumunod sa pagbabayad ng real property tax para maisyuhan ng tax declarations.

Samantala, umaasa naman si Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor Chairperson Alvin Feliciano na papayagan ng munisipalidad ng Taytay na bigyan ng exemption ang mga claimants sa pagbabayad ng kanilang real property tax.

Inatasan din ni Antiporda si Diso na iendorso ang SAMATHOA position paper para sa konsiderasyon ng land titling ng nalalabing 30,200-sq. m. sa DENR-Calabarzon.

Magbibigay naman ng rekomendasyon ang regional office sa LLDA para sa evaluation at investigation ng huli.

Pinuri din ni Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Assistant Secretaries Leira Buan at Avelino Tolentino ang DENR dahil sa mahalagang papel na ginawa nito para sa mapayapang pagsasaayos ng land disposition at tiniyak din ng mga ito ang pakikipagtulungan para sa Lupang Arenda community.

"We are all in this together to help our fellow residents in Lupang Arenda," sabi pa ni Antiporda. ###

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22 June 2021



SANITARY LANDFILL OPERATORS HINAMON NI ANTIPORDA. Hinamon ni Environment Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda (pangalawa mula sa kanan) ang mga kasapi ng Solid Waste Management Service Providers na bumuo ng buo at pangmatagalang solusyon sa solid waste management (SWM) sa ginanap na pulong noong Hunyo 15. Ayon kay Antiporda, ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa pamamagitan ni Secretary Roy A.

Cimatu ay nakatuon para mabigyan ng solusyon ang solid waste problem sa bansa at handang tulungan ang koalisyon sa mga hangarin nito. Sinimulan ni Antiporda ang pagsama-sama sa mga sanitary landfill operators noong 2020 at ginawa ang oath-taking ng mga ito bilang koalisyon noong Pebrero ngayong taon. Kabilang sa larawan si Delia M. Valdez (dulong kaliwa) ng Environmental Management Bureau-Solid Waste Management Division. ###

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22 June 2021



DENR OFFICIALS KINILALA ANG “PERFORMANCE” NG MINING SECTOR KAHIT NASA GITNA NG PANDEMYA. Iniulat ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Assistant Secretary for Finance, Information Systems, ang Mining Concerns Nonita Caguioa (nasa taas na larawan) na ang Philippine mining industry ay nakapagtala ng 14.11% pagtaas sa “production value ng metallic minerals in the first quarter of 2021” kumpara sa parehong mga buwan noong 2020 sa ginanap na two-day Stakeholders’ Forum ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) ng DENR noong Hunyo 8. Sa kabilang dako, sinabi naman ni MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano (ibabang larawan) ang kahalagahan ng mga industriya ng mining at quarrying sa ekonomiya ng Pilipinas bago pa man ang COVID-19 outbreak. Layunin ng online forum na mapag-usapan ang updates sa “mining issuances” sa mining stakeholders. ###

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20 June 2021

DENR bumuo ng pansamantalang environmental law enforcement office

Nilagdaan ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang administrative order na magtatatag ng Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS) na siyang tututok upang mapalakas ang environmental law enforcement sa bansa.

Ang ELEPS ay binuo kasunod ng Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF) sa ilalim ng direksiyon ni Cimatu. Ito ay magsisilbing pansamantalang tanggapan habang hinihintay ng DENR ang pag-apruba sa iminungkahing Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB) bill na nakahain sa senado at mababang kapulungan ng kongreso.

"We have a growing number of fallen environmental heroes. This is how serious we do our jobs here at DENR, but I hope and pray that no more lives will be lost because of defending our environment," saad ni Cimatu sa DENR's 34th founding anniversary celebration noong Hunyo 10.

"Our Department has many laws to implement, but we are lacking when it comes to enforcement. While we are waiting for the passage of EPEB, our secretary has allowed to craft

this order to install an enforcement service for the effective protection of our forests and other natural resources," sabi naman ni DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones.

Sa ilalim ng DENR administrative order, sakop ng ELEPS ang lahat ng environmental laws na nakasaad sa Supreme Court Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases kabilang na dito ang enforcement o violations of environmental and natural resources laws, rules and regulations, tulad ng Terrestrial Laws, Coastal, Marine, and Aquatic Resources Laws, Aerial Law at iba pang Environment and Natural Resources Laws.

Ang ELEPS ay binuo upang “promote effective and strong enforcement of environmental laws, establish coordinative mechanisms, utilize science and technology, and develop highly competent manpower that will encompass existing enforcement units, such as the EPETF, Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife (POGI), and other enforcement task forces of the DENR.”

Dahil na rin sa napakalaking sakop at tungkulin mula sa EPETF, ang enforcement units ng DENR regional offices, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Environmental Management Bureau, Protected Area Management Office, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices, at Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices ay sasailalim sa operational control ng ELEPS at ng supervising officials nito.

Ang DENR bureaus at attached agencies ay magpapanatili ng koordinasyon sa ELEPS sa pakikipagugnayan sa national at international organizations na lumalaban sa environmental crimes.

Manggagaling sa DENR Central Office ang lead team ng ELEPS upang maging akma ang daily operations nito.

Kabilang sa mga functions ng ELEPS ang end-to-end duties--from the enforcement, stoppage of ongoing violations, arrest, management of confiscated items, investigation, preparation for prosecution of environmental criminals until execution of decisions by the court.”

Makikipagtulungan din ang ELEPS sa Department of Justice, Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, at government-owned and controlled organizations upang mahadlangan at labanan ang environmental crimes.

Plano ring bigyan ng armas ang enforcement officers na ilalaan ng ahensiya, self-protective gears at buuin ang kakayahan ng mga ito upang epektibong magampanan ang kanilang tungkulin.

Sa pamamagitan ng ELEPS ang enforcement officers ay maaaring magsagawa ng: “intelligence operations, issue show cause orders or notices of appearance for investigation, as well as implement Cease and Desist Orders, Closure Orders, and Notices of Violation, and DENR Enforcement Orders for *in flagrante* violations, among others.” ###



18 June 2021

Task Force na pinamumunuan ni Cimatú tatapusin ang dredging sa isa sa tatlong prayoridad na Cagayan River sandbars sa Hulyo

Sinabi ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary at Task Force Build Back Better (TF BBB) chairperson Roy A. Cimatú na ang dredging activities sa isa sa tatlong prayoridad na sandbars sa kahabaan ng Cagayan River ay matatapos sa Hulyo ng taong kasalukuyan.

"We are pressing on to stay on track despite the roadblocks brought about by the onset of the rainy season and the logistical hurdles posed by the coronavirus pandemic. But we are pushing forward to finish clearing the sandbar in Lal-lo, Cagayan by the second or third week of July," saad ni Cimatú.

Aniya, 253,743 cubic meters (cu. m.) o 74 percent ng kabuuang 44,304 cu. m. ng 11.4-hectare sandbars sa Lal-lo, Cagayan ang tapos nang hukayin.

Ang dredging operations naman sa dalawa pang critical sandbars sa masikip na bahagi ng Cagayan River na tinatawag na "Magapit Narrows" ay minamadali na rin.

"We will more than double our current dredging capacity at Lal-lo sandbar from 308 cubic meters per hour to 713 cubic meters at a six-hours-a-day dredging schedule to dredge the remaining 90,558 cubic meters," sabi pa ni Cimatú.

Ipinaliwanag pa nito na ang dredging ng sandbar sas Barangay Dummun, Gattaran ay sinimulan na rin noong Hunyo 14 kung saan tinatayang aabot sa 882,707 cu. m. ang mahuhukay sa loob ng project period na 170 dredging days.

Ang ikatlong prayoridad na sandbar ay matatagpuan sa Barangay Casicallan Norte, sa bayan pa rin ng Gattaran.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatú na ipinadala na rin ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) ang kanilang pinakamalaking excavating equipment.

Ang 474.42-horsepower Doosan DX800LC-5 crawler excavator ay mayroong bucket capacity na 4.5 cu. m. at may maximum na digging depth at digging reach na seven meters at 11.5 meters, ayon sa pagkakasunod.

Ayon kay DPWH-Bureau of Equipment Director Noel Ilao, dadalhin na mula sa Bicutan ang kanilang giant excavator at inaasahang darating sa Lal-lo sa pagitan ng Hunyo 16 o 17.

Aniya, plano rin ng DPWH na ipadala ang karagdagang lima pang high-capacity dredging equipment sa mga prayoridad na lugar sa kahabaan ng Cagayan River.

"With Secretary Mark Villar at the helm, the DPWH has incredibly played its part in the Task Force beyond expectations on top of its being able to keep President Duterte's 'Build, Build, Build' program on track despite the pandemic," pahayag ni Cimatú.

"It is really our good fortune at the task force that we have Secretary Villar as my co-chairperson," dagdag pa nito.

Sa 19 na sandbars na nagpapasikip sa Cagayan River, sinabi ni Cimatú na inirekomenda ng DPWH ang agarang dredging sa tatlong sandbars sa "Magapit Narrows" na siyang nagpapabagal ng daloy ng tubig baha sa Aparri Delta papuntang Babuyan Channel. ###

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
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Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

PRESS RELEASE

**Strategic Communication
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Tel. Nos: 8929.66.26 / 8926.98.05
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17 June 2021

DENR nalugod sa 10,000 puno na itanim ng Lions Clubs International

Magkakaroon ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng katuwang sa reforestation program ng pamahalaan matapos mangako ang Lions Clubs International (LCI) Multiple District 301 Philippines ng pagtanim ng 10,000 puno sa buong bansa sa ginanap na 34th anniversary ng DENR noong Hunyo 10.

"The DENR welcomes the initiative of Lions Clubs International Multiple District 301 Philippines to help in the National Greening Program, a priority program of the government, which addresses deforestation and helps in climate change mitigation and adaptation," said Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatú.

Ayon kay LCI Multiple District (MD) 301 Council Chairperson Dra. Elisa B. Valdez, sa ngalan ng pagtutulongan, ang kanilang organisasyon ay nangangakong magtanim ng 10,000 puno sa buong bansa bilang suporta sa National Greening Program ng DENR. Kinumpirma din ni Valdez ang pakikibahagi ng LCI MD 301 sa "coastal cleanup, outreach programs, and information, education and communication initiatives."

Ang commitment at partnership na pinagtibay ng memorandum of agreement (MOA) na pinirmahan nina Cimatú at Valdez noong 34th anibersaryo ng DENR, ay naglalayong palakasin ang "spirit of volunteerism and promote behavioral change towards environment protection."

Layon din nito na magtulungan sa “environmental activities aligned with DENR programs and encourage citizen participation such as the clean-up of esteros and rivers, the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, the rescue of wildlife, and the education of the citizenry in care for the environment and natural resources, among others.”

Ang partnership ay inisyatibo ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda, na governor ng LCI District 301-A2.

Bago pa ang MOA signing, ang DENR, sa pamamagitan ni Antiporda, ay nakikipagtulungan na sa mga LCI districts na iba’t-ibang gawain para sa kapaligiran tulad ng tree planting, Manila Bay at river clean-ups, at sa mga programa para sa persons with disabilities (PWDs) at sa iba pang stakeholders.

“The DENR is grateful to LCI Multiple District 301 for the spirit of volunteerism, imbibed among its members, that it will bring into the DENR and its stakeholders. This is much needed now more than any other time. We want to eliminate the culture of indifference among many Filipinos which relinquishes all environmental responsibility to the government alone,” said Antiporda.

Dagdag pa nito, “volunteerism is in itself the prime example of behavior change.”

“When you have changed your behavior towards the care and protection of the environment, it becomes second nature for you to volunteer for environmental activities,” saad ni Antiporda.

Ang LCI ay isang service, civic, non-political organization na may libo-libong kasapi sa bounng bansa. Ito ay nakatuon sa “community service to help improve the lives of people, and promotes the principles of good government and good citizenship.”

Nakasaad sa kasunduan na, “the LCI will mobilize its members and its service community within their area of jurisdiction to participate in the environmental voluntary activities of the department related to DENR priority programs in line with the campaign *“Tayo ang Kalikasan.”*”

Ang *Tayo ang Kalikasan* ang advocacy campaign ng DENR na naglalayon na itaas ang “level of awareness of Filipinos and promote behavioral change towards the effects of their activities to the environment.” ###

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14 June 2021

Cimatu hinikayat ang mas maraming partisipasyon mula sa “grassroots” sa pagdiriwang ng 34th founding anniversary ng DENR

Hinamon ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang iba't-ibang tanggapan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na bumaba sa “grassroots level” upang makahikayat ng mas maraming tao at komunidad na makikilahok sa mga programa at proyekto ng ahensiya sa pagdiriwang nga 34th anniversary noong Hunyo 10.

"For instance, make as many people as possible aware that we have forest guards and other employees who put their health and lives at stake defending our environment," saad ni Cimatu sa ginanap na selebrasyon sa pamamagitan ng face-to-face at web conference na dinaluhan ng mahigit 1,500 empleyado ng DENR sa buong bansa.

Maituturing na “momentous occasion” ang ginanap na selebrasyon dahil ito ang unang pagkakataon na nagdiwang ang DENR ng anibersaryo kasama ang lahat ng mga kawani nito—mula sa regions, bureaus, attached agencies, at Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices (PENRO) at Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENRO)—ay nakilahok sa pamamagitan ng Zoom telecommunication application.

"Let more people know how far we have gone in our Enhanced National Greening Program and other DENR programs and projects implemented in the field that resulted in communities' lives getting better," dagdag pa nito.

Ang DENR ay naitatag noong Hunyo 10, 1987 sa bisa ng Executive Order 192 mula sa dating Department of Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources kung saan ang mga patungkol sa enerhiya ay napunta sa Office of the President noong panahon na iyon.

Mula sa temang “Celebrating with A Greener and Safer Environment” itinampok din sa 34th DENR founding anniversary ang Environmental Awards for Governance and Leadership Excellence o EAGLE Awards 2020 na kumikilala sa most outstanding regional executive director, regional director, at implementing and supervising officers ng PENRO at CENRO.

Sa pangalawang pagkakataon ay kinilala si Arleigh Adorable ng DENR-Region 10 (Northern Mindanao) bilang top-performing Regional Executive Director kung saan binigyan ito ng trophy at cash prize na P100,000. Si Adorable ay unang nabigyan ng parehong pagkilala noong 2019.

Pinarangalan naman bilang top regional directors para sa kanilang line bureaus sina Mario Ancheta ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) sa Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) at Ma. Victoria Abrera ng Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) sa Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). Napanalunan din ni Abrera ang nasabing award noong 2019.

Si Delia Benitez ng PENRO-Eastern Samar ang kinilala bilang top Supervising PENRO habang si Merlyn Dumalahay ng PENRO-Camiguin ang nakapagbalsa ng top Implementing PENRO.

Sina Benitez at Dumalahay ay nabigyan ng trophy at cash prize na P75,000.

Katulad ni Adorable at Abrera, si Dumalahay ay nanalo rin ng top Implementing PENRO sa pangalawang pagkakataon, ang una ay noong 2019.

Ang supervising PENRO ay pinamumunuan ang provincial office na may sub-offices na pinangungunahan naman ng CENROs habang ang Implementing PENRO ay namumuno bilang nag-iisang field office sa buong probinsiya.

Ang top-performing CENRO para sa 2020 ay ipinagkaloob kay Imelda Casiwan mula sa CENRO Pinukpuk sa Cordillera Administrative Region. Si Casiwan ay nakatanggap ng trophy at cash prize na P50,000.

Layunin ng EAGLE Award na "strengthen the culture of organizational and leadership excellence in the DENR as it carries out its important role in ensuring the conservation, management, development, and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources."

Kasama rin sa layunin nito na "assess the efficiency and effectiveness in delivering their official functions, and to recognize and commend the performance of the field officials for their exemplary leadership and major accomplishments and contributions in pursuing the department's goals and objectives."

Dalawang major areas ang pinagbatayan para sa assessment ng mga nominado, ito ay ang: physical at financial performance at environmental governance.

Sa pamamagitan ng major areas, ang evaluation ay kumakatawan sa dalawang yugto — first is the determination of efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services, product outputs, and results (60 percent), while the second phase is the determination of leadership abilities (40 percent). ###

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14 June 2021

DENR at fisherfolk magtutulong upang matanggal ang water hyacinth sa Laguna Lake

Muling ipinangako ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) noong June 11 ang pag-alis sa water hyacinth sa Laguna Lake sa pamamagitan ng pakikipagtulungan sa local fishing communities.

Ayon kay Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns at Head ng Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force Benny D. Antiporda,

ipagpapatuloy ng DENR ang proyekto na sinimulan noong Oktubre 2020 na kunin ang serbisyo ng mga mangingisda upang mapigilan ang pagkalat ng water hyacinth na mas kilala sa tawag na water lily.

“The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has a project where we commission the labor or assistance of our local fishermen to harvest the water hyacinths in polluted waterbodies,” saad ni Antiporda sa ginanap na cleanup drive sa Binangonan, Rizal na inisyatibo ng Rotary Club of Binangonan noong Hunyo 11.

Idinagdag pa nito na ang proyekto ay makapagbibigay ng pagkakakitaan sa mga mangingisda at kasabay nito ay muling mabibigyan ng buhay ang lawa.

Si Antiporda na nangakong pangungunahan ang proyekto ay tiwala na matutugunan ang problema sa water hyacinth sa Laguna Lake dahil isa lamang itong maliit na tungkulin kumpara sa naging matagumpay na Boracay rehabilitation.

“I personally commit that in the coming weeks or so, we will be here in this lake to clean up all the water hyacinth and make sure that we will prevent incidents in the previous years where this lake is all covered with water lilies,” paliwanag ni Antiporda.

“We have rehabilitated Boracay. We are cleaning up the Manila Bay. Laguna Lake is relatively not that big. Why not, we clean this up, too?” dagdag pa nito.

Malaki ang nagiging pinsala ng water lilies dahil sa pamamagitan nito ay maaaring makakuha ng sakit dahil madaling nakapangingitlog ang mga lamok sa “static waters”. Nagiging masangsang ang amoy nito kapag nabubulok, nakababawas sa linaw ng tubig at nababawasan din nito ang oxygen dahilan upang hindi na ito angkop sa paggamit ng tao.

Ang pilot testing ng nasabing proyekto ay ipinakilala sa local government ng Taytay sa probinsiya ng Rizal kung saan ay nakadaupang palad ng DENR ang mga miyembro ng Samahan ng Mangingisda sa Lawa ng Taytay o SMALT. ###

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11 June 2021

Anim na namayapang “environmental heroes” kinilala sa pagdiriwang ng World Environment Day

Limang empleyado ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at isang diocesan priest na itinalagang forest protection officer ang isinama sa listahan ng

environmental heroes ng Environmental Heroes Foundation Inc. (EHFI) sa selebrasyon ng World Environment Day noong Hunyo 5.

Kabilang sa mga kinilala sina DENR workers Joselyn Aleste Bugaring, officer-in-charge ng Kalinga Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office; Norberto Mabini, Land Inspector I ng Lianga, Surigao del Sur; Rolando Sinday, tree marker ng Lianga, Surigao del Sur; Isidro Roluna, tree marker ng Tandag, Surigao del Sur; Jessie Comendador, laborer ng Los Baños, Laguna at Fr. Nerilito Dazo Sator, deputized forest protection officer ng Bukidnon.

Ang mga ito ay kinilala sa DENR Heroes Park sa Visayas Avenue, Quezon City sa ginanap na physical at virtual ceremonies noong Hunyo 5.

Tinanggap naman ng pamilya ng mga kinilala ang posthumous awards na kinabibilangan ng plaque of recognition at livelihood assistance na nagkakahalagang P1.8 million.

Ayon sa EHFI, ang assistance ay ibibigay sa pamilya ng mga kinilala sa pamamagitan ng tatlong tranche na tig-P600,000 o P100,000 kada pamilya simula 2021 hanggang 2023.

"Though our intensified actions against violators of environmental laws are taking a toll on our people, we will not relent. With these, we urge Congress to support us in our call for the creation of an Enforcement Bureau that will give the DENR stronger enforcement powers," nakasaad sa mensahe ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na binasa ni DENR Undersecretary for Enforcement Benito Antonio de Leon.

Sinabi din ni de Leon na patuloy itong nakikipag-ugnayan sa Office of the President upang masertipikahan na "urgent bill" ang pagbuo ng Environmental Enforcement and Protection Bureau o EPEB.

Aniya, ipinag-utos din ni Cimatu na pansamantalang bumuo ng "interim enforcement bureau" na tatawagin na "Environmental Enforcement and Protection Service" upang magkaroon ng mas epektibong grupo na tututok sa enforcement activity ng DENR.

Binigyang-diin naman ni former Chief Justice Reynato Puno, chair ng EHFI board of trustees na ang foundation ay may "clear-eyed vision from the beginning that most of the lives that will be lost in this battle to preserve our environment, especially our forest, will come from the rank and file employees and officials of the (DENR)."

Ikinalungkot pa nito na ang DENR rank and file employees ay "unarmed, virtually defenseless" against "powerful people who are used to imposing their illegal will and immoral motives from the barrel of a gun."

Ayon naman kay DENR Assistant Secretary for Enforcement at EHFI executive director Daniel Darius Nicer, ang anim na "honorees" ay binubuo ng second batch ng environmental heroes na kinilala ng EHFI.

Nauna nang binigyan ng posthumous recognition ng organisasyon ang limang katao noong 2016.

"We will be giving P600,000 of your prize to the families of our environmental heroes this year and another P600,000 each year for the next two years," saad ni Nicer at sinabi pa nito na ang P4-million ay mula sa UNTV Foundation matapos tanghaling kampeon ang DENR Warriors sa ginanap na UNTV Cup Season 8 noong Pebrero 2020 at ang EHFI ang napiling "charity-recipient" ng P4-million prize money.

Sinabi ni Nicer na binigyan na ng EHFI board ng pahintulot ang foundation na tumanggap ng cash donations mula sa mga donors at nagbigay na din ng "feelers" sa mga posibleng donors "so that we can augment the funding of the foundation."

"We welcome donations from the private sector, NGOs (non-government organizations), and other entities for us to continue this work," saad ni Nicer at idinagdag pa nito na inamiyendahan na ang EHFI ang criteria upang makasama ang mga buhay pa ngunit karapat-dapat na makatanggap ng tulong dahil na rin sa ibinibigay nitong kontribusyon sa pagprotekta sa kapaligiran.

Kabilang sa EHFI board members sina dating DENR Secretary Ramon J.P Paje, retired Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, GMA Network chair Felipe Gozon, at former Civil Service Commission (CSC) chair at kasalukuyang Health Secretary Francisco Duque, III.

Ang EHFI ay isang non-stock, non-profit organization na namamahala sa endowment fund para sa pamilya ng DENR heroes ay binuo ni Paje noong 2012 kung saan ay nagkaroon ito ng P5-million na pondo mula sa President's Social Fund bilang "seed money" ng foundation.

Nakapagbigay na rin ang CSC ng P314,000 pondo na nakalap nito mula sa fun run na inorganisa noong 2011 kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng 111th anniversary Philippine Civil Service.
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09 June 2021

Lead in paint policy ng DENR nominado sa prestihiyosong Future Policy Award 2021

Ang policy solution na ipinatutupad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para epektibong mabawasan ang matinding epekto ng chemical exposure sa kalusugan ng tao at sa kapaligiran ay isa sa top candidates para sa Future Policy Award 2021

Mula sa 55 polisiya na nagmula sa 36 na bansa na nakapasok sa nominasyon, ang DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2013-24 o ang Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds ang isa sa 12 policies mula sa limang kontinente na shortlisted para sa award

Tinawag bilang “Oscar on Best Policies,” ang Future Policy Award ng World Future Council ay kumikilala sa mga bansa na mayroong "most effective policy solutions" na layuning mabawasan ang epekto ng chemical exposure sa kalusugan ng tao at kapaligiran.

Malugod namang tinanggap ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang pagkakasama ng Pilipinas para sa award at sinabi pa ng kalihim na ito ay nagpapakita na tama ang ginagawang kampanya ng pamahalaan sa pag-regulate, phase-out o pag-ban ng chemicals upang matanggal ang panganib nito sa public health, workplace at environment.

"We are elated to know that our effort to protect our people from the harmful effects of chemicals has been recognized, not to mention, on the international stage," sabi ni Cimatu.

"This just shows that we are on the right track as we regulate, phase-out, and ban chemicals for the serious risks it could bring to public health and our environment," dagdag pa nito.

Nagbibigay ng mandato ang Section 4 ng DAO 2013-24 para sa pagbabawal ng paggamit ng lead at lead compounds sa production/manufacturing ng packaging ng pagkain at inumin, fuel additives, water pipes, laruan, school supplies, cosmetics at pintura.

Ang polisiyang ito ay nag-aatas sa pagbabawal ng paggawa ng pintura bilang pigment, drying agent o sa iba pang gamit na may hindi hihigit sa 90 parts per million o ppm na itinakdang threshold limit.

Ang moratorium sa production ng higit sa nakatakda sa threshold limit ay inumpisahang ipatupad simula pa noong 2013 nang inilabas ang kautusan.

Samantala, pinayagan naman ang paggamit ng lead sa pintura noong 2013 hanggang 2016 para sa architectural, decorative, household applications, at anim na taon naman (2013-2016) para sa industrial applications.

Lagpas ng itinakdang transitional period, ang paggamit ng lead sa pintura ay mahigpit nang ipinagbawal.

Ayon sa DENR-Environmental Management Bureau, ang paggamit ng lead sa pintura ay isang global issue na tinalakay sa maraming “international fora” kung saan ay ibinahagi ng Pilipinas ang karanasan nito sa pag-phase out ng lead sa pintura.

Ang Future Policy Award ay taunang isinasagawa ng World Future Council simula pa noong 2010. Ito ay ang nag-iisang award na kumikilala sa mga polisiya na pakikinabangan ng kasalukuyan at susunod na henerasyon sa international level.

Bukod sa Philippines’ Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds, shortlisted din sa award ngayong taon ang polisiya ng Columbia, Cuba, Denmark, Ethiopia, India, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Netherlands, Sri Lanka, Sweden, at United States.

Iaanunsiyo ang nanalo sa Future Policy Award 2021 sa Hunyo 29 habang ang virtual awarding ceremony ay gaganapin sa Hulyo 6. ###



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08 June 2021

Cimatu kinilala ang kontribusyon ng IPs sa PH eagle conservation

Sa pagdiriwang ng 23rd year ng Philippine Eagle Week (PEW), kinilala ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang papel ng Indigenous Peoples (IPs) bilang katiwala ng gubat partikular na sa pangangalaga ng ating national bird, ang critically endangered Philippine eagle na nagpapanatili ng ecological balance ng malawak na kagubatan ng bansa.

"The Philippine eagle's presence in the forests is intrinsically connected to the web of life, in the lives of our brethren *katutubos* and resonates in their everyday lives, deeming the eagle sacred and providing utmost protection from harm. For it is through these indigenous practices, we are able to learn from their culture and beliefs and understand how wildlife and humans can co-exist harmoniously," sabi ni Cimatu sa ginanap na selebrasyon noong Hunyo 4.

Ang okasyon na ito ay pinangunahan ng DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) sa pakikipagtulungan ng Philippine Eagle Foundation, Haribon Foundation, at ng University of the Philippines-Diliman, Institute of Biology.

"There is no opportune time to learn how to take care of our fragile environment, especially during this pandemic than now. Dagdag pa ni Cimatu, "what better way to learn of these stories through local stewards who serve as our eyes and ears in the forests".

Ang tema sa pagdiriwang ngayong taon ay ang "The Philippine Eagle and Indigenous Peoples: Protecting our forest, protecting our future," kung saan naka-highlight ang mahalagang papel ng IPs sa pagbibigay ng proteksiyon sa tahanan ng agila sa kagubatan lalo na sa most endangered wild fauna na Philippine eagle.

Sa ginanap na selebrasyon, nagbigay ng inspirational stories ng rescue, rehabilitation at releases ng Philippine eagle ang IP communities, kasama na ang DENR regional at field offices, PEF at local government units.

Binansagan bilang "Local Biodiversity Champions," nagbahagi ng kuwento ng pag-asa, tagumpay at goodwill ang limang IP communities na kinabibilangan ng *Manuvu Tinonanon* ng Arakan, North Cotabato; *Bukidnon (Higaonon)* ng Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon; *Samahan ng Bantay Kalikasan sa Lupaing Ninuno (SBKALN)*; *Indigenous Mandaya* ng

Pantuyan, Caraga; *Obu Manuvu* ng Davao City; at ang *Bagobo Tagabawa* sa Mt. Apo, Davao City.

Bilang bagong partner sa konserbasyon ay nagsagawa naman ang Philippine Fauna Art Society (PhilFAS), sa pamamagitan ng founder nito na si Ms Bing Famoso, ng virtual art exhibit na “Haring Agila” na mapapanood sa kanilang Facebook page hanggang sa katapusan ng PEW sa Hunyo 10, 2021.

Sa kanyang panig, sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns at concurrent DENR-BMB Director Edilberto DC Leonardo na ang Philippine Eagle Week ay nagpapaalala sa atin na ang konserbasyon ng wildlife ay tungkulin ng bawat Pilipino at ang mundo ay hindi lamang para sa atin.

“As this magnificent bird of prey continues to uphold the ecological balance of our forests, we reach out to every Filipino to adopt a culture of respect for all life forms, most especially for our national bird,” saad ni Leonardo.

Ang PEW ay ginugunita simula Hunyo 4 hanggang 10 kada taon batay na rin sa bisa ng Proclamation No. 79. Ang proklamasyon na ito ay naglalayong isulong ang kamalayan sa kahalagahan ng Philippine eagle bilang biological indicator ng forest ecosystems ng bansa, national symbol, at kakaibang pamana.

Kinikilala bilang pinakamalaki sa mga nabubuhay na agila sa mundo sa tuntunin ng length at wing surface, ang Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) ay nakatala bilang “critically endangered” raptor sa Updated National List of Philippine Threatened Fauna o ng DENR Administrative Order 2019-09 at ng International Union for the Conservation of Nature o ang IUCN.

Ang wild population ng Philippine eagle sa buong archipelago ay nanganganib sa tinatayang 400 pairs. Ang hunting at pagkawala ng forest habitats ang siyang pangunahing banta sa survival ng mga ito. ###

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03 June 2021

**DENR-MGB magsasagawa ng imbentaryo sa hindi nagagamit na mining assets ng
gobyerno**

Nakahanda na ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamamagitan ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) na magsagawa ng “updating” ng essential mining information sa mga hindi nagagamit na mining assets ng gobyerno.

“This is in preparation for the bidding and sale of mining assets to gain revenues and help the country recover from the economic devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Ayon kay MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano, magsasagawa na ang bureau ng updating ng mineral resources at mineral reserves data ng mga natukoy na state-owned mining assets upang matukoy ang posibilidad ng kinakaharap na mining operations.

"Some of these mining assets stopped operating in the 1980s, which means these hold mining information that is around 40 years old," paliwanag ni Moncano. "Data are necessary to be collated and evaluated to see if the reports of former geologists and mining engineers are compliant with the Philippine Mineral Reporting Code that is in place sometime in 2010 only."

Binanggit nito ang mga hindi nagagamit na mining assets tulad ng Basay Mining Corp. sa Negros Oriental na itinigil ang operasyon noong 1983 at ang Marinduque Mining and Industrial Corp. (MMIC Bagacay Mine) na niremata ng Development Bank of the Philippines at Philippine National Bank noong 1984.

Kabilang sa mga data na susuriin ang: “volume of mineral resources and reserves, technical basis of estimates, and methodology of estimation, among others,” paliwanag pa ni Moncano.

Ang mineral resource ay tumutukoy sa “concentration of materials of economic interest found in the Earth’s crust,” habang ang mineral reserve naman ay ang “economically mineable portion of a mineral resource.”

Sinabi pa ni Moncano, ang “updating” ng baseline information ay makapagsasaayos din sa “packaging” ng mining assets upang mapataas ang halaga nito.

"The MGB will allot some funds from its budget for the updating of data. The updating of the mining information will most likely advance first on those assets without pending legal cases like the Basay Mining Corp. and MMIC Bagacay Mine," saad pa nito.

Samantala, idinagdag pa ni Moncano na ang ibang assets na nasa ilalim ng Privatization and Management Office (PMO) ng Department of Finance ay mayroon nang sapat at “updated” data at nakatakda nang dumaan sa bidding.

"Once investors will bid on these mining assets, operations will resume. However, documentary requirements to allow for the development and commercial operations to resume will have to be submitted by the winning bidder to MGB," aniya.

Ang PMO ng DOF at ang Philippine Mining Development Corporation ay ang mga responsable sa pagbebenta at “disposal” ng mga nasabing state mining assets sa pamamagitan ng public bidding.

Simula nang ianunsiyo noong isang taon ang pag privatize ng state-owned mining assets, nakipagtulungan na ang DOF sa MGB sa paghahanda para sa pagbebenta.

Kabilang sa mga natukoy ng PMO na mining assets para sa “disposal” ay ang Pacific Nickel Philippines Inc. sa Surigao del Norte, North Davao Mining Property sa Davao del Norte, Maricalum Mining Corp. sa Negros Occidental at Marcopper Mining Corp. sa Marinduque.
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**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
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PRESS RELEASE

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DENR tinuruan ang mga stakeholders na pasiglahin ang pagpapahalaga sa environmental protection

Hinamon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang Boy Scouts of the Philippines, teachers, maging ang DENR utility personnel na itaguyod ang pangangalaga sa kapaligiran sa kanilang pamamaraan sa ginanap na learning session para sa pagdiriwang ng Month of the Ocean (MOO).

Ipinaliwanag pa ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na ang pagbibigay ng hamon sa mga stakeholders ay magmumulat o "awaken their passion and awareness about the current situation of our oceans and the biodiversity that thrives in it."

"It is important that we educate all the sectors, including the teachers, who will mold the minds of the next generations, the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, who is tasked as one of the stewards of our environment, and even the maintenance personnel of the DENR, as they are the custodians of our institution," sabi ni Cimatu.

Ang learning event para sa MOO ay pinangunahan ng DENR's Strategic Alliance and Environmental Partnership Division ng Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS), batay na rin sa tema ngayon taon ng MOO na "The Science We Need for The Ocean We Want."

Umabot sa 569 participants ang dumalo sa four-day learning event: 155 rover at 113 senior members ng Boy Scouts of the Philippines noong Mayo 26-27, 196 elementary at high school teachers noong Mayo 28 at 105 men and women mula sa D'Triumph, ang janitorial manpower agency ng DENR noong Mayo 29.

Sa kanyang panig, ipinaliwanag ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda na siya ring concurrent

Supervising Undersecretary for SCIS and Task Force *Tayo ang Kalikasan*, kailangan nang kumilos ngayon. "Humankind is racing against time in saving the oceans because we might lose it one day," aniya.

"We at the DENR are challenging you to contribute in your own way and work to protect the ocean and the environment," sabi pa ni Antiporda sa mga participants.

Aniya, makabuluhan ang kontribusyon ng stakeholders upang makamit ang layunin ng departamento na "to care for and enrich our oceans, and the creatures and plants that live beneath them."

Sa naganap na learning event, ang mga participants ay tinuruan ng kahalagahan ng karagatan, nakinig sa mga success stories mula sa DENR regional offices at natuklasan kung paano ililigtas ang natural aquatic resources.

Ang Month of the Ocean ay ipinagdiriwang kada taon sa Pilipinas tuwing buwan ng Mayo sa bisa ng Presidential Proclamation No. 57 na inilabas noong 1998. ###

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