

DATE : 13 AUG 2019

DAY : Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



3 wildlife traders convicted

Three men have been sent to prison for transporting critically endangered Philippine pangolins.

Simforoso Salazar, Jorlan Torrequimada and Victor Equisa were sentenced to up to three months in prison after pleading guilty to violating Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, Tagaytay City Municipal Trial Court Branch 1 Judge Liezl Rosario Mendoza said in her recent ruling. They were also ordered to pay a fine of P20,000 each.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu lauded the arrest and conviction of the three, saying it shows the resolve of authorities to crack down on poachers,

wildlife traffickers and traders.

"We welcome this victory not only for wildlife species that were rescued but also for the future generation who will benefit from the recuperation and proliferation of its kind," Cimatu said.

Ten heads of the Philippine pangolin were recovered at a checkpoint in Tagaytay City last June.

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development said only three of the rescued pangolins survived.

Locally known as *balintong*, the Philippine pangolin is in demand among Chinese for its scales and meat, which supposedly have medicinal properties.

— Rhodina Villanueva



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Traffickers of 10 Palawan pangolins receive

'slap on the wrist' from Tagaytay City court

THREE men caught transporting 10 Palawan pangolins in Tagaytay City last June were sentenced to jail terms of up to three months and a fine of P20,000 each after pleading guilty to the crime of illegal trade in wildlife.

The two-page order dated July 18 was handed down by Judge Liezl Rosa-

rio S. Mendoza of the Municipal Trial Court (MTC) in Tagaytay City against Simfroso Salazar, Jorlan Torreguimada and Victor Equisa.

The three pleaded guilty to violating Republic Act 8147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001. The law prohibits

the killing, injuring, collection, selling and transport of threatened and endangered wildlife species.

In a statement, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu lauded the arrest and conviction of the three convicts.

Cimatu said such "swift justice" is a sign of just how hard the authorities

were trying to clamp down on poachers and wildlife traffickers and traders in the Philippines.

He added that the verdict provides hope and inspiration for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and law-enforcement agencies that go after wildlife offenders.

"We welcome this recent victory not only for the wildlife species that were rescued, but also for the future generations who will benefit from the recuperation and proliferation of its kind," Cimatu said.

The court ruling came 20 days after the three accused were caught at a

checkpoint in Tagaytay City on June 28. Ten heads of the Philippine pangolin were recovered from the three.

The pangolins, found in a cramped cage in a van compartment, were initially taken to a DENR rescue center, where they were fed and treated for bruises. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



Court convicts 3 wildlife traffickers 20 days after arrest

By CORY MARTINEZ

THIS one's for the book.

Three men who were caught illegally transporting 10 heads of critically endangered Philippine pangolin (*Manis culionensis*) from Palawan province to Tagaytay City were convicted 20 days after their arrest last June 28.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has lauded

this swift conviction as he described it as a sign of just how hard the authorities were trying to clamp down on poachers and wildlife traffickers and traders in the Philippines.

In a two-page order dated July 18, Judge Liezl Rosario Mendoza of Branch 1 Municipal Trial Court in Tagaytay City sentenced Simforoso Salazar, Jorlan Torrequimada and Victor Equisa to up to three months

in jail and ordered to pay a fine of P20,000 each, after pleading guilty to violating the provisions of Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Cimatu said the conviction verdict provides hope and inspiration for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and law enforcement agencies that go after wildlife offenders.



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DENR MULING NANALO VS VIOLATORS NG ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

MULI na namang napagtagumpayan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang kanilang pakikipaglaban sa mga pasaway na lumalabag sa environmental laws sa bansa.

Ikinagalak ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu sa mabilis na hustisya na nakamit ng ahensiya laban sa tatlong katao na nahuling ilegal na nagbibiyaheng sampung piraso ng critically endangered Philippine pangolin

mula sa Palawan province papuntang Tagaytay City nitong nakalipas na Hunyo.

Batay sa dalawang pahinang desisyon na may petsang Hulyo 18 ni Judge Liezl Rosario Mendoza ng Municipal Trial Court ng Tagaytay City Branch 1, ang mga akusadong sina Simforoso Salazar, Jorlan Torrequimada at Victor Equisa ay napatunayang nagkasala sa paglabag sa Republic Act 9147 o mas kilala sa tawag na Wildlife Resources Conserva-

tion and Protection Act at hinatulang mabilanggo ng hanggang tatlong buwan at pinagmumulta ng P20,000 bawat isa.

Ang naging desisyon ng korte ay lumabas makaraan lamang ang dalawampung araw matapos mahuli ang tatlong akusado sa isang checkpoint sa Tagaytay noong Hunyo 28.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang pagkakakulong ng tatlong illegal wildlife traders ay nagpapatunay lamang na desidido ang awtoridad sa pag-

papatupad ng batas partikular na ang paghuli sa mga poacher at wildlife traffickers at traders sa Filipinas.

"We welcome this recent victory not only for the wildlife species that were rescued, but also for the future generations who will benefit from the recuperation and proliferation of its kind," saad ni Cimatu.

Napag-alamang sampung piraso ng Philippine pangolin ang narekober ng awtoridad sa tatlong nahatulang illegal wildlife traders sa isinagawang checkpoint ng awtoridad sa Tagaytay City.

Matapos ang pagkakaaresto ay agad na nagsampa ng kaso sa korte ang DENR laban sa tatlo sa pamamagitan ng Philippine Operations Group of Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade o Task Force POGI. Ang POGI ay binubuo ng mga tauhan na nagmula sa Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), National

Bureau of Investigation (NBI) at Philippine National Police (PNP).

Ang mga narekober na pangolin na nakita na nagsisiksikan sa kulungan sa loob ng van compartment ay agad na dinala sa DENR rescue center kung saan pinakain at ginamot ang sugat at galos ng mga ito.

Ayon sa Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), sa sampung na-rescue na pangolin, tatlo lamang ang nabuhay at dinala na sa kanilang natural habitat sa Palawan.

Ang Philippine pangolin (*Manis culionensis*) ay kabilang sa critically endangered species. Ito ay matatagpuan lamang sa Palawan kung saan ito ay tinatawag na "balintong". Madalas itong hulihin dahil na rin sa pangailangan sa kaliskis at karne nito na ginagamit bilang traditional Chinese medicine.

BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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3 illegal pangolin trader hinatulan na

NAGPASALAMAT si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa mabilis na hustisya laban sa tatlong tao na nahuling ilegal na nagbibiyaha ng sampung piraso ng critically endangered Philippine pangolin mula sa Palawan province pa-

puntang Tagaytay City noong Hunyo.

Batay sa dalawang pahinang desisyon na may petsang Hulyo 18 ni Judge Liezl Rosario Mendoza ng Municipal Trial Court ng Tagaytay City Branch 1, ang mga akusadong sina Simforoso Salazar, Jorlan Torrequimada at Victor Equisa ay napa-

tunayang nagkasala sa paglabag sa RA 9147 o Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act at hinatulang mabilanggo ng hanggang tatlong buwan at pinagmulta ng P20,000 bawat isa.

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

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Angat Dam water level improves

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

The water level at Angat Dam in Bulacan continues to increase due to monsoon rains over the country in the past few days.

Based on the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration's (PAGASA) monitoring as of Monday, Angat Dam's water level has increased by almost a meter from 174.13 meters Sunday to 175.10 meters Monday.

Angat Dam's water level is inching closer back to its 180-meter minimum operating level. It has fallen below the 180-meter mark last April, prompting the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) to suspend water allocation for irrigation of farmlands in Bulacan and Pampanga.

Once water level in the dam reaches its 180-meter minimum operating level, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) may consider increasing the water allocated for Metro Manila's domestic requirements.

The current water allocation of 36 cubic meters per second (cms) is split 60-40 to water concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water, respectively. It has been decreased from 40 cms to 36 cms after the dam breached the 160-meter critical level in June.

The normal water allocation for the domestic requirements of consumers in Metro Manila and nearby provinces is 48 cms.

Today, the southwest monsoon (habagat) will still be the dominant weather system throughout the country.

PAGASA weather specialist Ariel Rojas said the weather bureau does not expect the formation or entry of a low pressure area or tropical cyclone inside the country's area of responsibility in the next three to five days.

Monsoon rains will prevail over Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Abra, Benguet, Zambales and Bataan.

Meanwhile, Metro Manila and the rest of the country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers due to localized thunderstorms.

PAGASA warned that sudden rains due to severe thunderstorm activity especially in the afternoon or evening may cause flash floods or landslides in low-lying or mountainous areas.



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Rains fill up Angat Dam

The water level at Angat Dam in Bulacan continues to increase due to monsoon rains over the country in the past few days.

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This Tuesday, the southwest monsoon or "habagat" will still remain as the dominant weather system throughout the country.

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PAGASA warned that sudden rains due to severe thunderstorm activity especially in the afternoon or evening may cause flash floods or landslides in low-lying or mountainous areas. **(Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz)**



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That's the Spirit

Dr. Ramon Ricardo A. Roque,
CESOI, Diplomat

For Mother Earth

THE decision of the Supreme Court to penalize concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water as well as the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for their violations of Republic Act No. 9275 or the Clean Water Act is a big triumph for Mother Earth.

The violations stemmed from the failure of the parties to put up sewage lines and sewage treatment facilities which are specifically provided for in the Clean Water Act.

The penalties that the Supreme Court imposed – ₱921.5 million each for Maynilad and Manila Water (with the MWSS jointly and severally liable with each water concessionaire) and ₱322,102 daily fine until they fully comply with the subject provisions of the law, clearly illustrate the extent of the victory for Mother Earth. This is so even

if the concerned parties are expected to exercise their right to file a motion for reconsideration.

The finality of the victory of Mother Earth, in this case, is expected particularly because the Supreme Court's decision was from a vote of 12-0 (with two justices abstaining from the voting and not from a vote of 14-0 as earlier reported).

Such victory, however, is not enough. It has been reported that 20 percent of the bills paid by the customers of the two water concessionaires was specifically for sewage services. Since such services were not substantially provided, the concessionaires should be held accountable for the money paid by their customers.

This should not be a simple question of returning the collected money to the customers. The concessionaires

should account their actions in handling the same.

The concessionaires should not be allowed to gain from money that they collected at the guise of doing actions required not only to serve their customers but also protect the environment.

If the concessionaires increased their shareholders' wealth not only by failing to do what the law requires (which was the matter decided on by the courts) but also by generating profit from what is, at the very least, unethical collection of fees, they should be held liable.

Another interesting angle of this issue is the liability of the MWSS. To what extent will it shoulder the joint and several liability of the two concessionaires? Who will eventually "pay for" the liability of the MWSS considering the public nature of the organization?

The victory of and for Mother Earth can only be complete if other than having the concerned parties pay the imposed penalties and fines, those responsible will be made to repair the environmental damages they caused.



3 TINEDYER MUNTIK NANG MALUNOD SA PASIG RIVER, NAILIGTAS NG RIVER WARRIORS NG PRRC

NOONG ika-9 ng Agosto ng hapon, tatlong kabataan mula sa Lungsod ng Maynila na muntik na malunod ngunit nailigtas ng River Warriors ng Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) sa Pasig River.

Ayon sa pinuno ng PRRC River Warrior na si Niño Gutierrez, nakita nila ang tatlong kabataan nahihirapan na lumangoy pabalik sa mga bangko ng Pasig River malapit sa Jones Bridge, Maynila. Sa kalakasan ng habagat, hindi naisip ng mga kabataan na ang agos ng tubig na dumadaloy sa Hilagang Bay ay lalakas dahil sa pag-ulan.

Kaagad tumugon ang PRRC River Warriors sa nakitang pangyayari na maring ikamatay ng tatlong kabataan, mabilis sila'y lumungoy patungong sa mga



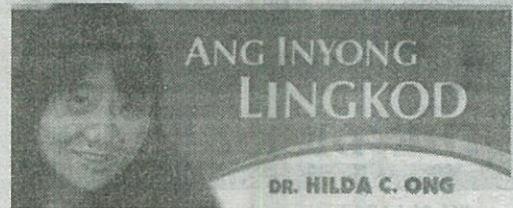
tinedyer at binigyan sila ng mga life savers para mayroon sila mahawakan.

Ang edad ng dalawang batang lalaki bata ay nasa 14 taong gulang at isang batang babae na may edad na 15, ayon sa kanilang salaysay, sila ay lumalangoy lamang sa ulan ngunit hindi nila inaasahan lalakas ang alon sa ilog.

Matapos ang pagligtas, dinala sila sa linear park ng Lawton Ferry Station at binigyan sila ng isang maikling panayam ng PRRC River Warriors upang mapayuhan at maituro sa kanila kung anong gagawin sa oras ng kagipitan para sa kanilang kaligtasan.

"Alam niyo ba sa ganitong panahon, malakas ang current ng tubig, huwag na kayo uli maligo diyan. Okay lang kung kalmado lang yung tubig, kaya lang hindi niyo masasabi na bigla lalakas ang alon, talagang tatangayin na kayo niyan papuntang Manila Bay. Sa susunod, huwag na kayo maglalangoy pagdating ng tag-ulan," sabi ni Gutierrez.

Pinuri ni PRRC Executive Director Jose Antonio E. Goitia ang mga River War-



DR. HILDA C. ONG

ANG INYONG LINGKOD

rriors para sa isa pang kababaihan, ang pagligtas sa mga kabataan at sa pagbahagi ng kaalaman at pagbibigay ng paalala. "I am proud of the concern and heroism of our River Warriors to save the kids from imminent danger. They are people to be admired and respected. Meanwhile, we in the PRRC wish to remind everyone to please do not swim or bathe in our rivers, especially while it is raining, for your safety. Your health and safety are very important to us," sabi ni Goitia.

-ooOoo- DALAWANG PINOY, PINAPURIHAN

Tumanggap kamakailan ng papuri ang dalawang Filipino na kapwa nagpamalas ng katapatan at kahusayan sa kani-kanilang mga ginagampanang tungkulin.

Isinauli ng Aeta janitress na si Grace Laxamana na nagtratrabaho sa Clark International Airport ang isang envelope na naglalaman ng one thousand US dollar (US\$ 1,000.00) o katumbas ng halagang fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00) na nakita niyang nakaiwan sa isang gangchair sa ikalawang palapag ng nasabing paliparan. Ang malaking halaga ay pagmamay-ari ng isang Valle

Teves.

Binigyan ng Certificate of Commendation ng pamunuan ng international airport ang pagiging matapat ni Laxamana lalo pa't untraceable envelope ang kanyang napulot, ni ang pasahero nga diumano ay hindi alam kung saan niya nawala ang perang dala-dala.

Pinatunayan ni Laxamana ang kagandahang asal ng mga katutubong Aeta na siyang nakadiskubre sa Pilipinas at unang nanirahan dito.

Samantala, pinagkalooban naman ng prestihiyosong British Empire Medal mula kay Queen Elizabeth II ang drayber na si Roland Quitevis na naniniilbihan sa United Kingdom Embassy sa Maynila sa loob ng thirty-three years.

Si Quitevis ay nakapagmaneho na sa walong naging Ambassador ng UK sa Pilipinas kabilang kay Ambassador Daniel Pruce at maging sa miyembro ng Royal family kapag sila sa bansa katulad nina Prince Andrew, Princess Anne at Prince Charles.

Nauna rito, kinilala ni Ambassador Pruce si Quitevis ng Service Recognition Award para sa kanyang tatlong dekadang serbisyo sa embahada.



REGIONS

Baguio finds new forest protectors

BAGUIO CITY—Mayor Benjamin Magalong suspended the demolition of structures at the 336-hectare Busol watershed here after land claimants and settlers agreed to organize, police their ranks and draw up plans for protecting the forest. The city intends to resolve squatting on 112 ha of the reservation, a major water source, as it begins a conservation program for its remaining 2.5 million trees. —STORY BY VINCENT CABREZA

A7



Settlers want to turn forest protectors

Land claimants, squatters offer to guard and preserve Baguio watershed

BAGUIO CITY—Facing eviction, Ibaloy land claimants and settlers have offered to secure and preserve the 336-hectare Busol watershed, the city's key source of potable water that has been threatened by encroachment for decades.

The offer was made last week during a meeting called by city officials, who were poised to demolish eight new structures built within the Busol forest reserve, which Baguio shares with neighboring La Trinidad town in Benguet province.

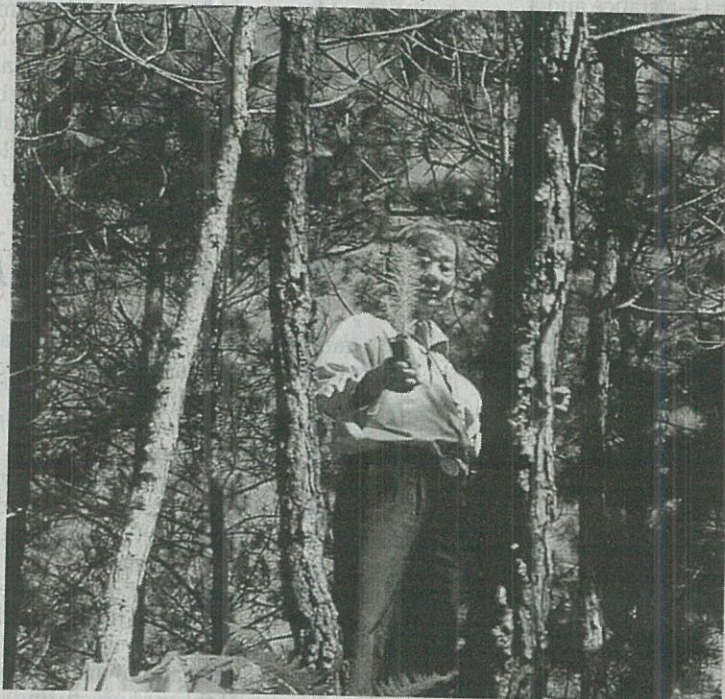
The city intends to resolve squatting on 112 ha of the watershed within its territory as it begins a conservation and rehabilitation program for its remaining 2.5 million trees, Mayor Benjamin Magalong told 200 Busol residents who attended the meeting.

Busol was segregated for the conservation and protection of Baguio water and timber resources in April 1922 through a proclamation.

Water rationing

It remains vital because potable water in the city has been rationed since the late 1980s. The Baguio Water District (BWD) taps Busol for water that is supplied to 30 percent of the city's about 350,000 residents.

But Magalong suspended the demolition after dwellers



PINE PATCH Busol watershed is vital to sustaining Baguio City's water supply. The late Ramon Dacawi (in photo), one of the founders of the environmental program "EcoWalk," brought groups of students to this patch of pine forest to teach them about the value of trees. —PAUL RILLORTA / CONTRIBUTOR

agreed to organize, police their ranks and put together plans for protecting the forest.

The city did not give the number of Busol dwellers, although foresters and the BWD in 2007 listed 695. An inventory conducted in 2006 by a Busol task force, composed of local and national forest regulators,

said 643 houses were built in the Baguio part of the watershed at the time while 532 houses were constructed in La Trinidad.

Many dwellers were granted approved land surveys and were issued tax declarations, so the government and the environmental group Baguio Regreening Movement (BRM) launched

a public campaign to fence off the watershed.

Legal conflict

But the fencing project was blocked in 2009 when Busol became the center of a legal conflict between Ibaloy land claimants and the city government.

Ibaloy families asserted their ancestral land rights and claims, prompting the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to stop all fencing activities.

Families belonging to the Molintas and Gumangan clans said their ancestors' names were identified as claimants.

The city government cited a provision in the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 (Ipra, or Republic Act No. 8371), which exempted Baguio from the law's coverage.

In an Aug. 30, 2012, letter to the NCIP, the city government opposed ancestral land applications filed in Baguio, except those recognized by the government before Ipra was enforced.

In 2018, the Supreme Court ruled against the claimants.

Magalong, during the meeting with settlers, said that while Ibaloy families could continue to pursue their claims, the high court had clearly established that the watershed could not be inhabited.

—VINCENT CABREZA INQ



DRAFT EXECUTIVE ORDER READY

DILG CHIEF BACKS BAN ON NEW BUILDINGS, TREE CUTTING IN BAGUIO

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año on Monday backed a proposed yearlong moratorium on the construction of high-rise buildings in Baguio City to afford the summer capital "a breather from overdevelopment."

Año, in a statement, agreed with Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong's proposed construction ban, saying the city "is now heavily congested

and it's taking so much toll on the environment."

He said the city's environmental condition was now a priority concern of the interagency task force headed by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, noting that a draft executive order (EO) on the building ban and cutting of trees had been submitted to the Office of the President.

Año said the draft included

a funding component to implement priority projects, such as the upgrading and expansion of the city's sewage treatment system.

"The city needs to pause, breathe, and be healed because of overdevelopment. Let us save Baguio City while we still can. The proposed EO will pave the way for a reevaluation of the city's urban development

planning in order to consider the impact to the environment," said the secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Año said he was confident that with Magalong, a retired police general, at the city's helm, Baguio could also address problems on watershed depletion and traffic congestion. —JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE INQ



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EO on 1-year ban on Baguio skyscrapers, tree-cutting pushed

By **CHITO CHAVEZ**

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is pushing for the approval of a proposal of the Baguio City government to impose at least a one-year moratorium on the construction of high-rise buildings in the city "to give the country's summer capital a much-needed breather from overdevelopment."

"I strongly agree with Mayor Benjie Magalong on the moratorium in the construction of high-rise buildings in Baguio City. The city is now heavily congested and it's taking so much toll on the environment. The city's environmental condition is now a priority concern of the interagency task force headed by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu," said DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año.

Año shared that a draft Executive Order (EO) on the proposed moratorium on skyscrapers and cutting of trees, except those that are dead and may cause danger to life and property,

has been submitted to the Office of the President.

The draft order also comes with a funding component to implement priority rehabilitative projects such as the upgrading and expansion of the city's sewerage treatment system.

"The city needs to pause, breathe, and be healed because of overdevelopment. Let us save Baguio City while we still can. The proposed EO will pave the way for a reevaluation of the city's urban development planning in order to consider the impact to the environment," added Año.

The DILG chief also commended Magalong for showing political will in preserving and enlarging the city's remaining 30 percent forest cover.

Under Magalong's leadership, the DILG is confident that the city could hopefully put an end not just on the spontaneous construction activities but also the problems on watershed depletion, congested traffic, and rising temperature.

About 40 percent of the Busol Forest Reservation, the city's biggest source

of potable water, is now occupied by informal settler families which caused the rapid depletion from the original six watersheds to just four.

DILG Undersecretary and spokesperson Jonathan E. Malaya noted the DILG through the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) will work closely with the city government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-CAR in mapping out strategic actions to address the massive problems on dwindling water supply, tree-cutting, solid waste management, and overdevelopment.

Taking a cue from the successful rehabilitation of Boracay, Malaya says the city government should act swiftly to ensure that Baguio's natural beauty is preserved amidst development.

"Our target is to ensure that Baguio City's beauty is well-preserved so that every time local and foreign tourists go there to unwind and recharge, they can all take refuge in the city's clear blue skies, lush green mountains, towering pine trees, and very hospitable climate," Malaya said.



'Defer high-rise devt in Baguio'

THE Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) expressed on Monday its support to the proposal of the City Government of Baguio for at least one-year moratorium on the construction of high-rise buildings in the city.

"The city needs to pause, breathe, and be healed because of overdevelopment. Let us save Baguio City while we still can. The proposed executive order (EO) will pave the way for a reevaluation of the city's urban development planning in order to consider the impact to the environment," DILG Secretary Eduardo Año said in a press statement.

Año agreed said the city "is now heavily congested and it's taking so much toll on the environment."

The city's environmental condition is a priority concern of the interagency

task force headed by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Año said.

The Office of the President, Año bared, has received the draft EO on the moratorium, which would stop construction of skyscrapers for one year including cutting of trees, except dead ones and causing "danger to life and properties."

Fund for upgrading and expansion of the city's sewerage treatment system are also included in the EO.

Meanwhile, the DILG chief praised Magalong for showing political will in preserving and enlarging the city's remaining 30 percent forest cover.

Magalong is confident that the city could stop watershed depletion, congested traffic and rising temperature.

DILG Undersecretary

and spokesman Jonathan Malaya said the DILG through the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) would collaborate with the city government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-CAR in mapping out strategic actions to address the "massive problems on dwindling water supply, tree cutting, solid waste management and overdevelopment."

DILG said informal settlers were occupying about 40 percent of the Busol Forest Reservation, the city's biggest source of potable water, causing rapid depletion from the original six watersheds to just four.

Malaya also encouraged the city government to act fast like in the Boracay rehabilitation to ensure that Baguio's natural beauty is preserved amid development.

DARWIN PESCO

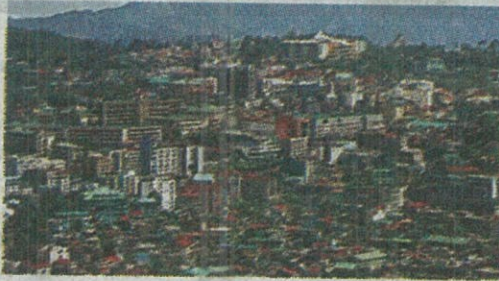


CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION: BAGUIO CITY

DILG backs Baguio's proposed moratorium on high-rise buildings

THE DEPARTMENT of Interior and Local Government (DILG) has expressed support to the Baguio City local government's proposal to implement a one-year moratorium on the construction of high-rise buildings in the country's summer capital. "I strongly agree with Mayor Benjie Magalong on the moratorium in the construction of high-rise buildings in Baguio City. The city is now heavily congested and it's taking so much toll on the environment. The city's environmental condition is now a priority concern of the interagency task force headed by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu," said DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año in a statement on August 12. "The city needs to pause, breathe, and be healed because of over development. Let us save Baguio City while we still can," he said. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Cordillera Administrative Region held a public consultation last July 29, wherein the draft executive order (EO) setting the moratorium was among the issues discussed. Mr. Año said a copy of the EO draft has been submitted to the President. The order also comes with a proposed funding component to implement priority rehabilitative projects such as the upgrading and expansion

of the city's sewerage treatment system. "The proposed EO will pave the way for a reevaluation of the city's urban development planning in order to consider the impact to the environment," said Mr. Año. — **Vince Angelo C. Ferreras**



BAGUIO CITY PIO



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SAVE BAGUIO By Joel dela Torre

BAGUIO City's proposal for at least one year moratorium on the construction of high-rise buildings has gotten the nod of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

According to Secretary Eduardo Ano, he is strongly in favor of the move to give the country's summer capital a much-needed breather from over-development.

"Let us save Baguio while we still can," he said.

The city's environmental condition is now a priority concern of the inter-agency task force headed by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Also in the task force, Ano strongly agreed with Mayor Benjie Magalong on the moratorium in the construction of high-rise buildings in Baguio, saying that the city is now heavily-congested and it's taking so much toll on the environment.

According to Año, a draft Executive Order on

the moratorium has been submitted to the Office of the President, which would impose not only on the one-year cessation on the construction of skyscrapers but also the cutting of trees, except those that are dead and causing danger to life and property.

The draft EO also comes with a funding component to implement priority rehabilitative projects such as the upgrading and expansion of the city's sewerage treatment system.

"The city needs to pause, breathe, and be healed because of over-development. Let us save Baguio City while we still can. The proposed EO will pave the way for a re-evaluation of the city's urban development planning in order to consider the impact to the environment," he added.

The DILG chief, meanwhile, commended Mayor Magalong for showing political will in preserving and enlarging the

city's remaining 30% forest cover.

Under Magalong's leadership, he is confident that the city could hopefully put an end not just on the spontaneous construction activities but also the problems on watershed depletion, congested traffic, and rising temperature.

About 40% of the Busol Forest Reservation, the city's biggest source of potable water, is now occupied by informal settler families, which caused the rapid depletion from the original six watersheds to just four.

DILG Undersecretary and Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya said that the DILG, through the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), will work closely with the city government and the Department of Natural Resources (DENR)-CAR in mapping out strategic actions to address the massive problems on dwindling water supply, tree cutting, solid waste management, and overdevelopment.

Taking a cue from the successful rehabilitation in Boracay, Malaya said the city government should act swiftly to ensure that Baguio's natural beauty is preserved amidst development.



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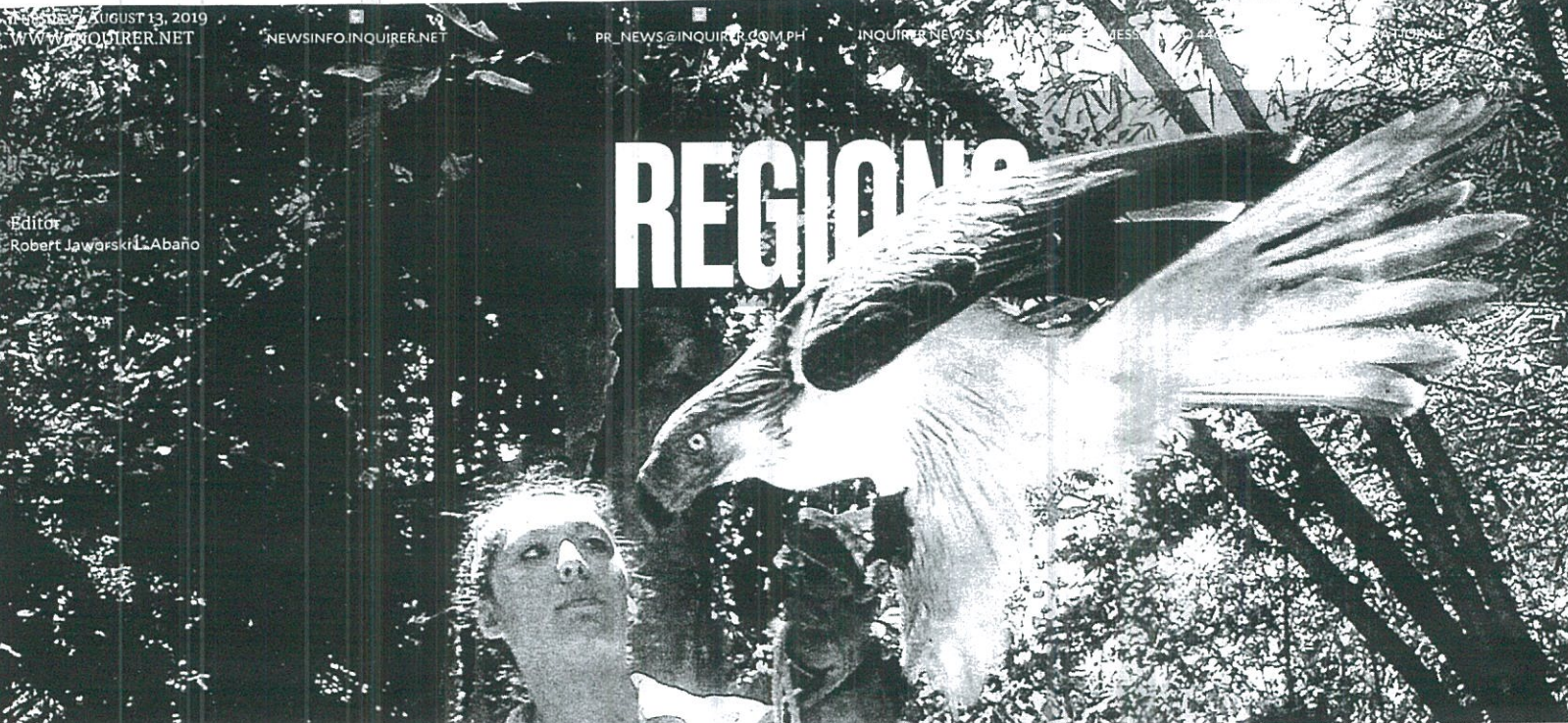
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Robert Jaworski-L. Abaño



CONSERVATION SYMBOL "Sinag," a 3-year-old male Philippine eagle, and other birds of prey nurtured at the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City help educate visitors about environment observation. --JOSELLE R. BADILLA



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'RAPTORS IN FLIGHT'

WATCH BIRDS OF PREY FLY, HUNT IN DAVAO'S

PH EAGLE CENTER

DAVAO CITY—Visitors to the Philippine Eagle Center in Malagos here are in for a treat as they can witness the behavior of birds of prey while in flight or hunting.

"Raptors in Flight," the Philippine Eagle Foundation's (PEF) latest initiative to educate the public about raptors, will be a weekly event at the center in Calinan District starting Aug. 17 in time for the Kadayawan Festival activities.

"This is the first and only demonstration in the world to show a Philippine eagle flying on cue," Dennis Salvador, PEF executive director, said in a statement.

Conservation mission

"It truly is a sight to see. We hope that through this educational experience, more people would come to appreciate our feathered friends and in turn, be inspired to contribute to the

conservation mission to make a difference," he said.

Nine raptor species, including the giant scops owl, Mindanao lowland owl, Pinsker's hawk-eagle, Philippine serpent eagle, brahmny kite, grey-headed fishing eagle, white-bellied sea eagle and the Philippine eagle "Sinag," saw action during the launching on Saturday, doing the flight demonstration.

Sinag, a juvenile male

Philippine eagle adopted by the Philippine Airlines, will turn 4 years old in December this year.

Lohwana Halaq, a primatologist and Sinag's handler, has been training the eagles for about two years.

Training

"For our Philippine eagle and all the other birds of prey here, it does take time [to train them]," she said. "That was the

main thing—training in terms for falconry. All the techniques come from falconry... like training birds of prey to hunt, basically. But instead of hunting here, we're training them on the cue of our glove and they get the reward of a piece of meat," Halaq told reporters after the performance.

She said the training was a way of "conditioning the animals' response to cues on time and to be safe while doing it."

"Our birds are safe and we are safe; [we start] off with getting to know the birds," she said.

Ticket prices for "Raptors in Flight" are P300 for adults and P250 for children, inclusive of entrance fee, film viewing and tour of the Philippine Eagle Center. PEF also arranges private viewing of raptors through reservations@philippineeaglefoundation.org or through mobile number 0917-7089084. —JOSELLE R. BADILLA INQ

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Sink holes pose danger to Albay town residents

B. Jonny Sales

POLANGUI, Albay – Three sink holes, one of which is located at the back of a school, are a threat to students and residents of Bgy. Pinagdapugan in this town.

The sink holes were discovered in the upland part of the village after rains covered Bicol over the week.

According to Socorro Sambitan, head of the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (MDRRMC), the

biggest among the three sink holes was discovered at the backyard of the Pinagdapugan Elementary School, with a diameter of about 1.5-meters.

The hole had caved-in over three meters deep.

Sambitan said two other sink holes, with over a-meter deep, were also discovered at a residential area at the back of the school.

She said the holes continue to cave-in every time there is a heavy down-pour in the locality.

Soil samples from the softening ground portion were sent to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB).

The MDRRMC requested the MGB to inspect the sites of the sink holes.

Last week, classes at the Pinagdapugan Elementary School were suspended as the sink hole posed danger to elementary school pupils because of heavy rains.



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3 sinkholes pose danger to Polangui residents

By **SONNY SALES**

POLANGUI, Alabay-- Three sinkholes were discovered in the upland village of Barangay Pinagdapugan here, after rains from a recent typhoon ravaged Bicol over the week.

According to Socorro Sambitan, head of the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (MDRRMC) Polangui town, the biggest among the three sink holes was found inside the backyard of the Pinagdapugan Elementary School with a diameter of about 1.5-meter, and a hole over 3-

meters-deep.

Sambitan said two other sinkholes over a meter deep were also discovered at a residential area at the back of the Pinagdapugan Elementary School. It was observed that the holes on the ground have continued to cave in every time there is a heavy down pour in the locality.

Soil samples from the ground have been sent to the DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau, while the local MDRRMC had requested the MGB to inspect the sites of the sink holes.

Sambitan said, earlier classes were suspended at the Pinagdapugan Elementary School, to protect students during heavy rains.



Group wants Napindan floodgate open amid water hyacinth spread

AMID the proliferation of the water hyacinth in Laguna de Bay, a national federation of small fisherfolk on Monday reiterated its call to permanently open the Napindan Hydraulic Control Structure (NHCS) in Taguig City.

The NHCS is a flood-control system closed by authorities for a very long time. It prevents the free flow of water passing through the Pasig River which connects the Laguna de Bay and Manila Bay.

Constructed in 1983, the NHCS prevents the saltwater coming from Manila Bay via Pasig River to enter the 90-hectare lake to prevent flooding. It also protects the business of raising tilapia and bangus in the country's largest aquaculture hub because some fish species cannot tolerate salty water.

Also, the Laguna de Bay is now a source of raw water for Metro Manila residents.

Both the Maynilad and Manila Water, the two private water concessionaires of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), extract water from Laguna de Bay to augment the limited supply coming from Angat Dam.

Water treatment would entail a higher cost through the process called desalination if the water is too salty.

In a statement, the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakayang Pilipinas (Pamalakaya)-Rizal Provincial Coordinator Ronnel Arambulo, reported that towns of Binangonan and Cardona in Rizal are now "heavily surrounded" by water hyacinth, blocking the waterways of small fisherfolk.

The group also sent photographs as proof of the massive proliferation of water hyacinth in some portions of Laguna de Bay.

Considered an invasive alien species in the Philippines, water hyacinth, more commonly called water lilies, are known to occur naturally in South America.

This green, leafy free-floating aquatic plant species can rise over a meter in height above the water surface. It competes with other aquatic plants and fish species. It also blocks the sunlight from reaching the water, hence, preventing the process of photosynthesis. Water hyacinth also competes with fish for much-needed oxygen, hence, resulting in massive fish kills. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



Rio Tuba mine adopts DOST waste converter

RIO TUBA Nickel (RTN) became the first company in the local mining industry to use the Department of Science and Technology's bioreactor that converts biodegradable wastes into organic fertilizers and soil conditioners.

RTN, a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC), adopted this innovative soil conditioning technology through DOST's technology transfer program.

According to DOST project supervisor Dr. Myra L. Tansengco, the principle behind the bioreactor developed by the department's Industrial Technology Development Institute is to promote efficient solid waste management practices in the communities to comply with Republic Act 9003, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

"RTN is the first mining company to use the fertilizer and soil conditioner from this bioreactor for their rehabilitation programs and for use in the communities," said Tansengco.

Engr. Cynthia Rosero, RTN Resident Mine Manager, said: "RTN intends to extend the use of these organic fertilizers for the ongoing vegetable production projects in the IP communities in Rio Tuba that aims to cater to the growing demands for organic vegetables in Palawan."

RA 9003 was signed into law in 2001. It is the legal framework for a systematic, comprehensive, and ecological solid waste management program in the Philippines.

Almost 20 years after RA 9003 became a law, the challenge continues with enforcing proper waste segregation in the communities.

Engr. David L. Herrera, Senior Science Specialist at the DOST, explains that the challenge is mainly for the barangay-level folks to be able to visualize how solid waste can be useful, for the individual and for the community as a whole, for them to be really serious about waste segregation.



Workers at Rio Tuba Nickel demonstrate how to use the DOST bioreactor, which converts biodegradable wastes into organic fertilizers and soil conditioners.



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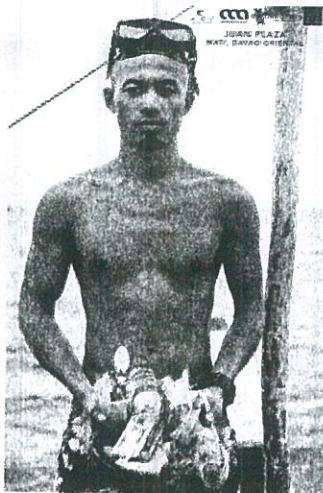
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How much trash can you pick up from the beach in 5 minutes?

THIS is the question an upcoming exhibition aims to answer.



DES AND TRASH. Acclaimed surfers from the country's six leading surfing communities show how much plastic waste they've picked up from the beach within a 5-minute period, highlighting the extensive presence of plastic trash on our beaches and in seas.

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The specially curated show, dubbed "Alon!," shows photographs of surfers from the country's six leading surfing communities—Siargao, La Union, Baler, Mati in Davao, Gubat in Sorsogon, and Sabang Daguitan in Leyte—each holding plastic trash they picked up from the beach in a five-minute period.

The photos intend to show the extensive presence of trash from plastic-packaged commodities in the country, may it be in Luzon, Visayas, or Mindanao.

In addition to these alarming photos on display, the exhibition, which aims to create awareness of plastic waste and eventually initiate change, also features the the eponymous *Alon* documentary, written and directed by award-winning filmmaker Gabby Fernandez. The docu will premiere on August 28, a day before the opening night of the exhibition organized by Benilde's Center for Campus Art.

The short film, also produced by the CCA, will feature interviews with 40 local surfers as they try to answer the question: *Why is the Philippines the third worst plastic polluter in the world?*

While the trash gathered by the surfers only represent what's within sight, a mini photography exhibit featuring pictures by award-winning photographer Noel Guevara for Greenpeace Philippines will highlight the amount of non-biodegradable waste in the depths of the seas.

The photos were taken during a three-day dive and exploration at the Verde Island Passage, known as the "center of the center" of global marine biodiversity, located in Batangas.

Also on view will be the dead baby whale sculpture by artist Biboy Royong, first seen as part of the famous 78-by-10-foot whale-like statue "Cry of the Dead Whale" recently installed in front of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Made from plastic bags, bottles, and various waste products found in the bodies of water, the dead baby whale, now separated from its mother, depicts the horrifying effects of plastic trash to sea creatures.

"Alon!" will also bring back a series of Benilde projects that illustrated both cause and effect of the issue: the 2016 TrashLation project in partnership with the Spanish Embassy Manila and RM de Leon's 2018 class project Mga Plastik Kayo, a series of charcoal and pastel sketches of sea creatures trapped in various plastic packaging.

"Alon," the surfers' call when the waves come also pertains to the waves of plastic trash that threaten to engulf our oceans. This is not the first time, nor the last that Benilde will be raising this issue. We are here to remind people that this is a continuous battle,"

said CCA director and curator Architect Gerry Torres.

Torres added, "The exhibit hopes to promote the reduction of single-use plastics, press multinationals to rethink their plastic packaging, ask the government to implement existing laws on waste management such as the RA 9003, or approve new ones

specific to plastic like Senator Francis Pangilinan's Senate Bill 40 or the Single-Use Plastics Regulation and Management Act of 2019."

"Alon!" will likewise showcase solutions by social and community leaders who try to start the change. Young student-designers from Benilde also contributed their promising works, in-

cluding the innovative end-product of accumulated plastic trash transformed into plastic tiles by Architecture Program student Prince Koo, as well as a number of stylish and sustainable ensembles made from unconventional and upcycled materials, including plastic, by the College's Fashion Design and Merchandising students Kimble Adrienne

Quinto, Allana Nicolas, and Pamela Marie Casambros.

The exhibition will be on view from August 30 to December 14 at the 12th floor Main Gallery, School of Design and Arts Campus, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, Pablo Ocampo Street, Malate, Manila.



The best is yet to come



mike about
town
**ATTY. MIKE
TOLEDO**

That's the title of a famous song written in 1959 for **Tony Bennett**, which was included in his certified platinum album *I Left My Heart in San Francisco* in 1962. Though the song was composed for Bennett, it was **Frank Sinatra** who popularized it in 1964 as part of his *It Might As Well Be Swing* album collaboration with **Count Basie** and **Quincy Jones**.

The song was the last that Old Blue Eyes sang in public in 1995, and those very words were immortalized on his tombstone after his death in 1998.

There is also a popular version sang by **Michael Bublé** in 2007 in his *Call Me Irresponsible* album. As to who of the three sang it best, well, the opinions would be imbued generational biases, so I leave it up to you, dear readers.

In my case, these three exceptional crooners have been an inspiration whenever I'm asked to perform,

The three most memorable were: *Bagyo ng Musika*, the concert for Marawi; *Some Enchanted Evening*, the Philippine Bar Association foundation day concert; and *A Holiday Symphony: the Heart of Christmas*, the MVP Group Christmas concert where I was privileged to share the stage with icons like **Gary Valenciano**, **Ogie Alcasid** and the Manila Symphony Orchestra under the baton of National Artist for Music and 2019 Ramon Magsaysay awardee, maestro **Ryan Cayabyab**.

Playing it safe? Well, with this industry, I am also deeply immersed in — mining, that is — safety always comes first.

That title came to mind when news broke out about the completed definitive feasibility studies (DFS) for the first phase of the Silangan Copper-Gold Project of Philex Mining Corp..

The Silangan Project is a large-scale, high-grade copper and gold mine development with a number of greenfield and brownfield components located in Surigao del Norte in Mindanao.

The Silangan Project has been hailed as one of three big-ticket mining projects that would catapult the Philippines to becoming a major copper producer in the world.

There is excitement in the results of the DFS because it reaffirms the immense potential and magnitude of the project.



A greener Sibutad, which Philex has been foresting since 1996. Who could imagine this once held a mine?



Successfully rehabilitated and beautifully restored Bulawan Tailings Pond.



To date, Philex has planted 10 million trees in more than 4,000 hectares of disturbed and undisturbed areas.



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Philex and Silangan president and CEO engineer Eulalio Austin Jr.



(From left) Philex Environment manager Abner Silorio, Tubod, Surigao Del Norte Mayor Richelle Romarate, Philex community relations manager Lari Angelo Dalit, Silangan mine site administrator lawyer Axel Tumalak and MGB Caraga regional director engineer Glenn Marcelo Noble.



The author's interview with ANC Headstart host Karen Davila.

Over the next months, Philex will be focusing efforts on raising equity and financing for the mine development of Silangan.

Philex has appointed reputable financial institutions J.P. Morgan for equity investment and Mizuho for project financing in its fund-raising exercise.

Silangan will be adopting the underground sub-level cave mining for ore extraction. This is another opportunity to showcase the expertise of parent Philex Mining in this regard.

Philex is the largest and one of the oldest copper-and-gold producers in Southeast Asia and is an acknowledged leader in right and principled mining not only in the country but in the ASEAN region.

It has vast experience in the realm of underground mining, especially with its currently operating mine in Padcal in the province of Benguet. The company foresees that the Padcal mine would follow its expected end-of-mine life in 2022, already extended from 2014.

Philex is determined to maximize the remaining mine life of Padcal and show to all and sundry that the closure of mines can be done properly with dignity in full compliance with the law.

Philex currently has two other mines under care and maintenance which are by themselves models for mine rehabilitation — the Bulawan mine in Negros Occidental and the Sibutad mine in Zamboanga del Norte.

Seeing photos or video coverage of these former mine sites now, with the lush greenery and vegetation, you would not think

that you were looking at a former mine.

In fact, the extent of reforestation and rehabilitation work in both Bulawan and Sibutad has been cited as best examples by both the President and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary.

Credit for this goes to the hard work and dedication of the women and men of the Philex Environment team through the years, under a leadership that not only showed sincere care for the environment but also genuine love for the community.

Silangan will be the showcase for proper mine development not just for Philex but for the whole mining industry as well. It ushers in a new hope for a business that is one of the most highly regulated in the world.

In the words of engineer **Eulalio Austin Jr.**, Philex and Silangan president and CEO, "believe that the best is yet to come for the mining industry..."

In one interview with multi-awarded broadcast journalist **Karen Davila**, I emphasized that responsible mining, if allowed to flourish, can reap tremendous benefits for our people.

Indeed, responsible mining is more than just an aspiration or a slogan because it already exists. In fact, mining companies like Philex, with projects like Silangan, are kicking it up a notch, going beyond responsible mining in partnership with the government.

And as the song of the above-title goes, "the best is yet to come, come the day you're mine." Pun unintended. *



Legarda wants her green airport when she turns 60

Former senator and now Antique Rep. Loren Legarda wants a new green airport in her bailiwick completed by next year when the former broadcaster hits 60.

According to the Transportation Undersecretary for aviation and airports Manuel Antonio Tamayo, Legarda specifically "recommended" the installation of solar panels, a vertical garden, rain catchment system, and non-corrosive materials for the new Antique terminal that is being rushed for completion by June 30, six months ahead of original target.

June 30 incidentally also marks the first year of Legarda as congresswoman.

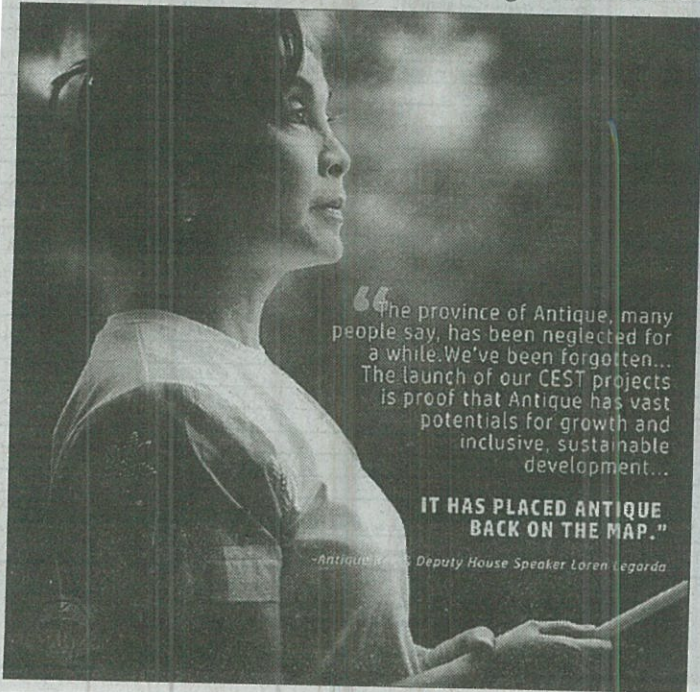


VICTOR
C. AGUSTIN

According to a Department of Transportation news release, Legarda's son, Leandro Leviste, whose Solar Philippines company has just been granted a controversial franchise to operate renewable energy plants in underserved areas, has committed to provide the solar panels "free of charge."

In return, Legarda pledged to secure an additional P150 million to fund the extension of the airport's runway from 1,430 meters to 1,800 meters in order to accommodate jet operations.

Legarda has asked the contractor, Verzontal Construction, to submit the airport's masterplan, including the architectural



"The province of Antique, many people say, has been neglected for a while. We've been forgotten... The launch of our CEST projects is proof that Antique has vast potentials for growth and inclusive, sustainable development..."

IT HAS PLACED ANTIQUE
BACK ON THE MAP."

-Antique Rep. Deputy House Speaker Loren Legarda

Loren Legarda and her agenda

details of the proposed terminal, apparently to see how the green improvements could be worked in.

Opened only last December, the Antique airport is currently being served by PAL Express with three turboprop flights a week from Clark.

"We have requested the contractor to fast track the development of the Antique Airport," Tamayo said. "To do this, we need the augmentation of workers and equipment, and extend the working hours from eight to 12 hours."

The project involves the construction of a passenger terminal to replace the current one, an admin building, powerhouse, parking area, staff house, perimeter and security fence, and new apron and taxiway, with an original budget of P343 million.

Delta to stop flying to the Philippines

Delta is ending its daily Manila-Tokyo service by end-March, a busy post-war route that it had inherited from Northwest when it acquired the fellow US airline in 2008.

According to a Delta Airlines announcement over the weekend, the Atlanta-based carrier would still serve the Philippines via its joint-venture partner, Korean Air.

This means that from April 1, 2020, US-bound passengers taking Delta will be routed through Seoul, with the Manila-Seoul leg actually being operated by Korean Air.

Delta's joint venture with Korean Air also allows Philippine-bound customers to make seamless connections in Seoul between Delta flights from the United States.

At its peak in the '90s, the pre-merger Northwest Airlines was flying three times a day to Japan and onward to US destinations from the Philippines.

With Delta's decision to drop Manila, only United remains the lone US carrier still flying to the Philippines, linking the former US colony daily to the US territories of Guam and Saipan.

Incidentally, Delta's withdrawal from the Manila-Tokyo route should also strengthen the dominance of Philippine Airlines and partner All Nippon Airways for that busy corridor.

Heard through the grapevine

A Duterte appointee is being asked to resign from a listed corporation for soliciting and doing business with the competition, a serious and unforgivable conflict-of-interest position.

The appointee has angrily refused to quietly go, despite, or probably because of, having already enjoyed P57 million in documented total compensation, including the latest perk of a brand-new Toyota Alphard, since his appointment.

E-mail: moneygoround.manila@yahoo.com



Copied ideas bear fruit in Manila

MANILA Mayor Francisco "Isko" Domagoso, who received heaps of praises for his efforts to clean the city, declared on Monday that part of his success comes from copied ideas.

Domagoso, who was the guest at the "Hotseat" program of The Manila Times TV, added that bringing order and removing road obstructions are part of the daily tasks of a mayor.

He said his principle on governance was inspired by the late Singapore prime minister Lee Kuan Yew.

"I'm not ashamed telling others that I'm duplicating things, I'm trying to copy whatever is good for the city," Domagoso said.

Upon taking his post, the former actor cleaned streets and relocated illegal vendors plying the stretch of Recto Avenue and Carriedo. The mayor said he removed illegal vendors from major thoroughfares but

► IdeasA2

PROUD TO BE A COPYCAT Manila Mayor Francisco 'Isko' Domagoso discusses his plans and projects on The Manila Times TV's 'Hotseat' program. PHOTO BY GERARD SEGUIA

■ IDEAS FROM A1

Copied

he did not deprive them of their livelihood.

He explained that vendors were taken off main roads but were allowed to ply their trade in inner streets. He said the ban on vendors in main streets was non-negotiable.

On the city's two biggest

problems — traffic and garbage — the mayor admitted that these could not be solved but only managed.

He said traffic rules and regulations should be followed.

"When we say 'no left turn,' it's no left turn," he said.

Citing the way Singapore managed its garbage problem, Domagoso said citizens should take responsibility for cleaning their environment.

"Ang katagumpayan ng gobyerno ay nasa pakikiisa ng tao. (The government's success lies in the cooperation of citizens)," he said.

He said while he was for progress and development, he would not sacrifice heritage sites in the city.

"I will [welcome] progress [but] not at the expense of our heritage," the mayor said.

JOSHUA VERA CRUZ



EcoWaste warns vs secondhand toys from thrift stores

SECOND hand toys sold for a cheaper price in thrift stores or "ukay-ukay" may not be exactly safe for children, EcoWaste Coalition warned Monday.

In a statement, the environmental group said some products in ukay-ukay stores or "UK stores" are laden with chemicals dangerous to human health, especially to a child's developing brain and central nervous system.

Some of the toys the group has tested have high bromine content ranging from 723 to 4,190 parts per million (ppm), with some exceeding the 1,000 ppm limit.

"The bromine found on the black plastic component of these toys, which may come from recycled plastic electronic casings, may indicate the presence of brominated flame retardant chemicals or BFRs," EcoWaste Coalition's Chemical Safety

Campaigner Thony Dizon said.

BFRs such as polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) are known to interfere with the endocrine or hormone system, the group explained.

EcoWaste said hepatotoxicity or chemical-driven liver damage and neurotoxicity or damage to the central or peripheral nervous system are other potential effects of exposure to BFRs.

Furthermore, the

group also discovered there are toys in ukay-ukay stores being sold without the required labeling information.

"None of the items we bought from UK stores are labeled, which goes against the mandatory labeling requirements for all toys sold in the country as per Republic Act 10620, or the Toy and Game Safety Labeling Act of 2013," Dizon said.

The group is hoping that their findings will

prompt authorities to investigate the sale of toys to protect consumers, especially children, against health hazards.

"We hope that our findings will prompt the authorities to initiate further investigation on the sale of used toys and other children's products in ukay-ukay stores to protect young consumers against potential hazards to their health and safety," Dizon said.



Public warned vs buying 'ukay-ukay' toys

Environmental group EcoWaste Coalition has warned the public that imported toys and other children's products sold in thrift stores commonly known as "ukay-ukay" (UK) "may be cheap but not necessarily safe for kids, especially if played without adult supervision."

Quezon City based EcoWaste Coalition urged bargain hunters to take safety precautions when buying second hand children's products such as toys, which are sold in UK stores sans the required labeling information.

The group released its latest toy safety reminder following the examination of 105 assorted children's products that it bought from August 6-10 for P10 to P180 each from UK stores in Manila and Quezon Cities.

"None of the items we bought from UK stores are labeled, which goes against the mandatory labeling requirements for all toys sold in the country as per Republic Act 10620, or the Toy and Game Safety Labeling Act of 2013," said Thony Dizon, Chemical Safety Campaigner, EcoWaste Coalition.

"Further examination of the samples revealed that as many as 78 items contain small parts that may be separated from the toy. A child may put the detached toy component in the mouth and choke, so a cautionary warning is definitely necessary," he added.

Aside from choking hazard, the group found some ukay-ukay products laden with chemicals that are dangerous to human health, especially to a child's developing brain

and central nervous system.

With the help of a handheld X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analytical device, the group detected lead, a cumulative toxicant that can affect mental and physical development, in 13 items, including toy cars, toy figurines, toy xylophone, a mug with a football design and a drinking glass with an image of Peko-chan.

"For example, the yellow, orange, green and bars of a used toy xylophone had lead content measuring 27, 200; 11,900; 9,673; and 506 parts per million (ppm), respectively, exceeding the maximum 90 ppm limit for lead in paint," Dizon said.

The group also found 13 toys, mostly toy cars, with high bromine content ranging from 723 to 4,190 ppm. **(Chito Chavez)**



Delikadong secondhand toys kalat sa merkado

BINALAAN kahapon ng environmental group na EcoWaste Coalition ang publiko laban sa pagbili ng secondhand toys sa mga tindahan ng ukay-ukay, dahil posible umanong makasama ito sa mga bata.

Ayon sa EcoWaste, bumili sila ng may 105 pirasong iba't ibang uri ng secondhand toys mula sa mga ukay-ukay sa Maynila at Quezon City, sa halagang P10 hanggang P180 bawat isa.

Nang suriin ang mga ito, natuklasang ilang produkto ay nagtataglay ng mga kemikal ng mataas na bromine content na mula 723 hanggang 4,190 parts per million (ppm), na mapanganib sa kalusugan, lalo na sa 'developing brain' at central nervous system ng mga bata.

Ipinaliwanag ni Thony Dizon, chemical safety campaigner ng EcoWaste, ang bromine na matatagpuan sa itim na plas-

tic component ng mga naturang laruan, at maaaring mula sa recycled plastic electronic casings, ay maaaring indikasyon ng presensya ng brominated flame retardant chemicals.

Anang grupo, ang BFRs, gaya ng polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), ay kilalang nag-i-interfere sa endocrine o hormone system.

Ang pagkalandad umano sa BFRs ay maaaring magdulot ng hepatotoxicity o chemical-driven liver damage at neurotoxicity, na pinsala naman sa central o peripheral nervous system.

Pinuna rin ng grupo na ang mga nabibiling laruan sa ukay-ukay ay ipinagbibili nang walang labeling information, na labag sa mandatory labeling requirements para sa mga ipinagbibiling laruan sa bansa alinsunod sa Republic Act 10620, o ang Toy and Game Safety Labeling Act of 2013.

MACS BORJA



Publiko pinag-iingat vs secondhand toys

Nagbabala kahapon ang isang environmental group laban sa mga secondhand toys na ipinagbibili sa murang halaga sa mga tindahan ng ukay-ukay, bunsod ng posibilidad na makasama ito sa mga bata.

Ayon sa grupong EcoWaste Coalition, ang ilang produkto sa mga ukay-ukay ay maaaring nagtataglay ng mga kemikal na mapanganib sa kalusugan, lalo na sa 'developing brain' at central nervous system ng mga bata.

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May 78 rin, aniya, sa mga laruang kanilang nabili ay nagtataglay ng maliliit na bahagi na maaaring maihiwalay sa laruan at puwedeng maisubo at malulon ng mga bata.

"Further examination of the samples revealed that as many as 78 items contain small parts that may be separated from the toy. A child may put the detached

toy component in the mouth and choke, so a cautionary warning is definitely necessary," sabi pa ni Dizon.

Umaasa naman si Dizon na ang kanilang mga findings hinggil sa mga naturang secondhand toys ay magreresulta sa pag-iimbestiga ng mga awtoridad.

"We hope that our findings will prompt the authorities to initiate further investigation on the sale of used toys and other children's products in ukay-ukay stores to protect young consumers against potential hazards to their health and safety," aniya. "Yes, recycling is fun, but we do not want recycled toys from abroad to contaminate our children's bodies and harm their well-being and future."

Mary Ann Santiago



41 Senate committee chairmanships distributed

By **CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE**

The Senate has completed distribution of 41 committee chairmanships for the 18th Congress with four senators heading three committees each.

Senate President Vicente Sotto III earlier said the chamber adopted resolutions that created the committee on overseas Filipino workers (OFW) and committee on sustainable development goals and innovation.

The senators who head three committees each are Sherwin Gatchalian, Richard Gordon, Cynthia Villar and Imee Marcos.

Gatchalian chairs the commit-

tees on basic education, arts and culture; energy, and science and technology.

Gordon heads the powerful Blue Ribbon committee or the accountability of public officers and investigations; government corporations and public enterprises, and justice and human rights.

✓Villar remains chairman of the committee on agrarian reform; agriculture and food, and environment and natural resources. She headed the same committees in the 17th Congress.

Marcos, a neophyte senator, heads the committees on cultural communities; economic affairs and electoral reforms, and people's

participation.

The Senate website indicated that 11 senators, mostly from the majority, are heading committees.

They are Nancy Binay, Ronald dela Rosa, Christopher Go, Panfilo Lacson, Manny Pacquiao, Aquilino Pimentel III, Grace Poe, Ramon Bong Revilla, Francis Tolentino, Joel Villanueva and Juan Miguel Zubiri.

✓Binay heads the committees on climate change and tourism, Dela Rosa the committees on peace, unification and reconciliation, and public order and dangerous drugs.

Go chairs the committees on health and demography, and

sports, while Lacson the committees on accounts, and national defense and security.

Pimentel now heads the committees on foreign relations, and trade, commerce and entrepreneurship.

Poe keeps the committees on banks, financial institutions and currencies, and public services, which she also headed in the 17th Congress.

Pacquiao chairs the committees on ethics and privileges, and public works.

Revilla chairs the committees on civil service, government reorganization and professional regulation, and public information and mass media.

Tolentino heads the committees on local government and urban planning, and housing and resettlement.

Villanueva is chairman of the committees on higher, technical and vocational education, and labor, employment and human resources development.

Zubiri, the majority leader, heads the committees on cooperatives and rules.

Six other senators – Sonny Angara, Pia Cayetano, Leila de Lima, Risa Hontiveros, Lito Lapid and Francisco Pangilinan – have one committee each.

Angara chairs the committee on finance; Cayetano the ways and means; De Lima the social justice, welfare and rural development, and Hontiveros the committee on women, children, family relations and gender equality.

Lapid heads the committee on games and amusement, and Pangilinan the committee on constitutional amendments and revision of codes.

Earlier, Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon proposed a review of the referral system as well as the jurisdiction of the committees on various legislation and issues to determine which of them are no longer relevant and could be collapsed.

Drilon said there could be some committees that have few bills referred to them, which may indicate that they may no longer be needed.



13 AUG 2019

DATE

TITLE:

MATINDI ang nagaganap sa China at India dahil sa sama ng panahon.

Ang nagbabagong panahon na dahilan ng madalas na pag-ulan din ang itinuturong dahila din ng matinding dengue sa mahal kong Pinas

MILYON DINALE NI HANNA

Matapos lumabas ang bagyong Hanna sa Pilipinas, sumugod ito sa China bilang napakalakas na bagyo sa ngalang Lekima bilang international name.

Dala nito ang bilis ng hangin na 190 kilometo kada oras at malakas na ulan.

Kaya naman, nabalala agad ang pamahalaang Tsina at pinagbakwit ang nasa dalawang milyong mamaman nito sa tatlong lalawigan.

Kaya naman nagbunga lang ito ng nasa 32 patay at 16 na missing ngunit maaaring maragdagan pa ang bilang ng mga ito sa gitna ng search and rescue na isinasagawa nila roon.

Dahil sa lakas ng hangin at ulan, tinumba ng bagyo ang maraming poste ng kuryente kaya nagka-blackout, sinira ng sobrang tubig-ulan ang isang natural na dam kaya lumusob ang baha at sinira nito ang nasa 134,000 ektarya ng taniman.

Kinansela ng pamahalaan ang 3,200 biyahe ng eroplano, maging ang biyahe ng magnetic train at iba pang tren.

Maging ang Taiwan ay tinamaan din at nagkansela rin ito ng 500 biyahe ng eroplano.

SA INDIA

Sa kalapit na bansa, ang India, sobrang lakas ng ulan na lumikha na matitinding pagbaha naman ang naganap.

May 147 nang namatay habang mahigit sa 300,000 ang nasa mga evacuation center.

Marami ang namatay sa maputik na baha na nakaipon ng 12 pie ng putik na tumabon sa maraming bahay, kabuhayan at lupang agrikultural.

May naganap ding landslide na naglibing sa nasa 40 bahay at kasamang nalibing ang mga hindi nakaalis na may-ari sa mga ito.

Nasa 11 pa lang ang nahukay na bangkay rito.

Nagkakarambola pa ang mga awtoridad sa search and rescue at pamimigay ng pagkain at iba pangangailangan



KALIKASAN AT DENG VAXIA DAPAT NA BANTAYAN

ng mga biktima.

GAYA NG PINAS

Mabuti't aktibo ang mga awtoridad sa China at India, kasama na ang mga awtoridad sa Taiwan.

Naging maagap ang mga ito at wala silang kaibhan sa liderato ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na pinakikilos ang lahat kung may mga galaw ang kalikasan na pupwedeng malaman nang maaga.

Gaya ng sa bagyong Hanna o Lekima, inutusan ni Pang. Digong ang lahat ng pwersa ng pamahalaan na pangalagaan ang mga biktima ng lindol sa Batanes, lalo na sa Itbayat laban sa dumating na si Hanna.

Ganito rin ang ginawa ng India at Tsina.

Nag-utos sila ng pagbabakwit sa daan-daang libo o 2 milyong mamamayan upang hindi mapinsala ang mga ito.

At masasabing naging epektibo ang ginawa ng mga pamahalaan para mapangalagaan ang kani-kanilang mga mamamayan.

ANG DENGUE

Sinasabing nagdoble ang biktima ng dengue sa mahal kong Pinas sa taong ito at ang biktima ngayon ang pinakamarami sa nakalipas na limang taon.

Nagdoble rin ang natalang bilang ng mga namatay bilang natural na bunga ng pagdami ng may dengue, lalo't wala pang maituturing na gamot dito.

Dahil nga sa pagdami ng may dengue, kung ano-ano na lang ang lumabas na mga kaisipan ng mga pro at anti, lalo na sa bakunang Dengvaxia na sinasabi ng Sanofi Pasteur.

Itong mga pro-Dengvaxia ang pinakamaingay at gusto na nilang ibalik at iiniksyon ang nasabing bakuna sa mga mamamayan.

Ito'y para matigil na umano ang paglagaan ng dengue.

Hindi naman naniniwala ang marami dahil lumalabas na marami sa nasa 176,000 may dengue ay naturukan na noon ng Dengvaxia ngunit na-dengue pa rin.

MAHALAGANG MGA TANONG

May mahahalagang tanong ukol sa Dengvaxia na hindi sinasagot ng mga gustong-gusto na maibalik ang Dengvaxia.

Una, may rekord ba sila ukol sa nagkakasakit ngayon ng dengue, lalo na ang mga nagkadengue at hindi pa nagkadengue?

Ikalawa, may rekord ba sila sa mahigit sa 600 patay sa dengue kung alin dito ang naiiniksiyunan ng Dengvaxia at hindi?

Wala pang malinaw na rekord na inilalabas ng mga pro-Dengvaxia ngunit bakit ipinipilit ng mga ito na gamitin na ang Dengvaxia?

Samantala, kung sa pribadong doktor o ospital magpainiksiyon ng Dengvaxia, umaabot sa P4,000-P6,000 ang singil kada shot at may tatlong shot kada anim na buwan para rito.

Hindi kaya rito higit na interesado ang mga doktor at negosyante na napakaiingay sa pagbabalik ng Dengvaxia at 'di bale nang may mamatay o magkasakit basta lang sila kumita nang malaki?

MAHALAGANG TANONG

Heto pa ang isang malaking tanong sa mga pro-Dengvaxia.

Nasaan ang mga ito sa mga clearing at fogging operation ng Department of Health para püksain ang mga lamok na may dengue, sa mga volunteer na nag-aasikaso sa mga may dengue, sa mga nagbibigay ng tulong sa pamilyang walang pangastos, sa mga namamatayan at iba pa?

Kung wala ang mga ito sa aksyon laban sa dengue, magduda na kayo, mga Bro.

'Yang magkamal ng malaking salapi mula sa Dengvaxia ang laman ng utak ng mga ito at halos magtagumpay sila ngayon na itulak ang gobyerno para payagan ang paggamit muli ng Dengvaxia.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring ipa-rating sa 09228403-333 o i-email sa banti-porda@yahoo.com.