

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 02 JAN 2017

DAY : Monday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

02 JAN 2017

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Govt forms interagency task force to protect IP right over ancestral lands

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

@jonlmayuga

THE government has created a special task force to help indigenous peoples (IPs) by creating more economic opportunities, and ensure environmental and social justice in the country.

Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez handed down Special Order 2016-761 establishing the Indigenous Peoples Inter-Agency Task Force composed of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, its corporate arm the Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

The special order provides a new mechanism to protect the rights of IPs as they exercise their Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC).

The interagency task force aims to ensure "a cohesive quality of life, environmental and social justice, and uphold IPs' self-determination and development."

Under the special order, the DENR, NRDC and the NCIP are com-

mitted to "build skills for all parties and for the IPs' communities, as well as assist [IPs] in taking full advantage of their opportunities."

The task force is also in charge of making sure the IPs are "not subjected to undue pressure and influence from unscrupulous businessmen or other industries intending to extract natural resources" from their ancestral lands.

The FPIC is a mechanism guaranteeing the IPs' right to give or withhold their consent to proposed projects that may affect the lands they customarily own, occupy or otherwise use.

"The [FPIC] process shall include a determination or the alternatives and options to the business to be introduced that will produce comparable benefits, but reduced adverse consequences on their resources and culture and ensure the continuous benefits to future generations of the nonrenewable resources therein," the special order stated.

The directive also enumerated the roles and responsibilities of the DENR in the task force, foremost of which is to "ensure the conservation

and sustainable use of biodiversity within ancestral domains."

The DENR shall employ strict policy of verifying the genuineness of the FPIC by validating with NCIP the authenticity of the Certification Precondition, and closely coordinate with the commission on matters pertaining to titles with ancestral domains.

It shall also support the process of recognizing Indigenous Community Conserved Areas within ancestral domains, and develop incentives for the protection and sustainable management of these areas.

The DENR is tasked to reactivate an IP Desk will focus and coordinate with concerned agencies to make sure that resources in ancestral domains will benefit IP communities and will facilitate the issuance or Certificate of Non-Overlap in connection with the registration of Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title with the Register of Deeds and other interventions for the protection of IP rights.

The department shall also provide opportunities for the NCIP to access the Enhanced National Greening

Program, the government's massive reforestation initiative that doubles as an antipoverty measure, for the empowerment of the IPs.

For its part, the NRDC shall provide human resources and facilitate capital resources to enable IP communities make optimum use of their land and resources.

The NRDC will, likewise, assist

"The bottom line is that the IPs need money to sustain their livelihood. If we can show them a way to make money without cutting the trees that protect us from climate change, that's better," Lopez said.

Whenever available, the NRDC shall provide the capital funding or mobilize resources to support biodiversity-friendly social

Protection sought for Mindoro's watersheds

By CHARISSA M. LUCI

Occidental Mindoro Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato is seeking the declaration of major watersheds in Occidental and Oriental Mindoro as watershed reservations to protect them from indiscriminate exploitation and ensure that the supply of potable drinking water in the island provinces will not be depleted.

"With a total area of 317,431.45 hectares, the proposed Watershed Reservations in Occidental and Oriental Mindoro are very critical in ensuring the availability of water resources for the province used for agriculture, industrial and commercial," she said.

Under House Bill 4617, she wants to declare the Amnay, Busuanga, Caguray, Calawagan, Lumintao, Mamburao, Mongpong, Pagbahan and Patrick Watersheds in Occidental Mindoro and some parts in Bulalacao, Mansalay, Puerto Galera and San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro as Watershed Reservations.

She said the proposed watershed reservations are the primary source of potable drinking water for province's inhabitants.

"It also serves as home to many indigenous people and sanctuary to species of plants, trees, and animals. Thereby, the protection of these watersheds is deemed to be very crucial as critical water reservoirs of the Mindoro island inhabitants," she said.

"The urgency to pass this bill is necessary to protect the watersheds from indiscriminate exploitation and to be able to maintain ecological balance and preserve source of water supply for the province," Sato pointed out.

House Bill 4617 or the proposed Mindoro Watershed Reservation Act tasks the Department of Environment, and Natural Resources (DENR) and provincial governments of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro to jointly supervise and control the watershed reservations and manage it without impairing its use.

fulness as source of water for domestic use and other related purposes.

They shall create a multisectoral watershed management council to act

as oversight and policy making body over the watershed.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

02 JAN 2017

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Natural disasters to cost Phi \$300 B by 2100

By CZERIZA VALENCIA

At the current level of mitigation and response to the occurrence of natural disasters, the Philippine economy would lose up to \$300 billion until 2100 as years of development gains are repeatedly undone, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a new report.

The amount is equivalent to 83 percent of the country's 2010 gross domestic product.

The paper titled Natural Disaster Shocks and Macroeconomic Growth in Asia: Evidence for typhoons and droughts identifies the Philippines as the most vulnerable country to natural disasters in developing Asia.

"Weather-related disasters account for 90 percent of annual economic damage from all natural disasters in the Philippines, making it one of the countries most exposed to climate change risks," the report said.

Around 19 typhoons enter the country annually, nine to 10 of which make landfall. The multilateral lender said typhoons visiting the country have been getting stronger since 1990, the strongest being Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 which inflicted damages valued at P101.79 billion or 0.9 percent of that year's GDP.

ADB said in developing Asia, repeated exposure to

natural disasters "may roll back years of development gains and exacerbate inequality."

Other countries at risk of "economic penalties" due to natural disasters are Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia and Lao PDR.

"To cope with increasing disaster risks, both short-term adaptation strategies like relocation, government transfers, and other social safety nets, as well as long-term strategies like disaster insurance or similar ex ante mechanisms are needed," the bank said.

Effects of typhoons to growth may linger for up to two decades, the report said. Using 60 years of cyclone and economic data, the report said that per capita GDP in developing Asia fell between 3.6 percent and 14.9 percent in 20 years because of repeated occurrence of typhoons.

"In selected developing Asian economies, typhoons

have resulted in significant lost growth for the period from 1970 to 2010 of as high as 7.3 percent of GDP per capita in the Philippines," the report said.

ADB noted the country has been able to weather the regular onslaught of typhoons because of sufficient fiscal space, strong financial markets, and stable remittances but still needs to strengthen adaptation and mitigation measures for natural disasters.

"This growth was underpinned by strong macroeconomic fundamentals such as growth in remittances and in the service sector, and high domestic demand that has shielded the Philippines from persistent disasters," the bank said.

"However, the country has been unprepared for major disasters. Further research is thus needed to find out the effects of typhoons on the various economic sectors, both in the short and long term,

and whether reconstruction efforts had significant effects both of which are dependent on weather and geographical

"It is feasible and cost-effective for vulnerable countries to invest heavily in adaptation

The Manila Times

02 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER 1

Page

PAGE

LOWER

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

MARKETING

Go paperless, save trees

GLOBE Telecom encourages its millions of postpaid customers to help save thousands of trees and reduce greenhouse gas emission by enrolling their fixed and mobile accounts in the paperless billing program. Customers who opt for paperless can enjoy the benefits of receiving their bills within five days after the cut-off date, viewing their bills online anytime and anywhere, and easily downloading their bills in their computers, tablets, or

mobile phones. "We work in solidarity with the rest of the world in ensuring that we take better care of the planet for the sake of the generations that will come after us. We thus make every effort to ensure that while we do our best to meet the current and future needs of our customers, we do so without compromising the welfare of the environment," said Yoly Crisanto, senior vice president for Corporate Communications.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Was 2016 the best year ever?

New Delhi—According to popular wisdom, 2016 was a terrible year. Horrific terror attacks struck many countries. The Syrian crisis claimed tens of thousands of lives. Turkey withstood suicide bombings, and a failed coup. More than 70 countries experienced a decline in freedom. Political shocks included Brexit and Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election—both unforeseen by the media or political elite. Zika was declared an international public-health emergency. The year is likely to be the warmest ever measured.

Reading the opinion pages, there is a sense that the world is facing a malaise that exceeds any individual events, and that people are becoming increasingly—and dangerously—divided. But if we take a step back, it is clear that there are many reasons to be optimistic. Indeed, in many ways, we are alive at the best time in history. What's more, some things that we worry about the most, thanks to 24-hour news and social media, are not the issues that should keep us awake at night.

Consider rising inequality, one of the year's most frequently addressed topics. To be sure, over the last two centuries or so, the gap between the highest and lowest incomes has grown. But that is because pretty much everyone was equally dirt poor in 1820. More than 90 percent of humanity lived in absolute poverty.

Then the Industrial Revolution arrived, bringing rapid income growth wherever it spread, with China since 1978 and India since 1990 recording particularly high rates. As a result, last year, less than 10 percent of the world's population was living in absolute poverty.

Furthermore, developing economies are now contributing to a burgeoning global middle class, whose numbers have more than doubled, from around one billion people in 1985 to 2.3 billion in 2015. This tremendous reduction in poverty has sustained a decline in global income inequality over the last three decades.

Inequality has fallen by other measures as well. Since 1992, the number of hungry people worldwide has plummeted by more than 200 million, even as the human population grew by nearly two billion. The percentage of people starving has been nearly halved, from 19 percent to 11 percent.

In 1870, more than three-quarters of the world was illiterate, and access to education was even more unequal than income. Today, more than four out of five people can read, and young people have unprecedented access to schooling. The illiterate come mostly from older generations.

WORLD VIEW

BJORN LOMBORG

still need to be addressed, they are often not the ones that occupy our thoughts and public debates.

Trump's election prompted hand-wringing from commentators who fear that his potential rejection of the Paris climate agreement could "doom civilization." But the Paris accord was never going to solve global warming. In fact, according to the UN itself, the agreed cuts in CO₂ emissions would produce only 1 percent of the reduction needed to keep the increase in global temperature within 2° Celsius (3.6° Fahrenheit) of preindustrial levels.

In contrast, Trump's promise to dismantle trade deals has received very little pushback. On the contrary, opposition to trade is shared in the trendy neighborhoods of New York, Berlin and Paris. But cost-benefit analysis shows that freer trade is the single most powerful way to help the world's poorest citizens. According to research commissioned by my think tank, the Copenhagen Consensus Center, reviving the moribund Doha Development Round of global free-trade talks would lift the incomes of billions of people worldwide, while reducing the number of people in poverty by an astonishing 145 million in 15 years.

Our global health concerns are similarly skewed. We spent much of this year worrying about the Zika virus, especially once it crossed into the United States. And it is true that Zika, which has devastating effects on children, is a cause for concern in Brazil and elsewhere. Yet tuberculosis, which has received relatively little attention, remains the biggest global infectious disease killer.

We know how to treat TB, just like we know how to reduce child deaths and rein in malnutrition. These global challenges persist in no small part because of our focus on other problems.

Let us resolve, then, to do better in 2017. We must stop devoting our attention to the wrong issues and failed solutions. On climate change, for example, we must embrace research and development to make green energy a genuinely cheaper alternative to fossil fuels. And we must shout from the rooftops that free trade is the most effective conceivable antipoverty policy.

At the same time, we need to remember that most of the important indicators show that life is better today than it was in the past.

PEOPLES JOURNAL

0 20 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

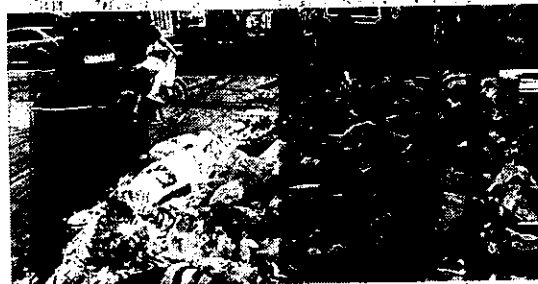
Mounds of trash greet New Year

AS usual, the EcoWaste Coalition lamented the mountains of holitrash (short for "holiday" and "trash") that again sullied the parks, streets and sidewalks of the metropolis after the New Year celebrations.

"Ironically, today is also the start of the Zero Waste Month that is meant to promote waste prevention and reduction for a cleaner and greener Philippines," said Eileen Sison, President, EcoWaste Coalition.

On New Year's Day, the EcoWaste Coalition again went to Divisoria to bear witness to the trashing of Manila's streets and to assist the city personnel in removing rubbish off Recto Avenue and adjacent streets.

Armed with rakes and shovels, EcoWaste volunteers also held a placard that says "Ganito tayo noon, ganito pa din ba tayo ngayon? Basura everywhere!" and a banner with a clear message that sums up what should be done instead: "Go Zero Waste: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Huwag Mag-aksaya, Magtambak at Magsunog ng Basura."



THE tons of foul-smelling mixed garbage left on one of the streets in San Andres, Manila following the New Year revelry.