

15 JAN 2017

DATE
DAY

Sunday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

SUNDAY / JANUARY 15, 2017
WWW.INQUIRER.NET

DENR: Last call for fish pens

'Self-demolition' order stressed

By Jaymee T. Gamil
@jaymeegamilINQ

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued on Saturday its "last call" to owners and operators of fish pens and cages in Laguna de Bay to conduct "self-demolitions" before it starts clearing the freshwater lake of illegal structures later this month.

"Once we begin the operation, all assets affected by our dismantling activities will be confiscated in favor of the government," said DENR Undersecretary Arturo Valdez, who also heads the National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (NAECTF).

"There are posts there [and nets], that's why it's better for the owners to dismantle it themselves. You take care of your materials, those are expensive after all," Valdez said.

He said all aquaculture facilities in the lake area will be covered by the dismantling operations, since permits given to operators expired on Dec. 31, and the DENR would implement a moratorium on permit renewal and application this year.

DENR undersecretary for legal services Maria Paz "Ipat" Luna last month said the moratorium was suggested by experts to provide a "breather" for the lake while allowing "open-fishing" in the meantime.

Valdez said the DENR and the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) are now mapping out a "phase-by-phase approach" to the clearing operation.

The permit moratorium and the clearing operation are in accordance with President Duterte's directive, issued during his State of the Nation Address in July last year, to dismantle corporate and private fish pens and cages to give more opportunities for small fisherfolk to earn a living off the lake.

DENR Secretary Gina Lopez has said the lake was "overfished" and around 400,000 houses discharge their sewage into the lake. To address the problem, the DENR needs to coordinate with local government units to install sewage treatment plants, she said.

"Our passion and desire is to convert Laguna Lake into an ecotourism zone," Lopez said.

Valdez noted the pens obstruct natural water flow and efforts to remove pollutants.

According to the LLDA, the lake's current carrying capacity allows only 9,000 hectares for aquaculture, but pens and cages have occupied about 12,375 ha, 3,375 more than what is allowed.

Unregistered operators number 2,261 and occupy 2,856 ha. The 1,018 registered operators account for a total of 9,519 ha, the LLDA said.



15 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR issues final warning to Laguna fish pen owners

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued its last appeal to fish pen operators to conduct self-demolition at the Laguna Lake before the government start a massive clearing operation.

Environment Undersecretary Arturo Valdez, who heads the dismantling operations, said the DENR was giving operators the chance to save their assets and other equipment.

"Once we begin the operation, all assets affected by our dismantling activities will be confiscated in favor of the government," he said.

"The dismantling of fish pens is not simple. There are posts and nets that's why it's better for the owners to dismantle it themselves. You take care of your materials, those are expensive after all," Valdez added.

President Duterte earlier directed the demolition of fish pens as part of the government's goal to ease congestion and prioritize small fisher folks in the area.

"The DENR is dead set on implementing it unless of course a new directive from no less than President Duterte is given," Valdez said.

Fish pens in the area cover almost 13,000 hectares while the ideal carrying capacity of Laguna Lake is around 9,000 hectares only.

15 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR warns demolition of fish pens in Laguna Lake will start this month

BY VANNE ELAINE P. TERRAZOLA

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) made its "last appeal" to fishpen owners inside the Laguna de Bay to self-demolish as the agency starts cleaning up the lake this month.

DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns Art Valdez, who also heads the National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force, said they are giving fish pen operators the chance to get their materials and harvests out of the Laguna lake before they begin their "massive" operations to clear the lake of illegal structures.

"Once we begin the operation, all assets affected by our dismantling activities will be confiscated," Valdez said.

Last December, the DENR ordered the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) not to renew the permits issued to big fish pens and cages in the lake.

This was due to the President's directive to instead provide small fishermen the access to traditional fishing grounds. The permits have expired on December 31.

While some operators have already dismantled their facilities as early as last month, Valdez appealed to those remaining as they map out their "phase-by-phase approach" for the clearing operations.

"We have imposed a total moratorium on the renewal of permits starting January 1. This means the pens and cages can be dismantled anytime... (But) you take care of your materials, those are expensive after all," he tells the operators.

Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Page 1

15 JAN 2017

DATE

3

PAGE

✓
UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

DENR makes final plea to Laguna Lake pen owners to demolish fish cages

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued its final appeal to operators of fish pens and cages at the Laguna de Bay to demolish them themselves before the department begins a massive operation this month to clear the lake of illegal structures.

National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (NAECTF) head Arturo Valdez said the DENR is still giving the operators a chance to salvage the enclosure materials of their pens and cages.

"Once we begin the operation, all assets affected by our dismantling activities will be confiscated in favor of the government," said Valdez, who is in charge of the dismantling operation, along with the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and concerned local government units.

The operation is in line with the directive of President Duterte to dismantle big fish pens and cages in Laguna Lake to allow small fishermen to gain access to traditional fishing grounds.

"That is the presidential instruction after all, and the DENR is dead set on implementing it unless

of course a new directive from no less than President Duterte is given," Valdez said, advising those seeking to stop the planned dismantling to direct their appeal not to the DENR, but "to the President instead."

According to the DENR official, some operators have already voluntarily dismantled their facilities as early as last month, allowing them to keep their assets, especially the fish stock that they were still able to sell in the market.

Valdez said the DENR and the LLDA are currently mapping out a "phase-by-phase approach" for the clearing operation.

He added that all aquaculture facilities in the lake area will be covered by the dismantling operation since the permits given to operators already expired last December 31 and will no longer be renewed by the DENR.

"We have imposed a total moratorium on the renewal of permits (starting January 1 this year). This means the pens and cages can be dismantled anytime," Valdez said.

"The dismantling of fish pens (and cages) is not simple. There

are posts there (and nets), that is why it is better for the owners to dismantle it themselves. You take care of your materials, those are expensive after all."

He pointed out that the only way to save the country's largest lake and give access to small fishermen is to dismantle all illegal structures in it.

He said these structures also obstruct the natural flow of water, which is necessary to cleanse the lake of pollutants from households and industries, as well as the chemical components of fish feeds.

Valdez said the demolition of illegal structures at the Laguna Lake is part of an overall plan to save the water body from further ecological destruction.

Another key component of the Laguna Lake rehabilitation plan is to stop the discharge of pollutants from industrial and domestic sources, and sedimentation and siltation from degraded watershed surrounding the lake.

The rehabilitation plan also includes reconfiguring the sewage systems of lakeside communities and reforesting surrounding mountains.

PNA

PEOPLES JOURNALS

15 JAN 2017

DATE

13

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR makes final appeal to Laguna de Bay fish cage owners

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) yesterday issued its final call on the operators of fish pens and cages within the Laguna de Bay to conduct self-demolition before its massive operation against illegal structures starts this month.

Arturo Valdez, head of the National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (NAECTF), made the appeal to give operators the chance to save their valuable assets like pen and cage enclosure materials.

"Once we begin the operation, all assets affected by our dismantling activities will be confiscated in favor of the government," said Valdez, who is in charge of the dismantling operation, along with the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and concerned local government units.

The impending dismantling operation is in line with the directive of President Rodrigo Duterte to dismantle big fish pens and cages in Laguna Lake to allow small fishermen to gain access to traditional fishing grounds.

"That's the presidential instruction after all, and the DENR is dead set on implementing it unless, of course a new directive from no less than President Duterte is given," Valdez said.

Valdez, however, advised those seeking to stop the planned dismantling to direct their appeal to the President and not to the DENR.

He disclosed that some operators already voluntarily dismantled their facilities as early as last month, allowing them to keep their assets, especially the fish stock that they still were able to sell in the market.

Valdez said the DENR and the LLDA are now mapping out a "phase-by-phase approach" for the clearing operation.

He added that the dismantling operation covered all aquaculture facilities in the lake area since the permits given to operators already expired last Dec. 31 and the DENR will no longer be renewing them.

"We have imposed a total moratorium on the renewal of permits starting Jan. 1, 2017. This means the pens and cages can be dismantled anytime," Valdez said.

"You know, the dismantling of fish pens and cages is not simple. There are posts there and nets, that's why it's better for the owners to dismantle it themselves. You take care of your materials, those are expensive after all," Valdez said.

Valdez stressed that the only way to save the lake and give access to small fishermen is to dismantle all

15 JAN 2017

DATE

2

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

DENR issues final appeal to Laguna Lake fish pen owners

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources yesterday issued a final appeal to fish pen and fish cage owners at the Laguna de Bay to demolish them as the agency starts cleaning up the lake this month.

DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns Art Valdez, head of the National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force, said they are giving fish pen and fish cage operators the chance to get their

materials and harvests out of the Laguna de Bay before they begin their massive operations to clear the lake of illegal structures.

"Once we begin the operation, all assets affected by our dismantling activities will be confiscated," Valdez warned.

The DENR last December ordered the Laguna Lake Development Authority not to renew the permits issued to big fish pens and cages on the Laguna de Bay

following the order of President Duterte to provide small fishermen the access to traditional fishing grounds. The permits expired on December 31.

While some fish pen and fish cage owners have dismantled their facilities as early as last month, Valdez appealed to those remaining to do so as they map out their "phase-by-phase approach" for the clearing operations. (Vanne Elaine P. Terrazola)



Balita



PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

15 JAN 2017

DATE

2

PAGE

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF

DENR, may apela sa fish pen operators

Umapela ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa mga fish pen operator na kusa nang baklasin ang kanilang mga fish cage sa Laguna Lake bago pa simulan ng kagawaran ang malawakang clearing operations sa mga nabanggit na ilegal na istruktura sa lugar.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary at National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (NAECTF) Chief Arturo Valdez, kahit noong Disyembre 31, 2016 pa nag-expire ang permit ng mga fish pen operator ay binibigyan pa rin nila ang mga ito ng pagkakataon na maisalba ang ari-arian ng mga ito, katulad ng cage enclosure materials.

"Once we begin the operation, all assets affected by our dismantling activities will be confiscated in favor of the government," babala ni Valdez.

Aniya, nagbaklas na ng kani-kanilang istruktura ang ilang operator noon pang nakaraang buwan, ngunit ang iba ay patuloy pa ring nagmamatigas.

"We have imposed a total moratorium on the renewal of permits starting January 1, 2017. This means the pens and cages can be dismantled anytime," sabi pa ni Valdez.

Ang hakbangin ay alinsunod sa direktiba ni Pangulong Duterte bilang bahagi ng ipatutupad na Laguna Lake rehabilitation plan.

Rommel P. Tabbad

THE STANDARD

15 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

P-2
PAGE

✓
LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

PCAARRD RENEWS TIES WITH STAKEHOLDERS



THE Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DoST-PCAARRD) renewed its membership to the Technical Working Group on the Containment of Knifefish in Laguna de Bay in a recent ceremonial memorandum of agreement signing held at the National Ecology Center, Laguna Lake Development Authority in Diliman, Quezon City.

The activity was part of the Partnership Forum organized by the Laguna Lake Development Authority to enlist commitment from stakeholder groups to implement measures for controlling the population of knifefish, an invasive species in Laguna de Bay.

Dr. Nereus Acosta, LLDA general manager, in his keynote address, highlighted the need for continuing partnership among the inter-agency

TWG, the Local Government Units of Rizal and Laguna, and other stakeholders for the management of the lake, without adversely affecting food security.

Knifefish is considered a nuisance species in Laguna de Bay because of its voracious feeding habit which includes prey that are of economic importance. The Knifefish R&D Program aims to provide scientific information on the life history, reproductive and spawning behavior, feeding ecology, movement and other information on knifefish that will help identify the vulnerability of the species and develop effective management and control strategies.

Several measures, such as physical removal, development of gadgets for eradication, and development of use (e.g., food products, fertilizer) are being implemented by the TWG member agencies to control the knifefish population in Laguna de Bay.

Dr. Loureeda Darwin of the Inland Aquatic Resources Research Division-PCAARRD (center) represented PCAARRD Acting Executive Director Dr. Reynaldo Ebor during the MOA signing. Photo also shows (from left) Department of Trade and Industry representative; Dr. Nereus Acosta, LLDA general manager; and Moses Abadilla, project staff.

TONITE

Malakalero
24 oras

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

15 JAN 2017

DATE

4

PAGE

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF

DENR Sec. Lopez sinampahan ng kaso sa Ombudsman

TINAWAG na 'Tale of the Emperor's New Clothes' ni Environmentalist at Running Priest Father Robert Reyes si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Gina Lopez dahil sa hindi matugunan nito ang nangyaring graft and corruption sa kanyang ahensya na pinamumunuan.

Sa pahayag ni Reyes na isa sa mga Trustee of the Coalition of Clean Air Advocates of the Philippines (CCAAP) na ang corruption ay maraming mukha at mga mabulaklaking salita subalit taliwas ito dahil sa hindi naman nito mapahinto ang katiwalian sa go-byerno.

Napag-alaman na noong Enero 10, 2017, sinampahan ng kaso sa Ombudsman ng grupong United Filipino Consumers and Commuters (UFCC) at Airboard Company si Lopez na isa

rin dating trustee ng CCAAP bunsod na rin sa hindi nito pag-aksyon sa ilang mga reklamo, na idinulog sa kanyang tanggapan sa umano'y overpriced at depektibong pagbili ng DENR sa Air Quality Monitoring na lubhang mapanganib sa kalusugan ng mga tao.

Ayon kay Reyes ang pag-sasampa ng kaso kay Lopez ay dahil na rin sa hindi nito pag-aksyon sa maanomang pagbili ng bilyong piso na air pollution monitoring equipment noong 2003 ng DENR kahit na ilang beses ng ipinarating sa kanya ang reklamo.

Lumalabas na mismong si Lopez ay itinanggi ang alegasyon at sinabi na wala raw siyang pinanghahawakan na ebidensya gayundin wala siyang alam na mayroong maling ginawa ang kanyang mga tauhan at tanging nalalaman lamang

niya na ang mga machine ay hindi nakapagbibigay na tamang report hinggil sa air pollution na nararanasan sa bansa dahil sa hindi ito calibrated.

Sinasabi na imbes na maglabas ng kautusan si Lopez para bumuo ng independent na grupo na magsisiyasat sa anomalya at mag-audit ay nilinis pa nito ang mga inaakusahan na katiwalian ng mga tao nito na posibleng humantong sa 'whitewash' ng kaso.

Nag-react naman si UFCC president Rodolfo "RJ" Javellana sa naging pahayag sa publiko ni Lopez makaraan na siya ay sampahan ng kaso ng grupo sa Ombudsman.

Napag-alaman na mismo sa bibig ni Lopez lumabas na ang DENR Air Pollution Monitoring Machines ay overpriced at hindi palaging calibrated subalit wala siya makitang ebidensya na may

maling ginawa ang kanyang mga tauhan upang kanyang sibakin sila sa pwesto.

Sa isa pang kaso na isinampa naman ni Airboard Company Manuel Galvez, naniniwala ang mga ito na dapat na maalis sa pwesto si Lopez bunsod na rin sa incompetency para aksyunan ang naganap na anomalya.

Sa kasalukuyan mayroon ulit nagaganap na bidding kaugnay sa naka-takdang pagbili ng kaparehong kasangkapan na nagkakahalaga ng P500 milyon at ang muling gagamitin ay katulad pa rin ng Terms of Reference (TOR) na ginamit noon nang bilhin ang kuwestyunableng Air Monitoring Pollution Machines.

Dahil dito, nanawagan si Javellana kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na magutos na magsagawa ng independent investigation para na rin sa kaligtasan ng publiko. (RG)



15 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

B-3

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

P-1

HIDDEN AGENDA

By MARY ANN LL. REYES

The real score

The issue of whether or not to promote renewable energy in this country has always been a touchy one.

To accelerate the development of emerging renewable energy resources, Republic Act 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 provided for a feed-in tariff (FIT) system for electricity produced from wind, solar, ocean, run-of-river hydropower, and biomass to serve as an incentive to producers.

Unfortunately, these incentives given to producers of renewable energy come in the form of a fixed tariff given to producers and these FIT payments are recovered from end-consumers via the FIT charge that appears in our electricity bills.

The incentives are granted on a first-come-first-served basis. Among the incentives enjoyed are priority dispatch in the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) and a fixed rate of P8.69 per kwh.

Once the installation target is met, no new FITs will be given for that period. Plants outside the FIT scheme have to sell their output at market prices.

During the first contracting round of FIT, the DOE increased the installation target allocation of solar energy from 50 megawatts in 2013 to 108 MW in 2014 in recognition of the investments and contribution of solar companies in the energy mix.

For the second contracting round whose deadline ended in March 15, 2016, the quota for FIT eligibility for the solar power sector is 400 megawatts.

The way the FIT system works, these power plants have to build first before they can apply for incentives. And so ever since the FIT system was implemented, about 798.2 MW of solar capacity was built, of which 100 MW were given incentives under the first round. With 400 MW eligible under the second round, this left around 298 MW "stranded" and without incentives.

What the solar industry wants is for the entire 798.2 MW of installed solar capacity to be entitled to FIT, which includes the 250 MW excess capacity.

But Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi does not agree with this idea of making the consumers pay to promote renewable energy sources.

Just like President Duterte who believes that developing countries like the Philippines cannot afford these higher priced energy sources, Cusi said that it is unfair that electricity consumers should be subsidizing the cost of producing renewable energy through the FIT scheme.



When asked whether there will be another FIT round or whether the government would consider the solar industry's proposal to include the excess solar capacity in the second or third round since it would be unfair for the private sector that spent so much to build these plants, Cusi answered in the negative, since this would mean additional expenses on the part of the public.

Cusi said he would rather that non-governmental organizations or even public agencies that are pushing for renewable energy production to slowdown climate change give grants to producers of these energy sources.

And so those who are hoping that the Duterte government will support a change in the energy mix in favor of renewable energy sources should give up hoping.

But then, there are those who believe that some producers of renewable energy and their supporters are resorting to dirty tricks to destroy the image of our traditional energy sources in order to promote their own.

Just recently, there were news reports about supposedly ailing residents living near a 150-megawatt coal-fired power plant operating inside the Petron Bataan Refinery in Limay, Bataan allegedly suffering from health problems as a result of coal fly ash or ash particles that float in the air or that might have made its way to a waterway.

A number of illegal settlers near the refinery have said that they suffered from skin rashes as a result of the coal ash from the power plant.

As a result, the Environment Management Board reportedly issued a notice of violation while the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), headed by Gina Lopez, threatened the company with a cease-and-desist order.

But it seems that Lopez, who is against coal-fired power plants and the mining industry, has been informed.

San Miguel Corp. (SMC) president Ramon Ang has been quoted in one newspaper as saying that no less than the DENR has certified that the ash was inert or benign.

Despite this, Ang said it has been recommended that Petron construct a retaining wall to ensure that the ash in the Petro Limay terminal area does not reach the Alangan River. He added that as a preventive measure, they have put up earthen dikes even as they are planning to construct a permanent retaining wall to make the community feel safe.

Ang, who celebrated his birthday yesterday, has been personally assuring Limay residents and the public that there is no coal spill, because no coal is being used in the facility (it is currently being test-run using diesel fuel but it won't be fully operational until next year); that the residue found in the homes of illegal settlers along the perimeter walls are a combination of regular dust and limestone powder, a byproduct of oil refining certified by the DENR as non-toxic; that the limestone powder is stored in a specifically-constructed ash pond with dikes, far away from the river said to be affected by the ash; that the powder is there because the local government, for some reason, would not issue a permit to Petron to transport it to its cement manufacturing facility where it will be used as raw material; and that the power is not "dumped" but is instead sold at \$100 per ton to a sister company that uses it to process cement.



15 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

B 3

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

P-2

Hidden Agenda

SMC's top executive has also emphasized the fact that local health officials have already said that the supposed skin rashes informal settlers have complained about are actually scabies brought about by contact with infected animals.

Ang has also briefed Lopez on the matter, and after hearing the facts, she immediately issued a permit for Petron to transfer the limestone ash to its proper storage facility and decided not to issue a CDO.

Petron is not a bad neighbor as some would like the public to believe. It has been one of Bataan's biggest source of employment, livelihood, and scholarships. The company also recently opened a new, fully-equipped and staffed hospital that provides free medical care to Bataan residents.

And as publicly listed corporations and among the country's respected companies, Petron and parent San Miguel would not be that irresponsible to not pay attention to a matter as important as taking care of its neighbors.

As for Secretary Lopez, she should be very careful about her future pronouncements in connection with producers of traditional energy sources lest she be suspected of trying to promote her family's renewable energy business.

For comments, e-mail at philstarhiddenagenda@yahoo.com

15 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

D-15

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Toxic watchdog warns public of hazardous fancy candles

Beware of fancy-looking candles adorned with lead-cored wicks because it can lead to health issues and, worse, death.

EcoWaste Coalition revealed that it has found several candle retailers in Binondo, Manila selling such hazardous items, unmindful of the medical risks that may befall the unsuspecting consumers.

EcoWaste representatives went to 11 stores to push retailers to end, once and for all, the importation, distribution and sale of candles with leaded wicks.

The group also reiterated its campaign to prevent the public's exposure to dangerous chemical and consumer products like lead which the group branded as a "potent neurotoxin."

Councilor Eufemio Lagumbay, Raulo Lagumbay and Victor Ferrer Jr. has continuously battled for the strict monitoring of products including decorative and elegant looking candles to ensure that they are safe for the consumers.

EcoWaste had earlier notified the country's health authorities through the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) about the trade of such candles

in the local market that would be illegal to sell in other countries such as in Australia, Finland, Denmark and USA.

"With the health and safety of the consumers in mind, particularly children who are most vulnerable to lead exposure, we request the FDA to release a public health warning against lead-cored wick candles and to stop importers, distributors and retailers from selling such toxic candles," the group wrote to the FDA in September 2016.

Responding to the group's notification, the agency last month issued FDA Advisory 2016-146 entitled "Public Health Advisory on Lead-Cored Wick Candles."

"While the advisory did not ban the sale of lead-cored wick candles as we have sought, it clearly warned that the purchase and use of such candles pose an 'imminent hazard to the public health,' providing a cue that such products must not be produced and sold at all," said Thony Dizon, Coordinator, EcoWaste Coalition's Project Protect.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed that a follow-up directive would outlaw the sale of all candles with wicks and

other components containing lead for full compliance by candle makers and traders," he added.

Armed with copies of the said advisory, the EcoWaste Coalition visited

stores selling Chinese praying paraphernalia such as candles and informed store owners about the adverse health effects of candles with lead-cored wicks. (Chito A. Chavez)

15 JAN 2017

Abante

UNA SA BALITA

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS



25th Founding Anniversary: Foundation for the Philippine Environment: January 15, 2017

Greetings to Abante Readers, Philippines-wide: Mindanao, Visayas, Luzon: 7,107 Islands, 42,026 Barangays, 80 Provinces, 140 Cities, 1494 Municipalities; Families and Friends Earth-wide.

The event is the 25th Founding Anniversary of the Foundation for the Philippine Environment on January 15, 2017, with the theme: Celebrating Connectedness through Conservation. Venue will be at Marquee Tent, EDSA Shangri-la Hotel, 1 Garden Way, Ortigas Centre, Mandaluyong City, 1650, Philippines.

Highlights of the Celebration include:

- Welcome: Dr. Lourdes Simpol, Chair & CEO, FPE
- Keynote Message: Secretary Regina Paz Lopez, Department of Environment & Natural Resources
- FPE Institutional Accomplishments: Executive Director Oliver Agoncillo
- Recognition & Message of the Staff
- Board of Trustees Turn Over
- FPE Strategic Plan (2015-2025: Dr. Lourdes Simpol)
- Launch of National & Regional 25 - year Anniversary Events: Ms Wilhelmina Gonzales

The Foundation for the Philippine Environment was established on January 15, 1992 to help mitigate the destruction of Philippine's natural resources. FPE was created through a process of nationwide consultations with 334 Philippine non-government organizations (NGOs) and people's organizations (POs) and 24 academic institutions. The Philippine NGOs and POs took the lead in conceptualizing and organizing FPE and its subsequent program directions. The collective efforts of the Philippine and the United States government agencies and NGOs paved the way for the funding of FPE, making it the first grant-making institution for the environment in the Philippines:

FPE's Primary Focus: National and Regional Environmental Agenda

FPE has identified specific priority concerns to comprise its National Environment Agenda (NEA), namely, mining, logging, unsustainable agricultural and fishing practices, renewable energy, solid waste and air pollution, climate change and disaster risk reduction and urbanization and land conversion.

The NEA was derived from the results of the Foundation's Regional Environmental Agenda (REA) discussions, a series of grounded and community-based consultative processes which involved

FPE's partners (civil society organizations, cooperatives, volunteers and people's and indigenous people's organizations). These meetings drew out the regional (Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao) perspectives in environmental protection from the participating members and also solicited input from the Foundation's Board of Trustees, Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) and staff. The national agenda was formally established in 2011.

Applications for FPE Grants: Applicants for the FPE grants are required to submit a full project proposal. For more information, contact: Proposals for FPE grants should be addressed to the Executive Director and submitted to fpegrants@fpe.ph, copy furnished the appropriate offices below:

For Nation-wide Projects: Program Development Office, 77 Matahimik St., Teachers' Village, Quezon City 1101, Philippines, Tel: (632) 927-2186/927-9403/926-9629, Fax: (632) 922-3022 E-mail: fpegrants@fpe.ph

For Luzon-based Projects: Luzon Regional Unit, 77 Matahimik St., Teachers' Village, Quezon City 1101, Philippines, Tel: (632) 927-2186/927-9403/926-9629, Fax: (632) 922-3022 E-mail: fpe-luz@fp.ph

For Visayas-based Projects: Visayas Regional Unit, Room 23, 2nd flr, Vel-Quano Bldg., 1 M.C. Briones corner A.S. Fortuna Street, Highway, Mandaue City, Cebu 6014, Philippines Telefax: (6332) 345-6255, 345-6254, E-mail: fpeviz@fpe.ph

For Mindanao-based Projects: Mindanao Regional Unit, Door 4, Eliza Townhouse 6th Street, Ecoland Subdivision Phase 1, Matina, Davao City 8000, Philippines, Telephone: +63 (082) 285-3451; E-mail: fpemin@fpe.ph

For more information, contact: Bahay Kubo Global System, Inc, Dr. Jose Pepito Manansala Cunanan, Phone: Smart 0919-9923630; pepz2002@yahoo.com; pcunanan@gmail.com; Facebook: Jose Pepito Cunanan; Anselmo "Moi" Garcia 0908 535 9645, moi.garcia@gmail.com; Rebecca Miranda: 0919 805 1940 rebs_105711@yahoo.com; Roberto Vera Cruz 0918 520 4078 robertveracruz@yahoo.com; Dr. Venerando Catarroja 0999-5016273: venerando.catarroja@yahoo.com; Dionicio Antonio 0932 386 1515 ammani_agri00@yahoo.com; Ed Manugue 0919 555 0347 edmanugue@yahoo.com; Dan Ricohermoso 0908 216 5916 dan7riches@yahoo.com;

JUMSA Peace & Development Foundation Inc. & Jumsa Trading Corporation Inc. Princess Jum Unga Angel 0999 455 0910 Main Office: Lampaya, Talipao, Jolo, Sulu jumsafoundation@yahoo.com; Radzma Angel 0998 245 6631. <www.jumsa.foundation.com>

Nature's Thrive: Davao City: Maritess Campomanes Gacotano Alaba, 0907 9951008 natures-thrive@gmail.com.

Tulay ng Buhay at Pagasa Foundation Inc. Hanbi ICT Center, C-3, Navotas City, 02 351 2384, tulay@hanmail.net; Dyce Gonzales 0922 320 3513; Nestor Valfongo 0939 480 9419.

PEOPLES JOURNAL

15 JAN 2017

DATE

4
PAGE

✓
UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

page-2

EDITORIAL

Ecosystem, biodiversity

ALTHOUGH the Filipino people want the government to develop more world-class tourist spots, they cannot, however, support projects that damage the environment.

In fact, the reported plan to put up a Nickelodeon theme park in Coron, Palawan, a crucial habitat for unique wildlife, has sent shockwaves across the country.

Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate is against the proposed theme park because "It will affect the ecosystem and biodiversity of Palawan."

Zarate, chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources, said the province, being the last frontier of the country, should be preserved.

The 400-hectare under sea themed park is expected to be finished by the year 2020. It will supposedly feature restaurants and lounges six meters below sea level.

Beyond being just a tourist attraction, Coron Island is a crucial habitat for many wildlife. Any disruption may cause grave effects on the environment and to the people.

The indigenous Tigbanua people in Coron face displacement and eviction from their ancestral land just to give way to the proposed sprawling marine park.

Secretary Gina Lopez of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said she would not allow the building of the underwater theme park "if it will damage the environment."

"I will never allow the corals to be harmed, that's what we have, that's our wealth. You cannot kill the corals for a theme park, no way," she said.

Environmentalists and local residents, whose live-

PEOPLES JOURNALS

15 JAN 2017

DATE

4

PAGE

✓
UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Page-1



15 JAN 2017

DATE 4
PAGE

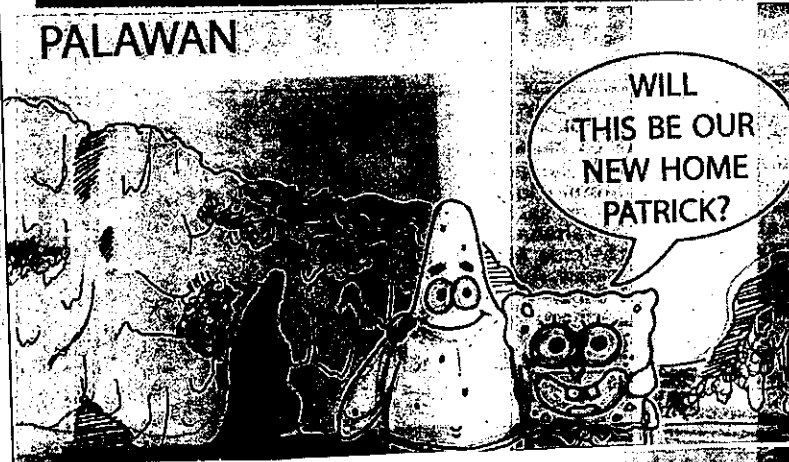
UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PEOPLES Tonight

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

PALAWAN



Ecotourism, biodiversity

ALTHOUGH the Philippine government to promote ecotourism cannot support an environment. In fact, the proposed theme park in Palawan is a unique and beautiful country. Bayan, a local community, proposed a theme park system. Zarate, a member of the committee on natural resources, said the proposed park is being the big wonder of the country, should be preserved. The 40-hectare underwater park is expected to be finished by the year 2020. It will supply a lot of features and attractions and is six meters below sea level. Beyond the park, a tourist attraction, Coron Island is a natural habitat for many wild life. Any disruption will be a grave concern on the environment and to the people. The proposed park will displace the people in Coron and just to the park. Secretary Jane Lopez of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said she would not allow the building of the underwater theme park "if it will damage the environment." "I will never allow the corals to be harmed, that's what we have, that's our wealth. You cannot kill the corals for a theme park, no way," she said. Environmentalists and local residents, whose lives

THE STANDARD

15 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

E-1

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



can this icon to
view the PDF



CORON IS NOT BIKINI BOTTOM

By Bernadette Lunas

■ GREW up watching the first animated series of

THE STANDARD

15 JAN 2017
DATE

UPPER HALF

E-2
PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Coron is not Bikini Bottom P-2

On Jan. 9, Nickelodeon announced its plan to build a 100-hectare undersea-themed attraction and resort as part of Coral World Park's (CWP) 400-hectare master-planned development in Coron, Palawan.

The global kids brand of Viacom International Media Networks (VIMN) said in a statement that it will partner with underwater resort developer Coral World Park Undersea Resorts Inc. to put up the "first undersea attraction and Nickelodeon's first resort in Southeast Asia" located amid a cluster of 16 white sand islands of the CWP.

It was like a slime in our faces, only it didn't mean honor as in Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards, when we found out that the said development would cover 70 hectares for resort's accommodations and 30 hectares for themed attraction of our country's last ecological frontier.

In addition, there's a plan to build underwater lounges and restaurants,

about 20-feet below sea level of the province's diverse marine ecosystem, as stated in the press release.

When completed in 2020, Nickelodeon said, CWP "will be the largest coral reef conservation program in Asia."

But environmentalists are not buying. In a statement released following the announcement, Save Philippine Seas' (SPS) co-founder and executive director **Anna Oposa** refuted the firm's claims of advocating ocean protection, because the underwater theme park, she said, will do the exact opposite.

"By building artificial structures, you will undeniably damage and disrupt Palawan's marine ecosystems," said Oposa.

SPS and other environmental activists call on the local government of Palawan, Nickelodeon and CWP to junk their plan, which could destroy the area's world-famous pristine coastlines, rich forests and diverse marine ecosystem.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary **Gina Lopez** has already made it clear that she would not allow the building of an underwater theme park in Palawan.

"I will never allow the corals to be harmed. You can't kill the corals for a theme park, no way," stressed Lopez.

Concerned netizens were also quick to express their outrage through the hashtag #CoronIsNotBikiniBottom, which quickly reached the top of Twitter Philippines trends by midday on Jan. 11.

SPS launched an online petition on www.bataris.org.ph, which quickly gained traction in a short period.

Amid online uproar, local officials of Palawan denied receiving any application from the developer to put up a theme park in the province. CWP, meanwhile, backtracked on its earlier announcement and clarified that it is not building any structure underwater. Developments, they said, would be

Turn to E2

WHO LIVES IN PINEAPPLE UNDER THE SEA? Nickelodeon's announcement of its plan to build an undersea-themed attraction in Coron, Palawan, has alarmed environmentalists, government officials and concerned netizens due to the possibility of destruction and disruption to the marine ecosystem of the Philippines' last ecological frontier. (Photo: Kayangan / Ob. H. H. H.)

land-based and the only infrastructure in the water is floating.

Oposa welcomes the clarifications from CWP and Nickelodeon but questions the plan just the same. "They said it will be land-based, but with floating structures—which will still be anchored somewhere," Oposa said in an email interview with *Manila Standard Young Life*.

Some of their statements, she added, also contradict the original statement by Viacom.

Despite the recent developments, Oposa urges the public to remain vigilant. "The public needs to be wary because we haven't seen the master plan yet."

She said their group will continue to communicate with the developer and look at their

create job and business opportunities to locals.

But Oposa remains on the nature's side, saying, "There are many developments that provide local jobs but are still destructive to the environment."

Even Lopez asserts that Filipinos' welfare, especially that of farmers and fishermen, is much more important than the money these businesses would earn from the development.

On the other hand, according to data from Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), only 0.6 percent of Coron's live coral cover is in excellent condition. While only one percent in very good and 3.2 percent in good condition.

This is where Oposa's words ring true. "If you are sincere and serious about marine conservation, the money allocated for the underwater theme park would be invested in marine protected areas, sustainable livelihoods for local communities, and environmental education programs."

Sure, many people would perhaps pay to inter-

THE STANDARD

15 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

E-1

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

P-3

Coron is not Bikini Bottom



The hashtag #CoronIsNotBikiniBottom refers to the possibility of transforming parts of Coron into the fictional town in Nickelodeon's hit series *SpongeBob SquarePants*

15 JAN 2017

DATE

3

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

Abante

UNA SA BALITA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

Solon tutol sa theme park sa Palawan

Sinumang nagpanukala ng pagpapatayo ng Nickelodeon Theme Park sa Palawan ay ideya ng isang insensitive developer.

Ito ang iginiit ni House Natural Resources Chair at Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate kasabay ng maging pagtutol sa panukala ng Viacom International Media Networks at underwater resort developer Coral World Park Undersea Resorts Inc. na magpatayo ng Nickelodeon Resort and Attraction

sa Coron, Palawan.

Aniya, nakasaad Proclamation 219, Proclamation 1801 at Proclamation 212 ang pangangalawa at pagbibigay proteksyon sa marine habitat at forest reserve sa Coron kaya naman anumang paglalapastanganan nito ay malinaw na labag sa batas.

Dagdag pa ng mambabatas, sa halip na ipatuloy ang pagtatayo ng nasa-bing pasyalan ay atupagin na lamang ng gobyerno ang mga development program para sa mga

mangingisda at katutubo sa Palawan.

Ang balak na 400-hectare undersea-themed park ay kaya umanong tapusin sa 2020 at isa sa magiging atraksyon nito ay mga restaurants at lounges na nasa 6 meters below-sea level ngunit nanindigan si Zarate na kung sa ibang mga bansa ay tinutuligsa ng mga environmental groups ang mga itinayong marine parks dahil sa masamang epekto nito sa ecosystem. (Tina Mendoza)

INQUIRER

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

15 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HA

A-11

PAGE

LOWER HA

Pag-asa: The silver eagle

By Joselle R. Badilla
@jbadillaINQ

DAVAO CITY—Twenty-five years ago, on Jan. 15, the then 20-square-meter incubation and breeding room of the Philippine Eagle Center in Malagos, Baguio District, here erupted into cheers and high fives.

At last, after 14 years of research, the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) had managed to conceive through artificial insemination, and hatch, its first eagle named Pag-asa.

"I was there at that time. Everyone was anxious as the chick refused to break out of its shell on its own," Dennis Salvador, PEF's executive director, recalled.

The chick apparently needed help, prompting a PEF staff member to crack open the egg.

"Everyone cheered once the hatch was complete," Salvador said, adding that then Davao City mayor Rodrigo Duterte declared that day "Philippine Eagle Day (Pag-asa Day)."

PEF's breeding manager Domingo Tadena described as "a very unforgettable feeling" the staff's anticipation over the momentous event.

"We did not go to sleep after

the chick peeked through the shell. We did not know how long before it fully emerges," Tadena told the Inquirer.

Pag-asa, a critically endangered eagle, drew attention on global efforts to save the environment and other species.

Top predators

"Pag-asa's success gave us hope that reintroducing species in places where they had been extirpated was now possible," Salvador said. "Eagles being top predators of the Philippine rainforest ecosystem, their presence is indicative of the (system's) good health," he added.

The foundation, which depends heavily on donations for its project that includes breeding endangered species and mounting education campaigns to save them, has so far produced 27 captive-bred Philippine Eagles. It is best known for its success in the captive propagation of the country's national symbol.

According to the National Eagle Center in Minnesota, an eagle in the wild that makes it to adulthood might live 20 to 25 years. But in captivity, eagles are known to live much longer, up to 50 years, due to a controlled environment, nutrient-

INQUIRER

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Page - 2

15 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF



REGAL Pag-asa turns 25 today. (Inset) Seeing the eaglet hatch was "unforgettable," said PEF staff. —PHILIPPINE EAGLE FOUNDATION

rich diet and veterinary care.

After Pag-asa's hatching, Salvador said the center was also able to establish incubation and rearing protocols, since the eagle "helped establish good practices."

The center also started exploring cryogenic techniques, a

method of preserving organic materials using quick freeze substances like liquid nitrogen, to store semen from mal-imprinted males.

Hand-reared

"Pag-asa was hand-reared and subsequently developed as

an imprinted donor for artificial insemination," he said.

The foundation has been trying to breed eagles in captivity to increase the bird's population.

Philippine Eagles lay an egg only once every two years, making their conservation an even

more daunting task.

The Philippine Eagle, the world's largest bird of prey, was declared an endangered species in 1965 and was later classified "critically endangered" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. It was declared the country's national bird in July, 1995.

Today, there are only 400 pairs remaining in the wild.

Following Pag-asa's success, Salvador said "the great Philippine Eagle is not only our flagship [species] for wildlife conservation but also the best indicator of the forest ecosystem's health."

Twenty-one years after hatching, Pag-asa and his mate, Kalinawan, produced a female eagle named Mabuhay that will turn three on Feb. 9.

Like her father, Mabuhay was a product of "cooperative artificial insemination," which involves collecting the semen of male eagles and implanting them into female eagles.

Salvador said aside from being an important semen donor for the breeding program, "Pag-asa" will continue to serve as a beacon of hope for the species and teach our people about the importance of our natural heritage." INQ



PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

15 JAN 2017

DATE

2

PAGE

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF

Dried sea horse nakumpiska

NAKUMPISKA ka-makalawa ng Philippine Coast Guard ang hindi pa madeterminang halaga ng pinatuyong seahorse sa barko na nakadaong sa Manila North Harbor.

Bago ito ay nakakuha ng impormasyon ang Coast Guard Station sa Maynila na isang 10-wheeler truck na may dala-dalang mga hindi dokumentadong endangered species ay sakay ng MV St. Francis Xavier.

Sinabi ni PCG spokesperson Commander Armand Balilo na nadiskubre sa isinagawang inspeksyon alas-3 ng umaga na mga punatuyong seahorse at iba pang endangered species ang laman ng truck.

"Representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are still at the North Harbor to examine and identify the other smuggled marine species," ani Balilo.

Nakadaong ang MV St. Francis Xavier sa Pier 4 ng Manila North Harbor. Pag-aari ang barko ng 2Go Group Inc.

Idineklara ang mga dried horse bilang scrap plastic, dagdag ni Balilo.

—Inquirer

15 JAN 2017

The Manila Times

DATE

A-7

PAGE

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SE

Group claims Zambales gov allows nickel ore haul

CANDELARIA, Zambales: Anti-mining advocates in this province claimed that the provincial governor has allowed a mining firm here to haul stockpiles of nickel ore from the mountains to the port in the guise of doing environmental rehabilitation.

Concerned Citizens of Santa Cruz (CCOS) chairman Benito Molino said over one million metric tons of nickel ore with a conservative estimate of P750 million are being hauled out of the mountains of this town into the Binabalian port of Benguet-Corp Nickel Mines, Inc. (BNMI).

Molino said the recent Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by Zambales Gov. Anor Deloso with Westchinamin, described as a small scale miner, has allowed the said firm to haul its over a million metric ton stockpile of nickel ore from the mountains.

Deloso, however, denied the claim.

In a text message to *The Manila Times*, Deloso said there is no mining operation in Candelaria town.

"Not true, no mining operation here, removal of dangerous and hazardous waste per order of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)," the text message said.

"What is being done is evacuation of waste, not mining, he said, adding "Not piled up near Uacon Lake)."

Molino said it was Deloso who approved of giving Westchinamin the Ore Transport Permit (OTP) issued by the DENR's regional Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

He said Deloso signed the MOA on November 11, 2016 allowing Westchinamin to haul down the

its clean up measures which is directly inconsistent with his first executive order declaring a mining moratorium in Zambales and the need for public consultation.

"Because of this, Westchinamin has been hauling the stockpile in Barangay Uacon, Candelaria via Lucapon South Santa Cruz and taking it to the Binabalian port of BNMI," Molino added.

The hauling reportedly began after Christmas last year.

The CCOS chairman said the MOA is illegal because nickel extraction in the name of rehabilitation and stockpiling in a mining site is illegal.

"The use of heavy equipment is not allowed in small scale mining, and extraction in small scale mining is limited to 50,000 tons per annum," Molino said.

The Supreme Court has stopped mining operations of all small scale mining companies in Zambales during the time of former Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. and Deloso ordered a moratorium on mining in Zambales on his first day in office last year.

Molino added that the MGB regional director should be investigated about why Westchinamin was allowed to extract nickel from 2015-2016 using a rehabilitation permit MGB issued.

He also urged the government, particularly the DENR, to stop the hauling operations and to confiscate the stockpiles.

He said the residents of Barangay Uacon in Candelaria has been protesting the nickel extraction in Duplac, Barangay Uacon because the alleged rehabilitation by Westchinamin is polluting Uacon Lake.



15 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

14
PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Sandigan drops case vs ex-DENR exec over delays

The Sandiganbayan has dismissed charges against a former official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources due to inordinate delays in the prosecution of the case.

A recent resolution by the anti-graft court's Special Second Division granted Mario Roño's motion to dismiss the case against him. Roño is a former undersecretary for international commitment and local government affairs.

He was charged with two counts of violating Article 218 of the Revised Penal Code (failure of accountable officer to render accounts) for his failure to settle P104,238 in cash advances he received in 1999 and 2000.

In a resolution signed by Associate Justice Samuel Martires, the Sandiganbayan said the inordinate delay violated Roño's right to the speedy disposition of cases.

The anti-graft court added that the Office of the Om-

budsman does not have any acceptable justification for the delay in the investigation of the complaint against Roño.

Court records show that the ombudsman filed the formal complaint against Roño on Sept. 26, 2011 and not on Feb. 14, 2014, as the prosecution claimed. From this date up to the filing of the information before the court, it meant the ombudsman took four years, eight months and 26 days to complete the preliminary investigation.

Roño, in his motion, said it took seven years and four months before the case was filed in court.

The Sandiganbayan ordered that the bail bond he posted be returned to him and lifted the hold departure order against him.

In its comment, the prosecution said the ombudsman took only two years, four months and four days to resolve the complaint against him.

- Rhodina Villanueva

15 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

9
PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Sandiganbayan acquits former DENR Usec

By **CZARINA NICOLE OJONG**

Former Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Mario Roño has been cleared by the Sandiganbayan Second Division in connection with the unliquidated cash advances made in 1999 and 2000.

He was charged with two counts of violation of Article 218 of the Revised Penal Code for failing to liquidate travel cash advances from 1999 and 2000. He took P25,500 for his trip to China back in December 1999, then another P78,738 for his Sweden trip on May 2000. The total amount of his cash advances was P104,238.

Roño argued that it took prosecution seven years and four months before the cases were filed before the court, although prosecution insisted it only took two years, four months and four days.

Based on its own count, the court determined that it took four years, eight months and 26 days. "The question is, was there inordinate delay as to have violated the accused's right to speedy disposition of cases? We answer in the affirmative," the resolution reads.

The court said there was no acceptable justification for the delay in the investigation of the complaint against Roño. The explanation given by prosecution, that the delay was reasonably attributable to the ordinary processes of justice, was unacceptable to the court.

As a result, the court decided to clear Roño "on the ground of inordinate delay amounting to a transgression of the right to a speedy disposition of cases."