

DATE
DAY

22 JAN 2017

Sunday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

22 JAN 2017

DATE

B-2

PAGE

UPPER HALF

✓
LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Gov't cracks down on illegal fishing in Tañon Strait

The government is taking a tougher stance against illegal fishing with the implementation of an improved enforcement plan in Tañon Strait, the country's biggest marine protected area.

The enforcement plan is one of the components of Tañon Strait's General Management Plan which provides mechanisms for protecting marine

habitats, ensuring sustainable fisheries, and reducing illegal fishing through increased patrolling and apprehension, prosecution of violators, and training of law enforcers.

Local government units (LGUs) and other agencies aim to conduct more sea patrols and file cases against illegal and commercial fishers in Tañon Strait, a protected area

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

between Cebu and Negros.

"Regular patrols and surveillance activities are necessary for the detection and intelligence gathering of violations within the protected area, as part of an enforcement plan," Tañon Strait Protected Seascape (TSPS) area superintendent Am Prospero Lendio.

The plan includes regular inspection of fishing vessels along Tañon Strait, a step-by-step strategy for operations and surveillance, and filing of cases against violators.

Tañon Strait is a critical marine habitat and important migratory path for 14 of the 27 species of whales and dolphins in the Philippines.

It is a rich fishing ground, providing livelihood to thousands of fisherfolk and their families in the 42 coastal cities and municipalities in Cebu and Negros Islands.

"Tañon Strait is a marine biodiversity hotspot. Effective management mechanisms are necessary, along with strong law enforcement, to ensure that it is protected.

Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR

22 JAN 2017

DATE

3

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Gov't eyes deployment of more sea patrols in Tañon Strait

By Alvin Murcia

Additional sea patrols have been laid out by several government agencies and local government units to pin down commercial fishers in Tañon Strait, the country's largest marine protected area between Cebu and Negros. Aside from the strict patrols that would be implemented, cases against those who will be caught will be filed.

This was revealed by Am Prospero Lendio, area superintendent of Tañon Strait Protected Seascape (TSPS), which is under the supervision of the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-BMB).

He said regular patrols and surveillance activities are necessary for the detection and intelligence gathering of violations within the protected area, as part of an enforcement plan.

The enforcement plan serves as guide in harmonizing the initiatives of concerned government agencies to protect Tañon Strait.

The plan includes regular inspection of fishing vessels along Tañon Strait, a step-by-step strategy for operations and surveillance, and filing of cases against violators.

Tañon Strait is a critical marine habitat and important migratory path for 14 of the 27 species of whales and dolphins in the Philippines.

It is a rich fishing ground, providing livelihood to thousands of fisherfolk and their families in the 42 coastal cities and municipalities in Cebu and Negros Islands.

The TSPS is governed by a protected area management board (PAMB) led by the DENR, with the provincial, municipal and barangay LGUs as members, including other concerned government agencies like the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Department of Interior and Local Government, Philippine National Police, Department of Justice (DoJ), and civil society organizations.

"Tañon Strait is a marine biodiversity hotspot. Effective management mechanisms are necessary, along with strong law enforcement, to ensure that it is protected. The operationalization of the enforcement plan should deter the banned commercial fishing and destructive activities in the protected area," said lawyer Gloria Estenzo Ramos, vice president for Oceana Philippines.

The enforcement plan is one of the components of Tañon Straits

General Management Plan (GMP), which provides mechanisms for protecting marine habitats, ensuring sustainable fisheries, and reducing illegal fishing through increased patrolling and apprehension, prosecution of violators, and training of law enforcers, Ramos said.

She said Oceana, in partnership with the DENR-BMB, BFAR and the DoJ, has assisted in providing legal trainings to law enforcement personnel, including the newly-designated special prosecutors for protected areas. Oceana also works with BFAR in the pilot-testing of vessel monitoring technologies to track fishing activities in Tañon Strait.

Despite being declared a protected area in 1998, Tañon Strait still suffers from exploitation by commercial fishers encroaching in municipal waters, degradation of critical habitats, and over harvesting of fishery resources, she said.

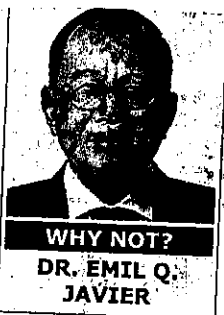
Ramos said protecting the strait is a big challenge but a vital task thus the need for a strengthened collaboration of various stakeholders to conserve and protect the critically important marine habitat and fishing ground, where thousands of fishers depend on for food and livelihood.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

P-1

Water for irrigation need not be free

(Part II)



WHY NOT?
DR. EMIL Q. JAVIER

into five key dimensions and rated each country in a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being most water secure, and 1 being least water secure).

Twenty-nine (29) out of 48 countries in Asia Pacific region were rated water insecure (composite scores of 1 and 2). None scored the perfect score of five. Among the most water secure (composite score of 4), were New Zealand, Australia, Singapore and Japan. The most water deficient (composite score of 1) were Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The Philippines was rated water insecure and embarrassingly ranked in the bottom fourth (38th out of 48 countries).

Even now, our two major urban centers, Metro Manila and Cebu, are already experiencing shortage of water supply during the dry season. Increasingly rice farmers in Bulacan are deprived of their allocation of irrigation water as the water supply from Angat dam is preferentially diverted to meet the domestic water needs of city folks in Metro Manila. In an earlier projection by JICA, Regions II, III, IV and VII will be experiencing water stress by 2025.

Preparing for

a Water-Scarce Future

The handwriting is on the wall. In the face of rising, competing demands for industry, domestic, energy generation and environment uses, fresh water will inevitably become a scarce economic good that must be carefully managed, used most efficiently, and, in the future most likely RATIONED. Fortunately, with our natural water resource endowments we have time to prepare.

There will be trade-offs. There is an

tion, treatment, conveyance and proper disposal of water. Ultimately somebody has to pay for these services. We should therefore, this early, disabuse all Filipinos, starting with the biggest users, the farmers, of the notion that water is free.

The new policy of the Duterte administration of free irrigation therefore flies in the face of the grim reality of the growing scarcity of water. Our farmers understand and accept the need/obligation to pay for irrigation services. Contrary to the observation that farmers obstinately refuse to pay for water, the collection efficiency of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) had been steadily improving over the years. Irrigation fees collection efficiency, in 2014 stood at 67.4 percent. Farmers do pay and those who refuse often are farmers downstream or at the tail-end of the irrigation system who do not get enough water.

Free distribution of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, tractors and grain dryers to farmers which well-meaning administrators, politicians and some academics included prescribe as shortcut to improving the lot of farmers and fisherfolks is unsustainable, costly and prone to graft and corruption. Let's not make our life more miserable by throwing in free irrigation water.

What Does It Take to Strengthen Water Security?

The ADB study cited above highlighted the need for three interventions: continuing investments in 1) INFRASTRUCTURE, 2) INSTITUTIONS, and INFORMATION.

The Philippines is doing fairly well in water security.

The previous week's column elicited many and varied comments from readers. Hence this additional commentary.

The new free water policy for agriculture is not as simple and straightforward as it would appear. While politically expedient in the short-term, it will be against our long-term national interest. We need to prepare for a water scarce future. Without the luxury of spare lands to devote for farming, we will need all the water we can save to secure our future food needs. If irrigation water is free there will be no pressure/incentive for farmers to conserve and apply water judiciously.

The world is running out of fresh water. By 2050, the world's population would have ballooned to 10 billion and demand for fresh water would have increased by 15 percent. Agriculture will continue to account for the largest share (80 percent) of industrial and domestic uses will increase much more rapidly (65 percent and 30 percent increase, respectively versus five percent for agriculture).

Globally agriculture needs to produce 1 percent more food by 2050 (in fact 100 percent or even more for many developing countries like ourselves) but with less and less water.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) a recently published study (Asian Water Development Outlook 2016) assessed the level of water security among the countries in the Asia Pacific region. The Bank aggregated national water security

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1980

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

P-2

Water For Irrigation

Institutions (governance) and generating information.

More than half of the annual appropriations of the Department of Agriculture (DA) for all these years have been for irrigation systems construction. Yes we should persevere in building more irrigation systems (57 percent completion so far). We need large multipurpose dams for irrigation, domestic and industrial uses and power generation. However for the meantime, we need to pay more attention to rehabilitation/restoration of degraded irrigation systems as well as in development of small ponds, farm reservoirs and shallow wells which are quicker to build, less costly and which give farmers better control over water distribution.

But we need to do a better job in raising water use efficiency and building institutions to manage our water resources effectively. At the macro level, there is confusion in the governance of water resources. There are about 30 agencies with overlapping, sometimes conflicting mandates over water. We should strengthen and endow more power to the National Water Resources Board (NWRB).

At the agency operating level, our irrigation water use efficiency is dismally low. Average cropping intensity of our irrigation systems is only 137 percent compared with the ideal 200 percent. Government, through NIA and the Bureau of Soil and Water Management (BSWM), can only do so much. The heavier burden of maintaining the water canals and imposing discipline for the equitable and timely delivery of water repose on the shoulders of the water beneficiaries themselves through the Irrigators Associations (IAs).

The farmers should manage and maintain the downstream facilities them-

selves through the IAs. Irrigation water should not be free. They should collect water fees from among themselves to pay for part of the cash costs of maintenance and keep the surplus to broaden the capital base of their cooperatives.

Finally with regard to water resources data and information, as the management saying goes, we cannot properly manage that which we do not measure. We need a concerted national effort to gather information on availability of both surface water and aquifers, their regional and seasonal distribution, actual usage and projection of local and regional demands.

Hence the recommendation to establish Water Resources Research Centers in a few selected state universities to continuously collect, monitor and analyze regional water resources data upon which to rigorously base policies, legislation, investments and institutional arrangements on water resources development.

For a more up-to-date and comprehensive treatment of irrigation issues, you will find them in a recent book published by the Asia Rice Foundation, Inc. (ARF), a Los Baños-based non-government organization (NGO) with the title "Water in Agriculture: Status, Challenges and Opportunities." Orders for the book (P300 per copy) may be addressed to asia_rice@searca.org.

Dr. Emil Q. Javier is a Member of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and also Chair of the Coalition for Agriculture Modernization in the Philippines (CAMP). For any feedback, email ecjavier@yahoo.com.

Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR

22 JAN 2017

DATE

8

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

CEMEX subsidiary bags 3 awards for responsible operations

Apo Cement Corp., a subsidiary of CEMEX Philippines, was again the recipient of Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA) awards this year for having the safest mineral processing operation and for its environmental conservation program.

PMSEA, the country's forerunner in the promotion of occupational health and safety, sound environmental management, and social responsibility in the mining industry, handed Apo Cement Corp. the 2016 Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award (Platinum Achievement Award) in the mineral processing category, Best Mining Forest Award in the mineral processing plant category, and Safest Mineral Processing Award in the cement plant category during the 63rd Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference (ANMSEC) at Camp John Hay in Baguio City.

These awards reinforce the company's dedication and commitment to championing responsible natural resource management in Cebu.

"Responsible operations is our top priority at CEMEX. We believe that by living out sustainability in everything we do, we are responsibly addressing the needs of the present time and at the same time securing the needs and ensuring the future of the next generation," said Ernesto Felix, CEMEX vice president for operations and technology.

Apo Cement won the Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award for garnering the highest scores in four criteria namely Environmental Management; Safety and Health Management; Social Development and Management; and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programs.

Helping Apo Cement win the award are its accomplishments in environmental protection and enhancement particularly the 96 percent survival rate of its mangrove plantation under the Grow-a-Tree Project, which is also the highlight of the Best Mining Forest Award.

Apo Cement placed second runner-up in the Best Mining Forest Award after its conservation program got the best

scores in six criteria namely Development Plan, Nursery Operation, Total Planted Areas, Survival Rate, Tree Endemicity, and IEC on Reforestation. Last year, the company got a perfect score in the biodiversity criteria after award evaluators observed the presence of birds, insects, snakes, and other relevant species in the tree plantation areas.

Apo Cement, which produces the well-known cement brand APO, also won the Safest Mineral Processing Award for garnering Highest Manhours without Lost Time Incident.

"The awards would not have been realized without the full support of our people to the company's Environment, Health, and Safety initiatives. Our commitment to being a responsible organization and a leader in operational excellence drives us to achieve more," said Gerry Rota, Apo Cement Corp. plant director.

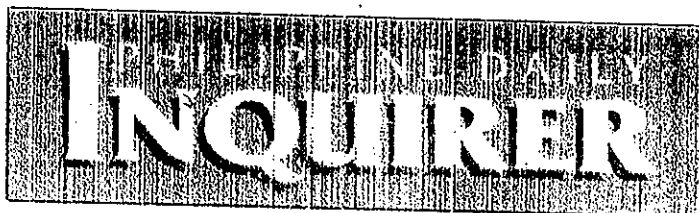
The PMSEA, Mines and Geosciences Bureau,



Environmental Management Bureau; Office of the Department and Natural Resources Secretary and the Department of Science and Technology evaluate the nominees and give the score.

Apo Cement Corp. and Solid Cement Corp., another CEMEX Philippines subsidiary, produce and market cement and other building materials in the country. Visit www.CEMEXholdingsphilippines.com for news and updates or like and follow CEMEX Philippines on Facebook and Instagram. For partnerships, contact the Public Affairs Unit at (632) 849-3600.

In photo are the leaders and officials of Apo Cement Corp. during the awarding ceremony.



22 JAN 2017

DATE

4-13

A-13

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

The plant-based solution to hunger

Berlin—The way we eat in the industrialized world is unhealthy, unjust and unsustainable. Far too much of the meat we consume is produced under questionable ecological, ethical and social conditions. And now our industrial model for meat production is being exported to the global south—especially India and China—where meat consumption is rising among these countries' emerging middle classes.

Worldwide, 300 million tons of meat are produced each year, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that the annual amount will increase to 455 million tons by 2050 if demand continues to grow at the current rate. Such large amounts of meat can be produced only on an industrial scale, and at high social, political and ecological costs.

Meat production is a tremendously inefficient use of agricultural land, because considerably more plant-based food is needed to feed livestock than we would need to feed ourselves directly through a plant-based diet. For example, producing one kilogram of chicken meat, pork or beef requires 1.6, three and eight kg of animal feed, respectively. This pits farmers and animal-feed producers against one another in a fierce competition for land.

Meanwhile, the production of soy—the world's most important animal-feed grain—rose from 130 million tons in 1996 to 270 million tons in 2015, with 80 percent of output going to meat production, especially in China (70 million tons) and Europe (31 million tons). This expansion of soy agriculture, as a result of the growing de-

mand for meat, is driving up land values. Consequently, in the global south, common land is being privatized, rainforests are being destroyed to make room for agricultural cultivation, and international agribusinesses are expropriating the land that one-third of the world's people still rely on for their livelihoods.

Animal-feed production, and the intensive cultivation of agricultural land that it requires, is not only destroying ecosystems and reducing biodiversity; it is also fueling climate change. Worldwide, our industrial agriculture system produces an estimated 14 percent of the world's greenhouse-gas emissions. Including emissions indirectly linked to deforestation, and those associated with fertilizer production, increases that share to 24 percent. And the extensive use of fertilizers and pesticides—99 percent of the world's soy is genetically modified, and is routinely treated with pesticides—is also contaminating ground-water sources, destroying biodiversity and eroding the soil.

We can no longer ignore the external costs of this system. If we are serious about addressing climate change and securing every human being's right to proper nutrition and food security, we must challenge the presumption that an industrial agricultural model, let alone meat, is necessary to

feed the world.

In fact, that presumption has little merit. The UN Environment Program estimates that, by 2050, an area between the size of Brazil and India will have to be repurposed into cropland if current food-consumption trends continue. But if the 9.6 billion people expected to inhabit the planet by then were to have a plant-based diet, industrial meat production could be abandoned and all of them could be fed without need for any additional agricultural land.

For many people, the competition for land is a fight for survival. Land access, which is more unevenly distributed than income, is a deciding factor in whether someone suffers from malnutrition: 20 percent of households that experience hunger do not own land, and 50 percent of people who experience hunger are small-scale farmers.

The industrial agriculture system's production chains must be replaced with local, decentralized, and sustainable production chains. It is incumbent upon governments to prioritize people's right to food and nutrition above private economic interests. People should not lose their livelihoods and food security for the benefit of agribusiness profits.

The challenge of feeding every human being should not be viewed in opposition to—or as somehow ruling out—questions of social justice and the future of the planet. Poverty, malnutrition and hunger are a result of politics, not scarcity. Project Syndicate

Barbara Unmüßig is president of the Heinrich Böll Foundation.

WORLD VIEW

BARBARA UNMÜßIG

22 JAN 23 1987

DATE

3

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS



SCAVENGERS pick recyclable materials on top of the Payatas landfill in Quezon City that they will sell to junkshops yesterday. The landfill is set to be shut down by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the first quarter of the year due to its proximity to the La Mesa watershed and the risks of methane buildup. (Federico Cruz)

22 JAN 23 1987

DATE

3

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS



Ipinag-utos na ni DENR Secretary Gina Lopez sa Quezon City Government ang pagsasara ng Payatas dumpsite dahil sa dulot nitong matinding air pollution at water pollution sa kalapit na La Mesa Dam. Sinalungat naman ang mga basurero sa pagsasara ng nasabing dumpsite na kanilang pinagkukunan ng kabuhayan. (Kuha ni Boy Santos)

Abante

UNA SA BALITA

22 JAN 2017

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS



Ipapasara na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang tambakan ng basura sa Payatas, Quezon City upang pigilan ang pag-leak ng katas at mahalo sa water shed ng Quezon City at Marikina na makakaapekto sa kalusugan ng mga residente ng Metro Manila. (Mike Taboy)

THE STANDARD

22 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

A-41

PAGE

✓
LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

A DUMP NO MORE?

Environment Secretary Gina Lopez has ordered the Quezon City government to close the Payatas dumpsite pictured here, but the city is asking Lopez to reconsider since it doesn't have an alternate dumpsite yet. **Manny Palmero.**



THE STANDARD

22 JAN 2017

DATE

✓
UPPER HALF

D-1
PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Scan this icon to
view the PDF



MANGROVE PLANTING Personnel of the Bataan Peninsula Development Office (BPDO) are seen planting mangrove saplings during the 3rd Mangrove Planting Project (MPP) in Poro Island, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Base, Guimán, Samar. The project is a joint effort between the BPDO and the PCG. The BPDO has been working on mangrove restoration for many years.