

03 APR 2016

**DATE**

**DAY**

**Sunday**

# **DENR**

## **IN THE NEWS**



# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

03 APR 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

A-7  
PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Apo fire feared nearing sulfur deposits

DIGOS CITY—Authorities expressed fears the fire that is still raging on Mt. Apo could spread to more areas on the country's tallest peak, which has been declared closed for an indefinite period to mountaineering and other activities.

Changing wind direction is threatening to fan the flames, and sulfur deposits in one part of the mountain could catch fire and worsen the blaze, according to Harry Comoro, spokesperson of a group of officials in charge of

fighting the fire and which calls itself Incident Monitoring Team.

Comoro said sulfur deposits are fueling the fire, making it tougher for firefighters to dig fire lines.

Mt. Apo is a dormant volcano and its previous eruptions left large sulfur deposits.

"Obnoxious odor is hampering the advance (of firefighting teams)," said Comoro.

Digos City Mayor Joseph Peña has ordered the creation of a separate task force to focus

on efforts by the city government to stop the fire from spreading in the Digos part of Mt. Apo.

Einstein Gary Taghoy, Digos City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council executive officer, said an emergency meeting was called by the task force on Friday.

Edgardo Elera, Digos City tourism officer, said at least 100 more volunteers are waiting to be deployed to help put out the fire. **Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao**



**VOLUNTEERS** load sacks of crushed ice onto a military helicopter that is helping fight the raging fire on Mt. Apo, the country's tallest peak. **ORLANDO DINOY/INQUIRER MINDANAO**



03 APR 2016

DATE

Page 1 Story  
PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

## AFP deploys response unit vs Apo blaze

By JAIME LAUDE

The military deployed a company of soldiers to Mt. Apo in Davao yesterday to help firefighters and volunteers put out the forest fire that has been raging in the area for several days now.

Aside from ground deployment of troops, Lt. Gen. Leonardo Guerrero, commander of the Davao City-based Eastern Mindanao Command, alerted response units of the Army, Air Force and the Navy for deployment to Mt. Apo.

"At around 2 a.m., 112 soldiers from the

Turn to Page 3

10th Infantry Division arrived in Kapatagan, Davao del Sur and will be reporting to the Control Point (CP) for briefing and subsequent deployment," Maj. Ezra Balagtey, Eastmincom spokesman said.

Balagtey added that a Super Huey helicopter again took off early yesterday morning from the Air Force Tactical Operations Group in Davao City for fire-suppression air operations. It dropped buckets of water on the burning slopes of Mt. Apo.

Another helicopter, he said, is being used to ferry additional fire volunteers as well as to conduct resupply and aerial assessment flights.

The Eastmincom has requested for more helicopters for its anti-fire operation as the blaze continues in a thickly forested area of the mountain. However, the request is still pending availability of the aircraft.

Balagtey said the Eastmincom is ready to commit more troops to the area to help contain the fire, which was reportedly caused by hikers on the Kidapawan City trail to Mt. Apo. The fire has threatened the survival of the Philippine Eagle, which nests in the Philippines' highest mountain.

Aside from the AFP, around 40 technical personnel from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are now in the area. They have been working with personnel from other government agencies to prevent the fire from spreading.

# The Manila Times

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

## Troops, choppers to help quell Mt. Apo fire

THE military's Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) on Saturday put on standby several troops and choppers to help in the effort to suppress the forest fire on Mt. Apo in Davao del Sur.

Eastmincom officials said that a company size of soldiers from the 10th Infantry Division arrived in Kapatagan and will be reporting to the command post for briefing and subsequent deployment and utilization.

Major Ezra Balagtey, Eastmincom chief information officer said that one helicopter from Tactical Operations Group (TOG) arrived in the area and was conducting Helicopter Bucket operation to quell the fire on Mt. Apo.

"We are awaiting for the advice on the additional helicopter as the supposed movement was cancelled due to aircraft discrepancy," Balagtey said.

One Huey chopper is also being utilized to ferry volunteer, aerial assessment and resupply mission in the country's highest peak.

Meanwhile, police in Negros

Oriental are also gearing for possible rescue operation once alert level 2 status is raised over Mt. Kanlaon that has shown signs of restiveness in the past few days.

Senior Supt. Harris Fama, Negros Oriental Police Provincial Police Office (NOPPO) director, said at least 150 more policemen in Canlaon City are ready to be deployed in villages that will be affected once Mt. Kanlaon erupts or alert level 2 is declared.

Fama added they have imposed travel restriction within the 4-kilometer radius from the crater area of volcano following an alert level status 1 on Tuesday night.

Minor volcanic eruption from Mt. Kanlaon was first recorded at about 6:20 p.m. on Tuesday and the second eruption was at 7:18 p.m. that sent plumes of ash up to 1,500 meters up the sky. Two episodes of volcanic tremor were also recorded from Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning.

**ANTHONY VARGAS**



# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

03 APR 2016

DATE

A-14

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Mt. Apo in flames

**U**RGENT, INDEED radical, measures are needed to preserve Mt. Apo, and if these include closing the Philippines' tallest mountain to the public for an indefinite period, then the agencies and local government units involved are correct to bite the bullet.

As it is, Apo has been at the short end of the stick as far as the rash behavior of certain climbers, campers and similar groups is concerned. Now the **EDITORIAL** raging fire that began on Black Saturday, purportedly caused by a group of campers, and that has destroyed more than 300 hectares of grasslands and forests, adds to the urgency of the matter.

Rising to 2,954 meters (almost 10,000 feet), the mountain straddles Davao City, Davao del Sur and North Cotabato. It is the most popular climbing destination in the country, with 6,000 climbers visiting it in a year. It is also a massively important nature preserve, including being the home of the endangered Philippine eagle. There are over 100 endemic bird species in the area that also includes four lakes, 19 rivers and eight watersheds.

First declared a national park in 1936 and recognized worldwide for its biodiversity, the Mt. Apo Natural Park (MANP) has unfortunately suffered from its popularity. The irony is that the very people drawn by the mountain's regal beauty are contributing to its destruction. In 2014, for example, climbers left 2.6 tons of garbage—discarded food wrappers, empty water bottles, cigarette butts, even sanitary napkins, all nonbiodegradable—for volunteers to gather and dispose of. "This is total disregard of our desire to keep flora and fauna at the national park healthy," lamented Joey Recimilla, chair of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) committee on ecotourism.

The influx of climbers and the *kaingin* (slash and burn) farming practice have occasionally led to forest fires on the mountain, particularly in 1998 and 2003. (On the other hand, it's said that forest fires are not always bad. Many mountains similar to Apo in size and life actually benefit from fires that effectively clean the forest floor, providing new areas for animals and plants to grow and enriching the soil. In the natural scheme of things, forest fires lead to periods of time when the mountain "heals" itself through regrowth. But not all fires are good.)

The drought in Mindanao had indicated a high risk of forest fire, leading the MANP-PAMB to earlier decide to limit the number of climbers allowed on Apo. Summer being peak climbing season on the mountain, it was announced that only 1,000 climbers would be permitted to climb Apo during Holy Week.

Disaster struck on March 26, Black Saturday, when a massive fire blitzed through 100 hectares of forest cover in just one day. "The temperature on Saturday was negative 3," said Janice Javellona of the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in Bansalan, Davao del Sur. She said rescuers had "received information that some climbers lighted a fire in front of their camp."

The fire quickly went out of control, and some 1,000 foreign and local trekkers had to be evacuated from campsites. A military chopper was deployed to dump water on the burning areas. Ill-equipped but determined volunteers worked around the clock to fashion a "containment zone." Wild animals fled toward Lake Venado. But the fire continued to rage at this writing.

Even as containment efforts continue, attention is now focused on what should come next. Here's where the PAMB has to flex muscle and impose controls, and to direct the concerned LGUs on the necessary course of action. Town mayors have canceled certain summer events on the mountain. North Cotabato Gov. Emmylou Talino-Mendoza has moved to find "who should be held accountable for this abominable act."

Perhaps the most radical measure being considered is a five-year closure of the mountain to climbers, to allow it to heal itself. The proposal, initiated by North Cotabato officials, is finding favor among the LGUs. There is merit to the idea of letting nature take its course on Apo, but then there is also the matter of the livelihoods of those who make their living from the mountain. The issue will require resolve and creativity from the government, and compliance and cooperation among civilians. There is a reason that indigenous peoples have long considered Mt. Apo sacred. It's time the rest of us displayed the same reverence.



03 APR 2016

# PEOPLES JOURNALS

Everybody's Newspaper

DATE

7

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

# ***Soldiers sent to help contain Mt. Apo forest fire***

**THE Eastern Mindanao Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines provided additional forces to help in the government's effort to contain the forest fire on the country's highest peak Mt. Apo in Davao del Sur.**  
EastMinCom spokesman Maj.

Ezra Balagtey said 112 soldiers from the 10th Infantry Division were sent to Bgy. Kapatagan, Digos, Davao del Sur for deployment to Mt. Apo.

"We are waiting for the advice on the additional helicopter as the supposed movement was

cancelled due to aircraft discrepancy," Balagtey said.

She said one helicopter from the Tactical Operations Group yesterday arrived in the area and conducted bucket operations to control the fire.

"The TOG XI arrived in Kap-

atagan and conducted helicopter bucket operation," Balagtey said.

She added that a Huey chopper is also presently being utilized to ferry volunteers and conduct aerial assessment and resupply mission in Mt. Apo.

Earlier, EastMinCom com-

mander Lt. General Rustico Guerrero directed all military units under the EastMinCom to alert their entire respective disaster unit for possible deployment in Mt. Apo and help in the fire suppression operations.

The bushfire on the peak of Mt.

Apo started on March 26 and progressed to the lower areas, particularly in Lake Venado, and spread towards the boundary of Sta. Cruz in Davao del Sur.

The fire affected about 400 to 500 hectares of forest land.

**Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca**



03 APR 2016

DATE

7

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS**



**Wala na sanang  
pinaakyat**

NGAYON na pinag-utos na ng Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na complete closure ng Mt. Apo sa lahat ng climbers, trekkers o maging sa mga negosyante at magsasakang gustong kunin ang lahat ng kung may anu-ano sa bundok para sa kanilang sariling kapakanan.

Nangyari na nilabas ang utos ng PAMB na total closure noong Huwebes na kung saan hindi pa rin naapula ang apoy na lumamon sa malaking bahagi ng forested area ng Mt. Apo simula pa noong nakaraang linggo.

Hanggang ngayon, patuloy pa ring rumaragasa ang apoy sa ibang bahagi naman ng Mt. Apo dahil nga sa kasalukuyang tagtuyot at matinding init na nanatili sa katimugan.

Ang sitwasyon sa Mt. Apo ay matagal nang naging problema hindi lamang dahil sa tag-init ngunit dahil na rin sa mga kaingero na naglipana at walang pakialam sa kapakanan nang marami.

Ganun na kalala ang problema sa Mt. Apo ngunit hinayaan pa rin ng PAMB na umakyat ang may isang libong mountain climbers noong Holy Week.

"PAMB limited the number of trekkers to only 1,000 who will be allowed to go up to Mt. Apo, the country's highest peak, during the coming Holy Week. in an effort to prevent the occurrence of grass and forest fires.

The carrying capacity of Mt. Apo has reportedly been affected especially since the rivers in the area have already dried up because of the El Nino phenomenon. And because of the low water supply, the peak has been said to be prone to such forest fires.

There are basically six trails that lead to the peak, the number of trekkers in each trail has also been limited to at least 300 trekkers that were allowed to pass through the trail in Sta. Cruz town; 200 through the Kapatagan trail in Digos City, 100 in Bansalan, all in Davao del Sur.

Meanwhile, In North Cotabato, 200 trekkers are allowed to go up through the Kidapawan City trail, and 100 trekkers each for the towns of Magpet and Makilala."

Pinayagan ang may isang libong trekkers noong Holy Week. At ano ngayon ang nangyari? Ito ay dahil umano sa may mga trekkers na nagluto sa taas sa may Kidapawan trail at hindi pinatay ng maayos ang apoy.

Sana alam naman ng PAMB na kararaan lang ng El Nino at ngayon ay nasa kalagitnaan tayo ng tag-init---bakit pa pinayagan ang mga tourism councils ng mga local government units concerned na magpaakyat ng trekkers noong Holy Week?

Heto na at malaking problema ang kinaharap ngayon at paano maaapula ang patuloy na nagliliyab na apoy sa bundok ng Apo?



# HATAW!

## D'YARYO NG BAYAN

03 APR 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### **Bukal kontaminado ng abo, putik mula sa Mt. Kanlaon**

**BACOLOD CITY** - Mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pag-inom ng tubig na nagmumula sa bukal (spring) sa Sitio Guin-tubdan, Brgy. Araal, La Carlota City, Negros Occidental.

Paliwanag ni Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park superintendent at Community Environment and Natural Resources officer Joan Nathaniel Gerangaya, sinalo ng bukal ang mga abo at putik na ibinuga ng bulkang Kanlaon nang maganap ang

phreatic eruption nitong Martes ng gabi.

Bagama't hindi dito kumukuha ng suplay ng tubig ang mga residente ay ipinalabas pa rin ang abiso upang hindi na tumikim ng tubig mula sa bukal ang mga turistang dumarayo sa Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park.

Samantala, patuloy na pinapayuhan ang mga tao na magsuot ng face mask upang hindi na malanghap ang abo at maamoy ang asupre mula sa bulkan.



03 APR 2016

DATE

B 2-2

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

# BusinessMirror

*A broader look at today's business*

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### NORTHERN SIERRA MADRE NATURAL PARK

# Making biodiversity conservation a breeze

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

**E**VERY day a handful of forest-protection officers and about 100 volunteers take turns in manning their posts and conducting routine patrol in the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park (NSMNP), a vast forest reserve and wildlife sanctuary in Isabela province.

The Bantay Gubat personnel are always on the lookout for "unwelcomed guests" in the country's largest natural park.

With just a handful of unarmed personnel fitted against illegal loggers and hunters, the task at hand is not a walk in the park.

Equally daunting is the task of Bantay Gubat to record sightings of rare species of flora and fauna as they pass by uncharted terrains as part of the biodiversity-conservation effort in the NSMNP.

"We only have a few forest-protection officers and about 100 volunteers, but with the help of the communities, we can manage," said Mina Labuguen, the protected area superintendent of the NSMNP.

#### Community, LGU support

LABUGUEN said, in an interview with the BusinessMirror, that the protection of the NSMNP is getting the full support of the people in the province, including the local officials of towns who support their information, education and communication campaign in surrounding communities.

"Our local government units are active members of the Protected Area Management Board [PAMB], and they have committed to protecting the NSMNP," she said. In fact, the provincial government of Isabela agreed to let the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to use their helicopter to conduct air surveillance over the protected area.

#### Logging hot spot no more

ISABELA and other areas in the Cagayan Valley region are no longer considered illegal-logging hot spots.

"We are proud to say that the Regional Development Council [RDC] has declared us to be free of illegal logging," Labuguen said.

Last year the DENR Cagayan Valley Office declared that the region is no longer an illegal-logging hot



03 APR 2016

# BusinessMirror

DATE

B2-2

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

A broader look at today's business

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

P-2

Making biodiversity conservation a breeze

spot, because of the effort of various law-enforcement agencies to combat the illegal harvesting of trees in natural forest.

"The people have learned. They no longer see the trees as source of easy cash. They now see its long-term benefit, especially now that it is getting hotter in our province," she added.

### Agroforestry through NGP

SHE said the communities were tapped to implement the National Greening Program (NGP), making them co-owners of the gains of the massive reforestation project in Isabela. Agroforestry is becoming popular, not for timber, but for coffee, rambutan and other fruits, she said. "Some of our communities are now harvesting fruits from the trees they planted before. They are now selling fruits rather than timber," she said.

### Priority conservation area

ESTABLISHED through Republic Act (RA) 9125, which was signed by President Arroyo in April 2001, the NSMNP is the largest and most diverse protected area in the country.

It covers a total area of 359,486 hectares "from ridge to reef," and its boundary partly transcends a total of eight towns of Isabela, namely, Maconacon, Divilacan, Palanan, Dinapigue, San Mariano, Tumauini, Cabagan and San Pablo, and the city of Ilagan.

According to the DENR, the NSMNP is one of 10 priority sites of National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas). The NSMNP is home to numerous species of flora and fauna, many of which are rare and endangered, including the monkey-eating Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*), the Philippine crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*) and saltwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*).

"It is also home to the rare fruit-eating forest monitor lizard [*Varanus bitatawa*] locally called *bitatawa* or *baritatawa*," said DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau Director Theresa Munda Lim, who underscored the need to strengthen biodiversity-conservation effort in the area.

According to a biological profile prepared by the DENR-BMB, the NSMNP is high in endemism. More than half of the species of mammals, birds, amphibians, trees and plants found in the forest are endemic, or can only be found in the Philippines.

There are 18 species of frogs living within the NSMNP, 13 of which are endemic and five belong to the list of threatened and near-threatened species. There are also 39 species of reptiles, 16 of which are endemic; five on the list of threatened or near-threatened species.

The NSMNP is also an important bird sanctuary, being a host to a total of 291 species of birds, 83 species of which are endemic, while 51 are on the list of threatened or near threatened. There are a total of 44 species of mammals, 21 of which are endemic, while 12 are on the list of threatened or near-threatened species. An estimated 10,000 species of plants can also be found within the park, with about 5,000 species having been identified as endemic to the Philippines.

"The fact that Philippine Eagle population in the park is growing means the forest is in excellent condition and wildlife is thriving," Lim said.

The DENR-BMB recorded sightings of the Philippine Eagle from 2000 to 2015. At least seven Philippine Eagles, including juveniles, are believed to have lived or continue to live within the park. At the foot of the mountains of Northern Sierra Madre, wild crocodiles, perhaps the few remaining crocodiles in Luzon, can also be found.

"We have a crocodile sanctuary in the park. We have partnered with the Mabuwaya Foundation, which helps in the conservation of these crocodiles," Labuguen said.

### Crucial life support

DENR Forest Management Bureau Director Ricardo Calderon said protecting the forest of Isabela is crucial to ensure the survival of the people, who depend on the Cagayan River Basin, the country's largest river basin, which irrigates vast tracts of agricultural land in the Cagayan Valley region. Isabela itself is one of the country's top producers of rice and corn. "The Northern



03 APR 2016

# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

DATE

B2-2

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

P-3

*Making biodiversity conservation a breeze*

Sierra Madre Mountains of Isabela is second largest in terms of forest cover in the Philippines. Almost all expensive wood used in furniture making can be found in that forest," Calderon said. But because of its vastness, protecting the forest and its wildlife is easier said than done, he said.

"Last year we released P20 million for forest protection. This year NSMNP will get the same amount," Calderon said.

### Revolutionizing forest protection

PROTECTING the NSMNP is a big challenge, a reason it was selected for the launching of the United States Agency for International Development-backed Lawin Project, Calderon said. Launched on March 10, the Lawin Project, or Landscape and Wildlife Indicators-Forest and Biodiversity Protection System, makes use of a mobile application as a tool to enhance forest protection and wildlife-conservation effort in the NSMNP.

The Web-based mobile application, a cyber-tracker, would be helpful in providing accurate information about the status of protected areas covered by RA 7586, or the Nipas Act.

The tool will allow concerned government agencies to cope with different challenges of biodiversity conservation, Lim said.

During the project's launch, Lim and Calderon signed the guidelines and mechanics for the national adoption of the project, hoping to make use of the same tool in other protected areas in the country to make life easier for forest-protection officers.

Developed by the DENR and the USAID, through the Biodiversity and Watersheds Improved for Stronger Economy and Ecosystem Resilience (B+Wiser) Program the project, revolutionizes the monitoring system used by the DENR.

"It is basically a system that we developed in biodiversity monitoring. Only, it is now aided with a mobile-application technology that makes it much easier for forest-protection officers and wildlife law enforcers to do their job," Lim said.

She said the Lawin Project aims to improve the response mechanisms to address observed threats and ensure the sustainability of conservation efforts inside the NSMNP. Before its launch in the NSMNP, the Lawin Project was pilot-tested last year in seven other B+Wiser project sites, covering a total area of 442,000 hectares. The other pilot sites are Kaliwa-Upper

Marikina Watersheds in Tanay, Rizal; General Nakar in Quezon province; Naujan Lake National Park in Oriental Mindoro; Quinali "A" Watershed in Albay; Bago Watershed Forest Reserve in Negros Occidental; Mount Kitanglad Natural Park in Bukidnon; and Mount Apo Natural Park in Southern Mindanao.

At least 670 personnel who will act as forest-protection officers and wildlife law enforcers, consisting of resource and data managers and community monitors from the communities, were trained during the pilot-testing. The project's system operates a Web-based, open-source software called CyberTracker for the data-collection interface and the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (Smart) for data analysis, mapping and report generation.

"This makes life easier for our forest-protection officers," Calderon said. Data can be transferred to Google maps and other tools

for creation of actionable reports, which facilitate decision-making, he said.

He added that decision-makers at the regional and national level could easily access Lawin Project reports generated at the field level.

The data collected give national and local planners a more detailed perspective of the biodiversity within a protected area, giving them a better idea of how to manage them better. Through this tool, community volunteers can also quickly alert wildlife officers to clearing of wooded areas, and allows them to upload observations and photos of signs of illegal logging as evidence, and send these photos to concerned law-enforcement agencies.

"We hope to implement the project in all areas and we are eyeing to include it in our budget proposal," Calderon said. That way, protecting the forest and conserving the country's rich biodiversity will be a breeze, he said.



03 APR 2016

# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

DATE

B 2 - 2

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

P-4

Making biodiversity conservation a breeze

*Asean Champion of Biodiversity  
for Media Category 2014*





## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

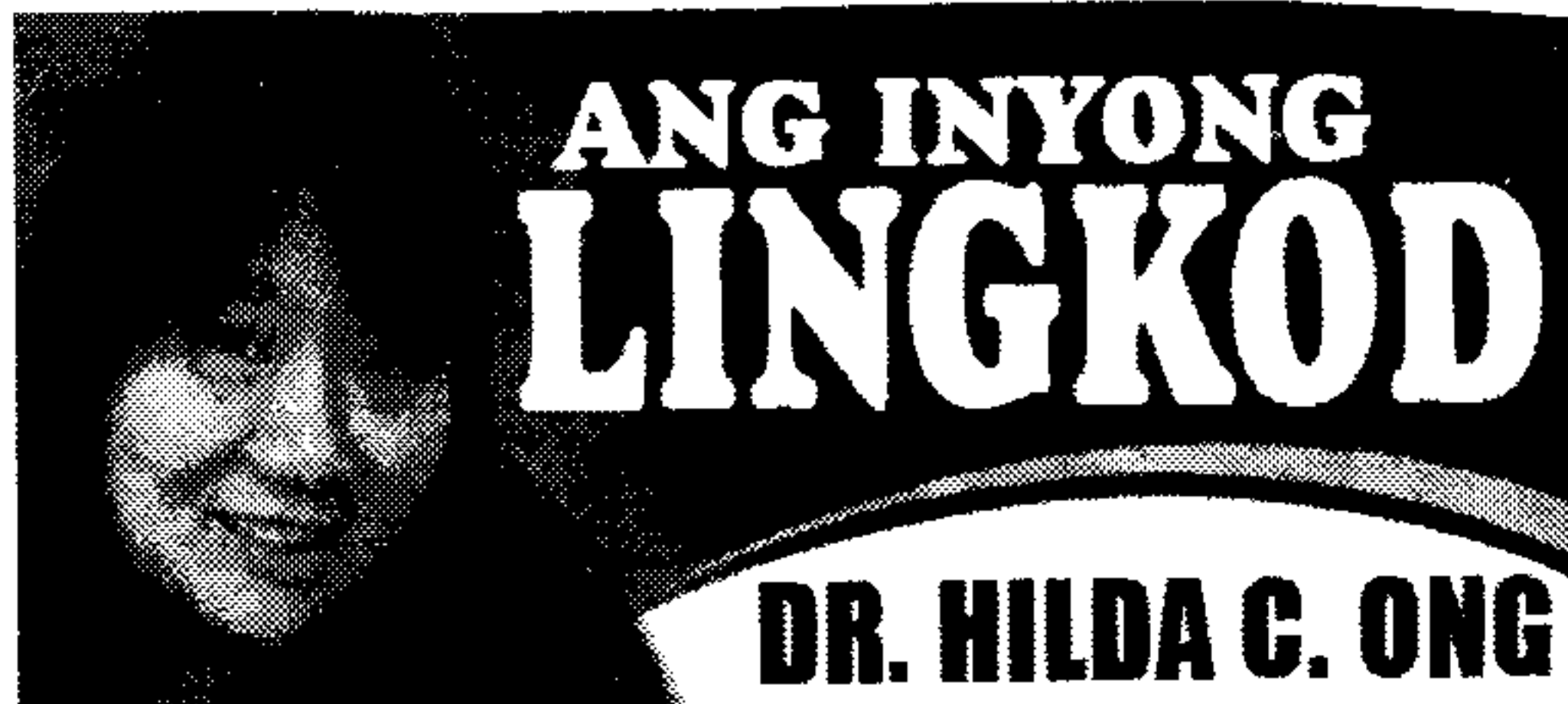
PORMAL na nilagdaan ang isang Implementation Agreement (IA) sa pagitan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at German Development Cooperation - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ - GmbH) kamakailan kaugnay sa isang sustainable forest management at biodiversity conservation project sa Panay Island na nagkakahalaga ng 4 million Euros o katumbas ng Php 200 million.

Lumagda upang lubusang maipatupad ang proyektong Forest and Climate (FORCLIM) Protection Panay Phase II sina DENR Secretary Ramon J.P. Paje, German Ambassador Thomas Ossowski, at GIZ - GmbH director and principal advisor on climate program, Dr. Bernd Markus Liss sa ngalan ni GIZ - GmbH country director Dr. Andreas Kalk.

Ang isla ng Panay ay ang ika-anim na pinakamalaking isla sa buong bansa at siyang ikatlong pinakamalaki sa buong Kabisayaan na binubuo ng mga lalawigan ng Aklan, Antique, Capiz at Iloilo. Matatagpuan dito ang sinasabing "last remaining larger block of natural forest with globally important biodiversity" kung kaya't ang pondo ay gagamitin sa loob ng halos apat na taon upang mapangalagaan at higit pang mapayabong ang likas na yamang ito.

Sa paglagda sa IA, sinabi ni Secretary Paje na "We are deeply appreciative of the continuing assistance of the German government to the country, particularly the DENR to ensure the protection of the remaining blocks of forests in the Panay Mountain Range, including the varied biodiversity therein."

Binansagan naman bilang "Garden of Eden" ni Ambassador Ossowski ang mayaman at multi-diverse biodiversity ng bansa at binigyang-diin na "where one



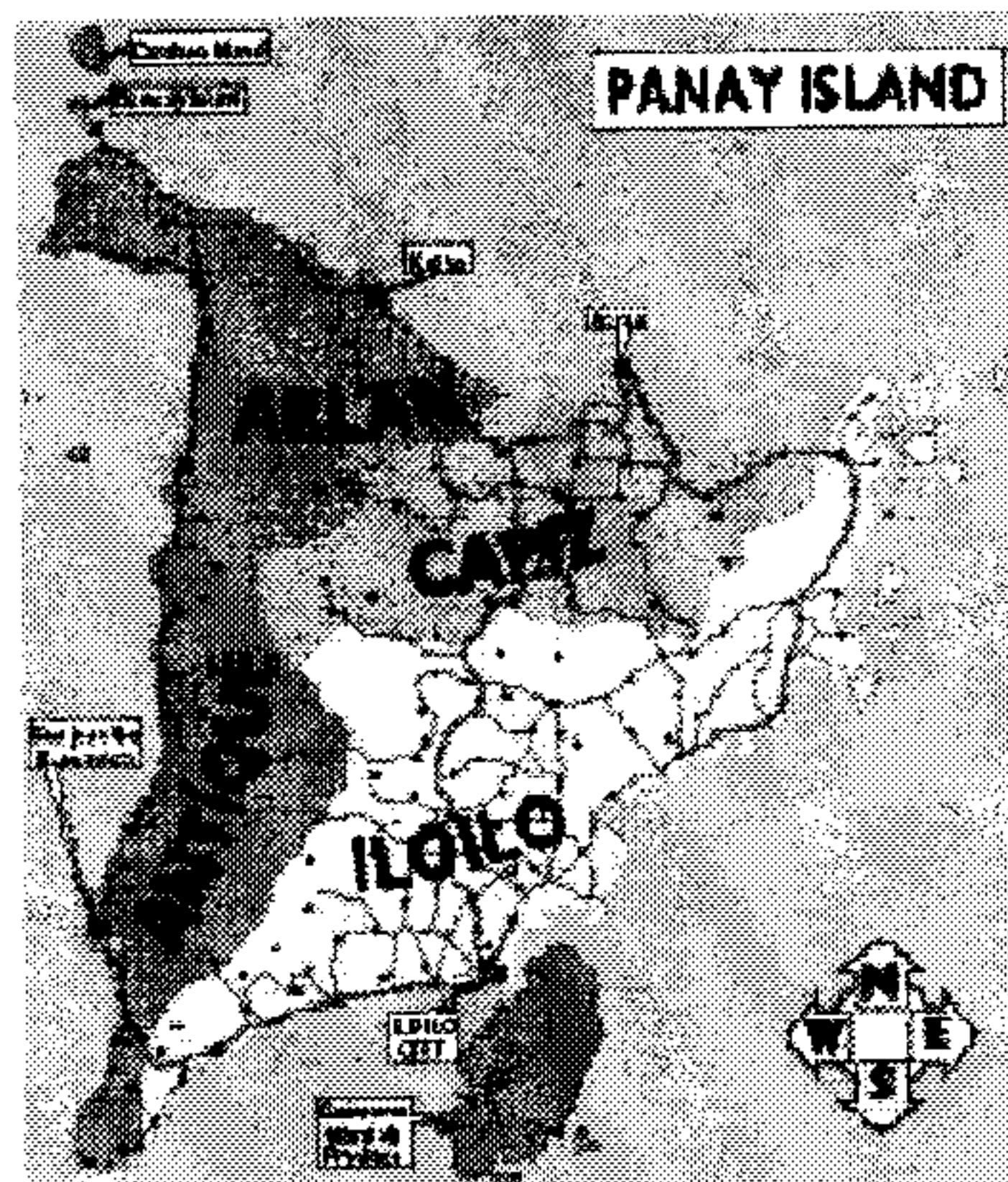
### DENR AT GERMAN GOVERNMENT LUMAGDA SA KASUNDUAN UPANG PROTEKTAHAN ANG PANAY ISLAND

can really admire God's creation, and worthwhile to protect." Idinagdag pa ng German Ambassador na "the Philippines has become a strategic partner of Germany in biodiversity protection and climate change efforts."

Pagtutulungang ipatupad ang FORCLIM Project ng DENR sa pamamagitan ng Forest Management Bureau (FMB), Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), regional office nito, mga local

nang umaasa rito kabilang ang para sa pagsasaka at kabawasan sa pagguho ng lupa at erosion.

Ang FORCLIM Project ay bilang suporta ng pamahalaan ng Germany sa mga pangunahing programa ng pamahalaan ng bansa sa pangunguna ng DENR kabilang ang Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan 2011 - 2020 at pagpapatupad ng Intended nationally determined contribution



(INDC) ng Pilipinas kaugnay sa greenhouse gas emission reduction na nakapaloob sa United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change na nakapaloob sa Paris Climate Agreement na napagkasunduan nitong December 2015.

Isa ang inayong lingkod sa mga magbabantay sa pagpapatupad ng FORCLIM project na ito, at ibabahagi ko sa inyo ang magiging mga kaganapan.

na pamahalaan ng Aklan, Antique, Capiz at Iloilo, at mga people's organizations, gayundin ng GIZ - GmbH. Kabilang dito ang pagtuturo ng sustenableng paggamit ng mga lokal na komunidad ng mga yaman ng kagubatan, climate change mitigation and adaptation, at poverty alleviation.

Inaasahan na sa loob ng pagpapatupad ng proyekto mula taong 2016 hanggang 2018, magkakaroon ng kataagan at normalidad sa lokal na klima, sapat na suplay ng tubig sa mga pamaya-



# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### 'Shame' drive for politicians posting on trees

BY HENRY EMPENO

Correspondent

MASINLOC, Zambales—Netizens in Zambales who have had enough of candidates violating the law against posting campaign materials on trees are now fighting back with a negative campaign via the social media.

Dan Eclevia, a public-school teacher here who is also page administrator of the Kasolibay (Zambal for neighbor) online community, said their group is initiating a "shame" campaign to help prevent further damage to roadside trees used for posting campaign materials.

"We're taking pictures of the posters nailed or stapled on trees, and posting them on social media, with the appeal for residents not to vote for the violators," Eclevia said. "It's really a shame that these politicians wanted us to vote them into power, when they cannot even follow simple rules such as this."

The posting of campaign materials on trees, as well as other non-designated posting areas, like

lampposts and waiting sheds, is a violation of the Fair Elections Act, which require candidates to post materials only in designated public places, like plazas, markets and barangay centers.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) also considers it a violation of Republic Act 3571, which prohibits the cutting, destroying or injuring of planted or growing trees along public roads, plazas and parks and other public ground. The act imposes a penalty of prison correctional (six months plus one day) to the minimum of prison mayor (six years plus one day) to violators.

In line with this, Comelec Resolution 6166 deputized a task force, which includes the DENR, the Department of Public Works and Highways, Metro Manila Development Authority and other agencies, to remove campaign posters found in public places outside designated posting areas.

At the start of the campaign season, DENR Region 3 Director Francisco Milla Jr. also announced that they would remove "without hesitation" campaign materials found nailed or stapled to trees.

Milla explained that the tree's bark serves like the human skin, which acts as a first line of defense against disease.

"When you pierce it with a nail or a staple, it opens up the whole tree to diseases," he said.

However, the provincial DENR

office here said they do not have enough manpower to do the task of removing posted materials from trees along the length of the national highway in Zambales.

Elmer Elbo, who drives passenger vans here, observed that most of the materials posted on trees are posters of candidates for national positions, as their campaign period started earlier than that for local candidates.

"Around 80 percent to 90 percent of the posters and banners you see on the roadside are for national candidates," he said.

Eclevia said this aggravates the situation because the national candidates are looked upon by the locals as their political leaders.

"But by posting campaign materials on disallowed areas, they are setting a bad example to the public," he said.

Lawyer Eric Ebarle, a former provincial board member, also urged netizens here to post photos of violators regardless of personal ties.

"Walang kaibigan, kapatid, incumbent—dapát lahat mai-post," he said.

Eclevia said his group would also ask other local online communities to adopt Kasolibay's shame campaign.

"We want to save the trees. And in the process, what do we know? Maybe we can change the mind-set of some politicians to be more responsible for their actions and be better example to others," Eclevia said.



03 APR 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

4-4  
PAGE

LOWER HALF

P-1  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## PMAP Foundation Takes Greening the Philippines Seriously

UNLESS GLOBAL warming is reversed, the Earth will be uninhabitable in a century or so. Rapid urbanization has turned areas with green trees and vegetation into concrete jungles. Soon, 50 percent of the world's population will be living in urban areas that can no longer sustain decent and clean living.

### Initiative

Global warming and climate change have today become critical environmental, economic, social, political and people issues. While heads of states have signed a pact to reduce global warming, they cannot reverse the inconvenient truth on climate change by their lonesome selves. This is a concern of every living thing on this planet, except perhaps the cockroach that has the reputation to adapt to all types of environmental changes for over 200 million years. If you're not a cockroach, be concerned and do something.

The PMAP Foundation, led by PMAP Chairman Emeritus Orly Peña and President Pilar Nenuca Almira, is right now in a sweet spot. This year, PMAP and the PMAP Foundation have resolved to take the initiative on global

### ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR



*Ernie O. Cecilia*

warming, climate change, and clean air issues.

### PMAP moves

The People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) now led by its President Jesse Francis Rebutillo has more than 1,400 company- and individual members that have the resources and clout to take a strong position on any national or global issue. PMAP President Jesse said, "PMAP is in the midst of a green evolution that will transform its employees and managers into **green movers**, its member-companies into **green workplaces** and help to create **green communities** in places where its members are located."

International development management expert Orly Peña said, "While government can provide the impetus for the program, it is PMAP and PMAP Foundation that have the management and technical

expertise and solutions that can bring about the green evolution."

Orly Peña is known internationally in the areas of development financing and human resources management, training and research. For several years now, Orly conducted programs with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, various agencies of the United Nations, and the Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Entwicklung, a German foundation for international development.

Peña continued, "The PMAP Foundation, through its people-oriented companies and managers, has expanded its operational strategy to become GREEN-oriented and help in saving employees, their work places, their families and their communities from the scourge of polluted air and climate change brought about by global warming. Never in its 60-year history has PMAP felt the economic and social impact of environmental disasters and illnesses caused by it."

Peña also said, "Given the proper strategy and program support, simple projects like Zero Waste Management can be undertaken systematically by

the member-companies in their offices and in the homes of employees. Solar power can be introduced to homes, offices, factories, farms and other places of work. Water can be recycled. Pollution-free vehicles can be mass-produced and quickly introduced to member-companies. Already the PMAP Foundation has launched a "Garden for Every Home" greening and food sufficiency project. PMAP Foundation can help small entrepreneurs to organize green businesses with quick access to financing and advisory services."

PMAP Foundation President Almira said, "Only if we work together can we address this critical issues affecting our people and the nation."

### PMAP Summit

On April 12-13, 2016, the PMAP and the PMAP Foundation will hold the first PMAP Foundation Summit on Clean Air and Climate Change. With its theme "Clean Air: Our Life, Our Future", the Summit will be graced by the Keynote Speaker, DENR Secretary Ramon Paje, at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila.

The Summit shall feature:

- PMAP member-companies'



# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

03 APR 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

H-4

PAGE

LOWER HALF

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

P-2

PMAP Foundation Takes Greeting

contribution to clean air and climate change, issues, best practices, and future programs

- New trends, innovation, technology and BEST Practices for members to consider or adopt, showcasing an exhibition of users, suppliers, and innovations

- Non-traditional sources of financing for entrepreneurs and small businesses engaged in promoting clean air and climate change

- International agencies engaged in clean air and climate change

- ISO standards to guide companies, NGOs and communities engaged in clean air and climate change projects

- AWARDS to recognize leaders and achievers in clean air and climate change

For the first time in the Philippines, PMAP shall grant the PunongBayaningKalikasan (National Leadership) Award and the BayaningKalikasan Awards for individual, corporate, NGO, and community categories.

For inquiry or registration,

please contact [pmapfoundation2@pmap.org.ph](mailto:pmapfoundation2@pmap.org.ph) or call 726-1532.

This Summit will kick off PMAP's series of programs in answer to the global call for action on climate change, where the Philippines is a signatory to the recent Paris agreement on global warming and climate change. Also, this is pursuant to Republic Act 8749, the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, which needs more implementation.

Let's wave the green flag - for our children and their children's children.

(Ernie is the 2013 Executive Director and 1999 President of the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP); Chair of the AMCHAM Human Capital Committee; and Co-Chair of ECOP's TWG on Labor and Social Policy Issues. He also chairs the Accreditation Council for the PMAP Society of Fellows in People Management. He is President and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center. Contact him at [ernie\\_cecilia@yahoo.com](mailto:ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com))



03 APR 2016

# PEOPLES JOURNALS

Everybody's Newspaper

DATE

7

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS



**MOCKERY OF FORESTRY LAW.** Amid the government's stepped-up campaign against illegal logging and timber poaching, some residents of Quezon province felt bothered by the heap of sawn pieces of wood in the middle of Perez Park on the compound of the Quezon Provincial Capitol Building in Lucena City. The pieces of wood were first noticed by residents who attended the local proclamation rally of the Liberal Party at the Quezon Convention Center in Lucena City on Tuesday. The event was graced by LP standard bearer Mar Roxas and his senatorial slate. The pieces of woods were also noticed by some members and participants of the Regional Multisectoral Forest Protection Council, who attended its quarterly meeting at the conference room of the QCC. Provincial government's public information officer Janet Buelo said the tree stumps were part of an old tree toppled by strong winds.

*Photo by Gemi Formaran*



**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS**

03 APR 2016

DATE

5

PAGE

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF



**OLIVE RIDLEY  
TURTLE**

Nagtulang-tulong  
ang volunteers  
kahapon sa  
pagbitbit sa mahigit  
120 kilo ang bigat  
na Olive Ridley  
sea turtle para  
ibalik ito sa dagat  
sa Bgy. Barrientos  
sa Luna,  
La Union, matapos  
matagpuan  
ni Bernardo Ayala  
nitong Biyernes.

ERWIN G. BELEO



# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

03 APR 2016

DATE

A-6

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Court stops sale of land with fake mother title

DAVAO CITY—The Register of Deeds here was told to stop the processing, including registering the sale, of a 707-hectare government land that was bought using titles earlier declared by the Land Registration Authority (LRA) as originating from a spurious mother title.

In a temporary restraining order (TRO) issued on March 22, Judge Panambulan Mimbisa, of the Regional Trial Court Branch 37, said the order will “allow a full ventilation of the conflicting claims of ownership” over the government-owned land, which a businessman has been claiming for 13 years already based on several Original Certificates of the Title (OCT) that the LRA has declared fake in 2004.

Mimbisa issued the TRO based on a petition filed by Alsons Development and Investment Corp. (Aldevinco), which claims to have been exercising control over the area as early as 1964 by virtue of a pasture lease agreement with the government.

In 1992, Aldevinco said it had secured an Integrated Forest Management Agreement from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the land.

Mimbisa issued the TRO as the LRA, in an undated resolution, allowed transactions on the OCTs covering the land.

The undated LRA resolution would have allowed the businessman to have the questioned land registered in his name.

The businessman has been pressing officials to process the registration of the sale of the land but was initially met with rejection because of findings that the mother title of the land was a fake. *Inquirer Mindanao*



# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

03 APR 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

EL NIÑO EFFECT

## Farmers warned of water cutoff

P-1  
CITY OF MALOLOS—  
Farmers have been advised to prepare for what government officials said was a worst case scenario in the ongoing El Niño episode that is turning farms into parched wasteland—a shut-down in the supply of irrigation water.

Officials of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), an agency under the Department of Agriculture that oversees the country's irrigation systems, said the supply of irrigation water to farms could be completely cut by middle of this month if water in Angat Dam, a key reservoir for irrigation and potable water in Bulacan, is not replenished.

The NIA has advised farmers to prepare for a total cut in irrigation supply or a sharp decline in water volume for farms in 17 Bulacan and four Pampanga towns that derive water from Angat Dam.

Gloria Carillo, Bulacan agriculture officer, said farmers have been advised to conserve water at a meeting of the province's municipal agriculture and fishery councils (MAFC), she said.

Irrigation water continued to flow on Saturday, serving about 30,000 farmers, but Angat Dam also supplies 97 percent of the potable water requirements of Metro Manila.

In cases when the Angat reservoir level dips, priority is given to Manila's drinking water supply, Carillo said.



03 APR 2016

DATE  
Page 1 Story  
PAGE

# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

P-1

### VEGGIE FARMERS GROW 'EDIBLE GOLD' IN UPLAND VIZCAYA MINING VILLAGE



ON a farm tour, OceanaGold (Philippines) Community Relations and Communications Manager Nerice Langres is enthralled by the large heads of cabbage grown on a hillside in Tucod, Cabarroguis, Quirino, while young Nonie takes her photos. Farmers dub their vegetable crops "edible gold." LEONARDO PERANTE II

BY LEONARDO PERANTE II

Correspondent

**C**ABARROGUIS, Quirino—Hillside farmers in this gateway town to a gold-copper project operated by OceanaGold (Philippines) Inc. (OGPI) at the mining village of Didipio, Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya, are now into large-scale vegetable farming. What used to be idle contours have been converted into productive vegetable gardens planted with organically grown vegetables.

With rolling terrain, the contour-farming villages of Tucod and Dingasan are also known for growing bananas, cassava, citrus and corn in enormous volume.

Many see the substantial daily food requirement of the OGPI Didipio operations a good prospect that has encouraged many local farmers to shift to organic-vegetable production from traditional rice farming.

Farmer Cornelio Sebastian, who cultivates plots of cabbages in Barangay Tucod, claims that the favorable semitemperate climate, paved-road network provided by the mining company and a potential market for his crops would always be available right in his backyard.

SEE "VEGGIE FARMERS," A2



# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

03 APR 2016

DATE  
Page 1 Story  
PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

P-2

Viggle

Farmers

grow

"With all of these favors, farmers like us can grow 'edible gold' in our farm yards," Sebastian said.

With thousands of mining employees fed from breakfast to dinner, the Australian mining firm has reaffirmed support to the production of high-value crops in the nearby villages.

To ensure food self-sufficiency in the mining village, the company committed to continue supporting a sustainable vegetable-growing program that would benefit local farmers.

"Like the launching of tissue-cultured bananas in the mining village, the company is keeping its support to the production of high-value crops in the Didipio Valley and neighboring villages," OGPI Senior Vice President for Communications and External Affairs Chito Gozar said.

As part of its continuing efforts to ensure a productive and healthy community, the firm is revitalizing the program to encourage more villagers, including teachers and students, to plant nutritious vegetables and fruits right in their own backyards.

The scheme is seen not only to ensure residents of a continuous supply of homegrown crops, but also meet the vegetable and fruit requirements of mining workers, especially now that the Mines and Geosciences Bureau has granted the renewal of OGPI's Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement exploration permit that allows the mining firm to expand its exploration program over the broader region around Didipio.

"It is exactly for this reason that we initiate hands-on seminars among our local farmers to educate them further on proper production and postharvest handling of high-value crops grown in many areas of the town, a hand-reach away to our dining tables," Gozar said.

Aside from the farm-to-market roads constructed by the mining firm in surrounding villages, Gozar said the upland farmers now find it more convenient to transport their harvest because of the all-weather main road which is not only designed to deliver mineral concentrates, but also serves as a major access road for agricultural products produced by the nearby villages.



**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS**

03 APR 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF

**E · D · I · T · O · R · I · A · L**

# Grim reminder of Duterte threat

**E**verything did not sound right in what appeared to be a Philippine National Police crackdown on protesters in Kidapawan City who are mostly composed of farmers and Lumads who are desperately seeking government help amid the dry spell that had laid waste rice farms in Mindanao.

After a violent dispersal of a barricade line on the Cotabato-Davao Highway that resulted in the death of one or two farmer protesters depending on the conflicting reports, the police armed with a search warrant, barged into the compound of a Methodist Church in Kidapawan City where protesters who fled the violent dispersal sought sanctuary.

The police said they were trying to search for firearms. The immediate release of a search warrant and the brazenness of the police operations was a throwback to Davao City Mayor's Rodrigo Duterte's warning issued to the Kilusang Mayo Uno last February for the labor group to refrain from holding protests during his administration or he would kill them all.

The barricade was set up by around 6,000 farmers and members of the protesting Lumad minorities from several towns in Cotabato to demand immediate relief from the drought that had ravaged the province since November last year.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) said the killing was abhorrent given that the protesters, mostly poor farmers and indigenous people, had put up the blockade merely to demand government support to stave off the near-famine conditions brought about by the El Niño-induced drought.

The statement issued by the group blamed the Aquino administration for failing to respond to the farmers' plight despite allotting funds under the budget for disaster response and even specifically for the El Niño threat.

FDC, whose members joined the protest action said the rally was held in the hope the government that failed to prepare for a calamity predicted two years before would finally sense the urgency of the crisis. Instead, the protesters were told to leave or face the government's wrath. It did not take long for the police to order a brutal dispersal with the police wielding batons and firing their guns.

The accounts from the local city government said the violence erupted after the farmer-protesters resisted as state social workers tried to retrieve children from the picket line after the police issued a dispersal order.

The protesters may have sensed that the dispersal would be violent with the children being removed.

The El Niño phenomenon was predicted by the PAG-ASA way back in 2014 and the administration of Noyonoy allotted in the budget this year some P19.2-billion this year supposedly for El Niño mitigation.

Since the Department of Budget and Management said 90 percent of the budget this year was already done, the El Niño funds are assumed to be already on the hands of either the Department of Interior and Local Government or the local government officials.

Yet no one in the Palace had shown the public any specific programs for the spending of the huge amount.

Former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, who is now the anti-trust czar, had indicated that the government was prepared for the worst of the El Niño threat with the budget allocation.

He had said people, especially those living in areas expected to be most affected by the impending drought, should be informed about the interventions to be done so they can avail of assistance.

An inter-agency El Niño Task Force was even formed for it. Balisacan said the El Niño budget would be spent for water management projects for farm production and irrigation.

Instead, it seems that the water collected under the huge El Niño funds would be used to hose down protesting farmers



**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS**

03 APR 2016

DATE

3

PAGE

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF

# Ex-food czar pushes separate calamity fund for agriculture

MAGUINDANAO — Three weeks after the declaration of state of calamity in Maguindanao due to the long-standing dry spell, former food czar and senatorial re-electionist Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan the other day called for the creation of a separate calamity fund for the agriculture sector to provide immediate relief to affected farmers.

“*Ang mga pinsalang dala ng El Niño sa Mindanao ay kahilahakbot. Hindi natin kayang ipikit ang mga mata sa mga ito dahil ang ating mga magsasaka ay siyang naghihirap* (The damage brought by El Niño in Mindanao is terrible. We cannot turn a blind eye on this because our farmers are the ones suffering),” Pangilinan said.

“Having a ready fund specifically for agriculture in times of need would ensure our food security. Our farmers would immediately be given the assistance they need to be able to get back on their feet faster, and our food supply would not be threatened,” he added.

According to agriculture officials, the damage to agriculture has risen to about



PANGILINAN

P133 million. Currently, 31 municipalities in the province are still affected by drought, including Sultan Mastura which is the hardest hit by the El Niño.

Rivers and irrigation canals have all dried up resulting in no harvest of some crops like rice, corn, and assorted vegetables. Crops that survived either have stunted growth or are inedible. Even livestock are dying because there are no more edible foraging areas.

In total there are about 21,890

hectares of affected lands, 24,546 farmers affected, and 51,363 metric tons of damaged crops which translates to a total of P133,848,421 production damage.

Once elected to a third non-consecutive term in the Senate, Pangilinan said that the Agriculture and Fisheries Calamity Fund Act will be one of his priority bills.

He said the Department of Agriculture and the El Niño-affected local governments need to provide an alternative livelihood for the farmers whose potential harvests were destroyed by the El Niño-induced dry spell in Mindanao.

“*Ginagawa na po ito sa mga tinatayong mga patubig ng National Irrigation Administration. Nagbibigay na ng alternatibong pagkakakitaan ang ating mga magsasaka sa pamamagitan ng pagkuha sa kanila upang gumawa ng mga nasabing patubig* (This is already being done in the construction of irrigation by NIA. We are already giving our farmers alternative sources of livelihood by taking them in to work on the said irrigation systems),” he said.

“*Napakahalaga nito para sa ating mga magsasakang walang*

*aanihin. May kapalit na silang kita* (This is extremely important for our farmers who won't harvest much. They would have a replacement income),” Pangilinan added.

He said government should be pro-active when it comes to programs involving farmers and their well-being.

At the same time, the former Presidential Assistant on Food Security and Agricultural Modernization said he has also asked President Aquino and the Office of the Executive Secretary to consider the possible national declaration of a state of calamity in Regions IX, X, XI, and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

A national declaration, he said, will bring national attention and funding crucial for the survival of the affected farmers.

“*Kailangan nang tugunan ang araw-araw na pangangailangan ng ating mga magsasaka* (The everyday needs of our farmers must be addressed),” Pangilinan said.

El Niño is an irregularly occurring climatic phenomenon characterized by unusually warm temperature and dry season in the Pacific region.



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

03 APR 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Nat'l Cave Congress slated in Sagada

By **CZARINA  
NICOLE O. ONG**

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is drumming up interest for the 16th Philippine Speleological Society's (PSS) National Cave Congress on April 11 to 15, 2016 in Sagada, Mountain Province, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

The congress will be hosted by the PSS and the municipality of Sagada. It will carry the theme "Kweba, Kultura, Kalikasan."

The event aims to pay homage to caves as important cultural spaces.

Hence, the DILG is calling on all local government units (LGUs) to send their Environment and Natural Resources Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer, or their Tourism Officer to the event.

The event, which will be held for the first time in the CAR, is expected to draw in 800 foreign and local participants, including PSS members and representatives from the International Union of Speleology, La Venta/Ital-

ian Speleological Society, Bristol Exploration Club or the British Caving Association, and the National Speleological Society USA.