

16 JUL 2019

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DAY : Tuesday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**



# AN APPEAL TO PRESIDENT

## RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

### PN SEEMED TO HAVE LAND GRABBED 40 HECTARES OF AFP OFFICERS VILLAGE

By: AFPOVAI Phase 678

**1965**-Pres. Diosdado Macapagal issued Presidential Proclamation No.461 on 29 September 1965. This proclamation created the AFP Officers Village.

**1978**-Captain Virgilio Marcelo in his capacity as Commander Naval Intelligence and Security Force (NISF) under then flag Officer-In-Command, Philippine Navy ADM Ernesto Ogbinar, illegally occupied and developed an area covered by PP 461 into a 9-Hole Golf Course as a recreational facility for PN personnel. Later on, the 9-Hole Golf Course was expanded into an 18-Hole Golf Course covering about 40 hectares.

**1981**-On 21 February 1981, the Armed Forces Of The Philippines Officers Village Association Inc. (AFPOVAI) was formed. One month later on March 11, 1981 the AFPOVAI was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) Survey and Subdivision Planning was undertaken.

**1985**-On 19 July 1985 DENR approved AFPOVAI's subdivision plan.

**1987**-Sale of lots started. About 154 TCT's and about 290 order of awards were issued.

**1988**-On 21 March 1988, Director of Lands Abelardo Palad Jr's letter to the Chief of Staff, AFP confirmed the sale of lots inside the PN Golf Course and requested the CS, AFP to relocate the PN Golf Course to an area outside of PP 461. (PN Golf Course is not covered by The Lina Law on Urban Poor Squatters).

**1989**-On 4 May 1989, Flag Officer-In-Command RADM Carlito Cunanan acknowledged the legal rights of Lot owners to the area occupied by the PN Golf Course but opted to continue operating and managing The Golf Course.

The Registry of Deeds issued Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) No. 13633. Date of instrument - 29 September 1965. Date of inscription - 11 July 1990. The TCT covers AFP Officers village.

**1992**-PN Golf Club Application for registration with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) approved on 13 Feb 1992 but cancelled on 3 Nov. 2003.

**1993**-On 9 July 1993, Flag Officer-In-Command, VADM Mariano J. Dumancas Jr. admitted the lot owners right over the PN Golf Course and suggested to effect an orderly, fair and expeditious transfer of the area.

On 16 October 1993, Pres. Fidel Ramos issued Memo Order No. 172 prohibiting the Director of the Land Management Bureau from issuing Deeds of Sale covering the AFP Officers Village.

Sometime also in 1993, Flag Officer-In-Command VADM Virgilio Marcelo invited Pres. Fidel Ramos to play Golf in the PN 18-Hole Golf Course. Shortly after that, the PAR 65 18-Hole Golf Course was expanded into PAR 70 18-Hole Golf Course with appropriate facility to run it.

On 14 December 1993, Flag Officer-In-Command VADM Virgilio Marcelo's letter to AFPOVAI allowed the surveying and monumenting activities within the PN Golf Course Area.

**1994**-On 28 December 1994 Director of Lands Management Bureau (LMB) sent a Memo to the DENR Secretary requesting for guidance/instruction regarding the Presidential Memo Order No. 172 dated 16 October 1993. Furthermore, the Director, LMB requested the transfer of jurisdiction over the AFPOVAI area under PP 461 dated 29 September 1965 from the LMB to DENR - NCR.

**1995**-On 23 February 1995 Memorandum from Sec Angel Alcala, DENR to the Director of the Land Management Bureau giving guidance and instruction. "Memorandum Order No. 172 is explicit and leaves no room for interpretation, no more no less. What is not included is excluded. since the processing of applications was not included in the prohibition, the same is excluded. Being excluded, the processing of applications may continue. Also, authority over the processing of applications over AFPOVAI area, including its administration and disposition should now be transferred to DENR-NCR".

On 16 March 1995 FOIC, PN VADM Pio P. Carranza and AFPOVAI representatives BGEN Rosalino A. Alquiza, Chairman of the Board, LCOL Virgilio L. Paman, President agreed to sign a MOA stating that PN shall unconditionally turn over the Land area being occupied by the PNGC, on but not later than 1 October 1996. And, that PNGC shall share five percent of its monthly Gross Revenue with AFPOVAI effective 1 January 1995 retroactive until 1 October 1996 or when PN shall have vacated the Golf Course Area, whichever is earlier.

On 13 June 1995, a letter to SND Renato De Villa from FOIC, PN VADM Pio P. Carranza through CS AFP, asking for the SND's approval of the MOA between VADM Pio P. Carranza and AFPOVAI for the turnover of the PN Golf Course Area to AFPOVAI not later than 1 October 1996.

On 27 November 1995 Gen. Arturo T. Enrile, CS AFP endorsed FOIC, PN letter to SND Renato S. De Villa stating that GHQ will return the aforementioned parcel of land as agreed upon between PN and AFPOVAI.

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**1996**-On 29 May 1996, SND Renato De Villa sent a memo to FOIC, PN. The memo does not respond to the recommendations of Gen. Arturo Enrile for the PN to turn over the PN Golf Course Area to lot owners through AFPOVAI. Rather, the Memo concentrated on the violation of the PN on the MOA between PN and AFPOVAI wherein the PN Golf Club unilaterally expanding or introducing improvements on the Golf Course and in the process destroyed property and monuments erected at AFPOVAI's expense.

**1997**-On 10 December 1997 a letter to AFPOVAI President Col. Rodolfo Villanueva (Ret.) from RADM Eduardo Ma. Santos, reacting to SND Renato De Villa's Memo, "A Dialogue was already conducted between PN Authorities and AFPOVAI representatives as Directed by the SND" No Dialogue ever took place regarding the matter.

On 22 December 1997, Capt. Augusto GO, PA (RET) wrote RADM Eduardo Santos that he takes possession of his lot inside the Golf Course but RADM Santos denied the request and said that authorization from proper authorities is necessary to implement the request.

(PN occupied area of AFP Officers Village illegally and without written authority from GHQ or DND. Now that lot owners with TCT's and Order of Awards are claiming their rights to the area occupied by the Golf Course, the PN is seeking

shelter from GHQ and DND.

**1998**-On 10 November 1998, The Judge Advocate General (TJAG) AFP BGEN Honorio G. Capulong, in a legal opinion submitted to the CS AFP, responding to 14 August 1998 letter by AFPOVAI President Col. Rodolfo Villanueva (Ret.) held that the contention that the area which is occupied by The PN Golf Club is devoted to Public/QUASI - Public Purpose is not legally tenable considering that as early as 1965, the Area had been proclaimed as such, AFP Officers Village.

**1999**-On 12 January 1999 DND Assistant Secretary for legal affairs Memo to SND. The area being occupied by the PN Golf Course rightfully belongs to the AFPOVAI by Operation of Law and Strongly recommends therefore that the Naval authorities be directed to peacefully and orderly turn-over immediately possession thereof to AFPOVAI.

On 16 February 1999 Col. Leonardo Enriquez (Ret.), General Manager AFPOVAI, letter to VADM Eduardo Santos, FOIC, PN- "attached are the letters of the following officers informing that they intend to introduce improvements in their respective lots located inside the PN Golf course starting 16 February 1999".

Sometime also in 1999, the PN under VADM Eduardo Santos undertook massive improvement on the PN Golf course rather than implementing the MOA arrived at by previous Flag-Officer-in-Command and AFPOVAI to turn over the area of the PN Golf Course to lot owners through AFPOVAI. With this development, lot owners planned and executed the occupation of their respective lots at PN Golf course.

About 100 lot owners and supporters entered the PN Golf course area and occupied their respective lots to introduce some fencing and improvements, but were forcefully prevented by the two Marine Platoon Contingent under Capt. Bernard Patiño. The marines even zeroed-in their guns at the lot owners. Some Golfers and PN Officers convinced the caddies and umbrella girls to attack the lot owners. Lot owners, caddies, umbrella girls, Marine soldiers suffered injuries.

Meanwhile, the majority of lot owners and supporters numbering about 200 Led by General Ramon Montaña attempted to join the approximately 100 lot owners and supporters in the Golf Course area but were prevented entry at the gate of Bonifacio Naval Station (BNS). Charges and Counter charges were filed with the Office of the City Prosecutor of Pasig.

On 21 May 1999 Investigating Prosecutor Eduardo R. Garcia of the Office of the City Prosecutor of Pasig dismissed all the charges and counter-charges.

Sometime also in 1999, P/Chief Superintendent Merardo Abaya and three (3) others sued the PN in the Pasig City Regional Trial Court (RTC) to allow him and his three (3) companions to take possession and conduct improvements on their lots at the PN Golf Course. AFPOVAI is not a party to this action by PC Supt Merardo Abaya, et al. PCSupt. Abaya et al won the case at the RTC and Court of Appeals and that it is now pending at the Supreme Court.

**2000**-On 4 December 2000, responding to letters of Col. Rodolfo Villanueva (Ret.) and Maj Gen Ramon Montano (Ret.) Pres. Joseph Estrada issued Memo Order No. 126 lifting the prohibition on Memo Order 172 issued by Pres. Fidel Ramos. Memo Order No. 126 also directed the DENR Secretary to execute or issue Deeds of Sale covering the AFP Officer Village. Brig Gen Lysias C Cabusao (Ret) personally followed up the issuance of Presidential Memo Order No. 126 with Brig Gen Cesar Abella (Ret).

**2016**-On 2 March 2016, DENR-NCR Director Lourdes Wagan letter to BGEN Francisco Paredes (Ret.) confirmed that AFPOVAI through Board Resolution has the sole jurisdiction in assigning qualified applicant over available disposable lots covered by PP461.

**2017**-On 29 July 2017, Eighty Five (85) members of AFPOVAI Phases 678 in a meeting at Luna Hall, Philippine Army Officers Clubhouse signed the letter appeal to Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte requesting the President to direct the PN to turn over the area occupied by the PN Golf Course to the lot owners through AFPOVAI.

On 31 August 2017, AFPOVAI Board Resolution No. 85, S-2017 was passed approving the petition of the lot awardees of Phases 678 and favorably endorsing the said petition/letter of appeal to the Office of the President for consideration of Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

On 11 September 2017, RADM Arthur Garrido (Ret.) AFPOVAI Chairman signed the cover/endorsement letter on AFPOVAI Chapter 678 appeal to Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte to direct the PN to vacate the area of Golf Course and to CEDE Possession of the land to AFPOVAI Members. The letter appeal emphasized the deliberate defiance to an existing law (PP461) by the PN and in the process violating the major campaign efforts of the Duterte Administration against graft and corruption. The endorsed letter appeal was received at the Office of the President with Bar Code at 10:50 AM on 26 September 2017.

On 18 September 2017, Acting Pres. AFPOVAI Ronald Lim wrote a letter to DENR inquiring on the status of issued TCT's (Legal or Not) and other issues or problems hindering the processing of TCT's of AFPOVAI members.

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On 22 September 2017, DENR-NCR Director Lourdes Wagan letter to Ronald Lim Acting President, AFPOVAI confirmed 64 Deeds of Sale issued to AFPOVAI Beneficiaries of Phases 678 as of 22 Sep 2017. Processing the issuance of Deeds of Sales is on-going except lots covered by the on-going case between AFPOVAI and PN Golf Club. The legal case pending in the court is between P/C/ Supt. Merardo Abaya, Et Al and the PN Golf Club and not between AFPOVAI and PN Golf Club.

**2018**-On 16 March 2018 through the initiative of AFPOVAI President Capt. Proceso Maligalig, PN (Ret.), a dialogue between AFPOVAI headed by Chairman Lt. Gen Antonio Romero (Ret) and DENR headed by Atty. Alvin Constantino was conducted at AFPOVAI conference room. Details of subjects covered will be provided by AFPOVAI management.

From year 2000 to the present (Year 2018), no dialogue between PN and AFPOVAI was conducted regarding the turnover of PN Golf Course Area to lot owners through AFPOVAI> The PN has no intention to turn over the PN Golf Course Area to the rightful owners.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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## An Appeal to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte

**WE**, the active/retired AFP and Police officers beneficiaries of Lots at Phases 6,7,8 of the AFP Officers Village at Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila appeal to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to implement Presidential Proclamation No. 461 by directing the Philippine Navy to turn-over AFP Officers Village Phases 6,7,8 to 659 active/retired AFP and Police officers beneficiaries. The Philippine Navy occupies and utilizes AFP Officers Village Phases 6,7,8 as a commercial golf course since 1978 and constituted *The Philippine Navy Golf Council* to run it. This Golf Club has at present more or less 1000 civilians and more or less 400 active/retired AFP and Police officers as members. The financial resources of *The Philippine Navy Golf Council* consist of approximately 100 million pesos from membership fees and about 20 million pesos monthly income.

Presidential Proclamation No. 461 was issued by then President Diosdado Macapagal on September 29, 1965 setting aside a portion of Fort Bonifacio (Then known as Fort McKinley) as housing for officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Pursuant to this, a subdivision plan was approved by the DENR and individual lots were awarded to AFP and PNP Officers. This area is now called the AFP Officers Village.

ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES OFFICERS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, INC. (AFPOVAI) representing the beneficiaries of Lots at Phases 6,7,8 of the AFP Officers Village made written communications to The Chief of Staff AFP and the Secretary of National Defense since 1978 to direct the Philippine Navy to turn-over the area occupied by the Philippine Navy Golf Course to AFPOVAI in reference to *Presidential Proclamation No. 461*. No decision has been made yet by the Chief of Staff, AFP or the Secretary of National Defense and the Philippine Navy continues on using the area of Phases 6,7,8 of the AFP Officers Village until now as a commercial golf course, thereby defying an existing Law and in the process violating the primary campaign efforts of the DUTERTE Administration against graft and corruption.







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**AFP OFFICERS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**(AFPOVAI) No. 85 Bayani Road, Western Bicutan, Taguig City**  
**Tel Nos.: 887-4841 / 887-4840 / Telefax: 800-0957**

September 11, 2017

**H.E. RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**  
President of the Republic of the Philippines  
Malacañang Palace  
Manila



Dear President Duterte,

I write in behalf of the AFP Officers Village Association, Inc. (AFPOVAI). We are the registered homeowners' association of the homeowners as well as the awardees of lots inside the AFP Officers Village in Taguig City.

The AFP Officers Village came about pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 461, series of 1965, issued by President Diosdado Macapagal. Under said Proclamation, certain portions of the erstwhile Fort McKinley (now called Fort Bonifacio) were segregated, declared disposable under the provisions of law, and called the AFP Officers Village. Since then, the land was subdivided and awarded to officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Part of that land, however, is presently still being occupied by the Philippine Navy, particularly the Philippine Navy Golf Club, Inc. As a result, awardees in that area are prevented from occupying and enjoying their lots. At present, most, if not all of these awardees are already in the twilight of their lives. Some have already passed away.

For decades, these awardees have been fighting for their right to enjoy what they have earned with blood, sweat, and tears while serving with the Armed Forces.

It all boils down to a simple choice: should the land remain a money-making venture for the Philippine Navy or should this be distributed to the awardees? As a golf course, the land only serves a few. As a government land, it remains a vast area of dead capital. On the other hand, if the provisions of PP461 are brought to fruition and the land is distributed to the awardees for development and titling, it will become capital - [1] capable of generating more income for the government in the form of taxes; and [2] capable of being used to obtain business loans for use as capital. Hence, the implementation of PD461 will contribute more to our growing economy.

In view of all the foregoing, the AFP OFFICERS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, INC. supports and endorses the Letter of Appeal (hereto attached as ANNEX "A") of the SIX HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE (659) affected beneficiaries and humbly implores Your Excellency to direct the Philippine Navy to vacate the area and to cede possession of the land to our members.

Thank you and *Mabuhay po Kayo!*

Sincerely yours,

**RADM ARTHUR B. GARRIDO (RET)**  
Chairman of the Board



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# 'First, give El Nido folk alternative jobs'

By MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO [@akosistellaBM](#)  
Special to the BUSINESSMIRROR

**T**OURISM stakeholders are once again questioning the plans to close portions of El Nido in Palawan, without giving local businesses and residents any livelihood alternatives.

In an interview with the BUSINESSMIRROR, Jose C. Clemente III, president of the 300-strong Tourism Congress of the Philippines said, "While we do support the government initiative to clean up Bacuit Bay, there is again the question of what happens to the stakeholders, both big and small, if they are not allowed to operate."

He stressed that "Bacuit Bay is valuable to the El Nido area and cleaning it up will undoubtedly be a boon to all who use it. However, the proposed period of closure is

too soon and stakeholders need time to plan around that. The question arises, as with Boracay, what is the alternative for those who need Bacuit Bay to make a living?"

He said tourism stakeholders in the municipality "who predominantly include Bacuit Bay for their clients, are hoping that they will be consulted or involved in this proposal."

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) will soon be recommending to the inter-agency task force monitoring island

destinations and other key tourism areas for possible pollution violations, the three-month closure of Bacuit Bay and the Corong Corong outfall; and the prohibition on water activities in these areas. **(See, "DILG to recommend El Nido closure," in the BUSINESSMIRROR, July 15, 2019.)**

✓ The task force has yet to meet on the matter but Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, who chairs the body, said he, along with DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año and Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat, will be revisiting El Nido, as

well as Panglao Island in Bohol, to check on the progress of the LGU and local stakeholders in addressing the pollution, easement and local government concerns.

A source in Ayala Hotels and Resorts Corp., meanwhile asked for clarity on which portions of Bacuit Bay would actually be closed. AHRC owns El Nido Resorts, which has four properties sitting right on Bacuit Bay—Miniloc, Lagen, and Pangalusian Islands, along with the newly opened Lio Tourism Estate.

SEE "EL NIDO," A2

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'First, give El Nido folk alternative jobs' - from A8

## El Nido...

CONTINUED FROM A8

"Are they really referring to the entire Bacuit Bay, or just El Nido Bay, which is fronting El Nido town?" the source asked, noting that the DILG inspection team only visited El Nido town and the Corong Corong area. The source explained, El Nido Bay is contiguous to Bacuit Bay, which also includes Corong Corong Bay.

The source noted, if the entire Bacuit Bay is closed, "would this mean no one would be able to pass there, and even fisherfolk would have to defer to the [decision]." If the entire bay is closed, then the government would have had to take water samples in the middle of the ocean, or in the

bay's more pristine areas.

"In our cases, the waters surrounding our island resorts, have always tested negatively for these things," said the source, who requested anonymity as he was not authorized to speak on the matter.

Tourist arrivals in El Nido reached 200,000 in 2017, with the LGU earning some P40 million from the environmental fee it charges each guest.

For his part, Clemente said, the government cannot close El Nido so quickly. "The resorts still have bookings, even if it is the low season."

He also asked for a more scientific basis for the closure, noting that during the monsoon season, "trash from all over the ocean wash up on our shores, which are not necessarily ours. They should

also take a look at the trash being ejected from cruise ships which visit the destination."

He noted that "tour operators in Bacuit Bay have already been compliant with the limited numbers of tourists they take around the bay."

Clemente cautioned the government against making any hasty decisions regarding El Nido, as what happened in Boracay Island last year. "My concern is, those stakeholders who have been complying with the task force requirements or LGU ordinances will be affected, and they will lose their livelihoods again."

Boracay Island was closed to tourists for six months in 2018, leading to the loss of some 30,000 jobs and receipts amounting to some P30 billion.





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**NAISPATAN** ng PILI-  
PINO Mirror ang pulis  
na ito, sa katubigang  
sakop ng Manila Bay  
na naglilinis ng ba-  
sura.  
Kuha ni **ROSE LARA**



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## JOE'S TAKE

Ni Joe Zaldarriaga

**H**INDI lang puro salita, puro rin gawa.

Yan ang ipinamamalas ngayon ng bagong pinuno ng Lungsod ng Maynila. Mula sa pagiging dating kolektor ng basura noong kanyang kabataan, hanggang sa naging artista dahil sa anking maamong mukha, at ngayon, isang mayor na nangunguna sa pagbabago ng imahe ng Maynila - mula sa pagiging marumi at delikadong lungsod patungo sa lungsod na maaaring dagsain ng mga turista.

Ang lungsod ng Maynila ang pinakasiikat na lungsod sa bansa. Kilala ito sa buong mundo dahil ito ang kabisera natin. Maituturing itong sentro ng iba't ibang kultura. Nariyan ang Intramuros at Escolta na may impluwensiya ng mga Espanyol. Narito rin ang Binondo na sentro ng kultura ng mga Tsino. Bukod pa ryan, napakaraming mga museo ang matatagpuan

sa lungsod na ito. Nakalungkot lamang na tila pinabayaan lamang itong mabulok ng mga naunang alkaldeng nangungulan dito.

Laking tuwa ng mga Manilenyo nang mag-umpisang lumibot sa Kamaynilaan si Mayor Isko Moreno. Mismong siya ang nangasiwa sa paglilinis ng mga kalye na hindi na halos madaanan at ang pagpapalis ng mga tinderong wala namang permiso mula sa city hall na kasama sa nagpapasikip ng mga lansangan sa lungsod. Isang malaking bagay na nagsagawa agad ng mga programa si Mayor Isko upang maibangon ang lungsod mula sa pagkakasadlak nito sa usapin ng kalinisan at kaayusan.

Si Mayor Isko ay nagiging matapat sa mga bagay na inaasahang makita ng mga Manilenyo sa isang lider na kanilang iniluklok sa posisyon. Ang mga residente ng isang lugar, saan man iyan, ay karaniwang umaasa

na ang kanilang lider ay magkakaroon ng pakialam sa mga taong pinamumunuan dito. Inaasahan din ang mga lider na maging matatag lalo na sa paggawa ng tamang desisyon para sa lungsod na kanilang pinamumunuan. Dahil ganoon ang ating kasalukuyang Presidente, mainam na ganoon din ang klase ng lider na namumuno sa mga lungsod gaya ni Mayor Isko.

Sa unang araw pa lamang ng pagpasok bilang alkalde ng lungsod ay sumabak agad si Moreno sa paglilinis ng mga lansangan ng Divisoria, Blumentritt, Carriedo, at Plaza Miranda, kasama na ang underpass nito. Dito ko napagtanto na napakasuwerte ng Maynila na magkaroon ng lider na alam ang kanyang trabaho at kumikilos upang maisakatuparan ang kanyang layunin para sa lungsod.

Nakatutuwang makita na ang mga yaman ng lungsod ay nagagamit sa tama. Ang mga trak ng bombero ay ginagamit sa paglilinis ng

mga lansangan. Sa mga ganitong maliliit na paraan maaaring magsimula ang isang malaking pagbabago.

Inamin ni Mayor Isko na inalok siya ng P5 milyon upang magbulag-bulagan at palusutin ang mga anomalyang nangyayari sa Maynila. Tinanggihan ito ni Moreno at nagpatuloy sa kanyang pagtatrabaho upang maibangon ang imahe ng Maynila.

Naging kapansin-pansin agad ang mga pagbabago na nangyari sa mga unang araw pa lamang ng kanyang pagupo sa puwesto. Kumalat agad ang mga litrato ng Divisoria na hindi mo na halos makilala dahil sa sobrang linis at luwag ng mga daan dito. Nagmukhang mapayapa at malinis ang dating sobrang gulo at sobrang ingay na Divisoria. Tila himala ang nangyari sa lugar.

Sa mga malaking pagbabago sa itsura ng Maynila sa kasalukuyan, nakatatanggap ng papuri si Moreno mula sa ibang opisyal ng gobyerno gaya ni Defense Secre-

tary Delfin Lorenzana na personal pa siyang kinausap at binati para sa magagandang pagbabago na nangyari sa Maynila mula nang siya'y naupo bilang alkalde.

Sinabi rin ni Senator Lacson patungkol kay Moreno na, "Leaders like him make me think about retirement." Sinabi naman ni Senator Recto, "Isko Moreno is the glowing 'Exhibit A' of the reality that many of the country's problems can be solved without having to rewrite the constitution."

Nakuha naman ni Moreno ang buong suporta ni Interior Secretary Eduardo Año na talagang bilib din sa kanyang nagawang pagbabago. Binigyang-diin ni Año ang ginawang pagpapalis ni Mayor Isko sa mga taong tumira nang walang paalam sa paligid ng Manila Bay na itinuturing na danger zone. Nakatulong ito sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Bukod sa maraming magagandang bagay na kasalukuyang ginagawa ni Mayor Isko, marami

rin siyang sinasabing mga bagay na talaga namang tama. Sinabi niya na plano niyang pangalagaan ang Arroceros pocket forest, llinisin ang Manila Zoo, at sa pakikipagtulungan sa Department of Tourism upang maging ligtas sa mga turista ang pagbisita sa Intramuros.

Nais ni Mayor Isko na gumawa ng 'tourism circuit' na magdurugtong sa Intramuros sa National Museum, Rizal Park, Binondo, at iba pang mga distritong pamana sa atin na matatagpuan sa lungsod. Plano rin niyang makipag-ugnayan sa Intramuros Administration (IA) upang magbigay ng suporta sa programa nito ukol sa 'urban regeneration'.

Suportado naman ni Tourism Secretary Berna Romulo Puyat si Mayor Isko. Sabi ng kalihim, "Manila is the crucible of Philippine history and culture, and the primary gateway to the country's 7,641 island destinations. We share the vision and enthusiasm of Mayor Moreno in providing our international visitors a

great first impression of the Philippines as soon as they set foot in Manila."

Walang nagsasabing magiging madali ang proseso ngunit laging mas mabigat ang mga bagay-bagay para sa taong nanunungkulan. Ang maganda sa kasalukuyan, mukhang determinado ang mga bagong alkalde sa pagharap ng hamon na kaakibat ng kanilang tinanggap na tungkulin. Nasa mga itsura nila ang pagkapagod sa mga dating kaugalian at naghanap ng pagbabago sa sistema. Sa pamamagitan ng kanilang mga ginagawa, nagbabago rin ang puso at isip ng mga taong kanilang pinaglingkuran. Kadalasan, ito ang kailangan natin para sa pagkakaroon ng magandang kinabukasan.

Sinabi ni Mayor Isko na nagsisimula pa lamang siya at siniguro sa publiko na tatapusin niya ang kanyang sinimulan. Paniguradong aasa at magbabantay hindi lamang ang mga Manilenyo kundi magiging ang buong bansa.



## SHOOTING STRAIGHT

BOBIT S. AVILA

### Cebu is No. 7 in best islands in Asia

**A**llow me to bring you a fresh positive news about Cebu's tourism growth, when Cebu emerged as the 7th Best Island in Asia, according to the recent survey of *Travel + Leisure*. Call it unexpected, but thanks to the many new discoveries of tourism destinations ever



since we started the Ceboom 30 years ago, when the late Anos Fonacier discovered a lot of tourism potentials for Cebu and later he also found the same things in the island of Bohol. This report had two other islands in the country that also made it to the Top 10 list - Boracay Island (9th) and Palawan (2nd), which also ranked second in the Top 15 World's Best Islands.

Every year on the World's Best Awards survey, *Travel + Leisure* said it asks its readers to weigh in on travel experiences around the globe to share their opinions on the top cities, islands, cruise ships, spas, airlines, and more. I have no doubt that these readers visited many islands in the Philippines and rated our islands according to their activities and sights, natural attractions and beaches, food, friendliness and overall value. *Travel + Leisure* described the islands of Cebu, Palawan and Boracay as "longtime favorites, thanks to top-notch reef and wreck diving, white-sand beaches, hiking trails with waterfalls, and welcoming locals."

Indeed, our tourism growth has been hampered by our serious lack of infrastructure like wide roads that decongest traffic. But with the return of Cebu Governor Gwen Garcia, I know that solving the traffic problem is one of the things she would fix in her new term as governor. New Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella is also facing the same traffic problems and we expect him to find solutions to help traffic in Cebu City. As we wrote last Thursday, the Cebu Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) is one positive infrastructure project that is expected to solve the traffic problem in Metro Cebu when it is completed in the year 2021.

\* \* \*



## Masiglang turismo sa Boracay

### HALA BIRA!



#### NI ALLAN ENCARNACION

MAY karapatan na akong batiin ang DENR at ang Duterte administration in general sa ginawa nila sa Boracay.

Sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon at sa matagal na panahon, nakapunta rin ako sa Boracay na masasabi nating Filipino pride.

Tumuloy kami sa Movenpick na nasa zero station, meaning wala sa strip ng pamosong stations 1, 2 at 3. Nasa kategorya rin ng Shangrila ang Movenpick dahil 5 star din at halos magkatulad ang design at istraktura.

Naikot din namin ang mga istasyon na tinatawag at sa tingin ko, maraming dapat ipagpasalamat ang mga taga-Boracay sa Duterte administration kung ano

man ang kanilang sitwasyon ngayon.

Una, nagkaroon ng order o kaayusan sa stretch ng mga istasyon na nasa beach front. Wala na iyong mga nakikita natin noon sa mga news na halos sumawsaw na sa tubig ang mga building.

Halos 200 meters na ang layo ng mga pampang sa mga commercial establishments at nagkaroon na rin ng drainage system. Noong bago pa ipasara ni Pangulong Duterte ang Boracay, ang mga walang malasakit na negosyante ay nagkabit ng tubo papunta sa dagat kaya lahat ng waste water nila mula sa banyo, sa lababo hanggang sa kusina ay sa mayamang dagat itinatapon. Kaya nilang sikmurain na kumita lang kahit masira na ang mayamang dagat.

Ang mga building ay nilamon din ang malaking bahagi ng kalsada kaya sumikip at ang basura, walang sistema ang pagtatapon kaya tama si Pangulo na malaking poso negro ang Boracay noong mga nakaraang taon.

Ngayon, nakita natin na visible ang mga pulis at nagkaroon na rin ng mga basurahan sa bawat parte ng istasyon. Ang dating shorelines na nagberde na sa lumot at

basura ay mala-kristal na sa linis.

May mga ginagawa na ring malalapad na kalsada na kung bubuwasin ang mga taga-Boracay ay matatapos sa taong ito.

Sobrang sigla ang Boracay Island, napakaraming turista at talagang mabubuhay ang mga mamamayan doon kapag natuto silang magmalasakit sa kanilang lugar.

Sana lang din patuloy ang mababang crime rate sa Boracay at walang makaisip na saktan o molestiyahin or holdapin at dukutan ang mga turista dahil sobrang laki ng potensiyal ng lugar.

Kailangan, ang mismong mga mamamayan ng Boracay at ang mga negosyante doon ay magkaroon ng solidarity para gawing crime-free and basura free ang kanilang lugar. Marami pa ring mahirap at undeveloped na area ang Boracay subalit sa tingin natin ay magpatuloy lamang ang masiglang turismo at kalakalan, unlad din ang mga ito.

Pinagmamasdan ko mabuti ang mga mamamayan ng Boracay, sa tingin ko, mahal nila ang mga local at foreign tourist dahil maganda naman ang kanilang pagtrato.

Tatalunin talaga natin ang maraming tourist destination sa buong mundo dahil sa totoo lang naman, by heart, mabubuting tao ang mga Pilipino.

Doon sa aspeto ng hospitable, friendly at madaling kausap ang mga Pinoy ay malaki ang ating kalamangan sa maraming lahi kaya huwag natin itong sayangin. Natatandaan natin noong bumagsak ang kita ng Las Vegas, maraming casino ang nagbawas ng empleyado. Pero ang magandang balita, maraming Pinoy ang hindi inaalis dahil nga sa character advantage at work ethics.

Kahit sa Macau, dumanas din ng pagbaba ng kita ang gambling capital ng Asia pero mabibilang sa daliri ang apektadong Pinoy workers dahil magaling nga ang lahi natin.

Kaya nga kung mga positibong karakter ng Pinoy ay ibubuhos natin sa Boracay at sa mga tourist destinations natin, wala na tayong karapatang dumanas ng kahirapan.

Mabuhay ang mga mamamayan ng Boracay at mabuhay din ang gobyerno sa kanilang ginawa sa isla!

[allanpunglo@gmail.com](mailto:allanpunglo@gmail.com)





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**LANDFALL LIKELY IN CAGAYAN**

**PAGASA: 'FALCON' TO DEVELOP INTO A TROPICAL STORM**

**By Jhesset O. Enano**  
@JhessetEnanoINQ

The combined effects of Tropical Depression "Falcon" and the southwest monsoon will bring rains across the nation on Tuesday and throughout the week, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Moving fast northwest at 25 kilometers per hour, Falcon is expected to become a tropical storm while within the

Philippine area of responsibility, but will quickly exit, possibly by Thursday, the state weather bureau said.

As of 3 p.m. on Monday, it was estimated at 1,025 km east of Casiguran, Aurora province.

It packed maximum sustained winds of 55 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 65 kph.

On Tuesday, Falcon will bring cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms over the Bicol and

Eastern Visayas regions.

The enhanced southwest monsoon, locally known as "habagat," will also bring cloudy skies with scattered rains over Mimaropa, Mindanao and the rest of Visayas, and isolated rains over Metro Manila and Calabarzon.

**Good for Angat Dam**

Partly cloudy to cloudy skies, meanwhile, will be overhead in the rest of Luzon, due to localized thunderstorms which often bring rainfall in

the late afternoon and evenings.

Weather specialist Chris Perez said Pagasa might raise a tropical cyclone wind signal on Tuesday, as Falcon potentially makes landfall in Cagayan province by Wednesday afternoon or evening.

Pagasa said the intensified southwest monsoon due to Falcon might help increase the level in the Angat Dam watershed, similar to what happened during Tropical Depression "Egay" earlier this month. INQ



## Heavy rains ahead from Falcon

By HELEN FLORES

Tropical Depression Falcon is expected to bring rains in many parts of the country in the next three days but may not be able to raise Angat dam's water supply to normal level.

Esperanza Cayanan, chief of the weather division of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA),

Turn to Page 6

## Heavy From Page 1

said Falcon may bring 50 to 100 millimeters (mm) of rain over Bulacan, where the reservoir is located, today and tomorrow.

"This is a general forecast. (Today) we expect 50 to 100 mm and hopefully the rains will fall over Angat. (Tomorrow), 25 to 50 mm. We hope the monsoon rains in the area will be accompanied by thunderstorms," she said.

PAGASA hydrologist Richard Orendain said as of 6 a.m. yesterday the water level at Angat was at 158.75 meters, still below the 160-meter critical level.

He said 350 mm of rain is needed to reach the 180-meter normal operating level of Angat and 1,160 mm to attain its normal high water level of 210 meters.

As of 3 p.m. yesterday, the center of Falcon was located at 1,025 kilometers east of Casiguran, Aurora, packing winds of 55 kilometers per hour and gustiness of up to 65 km/h.

It was forecast to move northwest at 25 km/h.

PAGASA senior weather specialist Chris Perez said tropical cyclone wind signals may be raised over Luzon today as Falcon moves closer to landmass.

He said Southern Luzon, particularly the Bicol region, will be affected by Falcon, bringing cloudy skies with scattered rains.

Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Luzon will also experience scattered rains due to the enhanced southwest monsoon today and tomorrow.

Falcon - the sixth tropical cyclone to enter the Philippines this year - was forecast to make landfall over Cagayan tomorrow morning.

It is likely to intensify into a storm as it traverses Babuyan Channel, he added. - With Ramon Efren Lazaro



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## Cyclone 'Falcon' bringing rains

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

Tropical Depression "Falcon," the first cyclone in the country this month, could make landfall over Cagayan province on Wednesday, bringing much-needed rains to a wide area in Luzon and some parts of Visayas.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) weather specialist Chris Perez said that with the tropical cyclone, wind Signal No. 1 may be raised over some areas in Northern Luzon on Tuesday, July 16.

Around 3 p.m. Monday, Falcon was estimated 1,025 kilometers (km) east of Casguran, Aurora. It further strengthened with maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour (kph) and gustiness of up to 65 kph, from 45 kph and 60 kph, respectively. **►9**

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earlier in the day.

From north-northwest, Falcon has slightly changed course, moving north-west on Monday afternoon. But the cyclone continues to move at a relatively fast pace at 25 kph. Should it maintain its current speed and track, PAGASA weather specialist Raymond Ordinario said Falcon may make landfall over the extreme Northern Luzon or over the Batanes group of islands on Wednesday afternoon or evening.

As early as Monday, Perez said scattered to widespread rain showers and thunderstorms were experienced in Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Masbate, Biliran, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Samar, and Southern Leyte due to the trough of tropical depression Falcon.

Meanwhile, the cyclone-enhanced southwest monsoon or "habagat" brought rains over Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-tawi, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan, and the rest of Visayas.

Perez said more intense rains will be felt on Tuesday until Wednesday.

This Tuesday, light to moderate with occasional heavy monsoon rains will prevail over Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Pala-

wan, Aklan, Antique, Negros Occidental, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi.

### Wednesday's weather

By Wednesday, moderate to heavy rains will be experienced over Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Abra, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Apayao, Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Zambales, Bataan, Oriental Mindoro, and Occidental Mindoro due to the combined effects of Falcon and habagat.

### Metro Manila

Meanwhile, light to moderate with occasional heavy monsoon rains will prevail over Metro Manila, Aurora, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan, Aklan, Antique, Negros Occidental, Capiz, Guimaras, and Iloilo.

Perez said Falcon may further intensify into a tropical storm while it traverses the Babuyan Channel on Wednesday.

A gradual improvement in weather condition is expected by Thursday, as Falcon is likely to be already outside the country's area of responsibility in the morning, he added.

### Angat Dam water level

While Tropical Depression "Falcon"

is not seen to move directly over the Angat Watershed in Bulacan, the southwest monsoon or "habagat" may contribute to the gradual recovery of the water reservoir, PAGASA Weather Division chief Esperanza Cayanan said.

Angat Dam needs at least 350-millimeter (mm) of rainfall to reach its 180-meter minimum operating level, according to the state weather bureau.

Since the past week, the water level at Angat Dam has continued to decline and remains below its 160-meter critical level.

As of Monday morning, Angat Dam's water level was 158.75 meters, down by 40 centimeters from last Sunday's 159.15 meters.

### Water from 4-5 cyclones

Angat Dam needs at least 1,160 mm of rainfall, equivalent to four to five cyclones, to reach its 210-meter normal high water level, Cayanan said.

From Tuesday until Wednesday, monsoon rains may contribute about 150-mm rainfall over the Angat watershed in Bulacan.

"So far, our forecast shows that the rainfall over the watershed will not reach the 350-mm rainfall from monsoon rains alone, but there are still thunderstorms that may also help increase the Angat Dam's water level," Cayanan explained.

Citing the PAGASA's historical record, she said Angat Dam's level usually normalizes towards the end of July to early August.



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**DOST-PAGASA - HIMAWARI ENHANCED INFRARED IMAGE**  
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**SOUTH WEST MONSOON**

**TD "FALCON"**

**MOAM TODAY:**  
CASIGURAN,  
132.8° E)  
MAX WINDS/GUSTS: 45 60  
MOVEMENT: NNW 25 KPH

**WEATHER DISTURBANCE - A weather forecaster of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) shows the position of Tropical Depression 'Falcon' as it enters the Philippine Area of Responsibility Monday. (Mark Balmores)**

**ATE 15 JULY 2019 MONDAY**

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## SITWASYON NG ANGAT DAM SA PANAHON NG TAG-ULAN

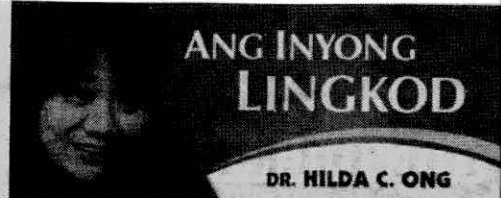
AYON kay Dr. Seville David, Jr. Executive Director ng NWRB, ang lebel ng tubig as of July 15, 2019 (6am) ay nasa 158.76, ang nasabing antas ay nanatiling mas mababa sa 160 metro, nasa kritikal pa rin ang elevation para sa pag-supply ng tubig. Ang lebel ng tubig sa Ipo Dam ay nasa 99.39m at 72.56m sa La Mesa Dam.

Ang Low Level Outlet (LLO) o ang mababang antas ay kasalukuyang ginagamit upang mapanatili ang kasalukuyang alokasyon ng 36 kubiko metro bawat segundo o mahigit-kumulang sa 3.1 bilyong liters bawat araw.

Batay sa mga projection ng PAGASA, ang namamalagiing mahinang timog-kanluran o Habagat ay nagresulta sa kawalan ng malaking pag-ulan sa Angat Dam at Angat Watershed. Gayunpaman, inaasahang darating ang pag-ulan ng tag-ulan sa susunod na linggo. Inaasahan namin na ang mga pag-ulan ng ulan at ang

forecasted tropical cyclones ngayong buwan ng Hulyo ay magiging mas maaga kaya makatutulong sa maagang pagbawi ng Angat Dam.

Ang panawagan ni Executive Director David, "maaaring suportahan ng publiko ang aming pagsisikap sa pagpapanatili ng tubig sa Angat Dam at kung papaano makatipid, hinihikayat namin ang publiko na mag-ipon ng tubig sa panahon ng tag-ulan tulad ng pag-aani at pag-recycle ng tubig-ulan sa Metro Manila. Maaaring magamit sa mga 'di-mahalagang aktibidad tulad ng



## ANG INYONG LINGKOD

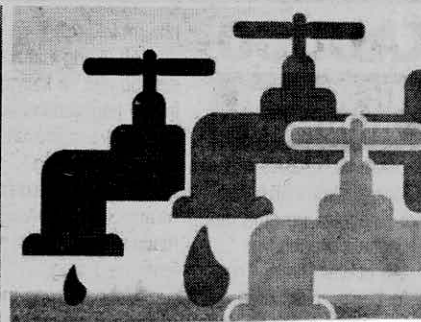
DR. HILDA C. ONG

pagtutubig ng mga halaman at paghuhugas ng kotse. Ang responsableng paggamit ng tubig ay mahalaga upang makabawas sa pangangailangan ng tubig mula sa Angat Dam at tumulong sa pagbawi at maitaas muli ang lebel ng tubig nito.

Makiisa sa pagsulong ng NWRB sa pagtitipid ng tubig, upang maayos mapangasiwaan ang interes ng publiko sa maaaring danasin ng bawat isa, kapag nagkaroon ng kakulangan sa tubig, dahil yan

sa kawalan ng disiplina.

Ayon sa PAGASA may inaasahang padating na bagyo, baka palakasin ng Habagat at sana makadagdag sa lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam. Kung madalas ang malakas na ulan sa may Norzagaray Bulacan, tataas ang lebel ng tubig hanggang sa malampasan ang 212 NHWL, upang may sapat na tubig tayong magagamit para sa taong 2019 hanggang sa panahon ng tag-init bilang paghahanda sa taong 2020.





# Angat needs 4 storms to reach normal level

Angat Dam needs at least 350 millimeters of one-time rainfall occurrence to reach its 180-meter minimum operating level, the State weather bureau said yesterday.

Since the past week, the water level at Angat Dam continues to decline and remains below its 160-meter critical level.

As of yesterday morning, Angat Dam's water level was 158.75 meters, down by 40 centimeters from last Sunday's 159.15 meters.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration hydrologist Richard Orendain said Angat Dam needs at about 350 mm of one-time rainfall event to reach the water reservoir's 180-meter minimum operating level.

It needs at least 1,160 mm of rainfall, equivalent to four to five tropical cyclones, to reach its 210-meter normal high water level, he added.

While tropical depression "Falcon" is not seen to move directly over the Angat watershed in Norzagaray, Bulacan, the southwest monsoon or "habagat" may still contribute to the gradual recovery of the water reservoir, PAGASA Weather Division chief Esperanza Cayanan said.

From Tuesday until Wednesday, monsoon rains may contribute about 150-mm rainfall over the Angat watershed.

"So far, our forecast shows that the rainfall over the watershed will not reach the 350-mm rainfall from monsoon rains alone, but there are still thunderstorms that may also help increase the Angat Dam's water level," Cayanan explained.

Citing PAGASA historical record, she said Angat Dam's level usually normalizes towards the end of July to early August.

Two to three tropical cyclones usually affect the country in July, two to four in August, and two to four in September.

Once the Angat Dam reaches its 180-meter minimum operating level, the National Water Resources Board may increase the water allocated for Metro Manila's domestic requirements.

The current water allocation of 36 cubic meters per second is split 60-40 to water concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water, respectively.

The normal water allocation for the domestic requirements of consumers in Metro Manila and nearby provinces is 48 cms. **(Ellalyn V. Ruiz)**



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## BUHAY TAG-ULAN





## Cloud seeding brought water

The CSO was conducted as part of the government's efforts to ensure that farmers in Bohol will be able to plant rice in the 86,931 hectares of land in the province in time for the wet cropping season.

**By Daniel Yap**

**TAGBILARAN CITY** – The 42-hour Cloud Seeding Operations (CSO) on the watershed and agricultural areas in the province of Bohol have already yielded positive results.

Cloud seeding focal person Leon Parac Jr. yesterday confirmed that the CSO, coupled with the intermittent rainfall from the usual weather vagaries have brought water to Bohol's irrigation dams.

Parac bared that as of 10 July, the water elevation of Malinao Dam in Pilar was registered at 148.50 meters as against 150 meters at full; Bayongan Dam in San Miguel had 44.52 meters as against 52 meters at full; Capayas

Dam in Ubay at 33.51 meters as against 36.5 at full and the Talibon Dam in San Pascual, Talibon had 25 meters as against 30 meters at full.

He said the 42-hour operations is almost complete, adding that the Pegasus Air Services Inc., the winning bidder of the project had already rendered 33 hours of operation as of 13 July.

The CSO was conducted as part of the government's efforts to ensure that farmers in Bohol will be able to plant rice in the 86, 931 hectares of land in the province in time for the wet cropping season.

The government has allotted P2.3 million for the cloud seeding.





# The feel of the mountains, by the sea

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**Veteran conservationist Romy Trono opens up his Bontoc-inspired haven in Mabini, Batangas, to guests, and serves up the conversation and the rum Cokes**

**By Alya B. Honasan**  
@Inq\_Lifestyle

In 2003, veteran environmentalist Romy Trono had just left his job as vice president for conservation programs and field operations of WWF Philippines, and had taken over as country executive director for another environmental group, Conservation International (CI). He dreamt of building a small vacation house on the beach, in a place close to his heart.

As it turns out, his longtime boatman had a piece of land for sale in Bagalangit, Mabini, Batangas, a small, sloping lot with a great view. "I paid for it in teardrops, over two years," he says with a laugh. "I started building in August 2005, after having paid in full."

The original plan was to build a family weekend place, but the Tronos ended up with more space than they needed. "Friends and relatives started visiting, and it became too expensive to maintain, so we turned it into a guest house."

Today, Trono, retired from full-time environmental work, lords it over the Bontoc Seaview Guesthouse, a cozy showcase of northern culture south of Luzon. It's also a shrine to marine life and a charming poster place for horror vacui.

There are Igorot Cottages, large family units with comfortable beds, or air-conditioned ridge-to-reef rooms with stuffed sea creatures on your bed. Thatched roofs, northern fabrics, accents like Igorot baskets and sculpture, wooden furniture, and detailed bas relief creations (by a Bontoc-based artist Trono had to ply with drink before he got to work) are among the touches that guests love.

## Turtles

Then there are turtles of all kinds, from metal to wood to glass, a tribute to Trono's early years in conservation as project leader of the Pawikan and Dugong Conservation Projects of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB, formerly the Parks and Wildlife Bureau or PAWB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for 11 years.

In fact, Trono remains one of the country's leading authorities on turtle conservation; when we

visited, he had just flown in with wife Anne after some DENR consultancy work in Tawi-Tawi, and we left as a video crew arrived to interview him on turtles in the Philippines.

## Affinity

The affinity with Batangas developed over years of working on projects there. "We picked Anilao as a retirement place to escape Manila's craziness," Trono recounts. "I learned diving and got certified in Anilao in 1979, became a Padi (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) divemaster in 1984, then a Padi dive instructor in 1988. Anilao was my base for teaching. The entire family would join me for weekends

when I was working, and we all fell in love with the place."

Anilao is a world-class diving destination only two-and-a-half hours from Manila. From 1998 until his retirement, Trono worked tirelessly on coastal resource management and community-based fishery law enforcement projects there. "We organized and trained Bantay Dagat groups in Mabini and Tingloy, and expanded to all coastal municipalities of Batangas then Mindoro," he recalls.

"The reefs improved significantly. More resorts opened. More divers started coming. I wanted my children and grandchildren to enjoy and appreciate what a healthy marine ecosystem can provide for people."

Anne and all of their three children—Duane, 37; Abby, 31; and Daniel, 25—scuba-dive. Daniel is a Padi instructor. Trono also has four grandchildren, and his two granddaughters "can't get enough of snorkeling!" Resident dive master Jorge Ida, an award-winning photographer, helps run the guest house's dive facility.

Here is where the mountain connection comes in. Anne, the former Mary Anne Cawed Oteyza, is originally from Bontoc, where Duane was born. Trono spent a lot of time in Bontoc in the '80s, and is as much at home wearing a *bahag* as his in-laws. "I have long been in love with Bontoc culture, traditions, native houses, food, scenery—



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and one of their local ladies," he says with a smile.

### Stone walls

When the Tronos were building, a huge volume of white rocks (hard consolidated limestone) had to be dug out. "Instead of disposing of them, my wife's Igorot uncle suggested we use them for stone walls, very much like the technology they use for building in the Mountain Province. So we brought in Igorot workers from Bontoc, Benguet and Ifugao."

Meanwhile, in the kitchen, Anne is boss, along with daughter Abby, a culinary arts graduate. The delicious food served is a cross between gourmet and home cooking. Rice is served in

cute individual *kaldero*, soup poured into cups from teapots, and specialties like *laing* rice, turmeric *adobo* or garlic pasta can keep one eating for hours.

For breakfast, there's unlimited cups of brewed *barako* coffee. For happy hour each day, unlimited rum Cokes are on the house, as are conversations and laughter, much of them provided by the ebullient host at the long tables, or on the open-air deck with a billiard table, soft chairs and a view of the stars.

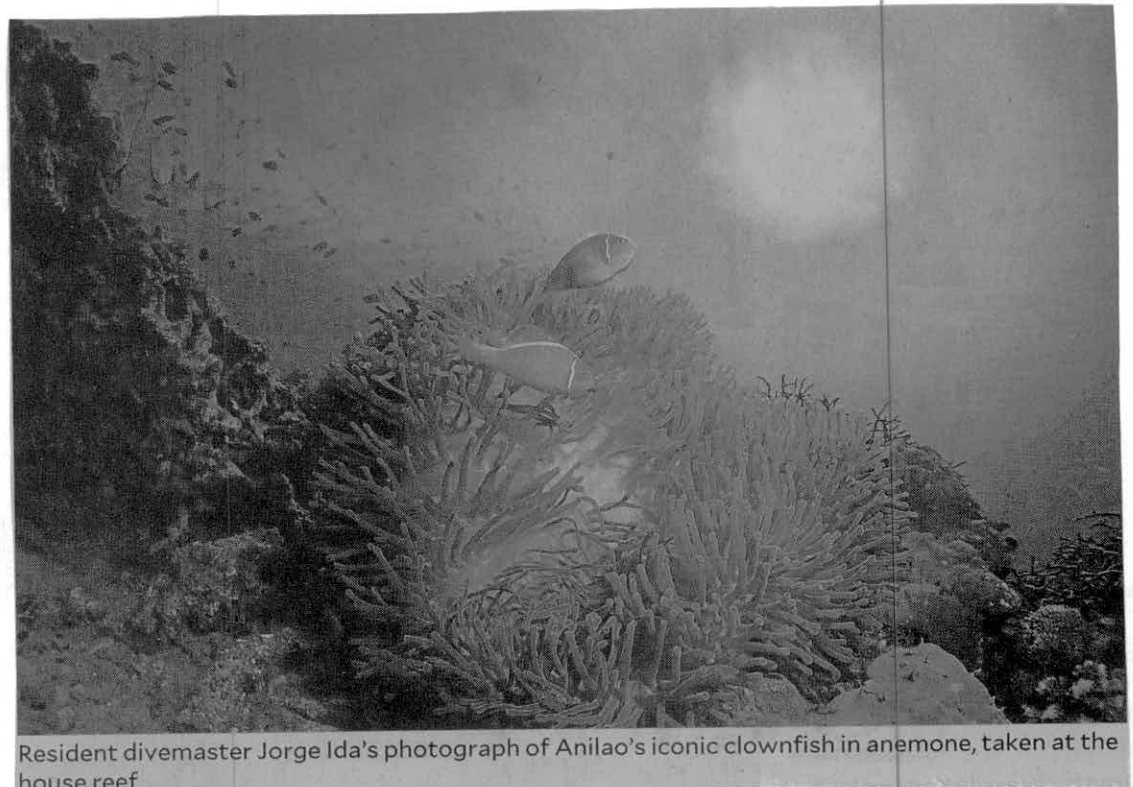
"I have to say, it's the gastronomic experience, and the personal touch of the owners, that keep people coming back," Trono says with a laugh.

Conservation is hard work, and Trono has made his mark protecting the waters and creatures of the archipelago. When the battles get frustrating, as they inevitably do in these times of environmental degradation, this veteran fighter has a place to call home that's close to everything he has fought to protect—and where everybody can certainly feel the love. INQ

Bontoc Seaview Guesthouse is at Sitio Punta, Barangay Bagalangit, Mabini, Batangas; visit [bontocseaviewguesthouse.weebly.com](http://bontocseaviewguesthouse.weebly.com); email [bontocseaviewguesthouse@gmail.com](mailto:bontocseaviewguesthouse@gmail.com); tel. 0917-8144703 and 0936-9275759; Facebook: [bontocinbatangas](https://www.facebook.com/bontocinbatangas)



Romy Trono and his morning "barako" on the deck of the guesthouse, overlooking Balayan Bay —PHOTOS BY ALYA B. HONASAN



Resident divemaster Jorge Ida's photograph of Anilao's iconic clownfish in anemone, taken at the house reef

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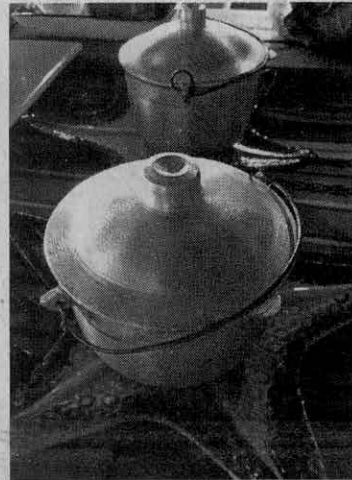
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An Igorot-style room, with a turtle plushie for company



Individual mini rice "kaldero" served on starfish-shaped holders



A vignette features kitchen implements, coffee beans and chili peppers



## Lapid wants manufacturers to label 'toxic' household items

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

SENATOR Lito Lapid has renewed his call for the government to require manufacturers to put precautionary labels on household items which may contain toxic and hazardous substances.

"We want to warn our countrymen that the simple things we used at home contain poisonous chemicals that endanger our health," he said.

Lapid has filed Senate Bill No. 58 also known as the Hazardous Household Substances Labelling Act, which intends to compel manufacturers to put warning labels on household items.

He said that these items contain substances that are considered toxic, corrosive, harmful irritants, strong sensitizers or flammable through a standard of signage and symbols that would alert consumers of the potential dangers of the products.

According to Lapid, this measure seeks to protect the health and safety of people by helping them identify hazardous chemicals at home.

He also noted that consumers are unaware that many household items contain chemicals that may cause serious injury and health issues.

With this, it is only necessary for companies to not only disclose the toxic contents of the products they manufacture but also to warn the consumers of the risks of using the said products, Lapid said.

Apart from placing warning signs and symbols that would alert consumers of the potential dangers of the products, the bill also aims to require the companies to provide instructions on the first-aid steps to take in case of accidents caused by improper handling or storage of the products.





## Urgent climate emergency measures



EAGLE  
EYES  
TONY  
LA VINA

THIS is my third column on the climate emergency.

In the first article, I summarized the latest scientific information on climate change, which collectively point to the conclusion that what we are facing is a climate emergency. The familiar way of framing the issue—that climate change is a long-term challenge and we still have the time to address it effectively—is no longer tenable. Climate change is already here and it will get much worse, and the worst impacts will be felt by 2050 or even earlier. In addition, we only have 11 years from today—up to 2030—to transform the global economy to avert the worst scenarios for 2020.

In my column last Saturday, I wrote about the impacts of the climate emergency on the poor. Citing mainly a recent report on climate change and poverty by Philip Alston, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, I highlighted how the climate emergency will exacerbate economic inequity and social injustice.

In this column, citing extensively again from the Alston report and also from a colleague from the World Resources Institute (WRI), I write about the solutions. Truth be told, climate science might be complex but what we need to do to mitigate and to adapt to climate change does not require hard science.

I endorse the view of Mr. Alston that addressing climate change effectively require a fundamental shift in the global economy. It requires rejecting the traditional way States have achieved prosperity, “decoupling improvements in economic well-being and poverty reduction from resource depletion, fossil fuel emissions, and waste production.” According to the Alston report:

“This will entail radical and systemic changes including incentives, pricing, regulation, and resource allocation, in order to disrupt unsustainable approaches and reflect environmental costs in entire economic subsystems including energy, agriculture, manufacturing, construction, and transportation.”

Much of post-industrial poverty reduction and economic growth has been based on unsustainable resource extraction and exploitation. Certain people and countries have gotten incredibly wealthy through emissions without paying for the costs to the environment and human health—costs borne disproportionately by people in poverty. Staying the course will not preserve growth in the long term, but will be disastrous for the global economy and pull hundreds of millions into poverty. Climate action should not be viewed as an impediment to economic growth but as an impetus for decoupling economic growth from emissions and resource extraction, and

a catalyst for a green economic transition, labor rights improvements, and poverty elimination efforts.

Climate change will require deep structural changes in the world economy. It is imperative this is done in a way that provides necessary support, protects workers, creates good jobs, and is guided by international labour standards. A robust social safety net and a well-managed transition to a green economy will be the best response to the unavoidable harms that climate change will bring.”

There is no way around this need to transform the global economy. As WRI’s Kelly Levin put it when the 1.5 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change came out last year: “While there have been examples of rapid change in specific technologies or sectors in the past, there is no precedent in our documented history for the rate of change at the scale required for limiting warming to 1.5°C. In other words, we have never before witnessed such widespread, rapid transitions, and they will need to be made across energy, land, industrial, urban and other systems, as well as across technologies and geographies.

Alston points out that renewable energy will create jobs and energy-efficient investments will lead to greater energy savings and fewer emissions. He also emphasizes the positive impacts of climate adaptation and a sustainable economy on healthcare costs and preventing environmental degradation. It could “restore overused and exhausted resources, increase food and water security, and reduce poverty and inequality”

The Alston report cites how twenty-three countries have succeeded in decoupling economic growth from carbon emissions. Renewable energy, carbon pricing, and green subsidies and jobs, are solid economic strategies that work for the poor.

But let’s be clear, while we know what we should be doing, it won’t be easy getting these to happen. But what prevent us from addressing the climate emergency effectively are social and political, not technological or economic, barriers.

According to Levin: “There’s no sugarcoating it. Keeping warming to 1.5°C will be hard. Really hard. But the IPCC report also makes it clear that the world has the scientific understanding, the technological capacity and the financial means to tackle climate change. Now what we need is the political will to precipitate the unprecedented concerted actions necessary to stabilize temperature rise below 1.5 C.”

Governments, the private sector, local governments and communities, families and individuals have roles to play. The youth have a particular role to play.

Governments must take the lead by declaring a global climate emergency and increasing their commitments in the Paris Agreement. According to

Alston: “Climate change should be a catalyst for States to fulfil long ignored and overlooked economic and social rights, including to social security, water and sanitation, education, food, healthcare, housing, and decent work. Revenue from climate action including emissions control and tax restructuring should be used to fund social protection programs to protect those affected.”

Developed countries and the big developing countries must still take the lead. But middle income countries and the least developed counties, including the most vulnerable, must also reduce emissions. The richer counties must increase their financial assistance to developing counties so that the latter can adapt better and contribute more to mitigate climate change.

We should assign and send more, not less, diplomats to the annual climate change negotiations. We should rejoin the Like Minded Developing Countries bloc and there carry the banner of climate justice.



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## Urgent climate emergency measures

We might want to revisit our climate governance system, based on a flawed design of a Climate Change Commission (CCC) headed by the President. I have worked with all four of the Vice-Chairs of the CCC since it was established in 2010 and they have been dedicated and committed but with a system designed to fail, they have had to deal with enormous challenges. I prefer a new department perhaps combined with our disaster resilience needs or with the current environment department as a way forward.

For sure, as Alston highlights it, companies can provide and implement solutions to climate change, but he warns that an overreliance on voluntary, private sector efforts would be wrong. According to Alston: "Climate change is a market failure, and voluntary emissions reduction commitments will only go so far . . . An over-reliance on the private sector could lead to a climate apartheid scenario in which the wealthy pay to escape overheating, hunger, and conflict, while the rest of the world is left to suffer."

Local governments must now take the lead in addressing the climate change. Hundreds of local governments have now declared a climate emergency. Young and progressive leaders lead the cities of Manila, Pasig, San Juan, Makati, Quezon City, Valenzuela, and Dumaguete and the province of Dinagat Islands, among others. They should make this a priority and have their councils declare a climate emergency, prioritizing climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

Finally, the youth have the most important role in what has to be done to fight the climate emergency. I encourage and support the climate strike movement inspired by Greta Thunberg of Sweden. Young people have the most at stake in the climate emergency. They also have the energy and courage to insist on what has to be done.

The climate emergency is the biggest challenge the world faces. The Philippines is going to be particularly hit by it. Working together, we still have time—not much yes, but enough—to avert the worst. But we have to start now.

Facebook: deantonylavs Twitter: to-nylavs



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



16 JUL 2019

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## For Mother Earth

MARIS Racal, Sam Mangubat, and AC Bonifacio team up in "One Paradise Puno ng Musika: A Tree Planting Gig," a musical event which aims to raise awareness on climate change.

The concert, organized by One Music in partnership with Bantay Kalikasan, will be held on July 27 at the La Mesa Ecopark. It also aims to inspire the youth to protect Metro Manila's last remaining forest--The La Mesa Watershed.

Joining the three Kapamilya celebrities are Acel, Davey Langit, Hulo, RJ Agustin, JMKO, and Trisha Denise.

Tickets to One Paradise Puno ng Musika are now available at [ktx.abs-cbn.com](http://ktx.abs-cbn.com).

One Music PH is ABS-CBN's music portal that offers Filipinos the total music experience with audio and video streaming, music news, and exclusive digital concerts featuring the brightest Filipino talents.

It also hosts live gigs featuring Kapamilya artists while promoting care for mother nature. Last April, One Music brought One Paradise again to La Union to promote responsible beach partying and educate the youth on the perils of single-use plastics.



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## Government must listen to its people: Primacy in our waters

By Amb. ALBERT DEL ROSARIO

(Opening remarks at Stratbase ADR Institute Forum, 12 July 2019.)

Exactly three years ago, on the 12th of July 2016, the Tribunal constituted under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea or UNCLOS declared that China's claims to historic rights, or other sovereign rights or jurisdiction, with respect to the maritime areas encompassed by its "nine-dash line" defy and violate international law.

We succeeded in invalidating China's "nine-dash line" and in clarifying our entitlements including our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

This was a huge victory for our coun-

try and the international community, as it signaled the triumph of the rule of law in one of the most important bodies of water on Earth, i.e., the South China Sea.

However, the problem we face today is that the Award we won has been shelved, resulting in more unlawful acts of intimidation and bullying in the South China Sea. As recent as Monday this week, the President said that his verbal agreement allowing the Chinese to fish in our EEZ is "constitutional" despite the clear constitutional mandate that says the "use and enjoyment" of our EEZ is "reserved...

exclusively to Filipino citizens."

### I. An impeachable offense

What then should we as Filipinos do?

On this note, I would like to share with you interesting statements lifted from the transcript of President Duterte's Oct. 16, 2016 departure speech, as he embarked on his State visits to Brunei Darussalam and China

President Duterte said:

*"[M]any are wondering how I would deal with China on the matter of the China Sea or West Philippine Sea.*

*We will stick towards our claim. We do not bargain anything though. We continue to insist that it's ours and that*

**Turn to page 10**

### Government... From page 9

*the Tribunal, the international decision will be taken up and, but there will be no hard impositions.*

*We will talk and we will, maybe paraphrase everything in the judgment and set the limits of our territories, the special economic zones. It will be - no bargaining there. It is ours and many of you are just - wanting to ask the question.*

*That is it. No bargaining of our territories whether within the turf or to the 200, it will remain a special concern and I will be very careful not to bargain anything for after all I cannot give what is not mine and which I am not empowered to do by any sketch of imagination.*

...."

Then Mr. Ian Cruz from GMA 7 asked: "Sir, according to Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, if you concede the sovereign claims over Scarborough Shoal, you could be impeached. What's your reaction, sir?"

President Duterte replied:

"He is correct. I would be impeached; it's an impeachable offense. I do not fight with that statement. It's all correct, it's all legal and so I agree with him.

I said we cannot barter which is not ours, it belongs to the Filipino people. I cannot be the sole authorized agent for that is not allowed under the Constitution. *Tama siya.*"

We believe that this position of the President is what the people want not only in Scarborough Shoal, but also in our EEZ, which includes the West Philippine Sea. It is consistent with the Constitution and puts the interests of the Filipino people first. To paraphrase the President, he cannot be the "sole authorized agent" to share with the Chinese, our EEZ that belongs exclusively to the Filipino people.

In fact, the President and the military are constitutionally mandated to secure the integrity of our national territory which includes our EEZ and the West Philippine Sea. *(To be continued)*





## Semirara-Consunji sablay sa coal deal

INAMIN ng Semirara Mining and Power Corp. na wala pang kaukulang papeles ang kliyenteng binentahan nito ng Semirara coal noong Mayo 23 kaya ito pinagmumulta at sinampalan ng cease-and-desist order ng Department of Energy (DOE).

Ang Semirara Mining ay pag-aari ng pamilya Consunji na nagmamay-ari ng DMCI.

Sabi ng Semirara Mining, kasalukuyan silang nakikipag usap sa DOE at inaapila nitong matanggal ang CDO at huwag nang pagmultahin.

Noong Hulyo 10, sinabi ng Semirara Mining na inaapila nito CDO ng DOE dahil may mga kontrata ito sa iba pang mga buyer at huwag munang ipatupad.

Pinapalangkapan naman ng mga environmentalist ang hakbang na tinahak ng DOE laban sa Semirara Mining.

Sabi ng Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development, dapat lang siguraduhin ng DOE na sinusunod ng mga kompanyang sakop nito ang mga batas para sa proteksyon ng mga tao.

"Mining and trade in coal is dangerous to miners, the environment, and once the coal is used, to the general population," sabi ni CEED executive director Gerry Arances. Marahil napapanahon nang pag isipan ang paghihigpit sa pagmimina ng coal sa o 'di kaya'y ang pagbabawal na sa paggamit nito sa bansa, sabi niya.

Ayon sa Semirara, pinadala nito ang 4,768.73 toneladang coal sa buyer nito nung May 23 na wala pang coal accreditation certificate sapagkat sinabihan silang nag-a-apply na ito sa DOE ng sertipikasyon noon pang Abril 5. Sabi ng Semirara, dapat inaksyunan ng DOE ang aplikasyon ng kanilang buyer sa loob ng 15 araw pagkatanggap nito.

Sabi ng Semirara, hindi nila inaasahang magkakaroon ng material na epekto sa kanilang negosyo ang CDO ng DOE.

Gayunpaman, sinabi rin ng Semirara na nakikipag-usap ito sa DOE para iapila ang desisyon para hindi maistorbo ang kanilang operasyon at matupad nila ang kanilang mga kontrata. **(Eileen Mencias)**



**NAPAKAAKTIBO** ang sinasabing Pacific Ring of Fire.

Tinatawag na ring of fire ang mga bansang may napakaraming bulkan at lindol.

Klarong karanasan natin ang pagkakaroon ng mga aktibong bulkan gaya ng Mt. Mayon na buhay na buhay at lumilikha lagi ng lindol.

Pinaka sa nasakshinan natin ang Bulkang Pinatubo na napakarami ang pinatay at sinirang ari-arian nang sumabog.

Itong lindol naman, maya't maya meron tayo dahil sa paggalaw ng mga sapin-sapin at tabitabing pundasyong adobe, bato at iba pa ng mahal kong Pinas.

Kasama, mga Bro, ang mahal kong Pinas sa Pacific Ring of Fire.

Siyempre, kabilang din ang maraming iba pa gaya ng Indonesia, Taiwan, Papua New Guinea, Mexico, California sa Amerika at iba pang nasa gilid ng dagat-Pasipiko.

#### AKTIBO SA PINAS

Ang Mindanao ang sinasalakay ng Ring of Fire sa mga araw na ito.

Sunod-sunod ang mga lindol na nagaganap.

Isa sa mga pinakahuli ang mahina ngunit naging mapanirang lindol sa Surigao del Sur.

Magnitude 5.5 lamang ang isa sa mga tumama sa nasabing lalawigan at mga karatig na lalawigan at lungsod ngunit marami itong sinirang mga tahanan, palengke, simbahan, eskwela at ospital.

Nagkaroon din ng mga malalaki at kilo-kilometrong bitak ng lupa na siyempre galing sa ilalim ng lupa.

Gumalaw ang mga pundasyon ng mga lugar sa Mindanao kaya lumindol.

#### DAPAT PAGHANDAAN

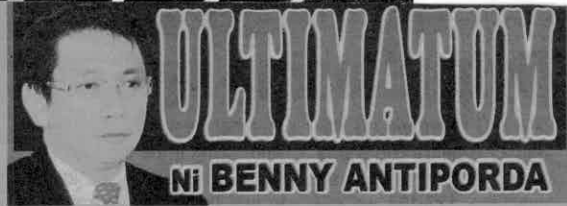
Itong nagaganap na malalaking lindol sa Pacific Ring of Fire ang isa nating dapat paghandaan.

Itong bansang Indonesia, hindi rin tinitigilan ng mga malalakas na lindol.

Pinakahuli ang magnitude 7.3 na tumama sa Moluccas Islands sa silangang bahagi ng Indonesia.

Nitong nakarang linggo, tinira rin ng magnitude 7.1 ang Sulawesi.

Ang Lungsod ng Ternate sa lugar ang nataranta at umabot sa 200,000 residente ang



NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

## RING OF FIRE AKTIBO; PINAS GAWING LAGING HANDA

tumakbo sa matataas na bahagi ng lungsod.

Natakot silang maulit ang magnitude 9.5 lindol sa Sumatra sa Indonesia pa rin noong 2004 na lumikha ng tsunami at pumatay ng 200,000 Indones at 50,000 iba pa sa ibang bansa, kasama ang Thailand.

#### MAGNITUDE 7.1 at 7.5 SA CALIFORNIA

Halos kasabay ng mga malalakas na lindol sa Indonesia ang dalawang araw lang na pagitan ng magnitude 6.4 at 7.1 sa California nitong nakaraang linggo.

Ang magnitude 7.1 ay sumira ng maraming gusali, lumikha ng mga sunog at nagpabitak sa maraming kalsada.

Gayunman walang naiulat na namatay sa lindol na ito na umabot sa 160 kilometro ang layo mula sa sentro nito.

Pero nananatiling nagbabantay ang California dahil may sarili silang inantabayanang The Big One na tinataya nilang aabot sa magnitude 7.5.

Itong The Big One nila sa California ay medyo mas mahina nang kaunti sa 7.7 na tumama sa Cabanatuan City hanggang sa Baguio City sa atin noong 1990 na ikinamatay ng nasa 260 katao at ikinasira ng maraming gusali at iba pang mga ari-arian.

#### SARILING THE BIG ONE

Sa darating na Hulyo 27, mga Bro, may gaging ehersisyo laban sa malakas na nauugnay sa The Big One natin sa Mega Manila.

Mega Manila dahil ang malaking bitak ay mula sa Bulacan at Rizal at tatakbo ito sa Quezon City, Marikina, Pasig, Taguig, Parañaque, Muntinlupa hanggang sa ilang bayan sa Laguna at Cavite.

Anomang araw, sabi ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, magaganap ang The Big One.

Kaya dapat paghandaan ito at ugaliin na nating sumali sa ehersisyo laban sa lindol na ito.

#### MGA SENARYO

Paano kung tatama ang lindol na may pasok

ang mga mag-aaral, pu-no ang mga mall, simbahan, condominium at iba pang siksik lagi ang tao?

Paano kung gabi tata-ma ang The Big One at nasa kasarapan ng tulog ang lahat?

Paano kung magigiba ang 25 porsyento ng mahigit 2 milyong istruktura sa Metro Manila lamang?

Paano kung sa pagguho ng mga gusali ay may mamatay na 30,000-50,000 katao?

Paano kung masira ang maraming ospital, maparalisa ang mga emergency na pwersa sa barado at bitak-bitak na mga kalsada?

Paano kung magkaroon ng mga sunog sa pagkalagot ng mga kawad ng kuryente at pag-sabog ng mga pipeline ng liquified petroleum gas at mga imbakan ng mga produktong petrol-yo?

Paano kung sasabog ang Angat Dam na papatay ng nasa 100,000 mamamayan sa 30 metrong taas ng tubig na raragasa sa Bulacan?

Paano kung gagalaw ang Laguna de Bay at ang Manila Bay dahil pa rin sa The Big One?

#### MAGKAISA, MAGTULONG-TULONG

Ang totoo, marami ang hindi handa rito at magandang inamin mismo ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno na hindi pa handa talaga ang kanyang pamahalaan na humarap sa lindol.

Sana tingnan din ang iba pang mga lokal na pamahalaan ang kani-lang kahandaan o kakulangan ng kahandaan.

Eh tayong mga ordinaryong mamamayan?

Ang mabuti sa ordinaryong mamamayan, pwede tayong sumali sa mga ehersisyo para kahit papaano, magkaroon tayo ng ideya kung ano ang posible nating maikontribusyon para sa kaligtasan nating lahat.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo ay maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa banti-porda@yahoo.com.



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## SolGen wants fishers' lawyers disbarred over 'kalikasan' plea

By Rey E. Requejo  
and Rio N. Araja

LAWYERS of the fishermen from Palawan and Zambales who have asked the Supreme Court to issue a writ of kalikasan to compel the government to protect the West Philippine Sea may face disbarment proceedings, according to the government's chief lawyer.

Solicitor General Jose Calida said these lawyers risked violation of the Code of Professional Responsibility for allegedly keeping their clients in the dark

about the nature of the petition they have filed.

In the Supreme Court, meanwhile, Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio disparaged President Rodrigo Duterte's policy of appeasement towards China by setting aside the 2016 Arbitral Award rendered by the Permanent Court of Arbitrations invalidating China's nine-dash-line claims and clarifying the country's exclusive economic zone, including the West Philippine Sea, purportedly to avoid a losing war with China.

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### SolGen...

From A1

Carpio stressed there were several options available for the Philippines to assert its legal victory against China, particularly its continuous environmentally destructive activities in the disputed waters in the South China Sea.

In a related development, former Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque slammed Carpio for meddling into the West Philippine Sea sovereignty.

At the Pandesal Forum in Kamuning Bakery, Quezon City on Monday, Roque said Carpio must not interfere into the issue of the Duterte administration's leniency policy toward China.

Carpio has been critical of Duterte's policy on the territorial conflict with China in the West Philippine Sea, and has pushed for the filing of more protests over Beijing's incursion in the area.

The President called Carpio "stupid" for criticizing his decision to allow Chinese fishermen to fish in Recto Bank in the West Philippine Sea.

On July 2, Carpio voluntarily inhibited from the writ of Kalikasan petition accusing Duterte of neglect to protect the country's sea sovereignty.

According to Roque, Carpio violated the Canons of Judicial Ethics for stepping into the matter, an impeachable ground.

Carpio offered "non-war options" for the government to enforce the three-year-old ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the The Hague, The Netherlands.

At the same time, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana rejected observations the Philippines was adopting an appeasement policy towards China at the cost of its territorial integrity in the West Philippine Sea.

"No, the appeasement word is coming from you and the others, it's not appeasement," he told reporters during the reception of the French National Day in Makati City on Sunday.



## 200 boxes of fake cigarettes seized in Iligan

ILIGAN CITY — Authorities seized 200 boxes of fake cigarettes loaded in an Isuzu Forward truck in a checkpoint along the national highway of Barangay Suarez here at 1 am on Monday, July 15.

Police Captain Taha Tambog, chief of Iligan City Police Station 2, said the city government's Task Force Kalikasan checked the forward truck thinking it was carrying logs but found the cigarettes estimated to be worth P4 million in the market.

Tambog said the boxes were covered with laminated sacks.

"Task Force Kalikasan endorsed (the seized cargo) to our office and we

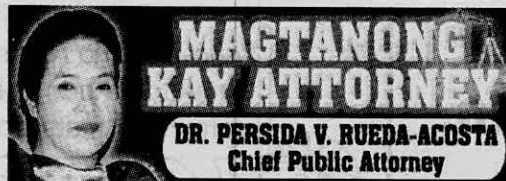
found out that it has no pertinent documents to prove the legality of the cigarettes," Tambog said in a phone interview.

Police said the truck driver, Mark Eugene Fernandez Dolorican, 24, and his helper, Ronni Concepcion Baquiran, 29, came from Zamboanga City and were on their way to Davao City.

Police were preparing a case against Dolorican, a resident of La Victoria, Aurora in Zamboanga del Sur, and Baquiran, a resident of Butilog, Poblacion Kagawasan, Dimataling in Zamboanga del Sur for violation of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines.

—*Inquirer*





## Gustong malaman kung may discount ang mga PWD sa dental services

Dear Chief Acosta,

Magandang araw! Nais kong malaman kung mayroon bang 20% discount at VAT exemption sa dental services ang persons with disability (PWD)? — Lilia

Dear Lilia,

Para sa inyong kaalaman, ang inyong katanungan ay tinatalakay sa Section 6.5, Rule IV ng Implementing Rules and Regulations ng Republic Act No. 10754 o mas kilala bilang "An Act Expanding the Benefits and Privileges of Persons with Disability" kung saan nakasaad na:

**"Section 6.5 Medical and Dental Services, Diagnostic and Laboratory Fees and Professional Fees**

**of Attending Doctors –**

*This shall apply to the availment of medical and dental services including diagnostic and laboratory fees by persons with disability in government facilities or private hospitals and medical facilities. The said discount and exemption shall also apply to the professional fees of attending doctors in such facilities.*

xxx" [Binigyang-diin.]

Sang-ayon sa nabanggit na alituntunin, binibigyan ang PWDs ng discount at VAT exemption sa mga dental services na kanilang gusto at kailangan i-avail.

Nawa ay nasagot namin ang inyong mga katanungan. Nais naming ipaalala sa inyo na ang opinyong ito ay nakabase sa inyong mga naisalaysay sa inyong liham at sa pagkakaintindi namin dito. Maaaring maiba ang opinyon kung mayroong karagdagang impormasyong ibibigay. Mas mainam kung personal kayong sasangguni sa abogado.



## DoE touts new funding for indigenous communities hosting power projects

THE Department of Energy (DoE) said the guidelines for indigenous communities to derive financial benefits from hosting of power generation plants and projects will soon take effect, and encouraged these communities to make appropriate preparations.

In a statement Monday, Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi said the issuance of the guidelines is a “symbolic way” to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> year of implementation of the Energy Regulation (ER) 1-94 Program.

He said the DoE “recognizes the right of our tribal and indigenous communities to optimize available social development opportunities and preserve their critical role as the stewards of our

energy resources, particularly where the power plants and/or the energy resource development projects are located.”

The Department Circular DC2019-06-0010 prescribes the “Administrative Operating Guidelines for the Availment and Utilization of Financial Benefits by the Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples, pursuant to DoE Department Circular No. DC2018-03-0005.”

Under the circular, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) is to endorse all legitimate indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs) beneficiaries to the DoE within 30 days from

receiving from them all the necessary requirements.

The DoE will then notify the concerned generation company and/or energy resource developer of the inclusion of the host ICCs/IPs for the remittance of their financial benefits. The policy enables the host to use the funds for social development projects.

Mr. Cusi said the arrangement with the ICCs/IPs further strengthens the DoE’s commitment “to boost their participation, cooperation and sustained partnership in power development projects.”

The DoE circular was published on July 12, 2019 and will take effect 15 days from its publication date.

Under the ER 1-94 Program, communities hosting power generation facilities or energy resources are entitled to one centavo per kilowatt-hour of the total electricity sales of generation companies or energy resource developers.

One of the major changes introduced by the guidelines is the direct remittance of financial benefits to host communities for their immediate utilization. The move to streamline the release of funding was meant to eliminate the bureaucratic process that hampers socio-economic development of the communities hosting the power plants. — **Victor V. Saulon**