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Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



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Cimatu leads cleanup of Pasig River

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu on Wednesday led a technical inspection of Pasig River in response to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's call to clean it.

He vowed to get rid of informal settlers and go after polluters of the historic river.

Metro Manila Development Authority chairperson Danilo Lim and representatives of the Philippine Coast Guard joined Cimatu during the two-hour inspection tour of the river.

He noted several violations including the three-meter easement from the riverbanks.

"We have the authority to restore the three-meter easement, and MMDA and the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission are working on this," he said.

The President appointed Cimatu to head the PRRC. **Rio N. Araja**



Cimatu to remove informal settlers along Pasig River

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu yesterday led a technical team to inspect Pasig River in

response to President Duterte's call to clean the historic river.

As the newly-appointed chair of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), Cimatu toured the stretch of Manila-Makati river where he noticed several violations that needed to be addressed.

He was joined by Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Danilo Lim, other officials of the PRRC, the Philippine Coast Guard and the DENR in a two-hour inspection tour.

Cimatu said the informal settlers along the river should be removed as he vowed to go after its polluters.

The DENR chief cited among the easy-to-spot violations — the three-meter easement from the riverbanks in which his new mandate has the authority to restore it.

Lim for his part said there will be no letup in the agency's dredging and desilting operations of drainage systems and creeks which minimize flooding the metropolis.

Joel dela Torre and Edd Reyes



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Pasig River cleanup onstream

As newly appointed chair of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has identified a number of interventions needed to begin the rehabilitation of this major tributary.

Cimatu led a technical inspection of Pasig River, along with Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Danilo Lim, and officials of PRRC, Philippine Coast Guard and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), running its length from Manila to Makati City.

An obvious violation along the river is the three-meter easement from riverbanks, which he said the MMDA and PRRC are now working on expropriating.

Based on Presidential Decree 1067, the Water Code of the Philippines, banks of rivers

and streams and shores of seas and lakes throughout their entire length and within a zone of three meters in urban areas are subject to the easement of public use in the interest of recreation, navigation, floatage, fishing and salvage.

However, MMDA Resolution 3, series of 1996, adopts a uniform 10-meter easement from the existing shoreline, banks or streams along the Pasig River.

About a thousand informal settler families near Del Pan Bridge will also be relocated in coordination with the National Housing Authority.

The DENR chief said outfalls discharging wastewater into the river will be checked to monitor water quality, as well as illegal discharges.



MGB: OCEANAGOLD PH'S RENEWAL APPLICATION HAS DEFICIENCIES

TO continue operating large-scale mining operations in the country, OceanaGold Philippines Inc. must meet additional requirements as part of its application to renew its financial and technical assistance agreement (FTAA), the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said on Tuesday. In a briefing in Quezon City, MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano said the Australia-based mining firm's application, which the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) already endorsed to President Rodrigo Duterte's office, contained some irregularities, slowing down the approval process. "[Environment S]ecretary [Roy] Cimatu endorsed favorably the renewal of [the application of] OceanaGold to the Office of the President. But [the latter] found a deficiency [in it]," Moncano explained in Taglish. At the same time, he added, the Bugkalot tribe in Nueva Vizcaya province — which stays near where OceanaGold's Didipio gold and copper mine operates — has applied to expand its ancestral domain. This means the company needs to talk to the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and address the issues concerning these areas.

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ



Hot lumber seized in Northern Samar

by **MARIE TONETTE MARTICIO**

ALLEN, Northern Samar – A truck containing at least ₱300,000 worth of undocumented Lauaan lumber was intercepted by Philippine Coast Guard personnel in a joint operation with other law enforcement agencies in Balwhartico Port here Tuesday.

The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) reported that the truck had come from Washington, Catarman, Northern Samar, and its cargo was to be delivered to an unidentified consignee in Sto. Domingo, Albay.

An officer from the Coast Guard in

Northern Samar said the truck was supposed to deliver copra to Matnog Port in Sorsogon.

"A tipster said that the truck would pass either Jubasan or Balwhartico Ports. The driver and his helper have already escaped when we verified the information regarding the contraband," the official said.

Seized were 5,944 board feet of lauaan, the truck registered under the name of Jaimee So of Tondo, Manila.

The officer added that they are tracing the owner of contraband lumber who is from Bobon, Northern Samar, and is considering him as a person of interest.



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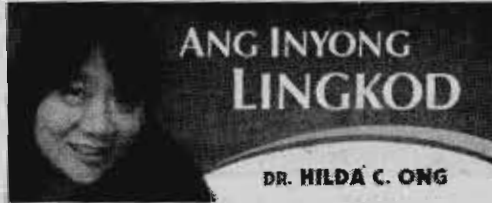
MATAGUMPAY NA NAIBALIK NG MANILA WATER ANG 100% SERBISYO SA TUBIG

AYON kay Dr. Seville David, Jr. Executive Director ng NWRB, sa ngayon, ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay nasa 191.45 metro noong September 25, 2019, (8:00am), ngunit, mababa pa rin kung ikukumpara sa normal high water level (NHWL) na 210 meters at sa end year target na 212 meters.

Tumaas man ang antas ng tubig sa Angat dam, mananatili parin sa 40cms para sa domestic consumption hanggang sa katapusan ng buwan na ito. Sa ngayon, hindi ito makakaapekto sa pag-supply para sa Metro Manila.

Sa kabila ng mas mababa pa ring alokasyon, naibalik na ng Manila Water ang 24/7 na serbisyo sa tubig sa 100% ng mga kustomer nito sa East Zone ng Metro Manila, sa 7 pounds per square inch (psi) na pressure o aabot hanggang unang palapag lamang.

Mula sa kakapusan na 150 million liters per day (MLD), umabot pa hanggang 350 MLD ang kakulangan ng suplay nitong buwan ng Hunyo nang ibinaba ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ang alokasyon ng tubig para sa Metro Manila mula Angat Dam. Sa kabila nito, matagumpay na napa-



baba ng Manila Water ang kakulangang ito sa tulong ng mas mataas na produksyon mula sa Cardona Water Treatment Plant sa Rizal, ang pagpapaganang muli at pagtatayo pa ng mga bagong deep wells, at ang pagpapababa ng 'systems loss' o 'Non-Revenue Water' (NRW).

Natapos na ang konstruksyon ng Cardona WTP at nakakapagbigay na ito ng hanggang 80 MLD na sapat sa kasalukuyang pangangailangan ng ilang mga bayan sa Rizal tulad ng Cardona, Binangonan, Angono, at Taytay. Nakakakuha rin ng hanggang 40 MLD mula sa mga deep wells.

Dagdag pa rito, mula sa 12% na NRW mula ng nakaraang taon hanggang sa unang bahagi ng taong ito, naipababa ito sa 10% na bundod na rin ng pagpapababa ng pressure.

"Labimpitong (17) araw nang 100% ng aming mga kustomer ang nakararanas ng 24-oras na suplay ng tubig, Ngunit, bagama't napahusay na namin nang lubos ang

aming operations at ang mga technical solutions na aming isinagawa sa aming sistema ay nakatutulong nang maipamahagi namin ang limitado pa ring suplay ng tubig sa lahat ng aming mga kustomer, hindi pa rin kami maaaring magpakakampante.

Ang sitwasyon sa suplay ng tubig ay pabago-bago pa rin habang pinipilit pa ring maabot ang 210 hanggang 212 metrong taas ng Angat Dam sa pagtatapos ng 2019.

Hinihikayat pa rin naming ang aming mga kustomer na patuloy na maging responsible sa paggamit ng tubig upang mapalawig pa ang suplay ng tubig hanggang sa susunod na taon," ani Manila Water Chief Operating Officer Abelardo P. Basilio.

Nananatili pa rin sa 40 cubic meters per second (CMS) ang alokasyon ng tubig na ibinibigay ng NWRB para sa mga konsesyonaryo ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), na mas mababa pa rin sa normal 46 CMS na alokasyon.





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'WASTE NOT, WANT NOT'

By **SUSANA P. GUERRERO**

Growing up in the years after the war, I was taught to recycle things. Curtains morphed into table cloths and aprons, clothes were handed down sister to sister or brother to brother, oil containers became sprinklers. Of course, in those days, we didn't call what we were doing recycling. We thought we were simply and sensibly making the most of everything, since various resources were scarce after the war.

I remember that the garden was my favorite spot, and even then, I held close to my heart the principle of "waste not, want not." We grew our own vegetables on the compost soil that we generated.

There were no *basurero* back then, so we put our garbage to good use. Kitchen waste and yard waste (dried leaves and twigs), mixed with a little bird poop, made good fertilizer, and

out of the rich compost soil came the vegetables that nourished us.

It was a natural cycle that we appreciated, and we took to it, well, naturally.

For generations, we have been hauling our garbage to open dumpsites. It took the July 2000 Payatas tragedy and some 200 lives for the government to come up with Republic Act 9003 (The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000). The spirit of the law is very clear: to see the things we do not use or no longer need as waste, not garbage. They are valuable resources that need to be managed.

Experience tells us that the most sustainable way to manage solid waste is at the local level – as close to home as we can get. The law has identified the modes by which solid waste should be managed: reduce, reuse, and recycle. The strategies: Segregate at source, recover and compost.

It has been almost 19 years since

'In a world where environmental challenges seem so overwhelming, the easiest way for us to have a large impact is to reduce our individual waste, recycle, and compost.'

RA 9003, yet despite the simplicity and clarity of its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), it still is waiting and wanting serious enforcement. Sadly, compliance is only about 10 percent. But if the law won't pursue us, nature eventually will, and the penalty it will exact is more than what any man-made law can ever impose.

Solid waste management is homage to nature. It is an affirmation of our commitment to life and the whole creation. In a world where environmental challenges seem so overwhelming, the easiest way for us to have a large impact is to reduce our individual waste, recycle, and compost.

Every positive contribution, no

matter how small, is going to help. I hope you ask these questions the next time you shop: "Where does this product come from? Is it made or grown locally? Will it last? Can I recycle it? Where will it eventually end up?" The earth needs us now, more than ever.



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Basilan turns trash into tulips to fight waste

A SOUTHERN Philippine city has turned discarded plastic bottles into flowers to fill a garden of thousands of colorful tulips, capturing tourists' attention and building awareness about recycling.

The tulip garden, which opened on Monday, was built from 26,877 bottles collected from 45 villages around Lamitan City in Basilan, an island province on the southwestern tip of the archipelago.

Basilan is among the country's poorest provinces, notorious for being a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf Group, an Islamist group known for banditry and kidnapping.

Plastic bottles were cut into the shape of tulips and painted red, yellow, pink and blue, while others were blended into sand and cement and used to make pathways in the garden.

The Philippines is a major source of ocean plastics and only a small amount of its waste is recycled.

Plastic bottles make up a large chunk of waste in Lamitan, and turning them into a tourist attraction can help combat plastic pollution, said the city's mayor, Rosé Furigay. "Let us be mindful of how to minimise the use of plastic," she said. — *Reuters*



■ Sen. Cynthia Villar
PHOTO BY
J. GERARD
SEGUIA



'Progress need not be at the expense of the environment'

SEN. Cynthia Villar on Wednesday called on local government units to give greater emphasis on environmental protection as she stressed that progress need not be at the expense of the environment.

"We are at a time when disasters, both natural and man-made, are happening in almost every part of the globe. So, we have to take environment protection seriously, especially

➤ EnvironmentA2



CONT. PROGRESS NEED NOT BE AT THE
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■ ENVIRONMENT FROM A1

Progress

in community or city planning. That by itself is doing the future generation a favor," said Villar, the keynote speaker at *The Manila Times'* Philippine Model Cities and Municipalities with the theme, "Building Better Landscapes for the Next Generation" held at the New World Manila Bay Hotel in Manila.

Villar, who heads the Senate Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Committee, said Filipinos should protect the environment for future generations.

"We owe it to them. It is part of our duty to leave this world better than we found it. I am sure many of you have seen or read about the Swedish teenager, Greta Thunberg, who is an environmental activist that has been challenging world leaders to do something about climate change. She feels that the older generation is not doing enough to save their future. We don't want more Gretas to one day tell us in the face that we failed them," she added.

Villar quoted Greta's speech at

the United Nations (UN) Climate Action Summit on Monday. "People are suffering. People are dying and dying ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is the money and fairytales of eternal economic growth."

The senator said government and local officials needed to consider the impact of their policies, programs and projects on the environment.

"So, of all the criteria and considerations we have included in the search for model city or municipality — social development, economic growth and environmental protection — we need to put greater emphasis on the latter. Social development and economic growth should not be at the expense of economic protection," Villar said.

"Most people want to leave a legacy behind and that is the best legacy we can ever hope for — to leave behind this world better than we found it," she added.

Villar commended the local chief executives, whose vision, determination and political will paved the way for their municipi-

ty or city to be recognized as a model city or municipality.

"We must emphasize, though, that however efficient and effective our programs and projects are, these cannot be considered successful if not sustained," she remarked.

She cited as example the river rehabilitation program she led in her home city of Las Piñas when she was a congressman — the UN-awarded Las Piñas-Zapote River Rehabilitation Program.

"Mula noon hanggang ngayon, napakarami ko ng mga proyekto at mga programa na inilunsad (Since then, I have launched several projects and programs). But that award-winning program remains the cornerstone of my advocacies, especially in livelihood-generation for communities and solving the problem of wastes in our city," Villar said.

"The garbage that used to pollute our river and block our waterways caused extreme flooding in our communities. Thus, I spent nine years of my public life, as a congresswoman from 2001 to 2010, in saving the Las Piñas-Zapote River and putting in place a

working solid waste management program," she added.

According to the senator, a project or a program would not be successful if it is not sustainable.

"And it will not be sustainable, unless you get the full cooperation of as many people/residents as possible. And you will get their cooperation if there is something in it for them. Otherwise, it will be short-lived and you will not achieve your goals," she said.

"The families who live in the riverside welcomed the livelihood opportunities we provided them. There is no need for expensive capital because the raw materials of our livelihood projects come from wastes: water hyacinths for the water lily handicraft-weaving enterprise and the handmade paper factory; coconut husks for the coco net weaving enterprise and the charcoal-making factory; kitchen wastes for the organic composting facility; and plastic wastes for the plastic recycling factory that produces school chairs that we distribute free to public schools all over the country" she added.

JAVIER JOE ISMAEL



Climate consortium launched in Panay

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has led the establishment of the "climate consortium" in Panay Island that will enable knowledge sharing among national government agencies, local government units and higher education institutions in the area.

"Risk assessment is fundamental in coming up with a science and risk-based local climate change action plan and other local plans," Climate Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman said during the launch of the Northern Panay Climate Change Consortium earlier this month.

"We are collaborating with national government agencies and academe to really serve the LGUs and the local communities who are actually in the frontline of climate change impacts,"

he added.

The CCC facilitated the establishment of the consortium to strengthen cooperation between national and local governments and the science and academic community on mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The NPCCC will model the way for the formation of more regional multi-stakeholder partnerships that will accelerate the delivery of capacity building and technical assistance to LGUs, the private business sector and other entities in key vulnerable areas in the country, according to the climate body.

Its members agreed that bringing climate science closer to communities to inform their policies drives relevant and tangible actions, both

at the national and grassroots level.

"Coming up with a risk-based and evidence-based assessment entails strong commitment from the partners," said Carmelo Orbista, regional director of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in Western Visayas.

"We hope to expand the DILG's partnership to other higher education institutions and state universities and colleges in the region given their expertise in sciences and research," he added.

Anna Mae Relingo, vice president for academic affairs of Aklan State University, noted that the role of tertiary institutions is to prepare society to adapt to the impacts of climate disruptions through research and education on adaptation strategies.

"Higher education should also take the leadership role in climate mitigation and adaptation," she said. "Higher education institutions should make the fundamental contributions to climate adaptation efforts by identifying the most pressing climate impacts related to specific communities, especially in relation to the most vulnerable populations in our society."

The NPCCC is composed of the CCC; regional offices of DILG, Commission on Higher Education, Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture; the Northwestern Visayan Colleges, Aklan State University and University of Antique; and the different LGUs in northern Panay Island.

- Janvic Mateo

7 die as dragon boat sinks off Boracay

14 rescued by PH Coast Guard; tragedy strikes as team trains for Taiwan race

By Nestor P. Burgós Jr.
@inquirervisayas

ILOILO CITY—Seven members of Boracay's dragon boat team died while 14 others were rescued when their boat sank off the waters of the resort island in Aklan province on Wednesday morning.

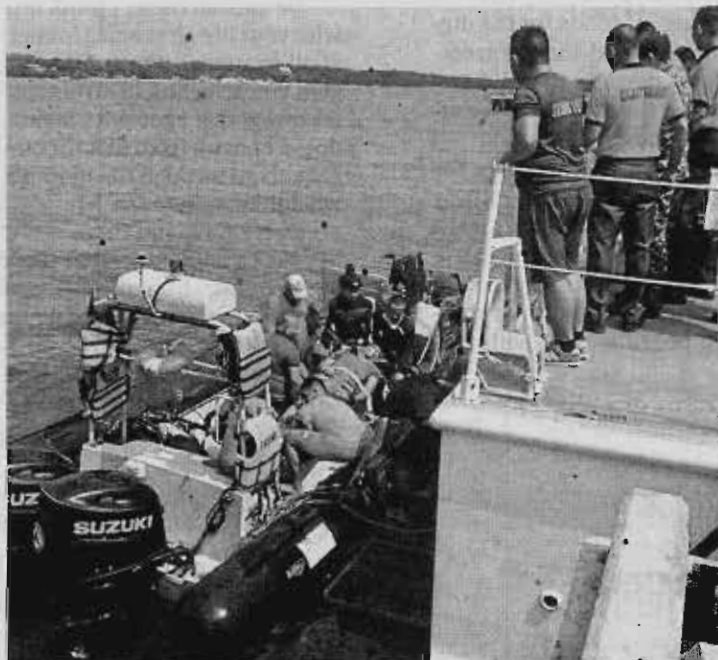
The dragon boat paddlers, all members of the Boracay Dragon Force team, were training for an international race, set for November in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan, when tragedy struck. They came from Bulabog beach at the eastern side of the island and on their way to the popular White Beach at the western side when their boat was hit by big waves.

Battered by huge waves

Boracay Island in Malay, Aklan, is a popular venue for national and international dragon boat rowing competitions. Dragon boat racing is a popular sport in the Philippines and many parts of Asia, where 20 paddlers sit two abreast atop a long wooden 12-meter (39-foot) boat sandwiched by a cox who steers the vessel from the rear and a drummer in front.

A report from the public information unit of Malay town said the paddlers left Bulabog beach at 7:15 a.m. Their boat was battered by huge waves after it passed a reef and took in water some 300 meters off Sitio Lingganay in Barangay Manoc-Manoc.

The boat gradually sank, forcing the paddlers to hold on



SAD DAY IN PARADISE Philippine Coast Guard personnel are on hand to retrieve bodies and rescue survivors after a dragon boat was hit by huge waves and sank in the waters off Boracay Island. —PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD

to the boat. Big waves, however, hit and dispersed them, according to the report.

In Manila, Capt. Arman Balilo, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) spokesperson, said they were able to rescue 14 team members, all of whom were taken to Saint Gabriel Hospital for treatment.

No life vests

According to Balilo, dragon boat paddlers do not carry life vests with them, especially while on practice, since they are "usually strong swimmers."

He said unlike boats that ferry passengers, dragon boats

are "not covered by the regulation on life vests."

The Malay government and the PCG identified the fatalities as Mark Vincent Navarrete, Comar Arcob, Maricel Tan, Johann Tan, Richel Montoya, Antonette Supranes and John Vincent Natividad. They died while being taken to hospitals and clinics in Malay.

Those rescued were team founder Von Navarro and members Yhen Aytona, Mark Baccay, Kenneth Bandalan, Jao Buenaventura, Julia Kurbanizova, Robel Licerio, Janice Lumbo, Lani Ordas, Edwin Paradas, Marc Sabado, Kathleen Sabado, Jaylord Violanda

and Maggie Xie.

Change of season

"There are many rocks in the area so it's possible that they hit their head on them," local disaster response officer Catherine Ong Fulgencio told Agence France-Presse (AFP) by telephone, explaining why they did not survive even though they could swim.

Malay Councilor Nenette Aguirre-Graf, herself a dragon boat paddler, said the victims were transferring to the White Beach as the norm during the change of season from "habagat" (southwest monsoon) to "amihan" (northeast monsoon).

Paddlers generally practice or compete in calm waters at the White Beach during the amihan season and in Bulabog during habagat.

Shocked, saddened

The fatalities were Boracay residents and workers on the island's resorts, hotels and restaurants.

"We are shocked and saddened. They were our friends," Graf told the Inquirer.

The Philippine Dragon Boat Federation offered prayers for the victims of the tragedy, as it encouraged promotion of and adherence to safety protocols.

"May peace and comfort find the hearts of the bereaved famil(ies) of our departed brothers and sisters in this sport. May God's healing and grace descend upon those who are recovering," it said in a statement. —WITH REPORTS FROM JOVIC YEE AND AFP INQ

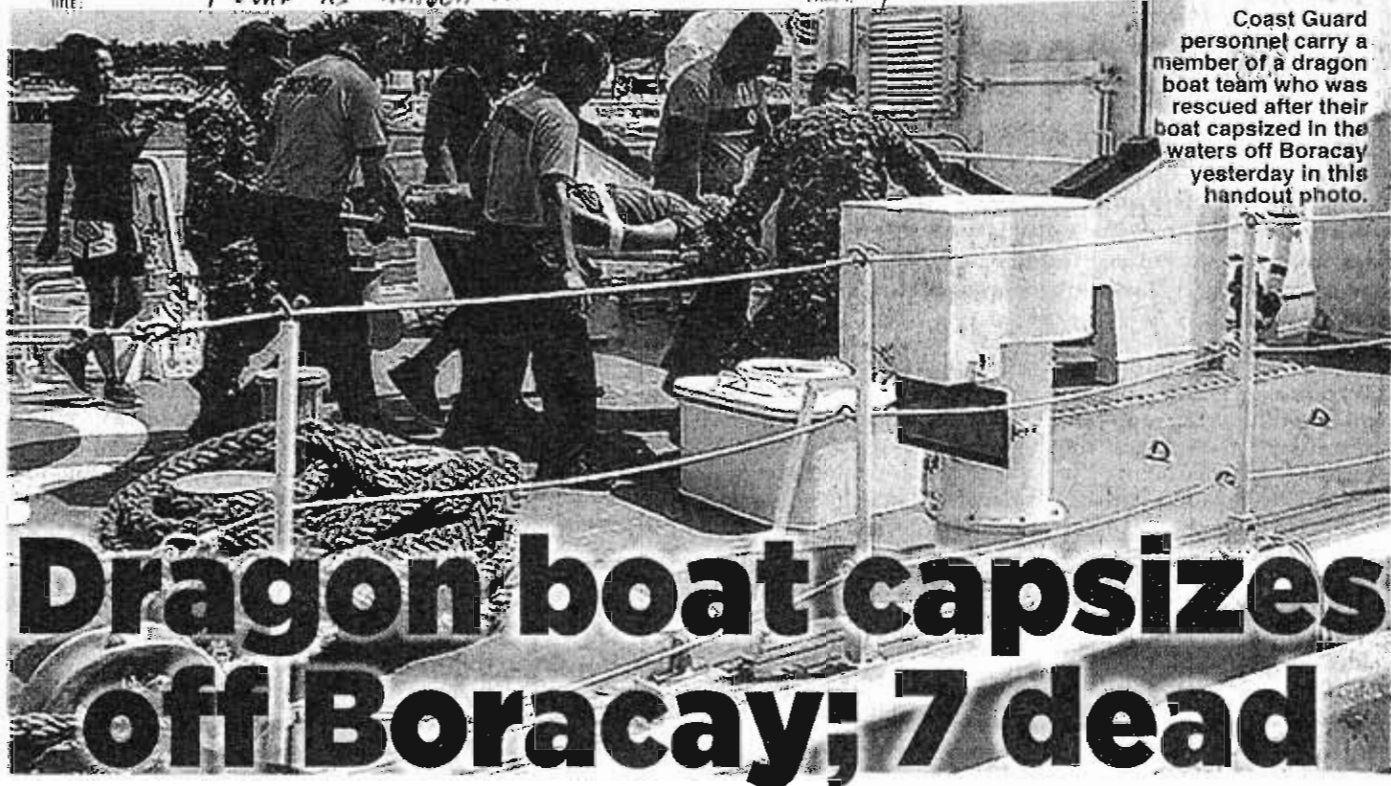


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Coast Guard personnel carry a member of a dragon boat team who was rescued after their boat capsized in the waters off Boracay yesterday in this handout photo.

Dragon boat capsizes off Boracay; 7 dead

By JENNIFER RENDON

ILOILO CITY – Seven members of a dragon boat team, three of them women, died while 14 others were rescued when their boat capsized off the coast of Boracay yesterday.

The victims are members of the Boracay Dragon Force, who were set to compete in Taiwan in November. They were training off the coast of Sitio Lingganay, Barangay Manoc-Manoc when the incident occurred at around 7:40 a.m.

The Malay police identified the fatalities as Mark Vincent and Comar Areob, who were declared dead on arrival at the Malay Municipal Hospital; Maricel Tan, Richel Montoya and Antonette Spranes, who were brought to the St. Gabriel Medical Center, and Vince Natividad and Yohan Tan who were taken to the Metropolitan Doctors Medical Clinic.

Among those rescued, a certain Von Navarossa, remains confined in a hospital.

Also rescued were Mark Baccay, Jaylord Violanda, Robel Licerio, Marc and Karhleen Sabado, Kenneth Bandalan, Julia Kurbaritzova, Maggie Xie, Yhen Aytona, Lani Ordas, Janice Lumbo, Jaoc Buenaventura and

Edwin Paradas.

Lt. Cmdr. Marlowe Acevedo, Philippine Coast Guard-Aklan station chief, said the victims assembled at Aqua Resort Laguna de Boracay in Barangay Balabag at around 6:30 a.m. and boarded their boat at around 7:15 a.m.

"They were paddling... in Tulubhan Bay... when the boat was hit by big waves and strong winds," Acevedo said.

He said the survivors tried to rescue some of their teammates as they swam to the shore.

Witnesses said the boat was only around 300 meters from the shore when the incident occurred.

The Philippine Dragon Boat Federation (PDBF) said it joins the Boracay dragon boat community in expressing its sympathy for the families of the fatalities and praying for the immediate recovery of those injured.

Personal flotation device

"We encourage the use of personal flotation device during training and require wearing the same in local regattas to make sure that we avoid incidents that lead to unnecessary loss of life or ... injury. We also educate our member clubs on proper safety protocols in case

of capsizing or sinking of boats," the PDBF said.

Dragon boat rowing using Chinese-style canoes adorned with dragon designs and manned by a team of paddlers and a drum beater on board have long been popular in the country, with teams competing in domestic and Asian competitions.

There was no storm battering the region and government forecasters said light to moderate winds were expected yesterday, with generally calm seas.

Last month, 31 people died when two ferries capsized in Iloilo Strait after they were buffeted by fierce waves and winds off Guimaras and Iloilo, not far from Boracay.

– With Robertzon Ramirez, AP



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7 die in dragon boat sinking off Boracay

ILOILO CITY—Members of Boracay Island's homegrown dragon boat team were in the thick of preparations for an international competition when tragedy struck on Wednesday. They were moving to a training site when their boat sank after being battered by huge waves off Barangay Manoc-Manoc. Seven team members died while 14 others were rescued by the Philippine Coast Guard. —STORY BY NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.

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7 DEAD AS DRAGON BOAT SINKS OFF BORACAY



Philippine Coast Guard personnel carry a survivor rescued from a capsized dragon boat off Boracay Island yesterday. Seven rowers drowned and 14 others were rescued when the boat was suddenly lashed by strong waves and overturned. Story on Page 11. AP



EDITOR'S NOTE

Climate change is on everyone's lips. Social media is filled with news about the environment, going green, even melting ice in the northernmost part of the planet.

In the Philippines, environmental issues often receive a tepid response, so it took an impassioned speech by Greta Thunberg in the United Nations for Filipinos to finally sit up and pay attention.

For years – even decades – our country is filled with eco-warriors who may not have the platform of Thunberg, but nevertheless, have the equal fire and passion in speaking up for the earth.

I remember the late Odette Alcantara who, even with her small physical frame, loomed large when fighting for the environment. I remember the late Gina Lopez when I talked to her about mining and how she passionately defended her views.

For this issue of Environment News, we are reprinting articles from the writings of two of the most prominent environmentalists in the country – Atty. Tony Oposa, an environmental lawyer who is also a Ramon Magsaysay awardee; and Annie P. Guerrero, a zero-waste crusader, green culinarian, and book author. I am blessed to have met both Oposa and Guerrero who have shared their love for the environment and advocacy for Mother Earth not only to me, but to those who they meet and interact with.

– Johannes L. Chua



Budget as dev't app

THE national budget aka General Appropriations Act is not only an expenditure program for government operations, infrastructure and other development programs, and basic and vital human services.

It is, in fact, a fiscal tool for progress, a development "app" not only to transform the country into a world-class economy but achieve a dramatic, meaningful leap in the quality of life of the people.

And congressional leaders deserve the nation's gratitude for crafting a budget law that not only embodies the administration's development agenda but the aspirations of the people.

"Our national budget for next year will give a very strong foundation to ensure the successful implementation of President Duterte's programs with sustainable and equitable growth that would provide comfortable life for Filipinos."

Thus assured House Majority Leader and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez on the benefits for the nation on the target signing into law by December of the proposed P4.1 trillion national budget.

"(Our) GDP (gross domestic product) will grow, and I think all the budget and revenue reforms will help us get a credit upgrade which will bring our interest down and provide for us billions of savings," Romualdez told reporters in an ambush interview after the House of Representatives in record time approved the 2020 National Expenditure Program on third and final reading.

Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano said his leadership is eyeing P10 billion institutional amendments in the national budget for the procurement of palay, 2020 Association of South East Asian Nations Para Games and Tokyo Olympics, improvement of the K to 12 program, Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018, and nationwide electrification.

"So in my personal calculation, less than P10 billion pa lang. But as I've said, it's a P4.1-trillion budget. If you change 10 percent, that's P400 billion. If you change one percent, that's P40 billion," said Cayetano in the same ambush interview.

"Number one is increasing 'yung pambili ng palay from P7 billion to P10 billion," he said.

As stated in the 2020 GAB, the top 10 departments with the biggest allocations are: (1) Department of Education, P673 billion; (2) Department of Public Works and Highways, P534.3 billion; (3)

Department of the Interior and Local Government, P238 billion; (4) Department of Social Welfare and Development, P195 billion; (5) Department of National Defense, P189 billion; (6) Department of Health, P166.5 billion; (7) Department of Transportation, P147 billion; (8) Department of Agriculture, P93.1 billion; (9) The Judiciary, P38.7 billion; and (10) Department of Environment and Natural Resources, P26.4 billion.



EDC teams up with NGO to save rare native trees

By Alena Mae S. Flores

ENERGY Development Corp., the biggest producer of geothermal energy, teamed up with non-government organization Philippine Permaculture Association to protect and propagate 21 rare and threatened native trees species in Nueva Ecija.

Around 152 seedlings from these species were planted in the premises of Cabiokid Foundation Inc., a 13-hectare permaculture development site and integrated farm that serves as PPA's demo farm as part of EDC's BINHI program.

BINHI is the only corporate-led program that identifies and propagates 96 rare and threatened native trees species.

Through the program, EDC has reforested over 9,500 hectares with these indigenous species. BINHI now has over 150 partners nationwide that help propagate these tree species.

Some of the species planted include Yakal-saplungan, Yakal-malibato, Malabayabas, Betis, Apunan, Pianga, Kamagong, Kamagong ponce, Ipil, Tindalo, and Supa. These species have dwindled in number in the wild, and are no longer familiar to the younger generations.

The PPA promotes knowledge on permaculture, the practice of integrating people and the environment to create diverse, stable and resilient agricultural systems for sustainable agriculture.

EDC recently forged a partnership with Knowles Electronics Corp. and the University of San Carlos in the recently-inaugurated BINHI arboretum in Talamban in Cebu City.

Premium Philippine native tree species such as Narra, Mangkono and Molave will be grown and propagated inside arboretum inside the USC campus as part of EDC's Binhi program.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP)** of the proposed **MASBATE GOLD EXPANSION PROJECT** of the **FILMINERA RESOURCES CORPORATION (FRC)** in the **MUNICIPALITY OF ARORAY, PROVINCE OF MASBATE**.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the proposed **MASBATE GOLD EXPANSION PROJECT** to attend a Public Hearing on **04 OCTOBER 2019 (FRIDAY)** at **9:00 AM** (*registration starts at 8:00 am*) to be held in **VICTORIO V. PATO MEMORIAL RECREATION CENTER, SAN ROQUE, BARANGAY PURO, ARORAY, MASBATE**.

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EPRMP of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The Masbate Gold Project (MGP) is a joint operation of FRC and Phil. Gold Processing & Refining Corp. (PGPRC). The proposed project expansion covers the increase of throughput ore being processed in the PGPRC plant from 7.3 million MT/yr to 9 million MT /yr. The proposed expansion will require an upgrade of plant equipment to improve the processing capacity for low-grade ore to maximize the extraction of gold. It will utilize the existing low-grade stockpile as raw material to better manage the stockpile inside the MGP area.

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD)** of this Office through mail or through email at eiamd.emb.co@gmail.com, three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EPRMP and Executive Summary for the Public (ESP) are downloadable at our website: www.eia.emb.gov.ph (*kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/Consultation link found in our website*) while the hard copies will be available in this Office and in the following offices:

- 1) **EMB Region V**
Regional Center Site, Rawis, Legazpi City
- 2) **Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO)**
Municipality of Aroroy, Province of Masbate

For more details, please contact EIAM Division of this Office at telephone number (02) 920-2240 to 41 and look for the project case handlers **Engr. Carlo Vic Arida, EnP** and **Engr. Mary Therese Gonzales, EnP**.



Int'l watchdog denounced

MALACAÑANG yesterday slammed the report of international human rights watchdog group Global Witness on the spate of killings of environmental activists and land defenders in the Philippines under President Rodrigo Duterte.

Data released by Global Witness showed there were 113 environmental activists and land rights defenders killed in the first three years of Duterte's term.

This is nearly double the 65 killings reported in the three years prior to the current administration.

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said the report "falsely and unfairly" pinned on the administration the blame for the killings.

"The Palace considers the UK-based group Global Witness as a purveyor of falsity and a subservient machinery for political propaganda. There is nothing new to its sham assertion which mimics the recurring chants of the usual derogator of President Duterte," Panelo said.

Also, he said the report was a "mere rehash" of what the organization stated in July.

"Its original manifesto did not accomplish its mission of tainting the integrity of this administration, thus the shameful resort to repetition. This is not news," he said.

The Palace official added local authorities, security forces, and even tribal leaders died protecting land rights against communist insurgents who want to control these areas.

In response, the President had to undertake measures to maintain peace and order in the affected localities, he said.

"Blaming a government with baseless conjectures for a domestic problem which it seeks to resolve flies in the face of impartial observation and circumspection, and even causes a division among its people. In this case, it is worse as it is being committed by one who is a stranger to our country's internal affairs," Panelo said.



'House leadership committed to pass DDR bill'

UNDER Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano, the House is committed to pass the proposed Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) bill, which President Duterte endorsed in his last two SONAs. As conceived, the DDR shall "guarantee unity of command, and science-based approach to and full-time focus on natural hazards and, even human-induced, disasters."

Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, House Ways and Means Committee chair and principal author of the bill, said DDR is envisioned as the primary government agency that "shall be responsible, accountable, and liable for leading, managing, and organizing national efforts to prevent and reduce disaster risks; prepare for and respond to disasters; and recover, rehabilitate, and build forward better after the destruction."

The proposal was passed by the House in the 17th Congress but failed to pass the Senate due to lack of time. Salceda said the journey of the DDR bill actually began with the sunset review of the NDRRM Act of 2010 as

mandated by RA 10121. From 2015 until 2016, the review set the basis for the initial drafts of 34 bills and four House resolutions on disaster risk reduction and management.

The DDR measure gained traction, under the principle of "Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Nation approach." As proposed, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) will serve as the core organization of the DDR, a full-blown department headed by a Secretary and supported by undersecretaries, assistant secretaries and directors. Before RA 10121, OCD handled preparedness and response activities.

As conceived, the DDR will lead in the "continuous development of strategic, holistic and systematic approaches to disaster management, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, and anticipatory adaptation strategies, measures, techniques and options."

The new department will also promote accelerated capacity building by local government units (LGUs) with

relevant national agencies and other stakeholders for the implementation of disaster and climate change plans, programs, projects and activities. It will also be tasked to formulate "comprehensive guidelines on the initiation, entry, facilitation, transit and regulation of international relief goods and personnel, as well as eligibility guidelines on how to legally assist international players, as well as provides sanctions for prohibited acts by public officials and private persons or institutions," Salceda added.

Aside from the OCD, the DDR will also absorb the Climate Change Office of the Climate Change Commission, the Geo-Hazard Assessment and Engineering Geology Section of the Mines and the Geosciences Bureau of DENR, the Health Emergency Management Bureau of the Department of Health, the DSWD Disaster Response Assistance and Management Bureau, and the DILG Bureau of Fire Protection shall be transferred, while PAGASA and PHIVOLCS, now under DOST will be attached to it.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



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25-05-2019 DATE

WORLD NEWS

Teenage climate activist takes on Trump's Twitter taunt

Swedish teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg shot back on Tuesday at US President Donald Trump's attempt to mock her on Twitter by changing her profile on the social media site to reflect Trump's taunting remark.

Late on Monday Trump retweeted a clip of the 16-year-old's speech to a United Nations climate summit in which she angrily denounced world leaders for failing to tackle climate change by demanding: "How dare you?" Trump, 73, commented: "She seems like a very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future. So nice to see!" By Tuesday Thunberg shot back, changing her Twitter biography to: "A very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future."

A Reuters video of Thunberg glaring at Trump as he entered the United Nations in New York on Monday went viral on social media. Trump has questioned climate science and has challenged every major US regulation aimed at combating climate change. Thunberg started missing school on Fridays a year ago to protest for climate action outside the Swedish parliament, inspiring millions of children and sparking a global climate strike movement known as Fridays for Future.

On Tuesday, the hashtags #GretaThunbergOutdidTrump and #BeBest were trending in the United States. Be Best Melania Trump's campaign against cyber bullying. Thunberg is in the running for the Nobel Peace Prize, one of the few people whose nomination has become known before the awards ceremony. She is the bookmakers' favorite to win the prize next month. **(Reuters)**



THUNBERG



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MAY tatlong bagong batas na pinirmahan nitong nagdaang mga araw ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Una ang Expanded Sotto Law o ESL; ikalawa ang Judges-at-Large Act of 2019 (JULA); at ikatlo ang Access Devices Regulation Act of 1998 o ADRA.

Para sa kapakanan ng lahat ng mamamayan ang mga batas na ito.

EXPANDED SOTTO LAW

Karaniwang bahagi ng demanda sa mediamen sa mga kasong libelo ang pagpipilit sa mga ito na ilabas ang source nila ng impormasyon o kanilang ibinabalita o tinatalakay.

"Kung hindi mo ilalabas, idedemanda kita at kung ilalabas mo, hindi kita idedemanda."

Ito ang drama ng gustong magdemanda o ang abogado niya.

Pero karaniwang sinungaling ang mga nagdedemanda dahil sa kalaunan, hindi tinutupad ng mga nagdedemanda ang kanilang mga salita.

Ngayon may matibay nang proteksyon ang mediamen para hindi ilabas ang kanilang source ng impormasyon.

At ang maganda, kasama sa hindi pupwedeng pilitin na maglabas ng source ang mga publisher, may-ari ng publikasyon, accredited journalist, writer, reporter, editor, columnist ng mga diyaryo, broadcaster at electronic mass media.

Tanging ang korte, Kamara at Senado o komite ng mga ito ang may kapangyarihang magpalabas ng source pero kung nalalagay lamang sa panganib ang pambansang seguridad.

Pero paalala lang, bawal pa rin ang fake news at basta paninirang-puri lamang.

JUDGES-AT-LARGE

Itong judges-at-large na batas, mga Bro, ay inaasahang magpabalilis sa paggawa ng paglilitis at pagdedesisyon sa mga kasong nakasampa sa municipal trial court at regional trial court.

Kahit papaano, hindi lang mababawasan ang overloading ng mga kaso sa mga sala ng mga huwes kundi mabibilis din ang takbo ng



ULTIMATUM

NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

3 MAHAHALAGANG BATAS NI DUTERTE

katarungan.

Karaniwang umaabot ang isang kaso ng 5-10 taon sa mga nabanggit na mababang hukuman dahil sa sobrang dami ng mga kaso na hawak ng isang judge.

Siyempre pa, ibang usapin ang hilig ng mga abogado na magpatagal ng mga kaso sa bisa ng postponement at iba pang dahilan upang kumita sila nang matagal o kaya'y para masibak ang isang kaso.

Nasisibak ang isang kaso kung aatras na ang nagkaso at wala nang panggastos.

MAG-INGAT LANG

Mag-ingat nga lang ang Korte Suprema dahil kasaysayan nang nakikialam ang mga politiko sa mga huwes na kanilang itinatalaga sa kahit anong posisyon sa hudikatura.

Sabi ng ating Uzi, meron talagang mga makapangyarihang politiko na sila ang nasusunod sa pagiging huwes ng isang abogado o piskal at kahit pa sa pagtatalaga ng mga huwes sa mga lugar at posisyon.

Mahirap magkaroon ng huwes na ang sinusunod ay hindi ang Korte Suprema at Konstitusyon kund ang dikta ng mga politiko na lumakad para sila naging huwes o maipuwesto sa mga judge-at-large.

Para mapanatili ng Korte Suprema ang pagiging independent at equal ng Hudikatura sa Ehekutibo at Kongreso, dapat higit na malaki ang papel nito sa pagtanggap ng mga aplikante sa posisyong huwes at pagtatalaga sa mga ito sa iba't ibang puwesto at lugar.

Mahirap rin magkaroon ng mga huwes na tuta lang ng mga politiko.

Mapapasama lang ang dignidad ng hudikatura at mawawalan ng saysaying katarungan.

PANDARAYA SA BANGKO, HEINOUS CRIME NA

Pinabagsik ng bagong batas na ADRA ang parusa sa pandaraya sa mga card na gamit sa bangko gaya ng credit card at debit card.

Sa bagong bersyon ng

batas, ginawa na itong isang economic sabotage ang paggawa ng mga ganitong pandaraya sa withdrawal o paglabas ng salapi sa bangko sa iba't ibang paraan gaya ng "skimming" kung tawagin, pamemeke ng mga ATM card, credit at debit card at paghawak ng mga device para mapasok ang mga account sa mga bangko.

Kung may hawak ang isang tao ng 50 o mahigit pang pekeng card o ni-hack mo ang sistema ng bangko o ang isang online bank account, heinous crime na 'yan.

May parusang habambuhay na pagkukulang at multang P1-5 milyon. Kung may 10 pekeng card o naging "successful" ang pagpasok sa account nang may account, mabibilanggo ang kriminal ng 12-20 taon at may multang P500,000.

MAKIKINABANG ANG LAHAT

Kung titingnan nang husto ang lahat ng mga batas na ito, para sa kapakinabangan ng lahat ito.

Halimbawa na lang sa hanay ng media, ang ESL ay nagbibigay ng lakas sa mga mamamayan na magsunibong ng mga krimen at katiwalian nang hindi nangangamba rin mabuking siya.

Ang totoo, nakakandado rin ang bunganga ng isang mediaman sa usaping ito dahil sa oras na pumutak siya, mawawalan siya ng kredibilidad.

Ang mahalaga, may katotohanan at may ebidensya. Kahit papaano, mababawasan na rin ang "justice delayed, justice denied" sa pagkakaroon ng mga judge-at-large. At ang nanan-akawan ng salapi sa mga hacking ng bangko at online banking at ATM-credit-debit card, maaasa sila na 30-40 taon na makukulang ang kriminal dito.

Anomang reaksiyon o reklamo, maaaring iparing sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.