

DATE : 06 JAN 2019

DAY : Sunday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Albay gov. sinopla ni Usec. Antiporda sa paninisi sa DENR

SINAGOT ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pahayag ni Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara at sa pag-sasawalangbahala nito sa mga geohazard maps na ibinigay sa kanyang opisina kaugnay sa mga landslide-prone areas.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, taong 2017 pa lamang ay nag-isyu na ang DENR ng mga geohazard map sa Albay at in-address pa ito sa Albay Public Safety office.

"As far as DENR is concerned, we have issued geohazard maps to Albay as early as 2017, addressed to the Albay Public Safety office," paliwanag ni Usec. Benny

Antiporda.

Ang pahayag ay sagot sa naging panayam kay Bichara sa telebisyon kung saan sinabi niyang hindi nasabihan ng DENR ang komunidad patungkol sa lagay ng lupa sa kanilang lugar.

"Don't blame us, the DENR should remind communities about tolerance of soil to absorb water," palusot ni Bichara sa panayam matapos ang katakot-takot na landslide na naranasan sa kanilang lugar dulot ng bagyong 'Usman'.

Ngunit agad itong sinopia ni Usec. Antiporda sa paglala-bas sa media ng kopya ng liham na ibinigay kay Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office Department Head Mr. Cedric Daep,

kalakip ang isang CD na may digital copy ng detalyadong mapa ng river system sa Albay noong Abril 20, 2017.

Ani Usec. Antiporda, hindi patas na isisi sa DENR ang nangyaring kalamidad sa Bicol.

"Maybe it's about time for the honorable provincial governor to review their coordination system in the provincial capitol rather than pointing their finger at the national government," giit ni Usec. Antiporda.

Nagpaalala rin si Usec. Antiporda sa lahat ng mga lokal na opisyal na seryosohin ang kahalagahan ng mga ibinigay na geohazard map ng DENR lalo na sa pagpapalano sa paparating na mga kalamidad.



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR vows to enforce environmental laws, regulations aggressively

By **ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has vowed to be more aggressive in enforcing environmental laws and regulations in 2019 to sustain the momentum generated by the rehabilitation of Boracay Island and other accomplishments of the agency last year.

"This year, I hope to send a strong message to environmental offenders and to the public of our seriousness in implementing and enforcing environmental laws, rules and regulations," DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

He highlighted the Boracay rehabilitation as the "centerpiece of our 2018 accomplishments."

The success of Boracay's rehabilitation had spawned demands for replication so the DENR decided to have the rehabilitation of Manila Bay as its "next big target."

The Manila Bay rehabilitation, Cimatu said, calls for a change in approach considering that its water quality has not improved despite a Supreme Court mandamus for its cleanup issued a decade ago.

"We are putting up a Manila Bay command center, we will get the local government units more involved, and we will be more aggressive in enforcing environmental laws, particularly against the discharge of untreated wastewater into the bay," Cimatu said.

Aside from the Boracay rehabilitation, Cimatu said the DENR, through the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), was also successful in enforcing the Clean Water Act in other parts of the country in 2018.

NWRB led the closure of 486 commercial establishments illegally operating deep wells.

Cimatu also commended the combined forces of DENR, National Bureau of Investigation, the Cebu City government in apprehending those responsible in the butcher and sale of more than 100 kilograms of raw meat of endangered green sea turtles.

He rallied DENR officials and employees to let the success in Boracay "fuel our spirits in facing the challenges before us in 2019" and keep in mind that their mandate in the agency "transcends our personal needs, wants and interest."



Stricter environment laws enforcement vowed

By Kuhlín Ceslle Gacua

Seizing the momentum created by the successful rehabilitation of Boracay Island, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on Saturday vowed to be more aggressive in enforcing environmental laws and regulations this year.

"This year, I hope to send a strong message to environmental offenders and to the public of our seriousness in implementing and enforcing environmental laws, rules and regulations," Cimatu said.

Describing the rehabilitation of the famous island as the centerpiece of the agency's 2018 accomplishments, the secretary intends to follow it up with similar initiatives in other tourist destinations in the country.

"With the eyes of the world upon us, we set forth to do what cynics thought was impossible, to transform a cesspool back to being one of the world's best beaches and swimming destinations, in just six months," Cimatu said.

"In Boracay, our mettle was put to test. We not only passed that test, but also carried over the momentum to other prime ecotourism destinations like El Nido and Coron in Palawan, Panglao Island in Bohol and Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro," he added.

Cimatu said Boracay's success had spawned demands for replication so the DENR decided to have the rehabilitation of Manila Bay as its "next big target."

He rallied agency officials and employees to let the success in Boracay fuel their spirits in facing the challenges before them in 2019.



DENR to be more aggressive in enforcing environmental laws

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

TO sustain the momentum created by the much lauded Boracay Island rehabilitation and other accomplishments last year, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) vowed to be more aggressive in enforcing environmental laws and regulations this 2019.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu made the commitment saying that the agency is really very serious in implementing and enforcing environmental laws, rules and regulations as a strong message to environmental offenders and the public.

Cimatu described the Boracay rehabilitation, which was carried out by the DENR and other members of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force as the "centerpiece of our 2018 accomplishments."

"With the eyes of the world upon us, we set forth to do what cynics thought was impossible: to transform a cesspool back to being one of the world's best beaches and swimming destinations, within a period of only 6 months," Cimatu said.

"In Boracay, our mettle was put to test. We not only passed that test, but also carried over the momentum to other prime ecotourism destinations like El Nido and Coron in Palawan, Panglao Island in Bohol, and Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro," he added.

Cimatu said the Boracay's success had spawned demands for replication so the DENR decided to have the rehabilitation of Manila Bay as its "next big target."

The Manila Bay rehabilitation, he said, calls for a change in approach considering that its water quality has not improved despite a Supreme Court mandamus for its cleanup issued a decade ago.

"We are putting up a Manila Bay command center, we will get the local government units more involved, and we will be more aggressive in enforcing environmental laws, particularly against the discharge of untreated wastewater into the bay," Cimatu explained.

Aside from the Boracay rehabilitation, Cimatu said the DENR, through the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), was also successful in enforcing the

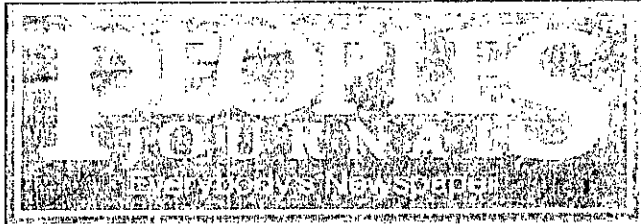
Clean Water Act in other parts of the country in 2018.

The NWRB caused the closure of 486 commercial establishments illegally operating deep wells. It also slapped Pepsi Cola Products Inc. with a hefty fine of P11.8 million for operating 6 deep wells in Muntinlupa City without the necessary permits.

Cimatu also commended the combined forces of the DENR, the National Bureau of Investigation, and the Cebu City government in apprehending those responsible in the butcher and sale of more than 100 kilograms of raw meat of endangered green sea turtles.

Meanwhile, Cimatu urged DENR officials and employees to let the success in Boracay "fuel our spirits in facing the challenges before us in 2019" and keep in mind that their mandate in the agency "transcends our personal needs, wants and interest."

"In our hands and on our shoulders, lie the future of our nation. In the crucial 11th hour facing climate change and all its chilling effects, we are at a very critical time to make dramatic changes," Cimatu stressed.



DENR vows to aggressively implement environment laws

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources has promised to be more aggressive in enforcing environmental laws and regulations this year as it warned offenders to make sure they abide by the rules.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu said this is to sustain the momentum created by the much-lauded rehabilitation of the once "cesspool" Boracay Island and other accomplishments of the agency in previous years.

After a successful six-month task in making Boracay back as one of the best beaches in the world, Cimatu is looking forward to duplicating the feat in other top tourist destinations such as the places of El Nido and Coron in Palawan, Panglao Island in Bohol and Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro.

"This year, I hope to send a strong message to environmental offenders and to the public of our seriousness in implementing and enforcing environmental laws, rules and regulations," Cimatu said during the traditional New Year's Call held at the DENR central office in Quezon City.

The New Year's Call was a gathering of DENR officials and employees to announce the policy direction for the agency and set the priority programs and

projects to be implemented for this year. The Boracay rehabilitation was described by Cimatu as the "centerpiece of our 2018 accomplishments."

"With the eyes of the world upon us, we set forth to do what cynics thought was impossible: to transform a cesspool back to being one of the world's best beaches and swimming destinations, within a period of only 6 months," Cimatu said.

Cimatu pointed out that Boracay's success had spawned demands for replication to Manila Bay which the DENR considered as its "next big target."

He said the Manila Bay rehabilitation called for a change in approach considering that its water quality has not improved despite a Supreme Court mandamus for its cleanup issued a decade ago.

"We are putting up a Manila Bay command center, we will get the local government units more involved, and we will be more aggressive in enforcing environmental laws, particularly against the discharge of untreated wastewater into the bay," Cimatu added.

Apart from the Boracay rehabilitation, Cimatu said the DENR, through the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), was also successful in enforcing the Clean Water Act in 2018.

Joel dela Torre



300K Manila Bay resident wawalisin sa reclamation project

PINATITIGIL ng grupo ng mga mangingisda kay Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ang planong i-relocate ang mahigit 300,000 kataong nakatira sa paligid ng Manila Bay, kasama na ang maraming mangingisda.

Kung paanong pinatigil ng DENR ang balloon drop ng Cove Manila sa Okada, ganoon din umano sana ang gawin ni Cimatu sa planong relokasyon, sabi ng Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Pamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya).

Iniutos ni Cimatu ang relokasyon ng daan-daang libong katao na nakatira sa Manila Bay para sa clean-up pero pinagdududahan ng Pamalakaya ang motibo nito.

Ikinatatakot ng Pamalakaya na gagawin lang itong paraan para mapaalis ang mga naninirahan doon at mapadali ang mga reclamation project para sa mga malalaking negosyante na ikadedehado ng mga mangingisda at urban poor.

Sabi ni Pamalakaya national chairperson Fernando Hicap, mayroong higit 40 reclamation project ang naaprubahan at pending ngayon sa Manila Bay kaya't matindi ang hinala nilang kaya gagawin ang clean-up ay para matanggal ang mga residente sa lugar.

"If Cimatu will push through with the relocation order, we are ever ready to defend our community and livelihood rights through our strong, united strengths," sabi ni Hicap.

Dahil dito, nagbala ang Pamalakaya na maglulunsad sila ng kilos-protesta upang tutulan ang relokasyon at nilulutong reclamation project. (Eileen Mencias)



DENR issues warning on balloon release events

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

Releasing of balloons in the air during special events including funerals is punishable under the law, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said yesterday.

Ipat Luna, DENR regional executive director for Calabar-

zon, said they have to issue the warning because the practice of releasing balloons during special events is becoming rampant and worsening the garbage problem.

"The funeral parlor and the grieving family could be thinking that these flying balloons will reach heaven which is referred to as the

final resting place of their departed loved ones. But the truth is these balloons will just eventually drop on the ground," she said.

"Could it also mean that the message sent just reached purgatory? Make sure these messages of love will reach your loved ones and not the purgatory," she said.

"In the Calabarzon region, we are urging local government units to consider the act of releasing balloons in the air, littering since that's really what happens eventually," Luna added.

She said funeral parlors as well as event organizers found engaged in such activity would be slapped

with charges. "If a complaint regarding this matter reaches our office like what happened to the 'Balloon Drop' in Okada Manila, we can file a case of violation of Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000)," she pointed out.

Amid protests from environmental and other concerned

groups and upon DENR's advice, Okada Manila cancelled its plan to drop 130,000 balloons as part of its New Year's Eve countdown.

Okada Manila had hoped to break the current Guinness Book of World Records for the largest indoor balloon drop involving 109,000 balloons.



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EPSON, DENR LAUNCH ECOVISION FILM CONTEST

EPSON, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau and GREENeducation Philippines, announced the launch of its 1st EcoVision Short Film Competition for students.

The inter-school video-making contest aims to tap the artistry and creativity of Filipino students in raising public understanding of the environment and its conservation through the power of Public Service Announcement videos.

The competition aims to strengthen Epson's commitment to the environment, as manifested not just through the innovation of reliable, recyclable, and energy-efficient products but also, its active participation in helping to inspire people to become more aware of pressing ecological issues.

"As a tech company, Epson believes that the youth, as the future leaders of society, has the power to influence others in advocating for the conservation of the environment," said Donna Ferro, brand and communications head of Epson Philippines. "Through this initiative, we aim to empower them by providing a venue where they can showcase their own take in solving the most pressing environmental issues."

For its first edition, the short film competition is looking for the best PSA videos that will serve as an informative tool for GREENeducation Philippines, a youth-led group organized by DENR-EMB, in its mission to educate Filipinos about various eco-friendly solutions that Filipinos can follow and apply in their daily lives.

With the theme "Green Solutions for Everyday Life at Home, School, or Office," the PSA video entries will showcase the importance of green solutions, which refer to the positive action of individuals and companies to ecological issues, caused by uncontrolled human activities.

"We are glad to partner with Epson Philippines for the first-ever EcoVision Short Film Competition and showcase the work of talented Filipino students in our campaign for environmental protection. This initiative will help us inspire people to change their actions and take the necessary steps, no matter how big or small, to make a difference for the environment," said Vermon Timbas, Environmental Specialist of DENR-EMB.

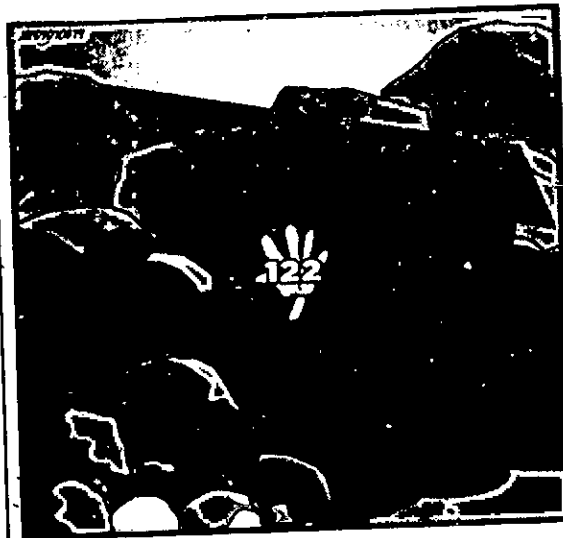
The 1st EcoVision Film Competition is open to all students (including the production members) at any year level and degree or course from colleges and universities in NCR, Region III, and Region IV-A.

To join, entrants must download, fill out, and submit the accomplished submission form along with attachments to ecovision@epc.epson.com.ph. The qualified entrants may submit PSA video materials with a minimum running time of 2 minutes to a maximum of 5 minutes, showcasing simple yet viable green solutions for environmental issues faced in the home, school or office. Entrants may also submit multiple videos for the three categories—Home, School, or Office—from Jan. 1 to Feb. 5, 2019, until 11:59 p.m. only.

Entries will be judged based from the PSA video's adherence to the theme, overall excellence in storytelling, cinematic attributes, technical execution and social media engagements.

The top three PSA videos will win cash prizes of up to P100,000 as well as Epson products for the winners' respective schools.

To learn more about the 1st EcoVision Short Film Competition and to download the submission form and complete contest mechanics, visit www.epson.com.ph/ecovision.



Editorial

Landslide-prone areas, tukuyin

NAGSAGAWA ng aerial inspection si President Duterte noong Biyernes sa Camarines Sur at nakita ang lawak ng pinsala. Mistulang hinubaran ang mga bundok doon makaraan ang landslides. Sa itsura ng mga gumuhong bundok, imposibleng mabuhay ang mga taong babagsakan ng lupa at bato. Dahil sa sobrang ulan kaya bumigay ang lupa.

Ang tanong, natukoy na ba ng pamahalaan ang mga lugar na posibleng gumuho dahil sa malakas na pag-ulan. Naipagbigay-alam, na ba ito sa mga residente ng lugar? O wala lang. Kanya-kanya na iang likas ang mga residente kung kailan gumuho na ang bundok. Bahala na si Batman.

Pero sabi naman ng mga local government unit's (LGUs) Inaanunsiyo pa lamang na may paparating na bagyo sa lugar, nagpaalala na sila sa mga residente para lumikas. Pero dahil may mga kabuhayan na pinagkukunan ng ikabubuhay, marami ang sumusuway. Nananatili sila sa lugar kung saan naroon ang kanilang alagang baboy, baka, manok at iba pa. Natatakot silang iwanan ang kanilang bahay.

Umabot na sa 122 ang namatay dahil sa Bagyong Usman makaraang manalasa sa Bicol Region at Mimaropa provinces. Pinaka-grabeng tinamaan ang Albay, Sorsogon, Camarines Sur at Camarines Norte. Sa mga lugar na ito nagkaroon nang grabeng pagguho ng lupa.

Pinakagrabe ang landslides sa Bgy. Patititanan, Sagnay, Camarines Sur kung saan 24 ang namatay makaraang matabunan ng lupa at bato ang kanilang mga bahay. Pawang nasa gilid umano ng bundok ang mga bahay ng biktima.

Sariwa pa sa alaala ang pagkamatay ng 70 katao sa Naga City, Cebu noong nakaraang Setyembre 25, 2018 dahil sa pagguho ng bundok. Tinabunan ang mga kabahayan na nasa paanan nito. Bukod sa lupa, may mga malalaking bato rin na tumabon sa mga bahay.

Gumuho rin ang bundok na minimina sa Itogon, Benguet noong buwan na Iyon na ikinamatay ng 50 katao. Ang malakas na ulan na dulot ng Bagyong Ompong ang nagpahina at nagpaguho sa lupa. Natabunan ang mga bahay ng minero sa ibaba ng bundok habang nasa loob ang mga Ito kasama ang pamilya.

Huwag tumigil ang pamahalaan sa pagpapaalala sa mamamayan na huwag tumira sa landslide-prone areas. Tukuyin naman ang mga lugar na posibleng gumuho at Ipaalam agad sa mga tao.



POSTSCRIPT

FEDERICO D. PASCUAL Jr.

Puno vs GMA draft of federal charter

THERE are two drafts of the federal charter being proposed to replace the 1987 Constitution – one written by the Consultative Committee (ConCom) headed by former Chief Justice Reynato Puno and another one, a Resolution of Both Houses of Congress No. 15 (RBH-15) being pushed by Speaker Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.



We asked media colleague Ding Generoso, former ConCom spokesman, to compare the two drafts. His report:

While they have some similarities, the federal Constitution drafted by the Consultative Committee headed by former Chief Justice Reynato Puno and the RBH-15 being pushed by Speaker Arroyo are miles apart.

Both drafts retain the presidential form of government to go with a federal system. But while the Puno draft proposes significant reforms in the three branches of government and other areas of governance, the Arroyo version basically retains the existing setup save for a few amendments.

The ConCom proposes sweeping political reforms that include self-executory provisions against political dynasties and the switching of political parties or turncoatism. Not only did the RBH-15 throw away these provisions, it even deleted the provision in the 1987 charter mandating the enactment of a law prohibiting political dynasties.

The RBH-15 lifts the term limits for senators and congressmen, making them eligible for perpetual reelection. Discarding anti-dynasty provisions and term limits means unlimited terms for unlimited dynasties – they will be the only ones to rule the country till kingdom come.

Also missing in RBH-15 are the ConCom proposals to strengthen and institutionalize political parties, to reform the party-list system by replacing it with a system of proportional party representation in the Congress (which also increases their membership to 40 percent from the current 20 percent), establish a Democracy Fund where citizens can contribute funds to political parties and get tax credits, and to strengthen the people's direct exercise of legislative power by relaxing some provisions on People's Initiative.

The ConCom has labelled these political reforms as *sine qua non* to the shift to federalism, firm in its position that without them – especially the anti-dynasty provisions and term limits – a shift to federalism will only create new fiefdoms for political dynasties, exacerbate corruption, poverty and underdevelopment, and hold hostage whatever promise of change that federalism offers.

While adding an article on obligations of citizens, the RBH-15 excludes the ConCom proposal expanding the Bill of Rights by including socioeconomic and environmental rights. Among the reform provisions in the ConCom draft are those on the right to food, universal and comprehensive healthcare, decent housing, complete quality education, and livelihood and employment opportunities.

In the face of the damage to the ecosystem that has resulted in disasters and calamities, the ConCom included in the Bill of Rights environmental and ecological rights – including the right of the people to be protected from and seek compensation for damage to their environment and to stop destructive or potentially damaging project or business through the courts by invoking the writ of *kalikasan*.

No changes in the judiciary were proposed in the RBH-15, as against Puno's proposal to speed up the final resolution of cases by creating specialized high courts to decide certain cases that are now under the domain of the Supreme Court.

The ConCom draft proposes a Federal Constitutional Court to have jurisdiction over questions of constitutionality and violations of the Bill of Rights. The Concom proposal also changes the impeachment system by making the proposed Constitutional Court as the impeachment court (replacing the Senate) but retaining the power of Congress to investigate and prosecute impeachment complaints.

The ConCom proposes a Federal Administrative Court to resolve with finality all administrative cases and decisions of quasi-judicial bodies, and a Federal Electoral Court to resolve all electoral contests involving election of the President, Vice President and Members of Congress (thereby abolishing the Presidential, Senate and House electoral tribunals), as well as resolve appeals on electoral contests of other elective officials.

As to federalism, RBH-15 consolidates congressional power in a still unitary system – not in a federal system as it purports to do.

In contrast to the ConCom draft that establishes 18 federated regions whose boundaries are defined in an ordinance appended to the charter, the RBH-15 merely empowers the Congress to later on approve or disapprove applications by a province or a group of contiguous provinces, or cities and municipalities to form a federal state.

The ConCom draft provides a system of tax collection for what it calls "federated regions" (not states) and the sharing of revenues between the federal or national government and the regions. The ConCom draft transfers to the regions the collection of an initial set of 12 taxes and fees such as vehicle registration fees, road user's tax, donor's tax, documentary stamp tax, and estate tax. It also provides for a 50-50 sharing of the total revenues derived from VAT, income and excise taxes, and customs duties – which account for two-thirds of national government revenues each year.

Under the RBH-15, federalism is merely an option that provinces may pursue. It provides that a federal state may be created in any part of the country upon petition by a province or by a group of contiguous, compact and adjacent provinces, highly urbanized and component cities and municipalities in highly urbanized areas and subject to approval in a plebiscite.

After a petition is filed, Congress enacts an organic law for the applicant-province or provinces, which will define its organization, powers, sources of revenue and other terms. There is no guarantee that any of the "federal states" created will survive.

In other words, the Congress under the RBH-5 will have the power to decide whether or not the setup becomes federal, which parts of the country will be federal and which will not be.

The RBH-15 could produce a mongrel system with provinces and cities that have formed "federal states" and those that remain under the national government. Considering the record of the Congress – including its failure to pass the anti-dynasty and freedom-of-information bills after more than one generation of its existence – it is doubtful if federalism as the Congress contemplates in its proposed charter will take place.

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