

DATE : 11 APR 2019

DAY : Thursday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



B-5  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 APR 2019  
DATE

FILE:

PAGE 1/

# DENR classifies 35 more rivers, bays, lakes

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has classified 35 more rivers, bays and lakes for their best uses, bringing to 824 the total number of duly classified water bodies nationwide since the enactment of Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.

The additional list of classified water bodies was contained in a memorandum circular issued by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, pursuant to Administrative Order 2016-08 or the Water Quality Guidelines and General Effluent Standards of 2016.

RA 9275 mandates the DENR to categorize water bodies – whether freshwater or coastal – according to their quality, area, purpose and vulnerability to pollution.

Fresh surface waters, which include lakes, rivers and reservoirs, are classified as "AA," "A," "B," "C" and "D." Coastal and marine waters, on the other hand, are classified as "SA," "SB," "SC" and "SD."

Cimatu said the classification

helps water managers and planners to develop proper water quality management programs and provide the standards to protect aquatic life and human use of their specific water bodies.

"With these classifications, we are able to determine the programs and activities to implement so that we can optimize the use of our water resources and make them beneficial to our welfare and health," the DENR chief said.

Under the circular, nine rivers in Region 9 or Zamboanga peninsula were classified as Class "B" and "C." These are Batu, Binuangan, Buayan, Catituan, Lambuyong, Logpond, Lutiman, Suluan and Sinusayan Rivers. Class "B" refers to recreational water

intended for primary contact recreation such as bathing and swimming, while Class "C" pertains to fishery water for propagation and growth of fish and other aquatic resources.

Four rivers in Region 4B or Mimaropa were classified either as Class "C" or "SC," which pertains to fishery water for propagation and growth of fish and other aquatic resources and intended for commercial and sustenance fishing. Classified as "SC" waters are Sabang River in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro; and Bangon, Gabawan and Bongoy rivers in Romblon.

Portions of Guimaras and Iloilo straits in Region 6 were declared as Class "SB" or fishery water suitable for commercial propagation of shellfish and intended as spawning areas for milkfish and similar species. Bicol region's Masbate Bay and Mobo Bay, both in the province of Masbate, were classified as Class "SC" and "SB," respectively.

Caraga region's Mamkas River in Agusan del Norte was categorized as Class "A" or one intended

as water supply source requiring conventional treatments like coagulation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection. Also classified as Class "A" were Muleta and Aloran rivers in Region 10 and Alibunan River in Iloilo (Region 6).

The Camgat-Surong and Dinauyan Rivers in Region 2 were classified as Class "C" and "B," respectively. Both the Balaong and Madlum rivers in Region 3 were categorized as Class "B" or recreational water intended for primary contact recreation.

Portions of Muleta and Aloran Rivers in Region 10 were classified either as "A," "B," or "C." Batangas' Lobo and Pamintahan-Tubig ng Bayan-Sala Rivers were classified as Class "B" and "C," respectively. Cebu's Bojo River, the lone water body classified in Region 7, was categorized as "Class B."

In Region 11, the Mayo River and Mayo Bay were classified as "B" and "SB," respectively. Three rivers in Region 12 – Glan, Malapatan and SapuMasla – were classified as "B," "C" and "C," respectively.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Boracay bats' population in sharp decline

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.  
@nestorburgosINQ

ILOILO CITY—The number of endangered fruit bats in Boracay has dropped sharply, even after the six-month closure of the resort island for rehabilitation last year, according to a conservation group.

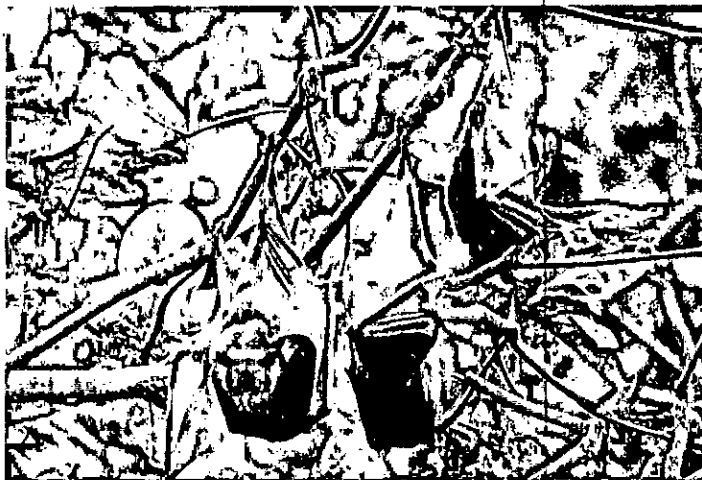
Friends of the Flying Foxes (FFF) reported that in the nine instances it had conducted a count since January, the number of bats ranged from nine to 347, way below the 2,425 in April 2017 and 1,608 in March 2018. There were an estimated 15,000 bats in 1986.

"We in FFF are now more concerned than ever, as we have seen a significant drop in the number of bats and we fear that this is a result of the bulldozing of the main roost site in 2017," the group posted on its Facebook page.

Historically, the recorded count is at its highest during summer, but it is very low this year, the group said.

Conservationists have identified three bat species in Boracay, including the golden-crowned flying fox (*Acerodon jubatus*), which is endemic to the Philippines and categorized as among the endangered species worldwide on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.

The forest near Puka Beach in Boracay's Barangay Yapak is home or roosting site for the flying fox, so-called because it looks like a winged fox.



ROOSTING SITE Flying foxes rest in a forest near Puka Beach at Barangay Yapak in Boracay. —PHOTO FROM FRIENDS OF THE FLYING FOXES

## Essential roles

The fruit bats perform critical roles in the ecosystem not only of Boracay but also of Panay Island. They pollinate many plants and fruit-bearing trees and keep the insect population under control, according to conservationists.

Their flight from the island to the Aklan mainland during sunset has also become a tourist attraction.

FFF has blamed tourism-related construction and other activities near the bats' habitat in Yapak for the continued drop in their number.

In July 2018, the Department

of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ordered Mabuhay Maritime Express Inc., a developer, to stop clearing a forested area near the roosting site. It fined the company for cutting down about 70 trees within a 500-meter stretch of the forest without a permit.

The developer had applied for a permit with the DENR to cut the trees for a road connecting the property to the beach, but it bulldozed the area even while its application was pending approval.

## No ECC

The clearing of the forest was made without an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) from the DENR. An ECC certifies that a project or activity will not pose environmental hazards or damage and that its proponents are capable of implementing measures to protect the environment.

FFF said the bulldozing and the tree-cutting in 2017 was affecting the fruit bats this year.

"At that time, June 2017, the bats had already moved to the Habagat roost site from the area that was bulldozed and so there was no effect on the count in 2017. The following year, 2018, when the bats returned to have their babies in that roost site (from) April to June during the closure, their roosting trees were already gone and we fear that the stress of that is the result we see today," the group said.

FFF and other conservationists have called on the na-

# INQUIRER

11 APR 2019

DATE

UPPER HALF

A-2

PAGE

LOWER HALF

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

P-2

*Boracay bats' population in sharp decline*

tional government to declare parts of Boracay, especially the bats' roosting site, as a wildlife sanctuary and protected area.

They said the bats need a buffer zone of 200 meters around their roosting site so that human activity, especially loud noises, will not disrupt their sleeping and mating patterns.

### Restrictions

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu earlier said certain areas in the country's prime tourist destination, including the roosting and feeding areas of the bats, would be established as "critical habitat" to restrict tourism and construction.

FFF said the establishment of protected areas should be rushed.

"We also wonder what's taking the government so long to establish the promised protected areas for both the bats and the marine life?! What happened to working toward sustainable ecotourism, if we can't even protect the forests of a worldwide endangered fruit bat and our beautiful reefs?" it asked.

The government closed Boracay to tourists from April 26 to Oct. 25 last year for rehabilitation after President Duterte described the island as a "cesspool" because of brazen violations by establishments of environmental and zoning laws, including the dumping of sewage into the sea. INQ



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COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# THE PHILIPPINE STAR



PAGE



UPPER  
LOWER



PAGE 1  
STORY



BANNER  
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

TITLE:

PAGE 1

11-27  
DATE 2019

## House OKs bill declaring Palawan district mining-free

The House of Representatives has approved on third and final reading a bill seeking to declare the third district of Palawan as a mining-free zone.

House Bill 8816 aims to protect the people and environment in the district, which is composed of Puerto Princesa City and the municipality of Aborlan, against the adverse effects of mining.

The bill mandates the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to formulate rules and regulations to implement the measure.

"Mining... has destroyed forests and caused siltation

of water sources... In order to protect and preserve the natural environment, immediate passage of the bill is earnestly sought," Palawan third district Rep. Gil Acosta, principal author of the measure, said.

"While mining provides job opportunities for some, the degree of damage to the earth and on the livelihood of farmers and well-being of Palawenos... has become exceptionally alarming," Acosta said.

Rep. Rodrigo Abellanosa of Cebu City's second district co-authored the bill.

- Delon Porcalla



# BULGAR



11:00 AM  
11 APR 2019

Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

**BOSES ng PINOY, MATA ng BAYAN**

DATE

## GOOD NEWS, ISANG BAHAGI NG MANILA BAY PUWEDE NANG LANGUYAN!



# BOSES

**NI RYAN B. SISON**

KASABAY nang malawakang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay, sinabi ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na may bahagi na ng nasabing dagat ang puwede ng swimming-an.

Sa kabuuan, ang Manila Bay ay may iba't ibang bahagi kung saan kabilang dito ang dagat sa Bataan, Cavite, Navotas at siyempre sa Maynila.

Gayunman, ang bahagi nito na sinasabing puwede nang languyan ay matatagpuan sa Mariveles, Bataan na tinatawag na Aguawan Beach kung saan bumaba umano nang husto ang fecal coliform level dito.

Ito ay dahil ang ilang piggery at sewers na direktang nagtatapon ng dumi sa dagat ay inalis na ng local government.

Samantala, ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, mahaba pa ang prososong pagdaraan para gawing ligtas sa pagsu-swimming ang buong Manila Bay dahil bukod sa mga commercial at residential establishment, malaki ang naidudulot ng passenger vessels sa polusyon ng tubig sa Manila Bay.

Dahil dito, magsasagawa ang DENR ng mga inspeksiyon sa passenger vessels sa mga susunod na linggo upang masiguro na

mayroong proper waste disposal at wastewater treatment facilities ang mga ito.

Nakatutuwa naman na nakikita na natin ngayon ang magandang resulta ng rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay, pero sana, hindi ito abusuhin ng mga tao at bigyan ito ng respeto dahil alam natin lumpisa pa lang ito at marami pa ang kailangan para magtagumpay tayo.

Hindi porke, libre at pinayagan, sasamantalahin tapos kung saan-saan na naman maglatapon ng mga basura, galawang 'Pinoy, eh!

Kaya ang panawagan natin sa publiko, kaunting hiya naman para sa kalikasan na ating napakikinabangan, gayundin sa mga taong tumutulong para tuluyan ng luminis ang kapaligiran!

Para sa inyong opinyon, sumibong, hinaing o nais hingging tulong, ito ang pagkakataong marinig ang inyong boses. sumulat lamang sa BOSES ni RYAN SISON at ipadala sa Bulgar Bldg. 538 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City o mag-email sa [boses.bulgar@gmail.com](mailto:boses.bulgar@gmail.com)



# Answer to water crisis

## COMMENTARY

ERNESTO M. ORDOÑEZ

**A**t the April 1 Cabinet meeting, an effective answer to addressing our water crisis was provided. On April 2, Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said: "A road map was presented which included immediate, medium and long-term interventions, such as doing an intensive campaign for the conservation of water and energy, and creating a department for water and a department of disaster resilience."

Also, a proposed water executive order was presented to transform and strengthen the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) and create a National Water Management Council—a merger of NWRB and the River Basin Control Office. This EO can be signed and made effective immediately, without waiting for Congress approval.

Since the draft of the EO was presented in public consultations, I will provide here the details presented which make this EO responsive and effective.

Firstly, the 32 uncoordinated water-related government agencies will now be directed by a governing council chaired by the President, or his designated representative. The members will be from eight government agencies and there will be one representative each from the academe and private sector. The river basin office representative will bring in the LGU perspective. There will be an executive management unit with 12 field offices to ensure the unique regional perspectives.

Secondly, a technical working group will be created with representatives of government agencies, the private sector and the academe. They will develop a national water master

plan and operationalize a common accessible data management platform linked to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

Thirdly, the plans will be binding to all, strictly implemented and regularly monitored. All agencies will have performance indicators and targets with quarterly reports. Underperformance will be a ground for disciplinary action. All sources of water (surface water, ground water, rain water and flood drainage water) will be managed for productive use and environmental protection. There will be mandatory rainwater storage for all government buildings and new developments.

Private sector participants at the consultations expressed strong support for this order. Though not all these provisions may be adopted in the final EO, the direction of this Neda-supported EO incorporates most of the recommendations given by the private sector during the previous water summits.

Given that the water crisis occurs in different forms in different parts of the country, urgent attention must be given to 18 (of 412) major river basins. For 2017, 2018 and 2019, the average budget for each of basin was less than P1 million a year. In a discussion with private sector group Movement for Water Security, Senate environment committee chair Cynthia Villar said she could use the Senate's oversight function to address this issue.

The multisector River Basin Management Council (RBMC) manages the river basins. This can be very effective if given the right support. It is made up of local government units, government agencies, and private sector. But at less than P1-million annual budget, there is no professional staff to support their directives, almost no capital equipment, and operating funds are inadequate.

The senator was surprised to

find out that only P8 million was needed for each basin. That is because the direction given by RBMC would provide focus on the use of LGU and government agency funds. These funds, amounting to hundreds of millions of pesos, are not being efficiently used because of lack of unified direction.

On Dec. 18 last year, Cagayan de Oro RBMC's Hilly Ann Roa-Quiaoit provided an example of how the fund can be effectively used. Roa-Quiaoit, who is the council's executive director, wrote about three critical tasks that could be implemented with five full-time personnel, critical capital equipment and necessary operating funds.

The first is implementing the river basin's master plan: "We do not have a full-time technical staff to come up with the five-year strategic activities and assign the different tasks among agencies. So the master plan is just on paper!" The second is operationalizing the council by activating the project management office (and technical working groups) to oversee and ensure the alignment of the plans of the LGUs and national government agencies. The third is adopting an inter LGU restoration for environmental services.

Two steps should be taken to address the water crisis. At the national level, the EO should be signed and implemented. At the local decentralized level, the RBMCs should be given adequate support by detailing full-time personnel, assigning capital equipment and providing the necessary operational funds. **INQ**



The author is Agriwatch chair, former Secretary of Presidential Programs and Projects and former undersecretary of Agriculture and Trade and Industry. Contact him via agriwatch\_phil@yahoo.com



## The disaster that is agriculture (2)

This is the conclusion of my column on agriculture.

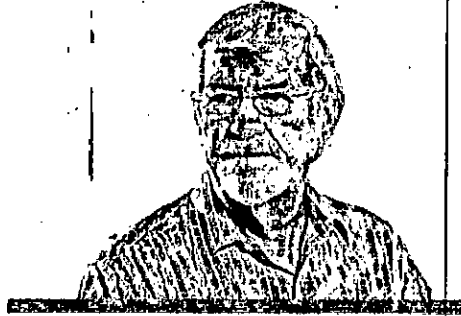
UP School of Economics professor and National Scientist Raul Fabella, in his discussion paper "Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP): Time to Let Go," noted that the CARP only created a new class of people: the "landed poor."

It has given title to land farmers can't benefit from as a land owner. As I mentioned, they can't use it as collateral for a loan, they can't convert it to other nonagricultural uses, they can't sell it. Entrepreneurial farmers aren't allowed to acquire land greater than 5 hectares, so the economies of scale that greater production could accomplish aren't permitted. Plantations, which some crops such as sugar and bananas must have, aren't allowed in a draconian law created by nonagriculturalists.

CARP's term is over. It not only should not be extended, it should give the agrarian reform beneficiaries the flexibility to lease their lands to agri-entrepreneurs while keeping ownership of their land, with perhaps some restriction in its conversion to nonagricultural uses. This is, after all, a country with limited arable land for a large and growing population.

Plantations need to be revived. The economies of scale that single ownership of a large plot can create are essential for the efficient production of some crops. But cartelized capture (as in sugar of the past) must be prevented.

In February 2018, a law was passed providing free irrigation to farms. It's a well-intentioned mistake (another example of a populist decision without sufficient thought about its consequences). You get



**LIKE IT IS**  
PETER WALLACE

something for free, you don't look after it. There's no sense of ownership and responsibility, no requirement to look after it, to maintain it. Water needs to be communally owned and paid for. And then looked after.

Growing the produce cost-effectively is only one of the problems. Getting it to the market in fresh condition at a fair price is another. Here, three things stand in the way: lack of farm-to-market roads (or, as Sen. Panfilo Lacson so brilliantly expresses it, "farm-to-pocket roads"), lack of affordable cost of sea freight, and middlemen who make more money than the farmers while doing far less.

My wife buys vegetables from the farmers in the local provincial market at a price less than half what she pays in the supermarket. That's a hugely inefficient distribution system. Vegetable prices in Bangkok are half what they are in Manila. That alone tells you how bad things are, and how urgent is the need to change it.

Missing in all of this is the research into

developing higher productivity and resilience. The Philippines hosts the International Rice Research Institute, but then doesn't utilize the research developed and does nothing to research better methods oriented to the Philippine environment. It's no better for other crops, despite the agencies who've been given this mandate. Our neighbors have created dedicated research centers for crops that could be of major export potential, and it has worked: Malaysia—rubber and palm oil; Thailand—rubber, tapioca, horticulture; Indonesia—palm oil, rubber, coffee, cacao; Vietnam—rubber, coffee, pepper, cashew.

In contrast, the Philippines (under Marcos) abolished the only one the Philippines had, the Philippine Coconut Research Institute. Coconut has suffered since, way below its potential.

The failures show up in the numbers. The Philippines just doesn't seem able to grow crops in the most efficient way. It's last, or near the last, in all of them.

For the past 50 years, there's not been a leader who has given agriculture the dedicated attention it must have. The focus has been on manufacturing and services, and they have grown modestly well because of it.

The equal focus on agriculture has not happened. President Duterte now needs to correct that failure and spend the next three years putting this as a priority, if not the top priority of his administration. The goal should be agriculture growth of at least 4 to 5 percent annually. Some revolutionary changes are needed in this essential-to-life sector. It's time it had them.

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# Negros landowners allegedly 'profit' from delay in CARP implementation

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

**N**EGROS landlords continue to profit from the landholdings that have been covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) because of delays in the program's implementation, the group Task Force Mapalad (TFM) alleged on Wednesday.

For the same reasons, thousands of farmers who were supposed to benefit from these CARP-covered lands lose a potential income of the same amount based on a study conducted by the group.

According to the group's study, at least P6.9 billion annually or a total of P32.75 billion of farmers' potential net income had been lost for the last five years that the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) failed to award to CARP beneficiaries a total of 3,020 farms in Negros Occidental with a total land area of 69,217 hectares comprising mostly of private sugar plantations.

The 3,020 landholdings were among the Negros farms that the TFM petitioned to be covered by the CARP days before June 30, 2014, or the time of the expiry of Republic Act (RA) 9700 that funds the program's land acquisition and distribution phase.

TFM computed the income loss by multiplying the 69,217 hectares of undistributed landholdings with the estimated P99,616 average yearly net profit per hectare in the first three years of sugar farming that a CARP beneficiary could have earned if he or she already owned the land and productively

using it even without government support services.

The result was then multiplied with the number of years that the DAR failed to distribute the landholdings from June 2014 to March 2019, or a total of 4.75 years.

The group is now appealing to President Duterte to cause the distribution of these lands.

"Even before you started office in 2016, you already promised that you would be a pro-poor and anti-oligarchic leader. Last month, while you were in Sagay City, you said that CARP 'is the law, and I will implement the law.' Thank you for being consistent [with] your statements, Mr. President. Now, please help us stop our economic bleeding. Please fast-track and complete land distribution, and put an end to DAR policies killing CARP," Teresita Tarlac, president of TFM Negros-Panay Chapter said in a news statement.

"With those huge amounts, thousands of mouths would have been fed, thousands of children would have been provided with better education, thousands of farmers would have been freed from their slave-like work under greedy hacenderos. But these aren't happening. Many of us are dying old

and poor even when the solution, which is CARP, is obviously there," Tarlac added.

Since June 2014, or nearly five years later after RA 9700's expiry, most of these landholdings comprising 69,217 hectares are nowhere near the land distribution stage of CARP, the group lamented.

According to TFM, nearly 80 percent of the total area of the farms or 54,630 hectares was stuck in the first step of the land acquisition and distribution process or has not yet advanced to any LAD stage as of March 2019.

Sixty-two percent of the farms comprising 42,963 hectares (2,020 farms) are still at the notice of CARP coverage (NOC) stage—the very first step in the LAD—while 17 percent or 11,667 hectares (375 farms) have not yet been issued any NOC and, thus, have not yet reached even the first LAD step.

It takes 27 LAD steps for the DAR, with the help of the LandBank of the Philippines (LBP), as the financial intermediary for the CARP, to acquire a farm from a landowner and distribute it to the farmer-beneficiaries through certificates of land ownership award (CLOA).

Among the major LAD steps are the DAR's issuance of NOC, informing a landowner that his or her land is being placed under CARP; selection of qualified CARP beneficiaries; a land survey identifying which parts of the land are CARPable; preparation of the claim folders of farmer-beneficiaries; the LBP's determination of the value of the land and depositing of the landowner's compensation in exchange for the acquisition of his or her land under CARP; the DAR's immediate possession of the land; the Registry of Deeds' (ROD) cancellation of the landowner's title and the issuance of a new one under the name of the Republic of the Philippines; and finally the generation and distribution of CLOAs to CARP beneficiaries.

# Palace asked to comment on Chico project challenge

## Makabayan bloc petitions Supreme Court to nullify P4.37-billion loan from China

By Vincent Cabreza  
@vincentcabrezaINQ

BAGUIO CITY—Malacañang on Wednesday said it would submit its comment on the constitutional challenge against a China-financed irrigation project in Kalinga and Cagayan provinces that was filed in the Supreme Court last week.

The high court, sitting en banc during its summer sessions here, granted the government 10 days to respond to the April 4 petition filed by the Makabayan bloc which sought to nullify the P4.37-billion loan taken from a Chinese bank to finance the Chico River pump irrigation project.

The project when completed would divert river water to 7,530 hectares of farms in Tuao and Piat towns in Cagayan province and 1,170 hectares of rice and corn fields in Pinukpok town in Kalinga.

### 'Express waiver'

The headwaters of the 175-kilometer Chico River start at Mt. Data in Mountain Province before these flow down through Kalinga and Cagayan.

Makabayan said the preferential buyer's credit loan agreement contains the country's "express waiver" of its sovereign immunity, which "has allowed its patrimonial assets to stand as security for unpaid obligations under the loan agreement."

"We had said before we will



**MIGHTY** The Chico River, which is being tapped to irrigate farms in Kalinga and Cagayan provinces, is a major attraction for white-water rafting enthusiasts in Tabuk City. —EV ESPIRITU

always respect whatever the other branches do or perform following the constitutional directives to each branch," so the government will "respond properly" to the high court order, said presidential spokesperson and chief legal counsel Salvador Panelo.

"We feel that it's not in violation of the Constitution as alleged by the petitioner," Panelo said. "The loan agreement has passed through many channels. There has been

many reviews or evaluations."

### IP consent

Construction has begun at the Chico River borders of Tuao and Pinukpok, although the Cordillera Regional Development Council (RDC) has found procedural anomalies involving the project processed by its Cagayan counterpart for the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), the project developer.

Before work can be started, the project requires a "certifi-

cation precondition," which stipulates that the NIA and its Chinese contractor acquired the "free, prior and informed consent" (FPIC) of the indigenous peoples (IP) residing in the project area, said lawyer Ronald Calde, Cordillera director of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

The certification had been delayed because the NIA was awaiting feedback regarding the compensation package it agreed to pay families living on

land where a canal inlet of the pump irrigation system would be built, Calde said.

Most of the canals and the six pumping machines would be built in Tuao, he said.

### Unlawful

The Cordillera RDC was not excluded from talks when the Cagayan RDC worked on the Chico project in 2018, but officials were concerned that proceeding with the project without the FPIC document from Kalinga was unlawful.

"The NIA complied with procedures required by Republic Act No. 8371 (the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act). They consulted the communities, and drew up a memorandum of agreement with them," Calde said.

"The NIA allowed the contractor to begin because the Pinukpok communities themselves passed a resolution pushing for work to start so they can get their benefits. That is the problem we want to resolve," he said.

The villagers represent one of over 40 ancestral domains recognized in Kalinga, Calde said, adding that only their consent was required by law.

Another matter which the Cordillera RDC needs addressed is the share from taxes to be paid from irrigation operations because the pump system technically straddles Tuao and Pinukpok, he said. —WITH A REPORT FROM CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO INQ



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Manila Standard

A-6  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 APR 2019  
DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

## SM Baguio can't cut trees—SC

By Rey E. Requejo

**BAGUIO CITY**—The Supreme Court has permanently prohibited the cutting of trees on Luneta Hill in Baguio City, which was supposedly being undertaken by mall giant SM as part of its expansion.

"The Supreme Court in its en banc session today made permanent the temporary restraining order issued on March 24, 2015, prohibiting the cutting and baling of the trees on Luneta Hill in Baguio City, where SM is expanding its shopping mall," SC spokesperson Brian Hosaka said in a media briefing here.

Hosaka said the decision was reached on Wednesday during its summer en banc session at SC compound here.

When sought for comment, SMPHI legal counsel Ryan San Juan said: "We have not received any resolution on this matter from the Supreme Court."

Hosaka clarified the SC decision "is without prejudice to the filing of another application for and environmental compliance certificate in accordance with existing laws and regulation."

The petition, which sought to bar SM Baguio City from cutting and baling of 182 pine and alnus trees, was filed by the Cordillera Global Network and several residents.



## Exotic birds, animals seized

DAVAO CITY—Authorities on Monday confiscated 447 exotic birds and animals worth P50 million in Barangay Dahican, Mati City, Davao Oriental.

Among the seized species are black palm cockatoos, wallabies,

*Next page*



## Exotic...

*From A1*

and echidna that were believed to be smuggled from Indonesia, said Col. Marcial Magistrado, director of the Davao Oriental Police Provincial Office.

Monday's operation led to the arrest of the two caretakers, identified as Jomar Lumakore Toledo, 34, and Rompas Manindig Lumakore, 25, both residents of Barangay Calumpang, General Santos City.

Magistrado said the police will be filing charges against the arrested persons for violation of Republic Act 9147 or Conservation and Protection of Wildlife Resources and their Habitats.

Magistrado said the two suspects were reportedly being paid to feed the animals, which were already in the area for a week.

Each bird species and animals were identified and tagged by the team from the Biodiversity Management Bureau and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Region 11, led by Dr. Rogelio Demelletes.

The species were identified according to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species category. PNA



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Manila Standard

A1  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

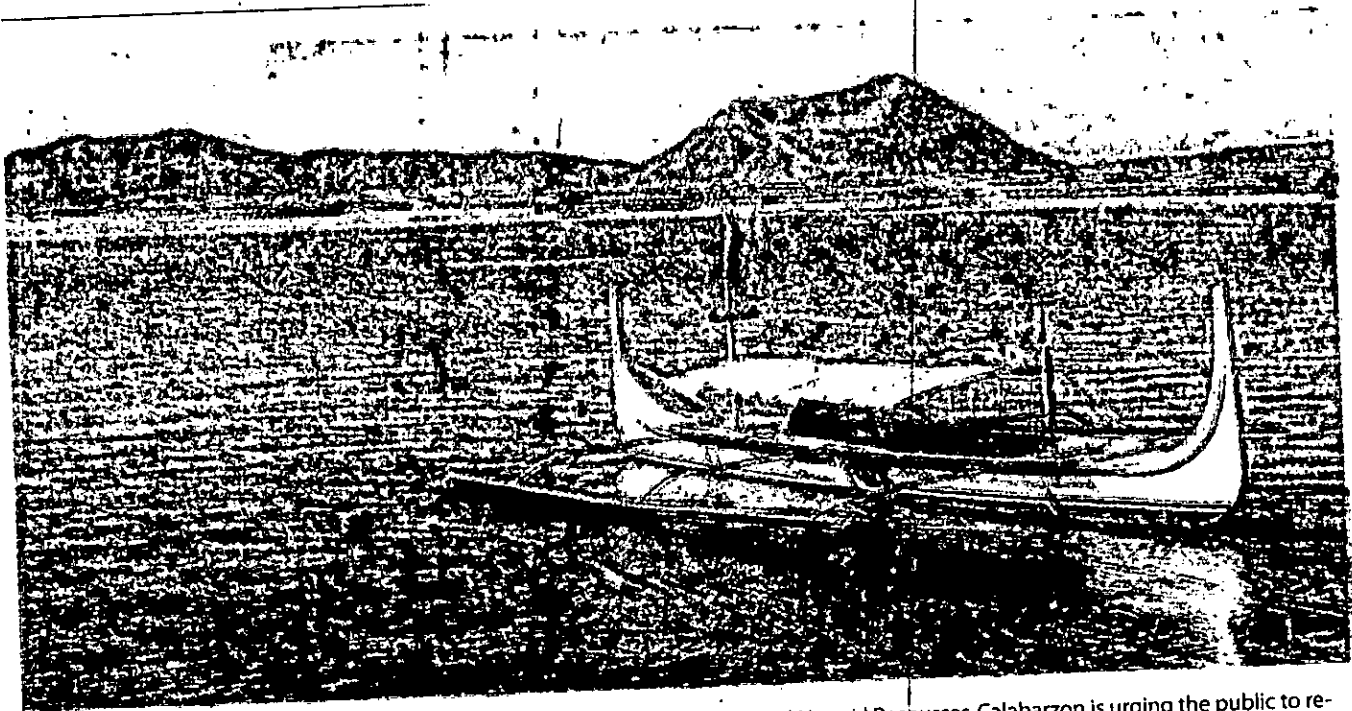
CARTOON

11 APR 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1



**PROTECTING THE TAWILIS.** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Calabarzon is urging the public to report establishments and restaurants selling tawilis during the closed season—March 1 until April 30: *Sardinella tawilis*, a freshwater sardine found exclusively in the Philippines, is the only member of the genus *Sardinella* known to exist entirely in fresh water. **DENR Photo**