

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 05 DEC 2016

DAY : Monday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



**MANGROVE BRIEFER** – DENR Secretary Gina Lopez (left) listens as DENR Regional Director Leonardo Sibbaluca explains the situation at the mangrove planting site in Barangay Anibong, Tacloban City. (Restituto A. Cayubit)

## More mangrove sites planned

BY RESTITUTO A. CAYUBIT

TACLOBAN CITY – More coastlines will be planted with mangroves to protect coastal communities from rising sea levels and storm surges.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Gina Lopez revealed the mangrove planting project during her recent visit to this city.

Lopez said that, "during typhoons our best protection is mangroves."

When Ramon Paje was DENR secretary, the government allotted a billion for mangrove reforestation and beach forest rehabilitation nationwide. The amount is on top the P6.2-billion budget for the National Greening Program that includes the rehabilitation of denuded beach forests and mangrove areas.

DENR-8 Regional Director Leonardo Sibbaluca told reporters that during her visit to a mangrove plantation in this city, Lopez instructed her to look for more areas in Eastern Visayas that are suitable for growing mangroves.

The DENR regional office launched the P380-million Eastern Visayas mangrove and beach forest rehabilitation project in April last year, with a target coverage of 13,500 hectares in areas around Leyte Gulf.

The project covers the coastal areas from Tacloban to the town of Abuyog, including the municipalities of Palo, Tan-auan, Tolosa, Dulag, Mayorga, Javier, and Macarthur, the towns of Basey and Marabut in Samar and the municipalities of Lawaan, Balangiga, Gipolos, Salcedo, Guiuan, Hernani and Llorente in Eastern Samar.

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### DENR looking for seaweed farm sites

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources is looking for suitable sites for seaweed farming.

Environment Secretary Gina Lopez said seaweed production is an alternative source of income for coastal communities and could help counter the effects of climate change.

In a recent discussion on seaweed potential for biodiversity-friendly enterprises held at the training center of the Biodiversity Management Bureau in Quezon City, Lopez said the DENR has already started the process of identifying suitable sites for seaweed farming in the country, with the help of other government agencies and concerned stakeholders.

She said some of the potential seaweed farming sites include Calatagan in Batangas, Tambuyong in

Quezon, Badian in Cebu, and Caluya Island in Antique, which is near Semirara Island where the controversial coal mining site and power plant is located.

Lopez said the government will help not only in the seaweed propagation, but also in marketing its by-products.

"The seaweed revenues should affect more than one person while developing an area. We can get the country out of poverty through this project," she said.

Apart from its economic potential, seaweed is one of the natural and effective carbon sequesters that can be found in the coastal area, and some of its species can grow alongside mangroves.

Joel dela Torre

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Lopez moves to mainstream biodiversity in devt projects

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

@jonlmayuga

**E**NVIRONMENT Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez has ordered the integration of biodiversity in the planning, implementation and monitoring of development projects and tenurial instruments issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In Memorandum Circular on November 28, Lopez authorized the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) to create a team composed of biodiversity experts to participate in the mining audits, environmental impact assessment review and performance evaluation of tenurial instruments.

The circular is pursuant to Section 25 of the General Appropriations Act of 2016, Executive Order 578 on the implementation of the state policy on biological diversity and in support of DENR Administrative Order 2016-12 adopting the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) 2015-2018.

Lopez, an environmental advocate, has declared her passion for biodiversity conservation and her commitment to protect the country's rich biodiversity.

The DENR chief had earlier said "biodiversity is like gold" and "treasure", which should be protected and conserved.

After her appointment as chief steward of the environment and natural resources, Lopez had already suspended 10 large-scale metallic mines and threatened to suspend 20 others for failing in environmental standards.

She also included biodiversity consideration among the mining-audit criteria in tightening the screws on mining.

To protect the country's rich biodiversity, she declared watersheds and protected areas as "off limits" to mining and other destructive development projects.

Lopez, in an interview with the

"It strengthens our efforts in working for the development, livelihood and enterprise-related programs of the department to take into account the contribution of biological diversity in the sustainability of their programs," Lim said.

Lim added that the order coming from the DENR chief "sends a stronger political signal that the department is serious in protecting the resource base or biodiversity, and the ecosystem services provided by biodiversity to ensure that the development projects and programs translate into sustainable benefits for the communities and the country."

"We finally can start to harness and mainstream the richness and uniqueness of our biological resources and ecosystems for and into the economic development planning processes," she added.

According to Lim, with the circular in place, the DENR-BMB is now authorized by highest level in the department to mobilize biodiversity partners and experts to support us in promoting the PBSAP and to work with development sector to build in biodiversity into their plans and programs.

### Dismantle illegal structures in Laguna de Bay

MEANWHILE, the DENR is scheduled to hold a dialogue with Laguna de Bay fish-cage and fish-pen operators as part of the plan to implement a moratorium on the issuance of business permits beginning January next year.

Environment Undersecretary Arturo Valdez, who also heads the National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force that recently held demolition operations in a 13-hectare illegal fish-pen in Laguna de Bay, within the jurisdiction of Muntinlupa City, said the dialogue aims to reassure the government's commitment to prioritize resource-poor fishermen's access to the 90,000-hectare lake.

The thrust there is to send the message that the DENR, under Secretary Lopez, will

The lake's carrying capacity allows up to only 9,000 hectares for aquaculture. However, fish pens and cages are occupying 12,375.18 hectares of the surface water, showing a total of 3,375 hectares of excess area for demolition.

Valdez believes, however that the actual area being occupied by fish-cage and fish-pen operators could be bigger.

"I would say it is more than that," Valdez said. He vowed to intensify the dismantling of illegal structures this month to give enough time for the operators to harvest their bangus and tilapia.

Data from the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) show that there are a total of 1,018 registered or legitimate fish-pen and fish-cage operators in Laguna Lake, covering a total of 9,519 hectares. Of this number, 713 are fish-cage operators, while 305 are fish-pen operators.

Unregistered operators number to 2,261, occupying 2,856 hectares, LLDA said.

A total of 3,246 structures (both registered and unregistered) can be found in the lake area, consisting of 358 fish pens and 2,890 fish-cages, which show a mix of corporations and individual owners. The LLDA has developed a map identifying areas for fish pens, fish cages, fish sanctuaries and open fishing, and navigational and barangay access lanes to facilitate the movement of people, goods and services within the lake.

To ensure the maintenance of open fishing ground, the LLDA has designated fish sanctuaries covering around 30,000 hectares in Muntinlupa City, 5,000 hectares in Jala-Jala and Talim Island in Rizal and Laguna Bay, and 127 hectares in Barangay Tabon, Binangonan, Rizal.

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# 28th Philippine Eagle hatched in captivity

By MANUEL T. CAYON | *Mindanao Bureau Chief*

**D**AVAO CITY—The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) announced another successful breeding in captivity of a Philippine eagle—the 28th since the conservation program was started in 1969.

The still unnamed eaglet was hatched with minimal assistance on November 4, after 56 days of incubation. It was 5 inches tall and weighed 488.3 grams.

The new eaglet was the third successfully hatched offspring from the Philippine Eagle pair, "MVP" (male) and "Go Phoenix" (female). The pair produced earlier the eaglet "Sinag" and "Chick 27".

Eagles MVP and Go Phoenix were the adopted eagles of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Edisy Trading, respectively.

"The chick showed no signs of deformities. It is active and, in fact, has a big appetite," PEF Animal keeper Colin Santander said.

# 56

**The number of days of incubation before the eaglet was hatched**

"It is just three weeks old but its growth is exceptional," Santander added. The PEF said the birth of Chick 28 highlights

the continuing success of what was once thought as a lost cause."

"In the midst of continued mortality and persecution in the wild, this hatching success underscores the importance of conservation breeding as a way of securing this species's gene pool," PEF Executive Director Dennis Salvador said.

Theresa Mundita Lim, chief of the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said she was glad about the hatching and ex-

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28 Philippine  
Eagle hatched in cap-  
tivity

death of eagle "Pamana" by a local hunter in August last year.

What made it worse was that the incident happened inside Mount Hamiguitan in Davao Oriental, which only that year was granted the status as one of the world's heritage sites under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco).

The shooter remained scot-free, despite the bounty put up by government offices, which were apparently pressured by the international community on complying with their commitment to the Unesco. Even the Philippine Eagle Conservation officials turned to the crowdfunding web site Indiegogo to raise funds, which reached \$10,000.

Pamana's death notwithstanding, the conservation program remained esteemed in the global conservation community for its continued successes in breeding the critically endangered eagle.

After several misses, the center eventually came out with "Pagasa," the first to be bred in 1992.

Another notable success was the PEF's success in April 2012 in hatching the country's first Pinsker's hawk eagle in captivity. The Pinsker's hawk eagle (*Nisaetus*

*pinskeri*), also endemic to Philippine forests, was hatched in captivity after camp biologists incubated the egg for 48 days.

The chick is the first bred and hatched in captivity. The chick came from a natural pair, and weighed a mere 57.2 grams when it hatched," a PEF statement said, after the Pinsker's hawk eagle came out of its shell.

The Pinsker's hawk eagle is one of the few species of birds of prey in the *Acciptridae* family.

"It is considered threatened because of the loss of its natural habitat, the subtropical or tropical moist lowland forest," the PEF added.

"The PEF's conservation breeding program has gained significant advancement that will make it possible for us to augment the eagle population. The real challenge, however, is the Pinsker's hawk eagle's survival in the wild," Salvador said.

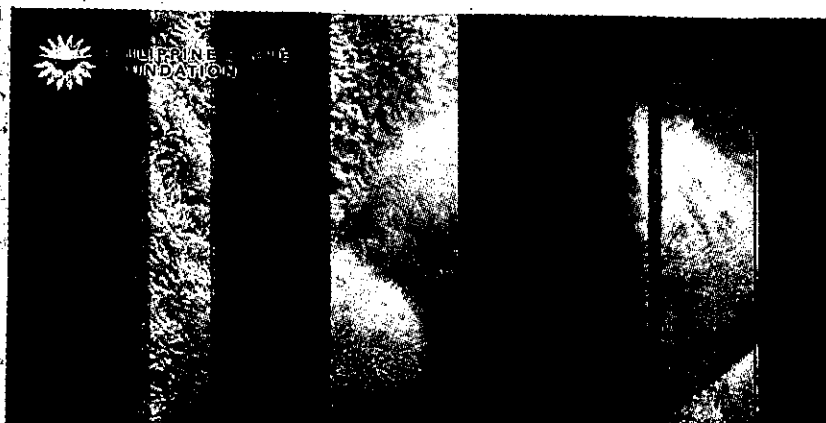
He said the "fast diminishing forests and destruction of their habitats are still the biggest threats to the survival of the eagles. We need everyone's contribution to ensure that the eagle population will increase, especially in the wild," he said.

tended her congratulations to the PEF for Chick 28.

The PEF said it would "continue to serve its mission in saving the great Philippine Eagle from extinction."

"The PEF firmly believes that, with concerted effort, the critically endangered Philippine Eagle will someday fly freely in the wild," the center said.

The new hatching success may help boost anew the morale of the breeders for their attempt to send the birds to the wild, after the PEF was informed of the shooting to



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### CEMEX TRAINS BAGOBO KIDS TO BECOME VANGUARDS OF ENDANGERED PHL EAGLE

RÓDERICK ABAD | [@rodrik\\_28](#)

Contributor

**D**AVAO.—In an effort to promote the sustainable use of the environment for the next generation, Cemex Philippines Foundation Inc. (CPFI) has engaged the tribal children of Mindanao in an educational tour of the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) Center to immerse themselves in the habitat of one of the world's rarest forest raptors facing extinction.

"I'm filled with joy that we are joined by the future of our motherland because ultimately, they are the ones who will take care of the Philippine Eagle, our environment and forests," CPFI Executive Director Chito S. Maniago said during the half-day field trip of over 20 select students of Kabagaayan Elementary School in Barangay Sibulan.

He said it was the first time for the young members of the Bagobo Tagabawa tribe to go on an educational tour since the school's opening in June.

"So I personally thank the Philippine Eagle Foundation, our volunteers, employees, the media and, more especially, the community members," he said. During the tour of the PEF Center—a protected forest area in Malagos, Davao City, that spans 8.4 hectares—the students had a personal encounter of the 36 Philippine eagles—half of them were bred in captivity—and witnessed the other 67 species of birds and several animals found here.

Likewise, they participated in activities, such as the cheering competition and tree planting. The tribal kids also performed a short skit about their tribe's tradition and ways to protect the Mount Apo, where they originated from.

As an early Christmas present, the social arm of Cemex Philippines turned over a bag of goodies, including school supplies, to the students, as well as some learning materials for the teachers and faculty members.

"The foundation of development is only education. I thank the Cemex Philippines Foundation and PEF for giving this opportunity to our youngsters to be exposed on how to protect our Philippine eagle and their habitat because soon they will become our very own forest guards," said Datu Herman, the chieftain of the Sibulan Indigenous Peoples' Organization (IPO).

With their tie-up, both the organizations have facilitated livelihood support to communities of the Sibulan IPO in honor of their noble action in saving the Philippine Eagle.

"We're proud to engage with our partners in Sibulan. PEF has been working with them for more than 10 years now," PEF Executive Director Dennis Salvador said.

"We are looking forward to more interactions with PEF and the Sibulan IPO. We hope to make this partnership sustainable to be able to help more communities in protecting the Philippine Eagle," said Paul Arcenas, Cemex vice president for investor relations and integrated communications, and CPFI board member.

Promoting the importance of the Philippine Eagle and its protection forms part of the Adopt-a-Species Program of CPFI—an initiative that enables communities to foster sustainable conservation efforts for endangered species and the environment—that eventually paved the way for the establishment of the Adopt-a-Wildlife-Species Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The cement company is supporting Philippine Eagle surveys in three suspected eagle territories, delineate nesting sites and initiate home range and habitat use on adult birds.

Cemex Philippines is one of the leading cement manufacturers in the country. Its subsidiaries Apo Cement Corp. and Solid Cement Corp. produce and market cement and other building materials nationwide. They carry the well established cement brands APO and Rizal.

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## 33 small scale mining areas eyed

**B**AGUIO CITY—The Mines and Geosciences Bureau is studying 33 applications for *Minahang Bayan* or small-scale mining areas in several mineral-rich areas in the Cordillera Autonomous Region before endorsing them to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for approval.

Engineer Fay W. Apil, MGB-CAR regional director, said the applications have been sent to Environment Secretary Regina

Lopez for clearance. Apil said the *Minahang Bayan* applications came from Benguet, Kalinga, Mountain Province,

Apayaõ and Abra, which have identified mineral-rich areas.

"The applicants will undergo the prescribed processes for the declaration of their desired areas as *Minahang Bayan* sites after the office of the Environment Secretary shall have granted them the green light to proceed with the processing of their pending applications," Apil stressed.

Under the guidelines of Executive Order No. 79, applicants for *Minahang Bayan* areas are required to go through the free and prior informed consent process under the guide-

lines of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

Owing to the tedious requirements under the existing guidelines, rules and regulations for addressing the concerns of sustainable livelihood for small-scale miners, and the preservation and protection of the state of environment it was better for the *Minahang Bayan* applicants to go through the process now, Apil said.

Aside from having to secure the consent of the affected indigenous peoples and indigenous cultural communities in their domain, M

*Minahang Bayan* applicants are also required to secure the consent of private individuals who own the lands that will be affected by their small-scale mining operations.

*Minahang Bayan* applications must go through Lopez's office twice, the first one for seeking clearance for the mining application and the second one for the applications to be submitted to the Secretary for approval, Apil said.

This happens after the applicants shall have complied with all the pertinent requirements that will guarantee the operation

of the *Minahang Bayan* sites in the different provinces.

Establishing *Minahang Bayan* areas in various parts of the country will help in regulating the illegal operations of small-scale miners in the different mineral-rich areas, said Apil.

It would also help in scaling up the efforts of government to preserve and protect the environment and generate more income of the State from the exploitation, use and development of its natural resources within the domain of IPs and ICCs nationwide. Dexter A. See



## More mine suspensions out this week

THE Philippine government will suspend more mines in a fight against environmental degradation, the minister in charge of mining said, a move that could put future supply from the world's top exporter at risk and lift nickel prices.

Nickel on the London Metal Exchange recovered nearly 1 percent from Friday's lows on the potential for supply disruption after the minister's comments.

The Southeast Asian nation has already halted 10 of its 41 mines in a campaign backed by President Rodrigo Duterte against what the government says is irresponsible mining. Twenty more are facing possible suspension and the agency in charge of the review may issue a ruling next week.

"There will definitely be suspensions, but we have to go over the list," Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Regina Lopez told Reuters by phone on Friday.

Lopez said the list will be finalized "very soon, next week at the latest."

Fourteen of the 20 mines facing suspension are nickel producers, and along with the eight of 10 already halted, they accounted for more than half of the Philippines' nickel ore output last year. Nearly all of the output is shipped to China, where shipments of nickel ore and concentrate

from the Philippines have dropped 12.5 percent over January-October.

The clampdown began shortly after Duterte assumed office on June 30. He had warned miners to strictly follow tighter rules or shut down, saying the country could survive without a mining industry. (

Manila's crackdown drove nickel to a then one-year high of \$11,030 a ton in August. Last month the metal briefly pierced \$12,000 a tonne for the first time since July 2015 in a broad-based rally in industrial metals.

Nickel was down 0.3 percent at \$11,175 a ton, but was off the session's low of \$11,080. Analysts say it could top \$12,000 again if the Philippines suspends more mines.

"The Philippine ruling on those mines is really the only impetus to get it there," said Daniel Hynes, commodity strategist at ANZ.

"Further suspensions would see an acceleration in the drawdown in inventories" of nickel from London Metal Exchange warehouses, he said.

The environment agency has pored over responses from the 20 mines facing suspension after they were given show cause letters in October, said Lopez, a passionate environmentalist.



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### Ilocos mayor, vice mayor charged over open dump

A municipal mayor in Ilocos Sur and his vice mayor have been charged before the Sandiganbayan for allowing the operation of an open dump.

Sto. Domingo Mayor Amado Tadena and his brother, Vice Mayor Floro Tadena, were charged for violating Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

In a complaint filed on Nov. 29, the Office of the Ombudsman said Floro, who was the mayor from 2004 to 2010, failed to shut down the dump in Barangay Sto. Tomas.

Instead of issuing a closure order, the ombudsman said Floro allowed hospital waste to be dumped in the area.

Anti-graft probers said that when Amado was elected mayor in 2010, he allowed the disposal of hospital waste to continue.

Bail for each of the accused was set at P6,000.

The Tadenas were re-elected in the May elections.

Section 48 of RA 9003 prohibits the establishment and operation of an open dump in any municipality.

The same law mandates local government units to convert open dumps to controlled dumps.

Early this year, the ombudsman intensified its drive against public officials violating environmental laws.

In March, the anti-graft agency ordered over a hundred mayors nationwide to explain the existence of open dump in their jurisdictions.

Elizabeth Marcelo

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## EO to remove permit overlaps in coal plants

By MYRNA V. LASCO

A proposed Executive Order (EO) submitted by the Department of Energy (DOE) to the Office of the President (OP) is expected to chop off 'overlaps' in project approvals that have been distressing investors and igniting capital flow uncertainties primarily for coal-fired power projects.

"We have submitted the proposed EO to Malacanang... I will have to present that to the Cabinet this week," Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi has noted.

There are various provisions in the EO tackling concerns on project permitting and approvals, but he emphasized that one focal point is resolving the overlaps on the functions of DOE and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on coal projects.

"We shall be the agency that will take the lead because that is already provided in the DOE

Law... we cited that in the EO, so we can address these concerns," he said.

Prior to the entry of the Duterte administration, the DENR issued a memorandum stipulating that coal plant projects must need to go through two more layers of approvals - that of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Office of Senator Loren Legarda.

The memorandum is still in effect, hence, it is turning out to be a troubling precept for existing and prospective investors.

Legarda made the policy request to the environment department, anchoring it on the world's direction over climate change mitigation efforts - and leaning also on the country's commitment toward carbon footprints reduction.

But investors are already complaining of the stretched and arduous project approvals, that at times could become the deal-killer in proposed investments.

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## Estrada inks P7.4-B reclamation project

BY JAIME R. PILAPIL

**M**ANILA Mayor Joseph Ejercito Estrada over the weekend announced that he had signed an agreement with the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) forming a construction consortium to develop the P7.4-billion expansion of the Manila Harbour Centre in the Tondo area.

Estrada said the memorandum of understanding (MOU) officially sealed the partnership of the city government, PRA, and Romero-led R-II Builders Inc. for the multibillion-peso expansion of the 79-hectare port facility.

"This MOU is significant be-

cause it's the start of more development projects in our city, with the full support of President Duterte," the mayor said.

"This means more jobs, economic opportunities, and billions of revenues not only for the Manilaños and the city of Manila

but also for the entire country," he added.

PRA chairman Alberto Agra said the agreement was the first MOU signed by the PRA, a government-owned and-controlled corporation that oversees reclamation development in the Philippines, under the Duterte administration.

"Clearly, this is a priority of President Duterte—to bring progress, create more communities, ease traffic, reduce poverty. His general order to everyone in the government is to fast-track development so we can build fast while complying with all the requirements," Agra said.

To those who have generally opposed reclamation projects in the past, he said, "there will be no shortcut" in securing the necessary government permits and clearances

before implementing their projects.

"We will never sacrifice when it comes to environment. That's why we need to secure an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)," said the PRA chief.

Reghis Romero II, chairman of R-II Builders, recalled that in his recent meeting with Duterte, the Chief Executive favored the immediate implementation of the Manila Harbour Centre project.

R-II Builders expects to secure all permits, particularly the ECC from the DENR, and the final approval

Notice to Proceed," said Romero.

The P7.4-billion project will reclaim 50 more hectares of Manila Bay to expand the reclaimed land area of the existing 79-hectare Manila North Harbour Centre, which includes the country's biggest port for bulk and break-bulk cargoes operated by Harbour Centre Port Terminal Inc.

In August, the city council ratified the joint venture agreement the city government entered into with R-II Builders for the port expansion.

Under the joint venture, Manila will receive a 15-hectare portion of the reclaimed area, which the city govern-

Centre at par with international standards.

With the expansion, the Harbour Centre will be able to handle larger vessels, reducing costs and speeding the process of cargo handling.

The increase in Manila Harbour Centre's capacity will allow it to accommodate 14 to 16 large vessels at a time and more than double its current yearly cargo volume of 6 million metric tons.

The project will also deepen the draft of the port's berth to four meters, allowing it to accommodate the port calls of large international vessels.

"With everything in place, we'll be

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# BusinessMirror

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## Great Barrier Reef sees record coral deaths this year

CANBERRA, Australia—Warming oceans this year have caused the largest die-off of corals ever recorded on Australia's Great Barrier Reef, scientists said on Tuesday.

The worst-affected area is a 700-kilometer swath in the north of the World Heritage-listed 2,300-km chain of reefs off Australia's northeast coast, the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies said.

The center, based at James Cook University in Queensland state, found during dive surveys in October and November that the swath north of Port Douglas had lost an average of 67 percent of its shallow-water corals in the past nine months.

Farther south, over the vast central and southern regions that cover most of the reef, scientists found a much lower death toll.

The central region lost 6 percent of bleached coral and the southern region 1 percent.

"The mortality we've measured along the length of the Great Barrier Reef is incredibly patchy," the center's director, Terry Hughes,

told reporters. "There's very severe damage in the northern section of the reef."

"The good news is that south of Port Douglas, including the major tourist areas around Cairns and the Whitsundays [Whitsunday Islands], have had relatively low levels of mortality," he added.

The governments of Australia and Queensland will update the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) World Heritage Center this week on progress being made to protect and improve the reef, including their response to coral bleaching.

Providing a status update to the World Heritage Committee was required as part of its decision in June last year not to list the reef as "in danger."

Federal Minister for the Environment and Energy Josh Frydenberg said on Tuesday the reef's coral cover had increased by 19 percent in recent years before it suffered a "significant bleaching event" this year, caused by the El Niño weather effect and climate change.

"What that shows is that the Great Barrier Reef is very resilient

and quite strong," Frydenberg's office said in a statement. The government plans to spend A\$2 billion

"In its ongoing dialogue with Unesco, Australia has said the outstanding universal values of reef

stantially worse" than the previous worst-ever event in 1998.

"The proportion of reefs that

# Abante

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

**CLEAR IT**

**ATTY. CLAIRE CASTRO**

*Dear Attorney Claire,  
Magandang araw po sa inyo. Nais ko lang po malaman kung saan po pwedeng tingnan kung genuine ang titulo ng lupa o peke. Meron pong nagbebenta ng lote sa akin sa parte ng Laguna at naging interesado naman ako*

## Paano malalaman kung peke ang titulo?

*kaya lang nangangamba po ako baka mapunta sa wala ang pinagpaguran ko kung mabibiktima ako ng isang scam. Isa po akong OFW sa Qatar, maraming salamat po....*

*Apollo  
Apollo,*

Tama ang ginagawang mong pagtatanong muna bago mo lang basta invest ang perang pinagpaguran.

Unang-una ay alamin mo 'yung taong nagbebenta sa iyo kung sila ba ang may ari nito o kung sila ang taong may karapatang magbenta.

Magpakuha ka ng certified true copy ng titulo para malaman kung existing at valid pa ang titulo

o kung may encumbrance na nakalagay sa titulo tulad ng real estate mortgage, adverse claim, atbp.

Mas mainam na pumunta ang representative mo at 'yung nagbebenta na dala-dala ang titulo sa Register of Deeds kung saan nakarehistro ang titulo at makipag-usap sa Officer of Day upang malaman mo kung 'yung hawak na titulo ay peke dahil maraming titulong peke.

Kapag naging maayos ang lahat ay puntahan naman ang Assessor's Office upang alamin kung walang utang na amilyar o kung hindi pa nabenta o napasubasta ng local government

sa pamamagitan ng Office of the Treasurer ang ari-arian dahil sa hindi pagbabayad ng amilyar. Magpakuha ka ng Tax Clearance.

Bago bayaran ng buo ang purchase price sa nagbebenta ay mas mainam na ibawas na ang capital gains tax mula sa nagbebenta para sigurado kang mababayaran ang tax para mailipat sa iyo ng tuluyan ang lahat ng interes sa ari-arian.

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Kung may katanungan pa ay tumawag lamang sa 410-7624 o 922-02-24 o mag-e-mail sa attorney-claire@gmail.com

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## 3rd intl river summit held in Cagayan de Oro

BY BUTCH D. ENERIO  
Correspondent

**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY**—The delegates to the third International River Summit (IRS) held here last weekend have resolved to achieve the common goals set for their respective rivers and watersheds, including that of the United Nations's Sustainable Development Goals.

The IRS took note of the thematic statements and recommendations generated from the summit and building upon the outcomes of the previous IRS held in Iloilo City in 2012 and in Marikina City in 2014, as well as other water-related initiatives and events.

The third IRS was hosted by the League of Cities of the Philippines, the Cagayan de Oro River Basin Management Council, Cagayan de Oro City and the Department of Environment and

Natural Resources. Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Oscar Moreno, who delivered the IRS accord in behalf of all the participants and other stakeholders, outlined the summit's requisite: healthy watersheds to ensure sustainable supply of clean water, support the economies of communities downstream and within its confines, and naturally capture, filter, store and release water that nourishes the quality of life and other ecosystems to include riparian habitats, wetlands, estuaries, corals and mangroves.

It was recognized that water is essential for broad-based agricultural production and rural development in order to improve food security and eradicate poverty, but we are also concerned with the increasing pressure on the limited freshwater resources, and the highly fragile upland environments across the globe that are already affected by a diverse

array of agricultural and land use practices.

The accord is committed to concentrate efforts to combat deforestation, desertification and land degradation through programs that promote massive greening, adoption of sustainable forest-management practices, immediate restoration of degraded lands and wetlands, and conservation of biodiversity.

The delegates strongly urged the international community to support regional organizations to take primary responsibility in empowering their local government units and communities to be at the forefront in building the resiliency and integrity of their watersheds to ensure the uninterrupted provision of a wide range of services, which people, companies and societies rely upon for raw-material inputs, production processes and climate stability.

"We are confident that when

society understands and takes responsibility on taking care of their upland ecosystems it is able to mobilize broad alliances of people, governments, civil societies and the private sector, all working together to secure the watershed as a protector of life and a provider of countless vital ecological services," the accord said.

The accord added that the IRS

countability, with a stronger focus on enlisting the participation of all stakeholders and engaging upland and indigenous tribal communities, through community-based approaches that put premium to inclusivity and equity in benefit sharing, and encouraged urgent and sustained actions to the recommendations generated under the thematic sessions conducted during the summit.