



## Newsbits

### • Fire razes houses in Jagna, Bohol

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol (PNA) — Fire destroyed at least eight houses in Jagna town, this province, last Tuesday. Initial cost of damage was estimated at P1.3 million. The amount is expected to rise as authorities continue to assess the cost of damaged motorcycles and appliances inside the burned houses. Fire apparently started at the house of one Teodilo Abcede who allegedly left the television (TV) on. Neighbors said Abcede's TV set exploded, sparking flames which razed through Abcede's house and seven others in the neighborhood. Jagna's Bureau of Fire Protection said a report was received at 3:11 p.m. from Boctol Barangay Captain Bonifacio Galorio, through the Jagna Emergency and Rescue Unit (JEMRU). Firefighters rushed to the scene and after over three hours, the fire was declared under control.

### • Candle lighting for Duterte

CEBU CITY — Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte supporters will hold a candle lighting activity today at Plaza Independencia here to urge Duterte to run in the 2016 presidential election. The activity will be in solidarity with a simultaneous gathering of Duterte supporters from various parts of the country in Davao City also today, said the President of Region VII Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban), Atty. Noel L. Felongco. The Davao City gathering is the culminating event of the Nationwide Run, Duterte Run Caravan, which started last August 15. The caravan was aimed at convincing Duterte to run as president. The candle lighting activity in Cebu is for Duterte supporters who would not be able to go to Davao, said Felongco. Duterte fan Nigel Wenceslao said "We're urging Mayor Duterte to run because he is the best candidate to bring genuine change in the country." (Mary Adeline R. Sabac and Mhebeth D. Makilan)

### • No UNA standard bearer for Iloilo

ILOILO CITY (PNA) — The opposition party of Vice President Jejomar Binay, United Nationalist Alliance (UNA), will not field standard bearers for congressman, mayor and vice mayor in this city. Instead, the UNA city councilors will forge critical collaboration and tactical alliance in a coalition with the party in power, Liberal Party (LP), under the leadership of incumbent Rep. Jerry P. Trenas, Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog and Vice Mayor Jose Espinosa III. This was announced by City Councilor Joshua Alim, who said Binay gave their group authority to choose their own standard bearers or opt for a coalition with the party in power. Alim's UNA-affiliated group, Partido Masang Pilipino, is comprised of city councilors Plaridel Nava, Rodel Fullon Agado, Lady Grace Julie Baronda, and himself. However, Agado and Baronda will, reportedly, already be inducted into the LP, while Alim and Nava will stick with the Binay camp even as they support Trenas, Mabilog and Espinosa.

### • Negros governor is pro-STL

BACOLOD CITY, Negros Occ. — Reacting to the Roman Catholic church's opposition against the Small Town Lottery (STL) here, Governor Alfredo Marañon Jr. declared that he is "supporting STL because it is legal. STL gives a share to the local government unit and the police, and it is also transparent because the shared STL funds are documented and issued with receipts. Illegal gambling is in the dark and doesn't share with government." He also said he is for the STL "because it has helped government a lot." Marañon cited the case of Silay City where, he said, STL has helped much. "If there is no STL here, illegal gambling in Bacolod will continue," he said. (Edith B. Colmo)

# DENR warns against water shortage in Western Visayas

By TARA YAP

ILOILO CITY — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Western Visayas (DENR-6) is warning local government units (LGUs) in Western Visayas about the occurrence of water shortage with the extreme El Niño crisis projected to start this October.

"Let us not wait for rivers and watersheds here to dry up," appealed DENR-6 Regional Director Jim Sampulna.

## Cebu oil exploration granted 2-year moratorium

By MARS W. MOSQUEDA JR.

ALOGUINSAN, Cebu — The Department of Energy (DOE) has granted a two-year technical moratorium to Australian firm Gas2Grid in relation with its oil exploration in Brgy. Olango, Aloguinsan town.

The moratorium on oil exploration in the Malolos-1 Oil Field in Aloguinsan allows Gas2Grid enough time to complete its studies and establish appropriate technology to maximize sustainable oil production, the company said in a statement.

"Service Contract 44 is currently in a 2-Year Technical Moratorium until 27th January, 2017," the company said.

DOE said the company will continue with technical work in conjunction with industry experts analyzing all available technical data to identify the completion of technology that will minimize sand and clay production to avert production blockage and maximize oil production rates.

Gas2Grid earlier announced an increase in oil production in the Malolos-1 Oil Field in southwest Cebu.

In a report last year, the company said it recorded very encouraging oil flow.

"The increased oil production rate indicates that remedial work has had some success in clearing perforations to allow an influx of oil from the reservoirs," the statement said.

"The Malolos-1 well has again demonstrated that it can produce oil at commercial rates," the company said.

The well has previously produced approximately 200 oil barrels daily on several occasions but only for short periods.

Oil flow has reportedly been impaired when holes made on the sandstone became clogged.

The company said the well will continue to be tested to establish longer term oil production rates.

## CSOs urged to stay on 'Daang Matuwid'

By CZARINA NICOLE O. ONG

CEBU CITY, Cebu — While on his latest visit here, outgoing Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Mar Roxas urged civil service organizations (CSOs) to take up the path of "Daang Matuwid (Straight and Narrow)" and continue the reforms that have been started by the current administration in alleviating poverty and improving peace and order.

"Kaya natin, simula pa lang ito (We can do this, this is only the beginning)," Roxas told his audience at the Cebu Normal University with President Aquino and other Cabinet members present.

"Nadining po namin at damang-dama po namin ang inyong pangarap. Naniniwala kami na sa inyo nagmumula ang lahat, at sa inyo papunta ang lahat. Kayo ang Boss, (We heard your dreams and we feel it too. We believe that you have what it takes to move the future. You are the Bosses)," he added.

The Liberal Party (LP) presidential standard bearer said it is a "true honor" to be given a chance to serve the people, and he considers his job as a blessing since it has the power to change lives.

Projects being implemented by the administration such as Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), Bottom-up Budgeting (BuB), PhilHealth, and the K-to-12 Education Program have already helped in building the foundation of a strong nation, said Roxas, "and this can be continued when local and national leaders practice integrity, transparency, and accountability in their leadership."

Also present during the event at the Cebu Normal University were Secretary of Social Welfare and Development Corazon Soliman, Secretary of Health Janette Garin, Secretary of Budget and Management Butch Abad, Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima, Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Francis Tolentino, Assistant Secretary of Education Rey Laguda, and Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

He admitted that the combined nine watersheds in the region with a total land area of 131,777 hectares will possibly dry up when the natural phenomenon occurs.

Instead of waiting for worst case scenario to happen, DENR-6 urged local governments in Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental provinces to start adopting precautionary measures including campaigning to conserve waters.

"For instance, they should start harvesting rainwater while there is still rain," he urged.

Sampulna has directed teams to monitor the nine watersheds in Panay and Negros Islands.

Negros Occidental has three, or the most number of watersheds among provinces in the region. These watersheds are the Bago River, Ilog-Hilabangan and Kabankalan Watershed Forest Reserves.

There are two watersheds in Iloilo province, namely, the Maa-sin Watershed Forest Reserve and the Jalaur River Watershed Forest Reserve.

Antique province also has two watersheds — the Mau-it-Tipulan River and Dalanas River Watershed Forest Reserves.

Aklan province and Capiz has one watershed each — Aklan River and Panay River Watershed Forest Reserves.

## 10,000 to light candles for peace in Iloilo

ILOILO — At least 10,000 people are expected to light candles and promote world peace in San Enrique town, Iloilo province this Saturday, August 29.

"We are all set for the big day on Saturday," said San Enrique Mayor Ramona Palabrica-Go.

The Middle Way Meditation Institute (MMI-Philippines) is spearheading the 2015 Light of Peace event at the oval field of San Enrique Elementary School.

Venerable Burin Thitakusalo, a Buddhist monk who serves as director of MMI-Philippines, said this year's event aims to declare San Enrique as the first "Inner Peace Town of the World."

Aside from promoting inner peace, the Department of Tourism (DOT-6) is expecting people to flock into San Enrique as early as Saturday morning to check its adventure destinations including waterfalls and caves. (Tara Yap)

S. No. 2216  
H. No. 5115

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
Alto Manila  
Sixteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-eighth day of July, two thousand fourteen.

[REPUBLIC ACT No. 10676]

AN ACT PROTECTING THE AMATEUR NATURE OF STUDENT-ATHLETES IN THE PHILIPPINES BY REGULATING THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT AND PROHIBITING THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Student-Athletes Protection Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution recognizes the role of the State to protect and promote the right of all the citizens to quality education at all levels, and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Further, Section 19(1) of the same Article provides that the State shall promote physical education, sports programs and competitions alongside training for international competitions to foster self-discipline, teamwork and excellence for the attainment of a healthy and alert citizenry. Thus, the State shall recognize and uphold the rights of student-athletes to further hone their skills and abilities in their respective fields of amateur sports without neglecting their education and general well-being.

It is the intention of this Act to protect and promote the rights of the student-athlete, who is, first and foremost, a student. To this end, the rights guaranteed by this Act and the obligations imposed on schools and athletic associations and their officials, athletic directors, coaches, members of the coaching staff, administrators, alumni, and representatives shall seek to ensure that the student-athlete attains quality education while honing his/her skill and reaching his/her full potential as an athlete in an amateur sports setting.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- Athletic association:* refers to any public or private organization that is responsible for governing inter-school athletic programs and competitions including, but not limited to, the Private Schools Athletic Association (PRISAA), the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP), the National College Athletic Association of the Philippines (NCAA), the Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA), the State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SCUAA), the Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation, Inc. (CESAFI), the National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA), the Association of Local Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (ALCUAA) and the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (NAASCU);
- School* refers to an institution recognized by the State which undertakes educational operations such as grade school high school, college, university or technical-vocational education and training institution; and
- Student-athlete* refers to a student currently enrolled in any school who is a member of any of the school's athletic teams or programs and who represents or has intentions of representing the school in an inter-school athletic program or competition. The student-athlete must be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time curricular program and must be in good standing to be eligible to represent the school in an inter-school athletic program or competition.

SEC. 4. *Residency of Student-Athletes.* — Without prejudice to the respective rules of athletic associations on student-athletes who are foreign imports, the following rules on residency shall be applied:

- Residency requirement shall not be imposed on a student-athlete who is a high school graduate enrolling in a college or university;
- Residency requirement shall likewise not be imposed on a high school student-athlete transferring from one high school to another high school. *Provided,* That, to

Approved,

FELICIANO BELMONTE JR.  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which is a consolidation of Senate Bill No. 2225 and House Bill No. 5115 was finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on June 10, 2015.

MARILYN E. BARUA-YAP  
Secretary General  
House of Representatives

FRANKLIN M. DRILON  
President of the Senate

OSCAR G. YABES  
Secretary of the Senate

Approved: AUG 26 2015

BENIGNO S. AQUINO III  
President of the Philippines

OSCAR G. YABES  
Secretary of the Senate