

DA upgrading 35 organic fertilizer facilities

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Lumipat sa Calapan ang Mimaropa PNP

Ok 'yan sa katahimikan ng rehiyon



Ni Jerry J. Alcayde

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro - Mainit na tinanggap ng mga lokal na opisyal ng gobyerno at pribadong sektor ang paglipat dito noong Enero 12 ng regional headquarters ng Mimaropa (Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan) PNP pagkatapos nilang lisanin ang kanilang dating kampo sa Canlubang, Laguna.

Sa isang welcome ceremony sa Calapan City Pier, nagpasalamat sina Gov. Arnan Panaligan ng Oriental Mindoro, City Mayor Doy Leachon, Rep. Alfonso Umali Jr. (second district) dahil madali na umano silang makikipag-ugnayan sa PNP Region 4-B sa mga usaping pang-kapayapaan at kaayusan.

Ayon naman kay Chief Supt. Luisito Tinio Palmera, Regional PNP Chief, makakaasa ang Mindoro at iba pang mga lalawigan sa

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NATURE'S WONDER OF THE WORLD. The St. Paul Underground River in Palawan, also known as the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, earlier declared as Unesco World Heritage site, has made it to the second round of voting for the New 7 Wonders of Nature. Photos show boats carrying tourist entering the mouth of the river. (Inset) It's dark and pungent inside. Story on Page 3. DOT PHOTOS

Sudoku Tricks

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SAGOT SA PAHINA 4

WE are having technical problems in digital printing. Please bear with our black & white issues. For back issues and reprints, call 09285075699 or 09206348533

Sa Tawa-tawa: Kung Pinoy si Noah

(Basahin sa Pahina 4)

Kababaang-Loob, Kapayakan at Katapatan

ANG Kapistahan ng Banal na Sanggol o ng Sto. Niño ay isa sa mga kapistahang mahal sa ating mga Filipino. Maraming siyudad, bayan at maging mga maliliit na pamayanan ang kumikilala sa kanya bilang patron.

Libu-libong mga deboto ang nagdadagsaan sa mga lugar na ito upang ipahayag ang kanilang pananampalataya sa batang si Hesus.

Ngunit bakit kaya kailangang magpakilala si Hesus bilang bata sa debosyong ito? Suriin natin ang ilang katangian ng isang bata na maaaring maging huwaran sa ating lahat.

Una, ang **Kababaang Loob**. Ang isang bata ay malikhain. Magugulat na lamang tayo kung minsang matagpuan natin ang isang batang nakagagawa ng mga bagay na di natin inaasahang magagawa niya, kagaya ng mga laruang

bunga ng kanyang imahinasyon.

Alam niyang siya ay may kakayanan. Ngunit alam din niyang siya ay may limitasyon. Kaya nga ang isang bata, sa puntong di na niya kayang gawin ang isang bagay, di siya nag-aatubiling humingi ng tulong sa nakatatanda.

Walang taong perpekto. Wika nga. ito rin ay nagtuturo sa atin ng katotohanang ang bawat isa sa atin ay may limitasyon kaya nga nilalang tayo ng Diyos na mabuhay sa sisang lipunan upang tayo ay magkatulungan. Tanging kababaang-loob lamang ang makapagsasabing kailangan natin ang ating kapwa at kailangan natin ang Diyos.

Pangalawa, **Pagiging simple o kapayakan**. Simple lamang ang kaligayahan ng isang bata. Simple lamang ang kanyang mga pangangailangan.



Ni Fr. Bar Fabella, SVD

Sa Maikling Salita

At dahil simple o payak, mas higit niyang nakikita ang kagandahan ng mundong kanyang ginagalawan. Sa ating buhay, kung ating susuriing mabuti at pagninilayan, napakaraming biyaya ang dumarating sa ating buhay.

Ngunit dahil nga sa mga komplikado at maluhong mga bagay na iniaalalay ng daigdig, hindi tayo napapaligaya ng mga karaniwang bagay lamang.

Patuloy tayong naghahangad ng yaman, kapangyarihang, at

popularidad. Maging halimbawa nawa ang isang bata sa kanyang kapayakan.

At pangatlo, **Katapatan**. Tapat ang isang bata sa salita at pagkilos. Sa salita, pag sinabi ng batang "ayaw," ito ay talagang nangangahulugan ng ayaw. Pag "hindi", talagang hindi.

Sa pagkilos, ipinahahayag ng isang bata ang tunay na damdamin sa pamamagitan ng pagpapahayag nito sa kanyang mga galaw.

Ang pag-iyak, pagtawa, at iba pang pagpapahayag ng emosyon ay napakadali para

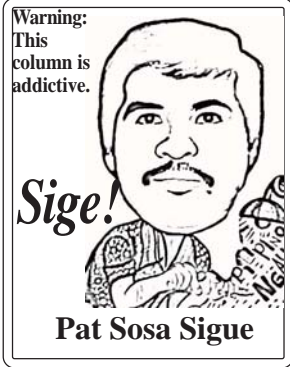
sa isang bata sapagkat ito naman talaga ang kanyang nararamdaman.

Ang ating mundo sa kasalukuyan ay punong-puno ng kasinungalingan. Nakalungkot isiping maging hanggang sa kataas-taasang antas ng ating mga nanunungkulan, sunod-sunod na iskandalo ang lumilitaw. At karamihan sa mga iskandalo ito ay sa aspeto ng katapatan.

Paano mas magiging makahulugang para sa atin ang debosyon sa Sto. Niño? Sapat na ba ang pagsama sa mga prusisyon at pagpila upang makapunas sa kanyang larawan?

Pagnilayan natin ang mga katangiang ito ng isang bata na dapat na maging bahagi ng ating pagtanda. Isabuhay natin ang mga ito at tunay na magiging kaaya-aya sa mata ng Diyos ang debosyon natin sa Kanya.

ibarra_svd@yahoo.com.



Nearing the goal

AS the Palawan Underground River is getting closer to be named one of the New World's 7 Wonders of Nature, the Island Observer is also nearing its goal - that of marking its 40th anniversary in 2010.

Surviving 40 years, through 17 years of martial law, economic ups and downs, escalating prices (particularly of newsprint), death threats and court battles in the discriminatory distribution of legal notices (even up to the Supreme Court) and libel for hard-hitting opinions and news reports calls for a celebration.

First, we shifted our printing process from the antiquated letterpress to offset by acquiring a reconditioned Solna.

We improved the layout through computer formatting.

We tried to jumpstart with digital full-color printing but encountered some technical problems.

With limited printing facilities, we widened our reach via the electronic mail and gained positive results.

Our excited *kabayans* shared the electronic copies with friends and relatives, spreading them like chain letters.

We had good feedbacks from big Mindoreño organizations in the New York-New Jersey areas, Chicago and California in the United States, Italy, Canada, Dubai, England and Norway.

Although we are reaching our kababayans in Hong Kong, Macao and Singapore, the spread was not so exciting, perhaps because of their very busy schedule relative to the nature of their works and professions, limited time and facilities.

We are still trying to find connections in Australia and New Zealand.

With our website, we expect our reach to have a quantum leap - globally.

SVD missionary priest puts more importance on baptism

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E-mail: is.observer@yahoo.com
tworivers_inc@yahoo.com

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Mario S. Romero
Founder/Publisher

Pat Sosa Sigue
Editor-in-Chief

Bren del Rosario
Contributing Editor

Chicklet S. Ramos
Features Editor (Singapore)

Giancarlo S. Garcia
Campus Editor (San Beda)

Raquel Romero Garcia
Italy Correspondent

Peter Palo Sigue
Marketing & Promotions

Patrick Tan Sigue
Photo Editor/Layout

Princeton Tan Sigue
Computer Graphics/
Website Manager

Tess Sawali
Office & Marketing
Assistant

Willy Saguid Sigue
Production

Atty. Odel Janda
Atty. Roland Ysrael R. Atenza
Legal Counsels

Member: National Press Club (NPC), Kapisanan ng mga Mamamahayag ng Mindoro, Inc. (Kammi), Philippine Agricultural Journalists, Inc. (PAJ) and Publishers Association of the Philippines (PAPI).

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FR. Rudolf Holzgartner, an SVD missionary priest from Bavaria who once worked in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, many times argued vigorously for the German custom of putting more importance on

Quake jolts Mindoro

A 3.0-magnitude earthquake rocked parts of Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro provinces on Monday morning (January 6), seismologists said.

In its advisory, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the quake was felt at Intensity IV at Paluan town at 10:01 a.m.

The quake was also felt at Intensity II in Mamburao town and Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro at the same time.

Phivolcs added that the quake of tectonic origin and its epicenter was traced at four kilometers northeast of Mamburao town.

No damage was recorded.

celebrating one's feast day or baptismal day and not so much on birthdays.

He claims that while all animals, including the human species, have days of birth, only human beings get baptized.

Put differently, he says that while the day of one's birth states the fact that we were born, the day of our baptism states to one and all why we are born.

Christmas, whether it is December 25 for most of the Western Church or January 6 for many in the Eastern Church, states that Jesus was born into this world. His baptism, however, points out the reason why he came into this world: Jesus is the beloved Son of God in whom the Father is well pleased.

True, our Lord's parents presented him as a child in the holy temple in Jerusalem. It was there that Simeon prophesied what would happen to the child whom he had taken in his arms and had seen with his own eyes as the savior of the world.

On that occasion too, Anna prophesied that into Mary's heart a sword shall be plunged so that the thoughts of many would be revealed.

One could say that the presentation of the child Jesus in the temple corresponds to the first stage of the present-day rite of initiation. It would culminate with the sacrament of confirmation which for some is

still too early to be a defining moment in our life of faith.

Between the presentation and the day of our Lord's baptism at the river Jordan is a long span of 30 years. The baptism of Jesus at the hands of his cousin John the Baptist was a defining moment in his life.

The long years of working, praying, and reflecting in the home at Nazareth were necessary to steel him for the most challenging mission ahead of him as given by the Father. True man that he was, Jesus also had to ripen, that is to be ready as he grew in wisdom and grace before God and people.

Like our Lord, we too have to have our own defining moments. And like Jesus, we have to ripen or reach maturity.

While it took the Lord thirty years to reach maturity and acquire wisdom and grace, we, most probably, need a whole lifetime to reach the fullness of being human persons and God's sons and daughters we are supposed to be. Humanity needs ample time to have a share in divinity.

"Then one day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and was baptized by John there in the Jordan River. The moment Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens open and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descending on him, and a voice from heaven said, 'You are my

Govt to spend P300M for 15 corn post-harvest centers

THE Agriculture department plans to spend about P300 million this year to build 15 corn post-harvest centers nationwide that will establish market links and reduce losses for farmers, the department said in a press statement last week.

The National Agribusiness Corp. (NabCor), an agency attached to the Agriculture department, has already identified sites where these post-harvest processing facilities and trading centers can be set up,

Dennis B. Araullo, assistant secretary of the Agriculture department

and the director of the National Corn Program, said in a phone interview.

Identified corn areas consist of the towns of Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro, Narra and Brooke's Point in Palawan, Kabankalan in Negros Occidental, Kapatagan in Lanao del Norte, Pangantucan in Bukidnon, Claveria in Misamis Oriental, Tabuk in Kalinga Apayao, Bayambang in Pangasinan, Maayon in Capiz, Mexico in Pampanga and Dumalinao in Zamboanga del Sur, Ipil in Zamboanga Sibugay, Tigaon in Camarines Sur and Gamu in Isabela.

Counterpart funds

"What we are looking for right now is the source of

[counterpart] funds," Mr. Araullo said.

NabCor will spend an average of P20 million for each corn center, while the remaining expenses will be shouldered by host local government units, corn farmers cooperatives or by the private sector, he added.

The corn centers will include large-capacity dryers capable of drying 200 metric tons of corn in 36 hours, he explained.

The lack of post-harvest facilities is blamed for up to 15% of production losses.

The government targets to cut post-harvest losses to a range of 5%-7% this year.

Reliable source

"[More post-harvest facilities] will improve the quality of corn produce so the

customers will have a reliable source of quality corn," Roderico R. Bioco, chairman emeritus of industry group Philippine Maize Federation, Inc., said in a separate phone interview.

Meanwhile, the construction of another 15 corn centers — seven in Luzon, two in the Visayas, and six in Mindanao — that began last year, is expected to be completed next month.

To date, there are four operating corn centers located in the towns of Kabacan and Banga in North Cotabato, Malungon in Saranggani, and Sergio Osmeña in Zamboanga del Norte.

More requirements



HOG DISEASE PROBE. A joint international and local panel is investigating the presence of Ebola virus in some big hog farms in Luzon.

However, Mr. Bioco said "the government should encourage the private sector [to put up corn facilities] by exempting equipment from the value-added tax (VAT)."

Import duties for post-harvest equipment are pegged at 1%-5%, but the 12% VAT increases costs of setting up facilities, he added.

The government had likely missed last year's corn production target of 7.2 million metric tons by 3.4% at 6.95 million metric tons due to the soaring cost of fertilizers and tropical storms that hit in the first half of last year, data from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics showed.

DA upgrading 35 organic fertilizer facilities

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) aims to put its organic fertilizer support program in 2009 on the fast track by rehabilitating the existing 33 laboratories producing Trichoderma and 12 non-operational Bio-N Mixing plants that used to manufacture biofertilizer.

"Funds of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) for its 'Tamang Abono Program - Organic Fertilizer Production' will be used for upgrading the 33 Trichoderma Production Laboratories and 12 Bio-N Mixing Plants in sync with the recent DA decision to do away with its inorganic fertilizer support program beginning in 2009 in favor of providing organic fertilizer manufacturing assistance to small farmers so they can produce their own fertilizer requirements," said BSWM Director Silvinio Tejada.

He said there are 33 existing Trichoderma Production Laboratories, with BSWM having the largest production capacity (144,000 packets/year)

The Bio-N
Tejada said, "Bio-N, a microbial fertilizer that could replace 30%-50% of the total nitrogen fertilizer requirements of major crops, is one of the most effective biofertilizer that is available in the market."

DA support
Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said earlier that the organic fertilizer manufacturing support that the DA is extending to farmers starting in the 2009 dry crop will go to

some 2,600 clusters in 48 provinces where the palay harvests are below the national average of 3.8 metric tons per hectare.

These clusters cover adjacent or neighboring paddy fields.

"Trichoderma harzianum hastens the decomposition of organic and lignocelluloses materials like rice straw, corn stalks, grasses and weeds," Tejada said. "Widely used in the Modified Rapid Composting Technology implemented by the BSWM, it shortens decomposition from 3-4 months to one month."

He said there are 33 existing Trichoderma Production Laboratories, with BSWM having the largest production capacity (144,000 packets/year)

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There are 68 existing Bio-N Mixing Plants strategically located in the country, 56 of which are operational, he said. The remaining 12 mixing plants are proposed for upgrading.

These mixing plants are being run by the DA-Regional Field Units (RFUs), local government units (LGUs), farmers' cooperatives or organizations, state universities and colleges (SUCs), and private corporations.

Of the 12 non-operational Bio-N Mixing Plants, one belongs to the DA, four are owned by cooperatives, six by LGUs and one by private companies.

"The Trichoderma Production Laboratories and the Bio-N Mixing Plants are crucial to the new DA program because these will supply Trichoderma and Bio Inoculants to the farm clusters where the Department will be intensively promoting the use of non-chemical fertilizers," Tejada said.

He said that upgrading these facilities will mean providing them with new equipment like hammer mills or pulverizers, mixer ribbon types, over dryers, pressure cookers and top loading balance tools.

Farmers training

The DA is training small farmers in these 48 below-average, palay-producing provinces on how to produce their own organic fertilizer needs as part of a far-reaching policy overhaul that will funnel most DA funds into

such "hard" projects as irrigation maintenance and postharvest facilities and do away with "soft" projects like petrochemical fertilizer support.

In lieu of the fertilizer discount coupons that the DA gave out last year to farmer-beneficiaries in partnership with LGUs, the Department will provide organic fertilizer manufacturing support to these farmers this year in 2,600 clusters or sites.

"This major shift in farm production support is in step with one component of the DA reform program, which is the intensified promotion of 'balanced fertilization' as a long-term, calibrated approach to wean our farmers away from expensive, imported petrochemical fertilizers," Yap said.

Yap said that organic fertilizer manufacturing

support and other intervention measures will go to these 2,600 clusters as a way to rapidly boost palay harvests by raising up to the national average of 3.8 MT— or higher—the per-hectare outputs in these relatively low-yielding provinces.

This will be the DA policy on farm production for the

remainder of the Arroyo presidency, he said.

"The DA will concentrate on funding capacity building programs meant to encourage farmers to go into organic farming by producing their own organic fertilizers," he said. (PIA-Mimaropa)

P's HI-TECH SYSTEM

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Tawa-Tawa Bulaklak ng Saya

Kahit mahirap ang buhay dahil sa pandaigdigang krisis pangkabuhayan, dapat salubungin natin ang Pasko at Bagong Taon na nakangiti.

Kung Pinoy si Noah

TAONG 2009. Isang ordinaryong middle class Pinoy si Noah. Nagpakita sa kanya ang Diyos at sinabing "Pagkatapos ng isang taon ay bubuhos ang ulan at babahain ang buong kapuluan ng Pilipinas.

Gusto kong gumawa ka ng isang malaking arko (barko) at isakay mo rito ang pares-pares na mga hayop at mga mag-asawang Pilipino sa iba't ibang panig ng kapuluan."

Ibinigay kay Noah ang specs ng arko na taos-puso nitong tinanggap ang responsibilidad para sagipin ang sambayanang Pilipino sa napipintong paggunaw.

Lumipas ang isang taon, muling nagpakita ang Diyos kay Noah. Walang arkong nagawa si Noah. Galit na galit siyang tinanong ng Diyos, "Nasaan ang arkong ipinagagawa ko sa iyo?"

Tumugon si Noah, "Patawarin po Ninyo ako kung di ko natupad ang utos Ninyo! Nagkaroon po ng malaking problema sa plano po Ninyo."

At inilahad ni Noah ang mga sagabal na nakaharap niya sa paggawa ng arko.

Humingi siya ng Mayor's permit pero papayag lang daw si Mayor kung ang gagawa ng arko ay ang construction firm ng kanyang pamangkin.

Tumungo siya sa Congressman pero papayag lang daw si Congressman kung may matatanggap siyang 30% commission.

Nagtayo ng unyon ang mga kinuha niyang manggagawa at nag-strike.

Natunugan ng mga left-leaning groups ang kanyang balak. Nag-rally ang mga ito dahil daw sa hindi makatarungang pagpili

ng mga taong sasakay sa arko (mga taong naniniwala lang sa Diyos ang pwedeng sumakay).

Nakisali sa rally ang mga bakla at tomboy dahil bias daw na normal na mag-asawa lang ang pwedeng sumakay.

Ang civil society group ay nakisali na rin sa gulo dahil napag-alaman daw nila na ang pondong gagamitin sa paggawa ng arko ay galing sa donasyon ng mga gambling lords at katas ng jueteng.

Sa kaguluhang ito ay napilitang magpatawag ng hearing ang Senado "in aid of legislation".

Sinubukan ni Noah na gamitin ang EO 464 para makaiwas sa hearing pero dahil hindi sya executive official, napilitan siyang tumistigo.

Nang malaman ng Senado na utos ng Diyos ang pagpapagawa ng arko, dineklara nila itong unconstitutional dahil hindi raw nito iginalang ang separation ng church and state.

Nakialam na rin ang NBI at PNP at sinabi nilang meron silang impormasyon na ang arko raw na ito ay gagamitin ng mga economic plunderers sa pagtakas.

Sinabi naman ng ISAFP at DOJ na ito raw ay gagamitin ng grupong nagbabalak ng coup laban kay Arroyo.

Nilapitan ni Noah si Mike Defensor para makipag-usap kay GMA. Payag daw si GMA na ituloy ang arko kung ipapaskel daw sa arko ang malaking mukha ni Arroyo na may slogan "Towards a Strong Republic."

"Hindi po ako pumayag kaya hanggang ngayon po ay may TRO ang paggawa ng arko. Sa palagay ko po kailangan ko pa ng 100 taon para matapos ang inyong proyekto." Ang huling wika ni Noah.

Napailing ang Diyos at sinabing, "Di ko nakailangang wasakin pa ang bansang ito. Winawasak 'nyo na." (Katolikong bansa 'to).

Palawan Underground River closer to be in the New 7 Wonders of Nature

THE Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, a Unesco World Heritage site, has made it to the second round of voting for the New 7 Wonders of Nature campaign.

The underground river in Palawan is now a step closer to being named one of the world's new seven wonders of Nature.

The Department of Tourism (DOT) last reported that Palawan's Subterranean River has been officially selected as the country's bet in the race for the New 7 Wonders of Nature.

"We are proud to announce that the Philippine marvels have stood strong in the first round of voting. This affirms the support of Filipinos as well as other tourists in helping our natural sites make their mark in the global scene," Tourism Secretary Ace Durano said.

Durano said results of the

first phase of voting in the Official New7Wonders of Nature campaign were announced yesterday at the New7Wonders Foundation headquarters.

According to Durano, the head of communications for New7Wonders Tia Viering sent a letter congratulating the Philippines for qualifying in the second phase of voting.

Viering said the 261 nominees in the second phase of the race are now one step closer to being chosen one of the Official New7Wonders of Nature by the people of the world.

The Philippines' underground river shares the spotlight with the Coral Triangle, a multinational participant.

Spanning eastern Indonesia, parts of Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and the Solomon Islands, the Coral Triangle is the global center

of marine biodiversity and one of the world's top priorities for marine conservation.

The qualified 261 national and multinational nominees from the 222 participating countries feature iconic locations such as the Grand Canyon, Loch Ness, the Black Forest, and Mount Fuji, alongside the Amazon, the Danube, the Dead Sea, the Great Barrier Reef, Iguazu Falls, the Kalahari Desert, Mont Blanc, and Niagara Falls.

The first stage of the Official New7Wonders of Nature campaign officially ended last Dec. 31 and voting was suspended on the New7Wonders website until yesterday to allow organizers to tally and verify all votes.

Of the original 441 nominees, 180 or more than 40 percent were eliminated. Those selected will become the pool from which the 21 official finalists are chosen.

A panel of experts will select the 21 finalists from the top 77, which will be announced on July 21 this year.

When the third and final phase of voting begins, the people of the world will have approximately two years to choose from the 21 finalists

for the Official New7Wonders of Nature, to be revealed in 2011. Over one billion votes are forecast.

Durano said the new seven Wonders of Nature campaign is expected to promote and increase awareness and appreciation of the different spectacular sites all over the world.

"With billions of supporters all over the globe, promotion of spectacular sites from all over the world has been set to greater heights. It is also very important to call on the sustainable promotion of these tourism sites, which are Nature's blessings," Durano said.

Tourism Undersecretary Eduardo Jarque said inclusion of the Philippines' wonders in the list gives more reason to strengthen not only the promotion but the preservation of our natural sites.

Jarque said the country's participation in the New7Wonders campaign would inevitably translate to increased interest in seeing the nominees, including the tourist destinations in the Philippines.

LUMIPAT... (Buhat sa pahina 1)

pinag-ibayong programa nila sa pangangalaga ng kaayusan sa kanyang area.

Inireport niya na ang Mimaropa ang may pinakamababang crime rate sa region at ang nai-rekord na 200 krimen noong nakaraang taon ay may 93 percent solution efficiency.

Ibinalita rin niya na binubuo na nila ang tinaguriang eco-warriors na binubuo ng mga piling pulis at sibilyan na mangangalaga ng kapaligiran ng mga lalawigan lalo na ang Apo Reef sa Palawan .

Kasama rin sa eco-warriors na ito ang 100 volunteer na sibilyan na magmumula sa bawat bayan ng limang probinsya na sasanayin ng mga tauhan ng DENR at Department of Agriculture upang maging pamilyar sa mga bagay tungkol sa ekolohiya.

Inamin ni P/Chief Supt. Palmera na maraming nadislocate sa kanyang mga tauhan lalo na iyong may naiwang pamilya sa Laguna subalit wala umano silang magagawa dahil ganoon daw talaga ang buhay ng mga pulis.

Ang regional headquarters ay matatagpuan sa Camp Navarro malapit sa Calapan airport.

IO Website... (From Page 1)

They will directly communicate to a special group of Mindoreños residing and working in other countries with the buying capacity and say on their families back home.

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