

Environmental fees to be collected in Siargao Islands tourist sites

Published May 6, 2017, 1:08 PM

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The government is set to impose environmental fees on tourist destinations in Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte.

The environmental fees' collection is focused on hotels, resorts, inns and other tourism business establishments.



(MANILA BULLETIN)

Officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)- Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of Siargao Islands Protected Landscapes and Seascapes and local chief executives made this pronouncement after their meeting held in Dapa, Siargao Island on Wednesday (May 3).

They said the collected environmental fees will improve several infrastructures and communication projects in the island.

The PAMB expects to collect about P20 million yearly from environmental fees alone.

One of the projects being eyed by the PAMB is construction of a modern sanitary landfill that would solve the problem of garbage disposal amid the booming tourism industry in the area.

The board has also lined up other infrastructure projects leading to various tourism destinations that include farm-to-market roads.

“Several projects which are needed to be implemented but these are affected by inadequate funds,” DENR 13 officer-in-charge Regional Director Dr. Charlie E. Fabre told the Manila Bulletin on Saturday (May 6).

In a meeting on Wednesday, Fabre emphasized that environmental fees that will be collected is for the good of the known “Paradise Island” in northeastern Mindanao.

“We need to improve the collections of environmental fees from resort owners and their guests and visitors,” he said.

The PAMB board also discussed the results of the site development and resources management of several business establishments, resorts and hotel construction projects that lack the required Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the Environment Management Bureau Regional Office in Butuan City.

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