

DATE : 04 FEB 2010

DAY : Monday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Manila Standard

B4
PAGE 1

UPP
Lower

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 FEB 2019

DATE

Leading the initial cleanup of Manila Bay on January 27 are (from left) MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim, Manila Yacht Club Commodore Robert Lim Joseph, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, and Interior Secretary Eduardo Año.



Seven-year effort to save Manila Bay unwraps

JANUARY 27 marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Manila Bay. In an historic first, cleaning and dredging operations kicked off a planned 7-year Save Manila Bay program.

Government department heads joined over 5,000 government workers and citizen-volunteers in a grand solidarity march along Roxas Boulevard.

Starting at Quirino Grandstand at about 8 am, the crowd walked together to signify their unity—with members of the various agencies carrying plastic bags, broomsticks, and other cleaning

paraphernalia.

A short program was held at Plaza Rajah Sulayman in the middle of Roxas Boulevard, where the cabinet members including Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año, Public Works Secretary Mark Villar, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Philippine National Police Chief Director Oscar Albayalde, and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Danilo Lim made an inter-agency pact to stand behind the effort.

A long-time environmental protection advocate, Commodore Robert “Bobby”

Lim Joseph of the Manila Yacht Club, has been campaigning publicly for Save Manila Bay since late 2018.

Through interviews and media platforms, Cimatu was made aware of this and reached out to MYC’s Lim – and in less than a month phase 1 of 3 phases for Save Manila Bay was launched.

Ground zero for Save Manila Bay is located right inside the yacht club. It is here that a water outflow sees the wastes of a zoo, hospitals, restaurants, hotels, office buildings, malls, and other residential properties in the city pass through it for the past 50 years.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

1
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 FEB 2010

DATE

Hundreds start to flock to shores of Manila Bay

By **ERMA EDERA**

Hundreds of people persisted on swimming in the polluted waters of Manila Bay despite a ban imposed by the city government on swimming in the area, and the continued effort by public and private groups to clean

the shoreline.

"From dito po, mga 300 meters... maitim pa. Maitim pa 'yung dagat kaya hindi pa pwedeng paliguan. May mga basura pa po 'yan sa ilalim," Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Metro Parkway Cleaning Group ►12

Hundreds start to...

◀1

head Francis Martinez said.

The initial phase of the Manila Bay rehabilitation was hailed by Filipinos after photos of a trash-free coastline circulated online, a stark contrast from the dirty, garbage-filled shoreline just a week ago.

The changed environment was a result of the clean-up drive on January 27 that was participated by different government workers and volunteers in light of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

The Department of Health on Thursday also advised the public against swimming in the bay, saying that while the water appeared to be

clean, it did not mean that it was safe to bathe in despite the ongoing massive clean-up drive of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Among the water-borne diseases the public might get from swimming in Manila Bay were diarrhea, cholera, typhoid, dysentery, skin diseases and eye infection, the DOH said.

The initiative was referred to as the "Battle for Manila Bay" by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, where different government agencies were tasked to immediately oversee the rehabilitation as stated in a Supreme Court order written in 2008.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

PAGE 1

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 FEB 2010

DATE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



BACK TO THE BAY - A throng of beachgoers line the shore of Manila Bay in Manila Sunday, ignoring government warnings that its waters are still too polluted to swim in. Its condition is expected to improve after a campaign was launched to go after the establishments that have long been dumping untreated wastewater into the bay. (Ali Vicoy)



107 local officials ordered: Explain Manila Bay pollution

By **EMMANUEL TUPAS**

The Department of the Interior and Local Government will issue show cause orders to 107 local government officials, including two mayors in Metro Manila, for their alleged failure to prevent the pollution of Manila Bay, DILG Undersecretary for barangay affairs Martin

Diño said yesterday.

Diño said the local officials will be made to explain why they should not be held liable for failure to strictly enforced provisions of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001.

"We will also be filing administrative cases against them before the Office of the Ombuds-

man," he said in a phone interview.

Included in the list are two mayors in the National Capital Region whom Diño declined to name pending an official announcement from DILG Secretary Eduardo Año.

Diño said there are other mayors on the list, including two from Cavite province. A majority of the local officials are barangay captains who failed to impose strict measures to protect the environment in their respective localities.

The officials are from Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon). There are about 179 cities and municipalities and some 5,700 barangays in the immediate vicinity of Manila Bay.

In a separate interview over radio station *dzBB*, Diño chided the officials for turning a blind eye on violations of environmental laws in their respective areas.

"For the past 10 years, *ang nangyari ryan* (what happened there

were) monitoring, evaluation, validation *pag-katapos* (and then) picture-taking," he said.

The government has conducted a massive cleanup to rehabilitate the Manila Bay upon President Duterte's directive. Diño, however, said their efforts will go to waste if other tributaries and waterways connected to the bay are not rehabilitated.

The problem, according to Diño, is that these officials have been negligent in preventing solid and liquid wastes being dumped in waterways.

Under the law, a person caught improperly disposing of trash could face imprisonment of six months to six years and a fine ranging from P4,000 to P6,000.

The other officials just issue the necessary barangay clearance for residential houses and commercial establishments even without inspection if they have a proper sewerage system for wastewater.

"No house or business establishment can be built if there is no barangay clearance. The question is, does the barangay captain inspect if there is septic tank or sewerage system those issued with barangay clearance?" Diño said.



MANILA BAY POLLUTERS? Show-cause order vs 107 mayor, kapitan

Nina **CHITO A. CHAVEZ** at **ERMA R. EDERA**

Nasa 107 alkalde at kapitan ng barangay ang nakatakdang isyuhan ng show-cause orders dahil sa umano'y pagkakasangkot sa pagdumi ng Manila Bay.

Ipinangako ni Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Martin Diño ang matinding parusa sa mga opisyal na mapapatunayang nagkulang sa kanilang responsibilidad.

Hindi isinantabi ni Diño ang posibilidad na ilang local government unit (LGU) personnel, kabilang ang barangay officials, ang may pananagutan dahil sa kapabayaan.

Sinabi niya na sa nakalipas na 10 taon, ang DILG at iba pang concerned agencies ay nagsasagawa ng monitoring, evaluation at validation process upang matukoy ang pananagutan ng mga kumpanya at LGUs sa pagdumi ng Manila Bay.

Nagpahayag si Diño ng pagkadismaya at galit sa pagkabigo

na maipatupad ang waste disposal laws sa mga komunidad sa paligid ng Manila Bay.

Hinikayat ni Diño ang publiko na "lend a helping hand to the government" sa pag-uulat ng malisyoso, masama at kurapsiyon ng public officials sa pangakong "valuable information would be treated with utmost confidentiality."

HINDI PA PUWEDENG LIGUAN!

Samantala, sa kabila ng pagbabawal ng Manila city government na lumangoy at patuloy na pagsisikap na malinis ang Manila Bay dahil sa usaping pangkalusugan, daan-daang katao ang nagtungo rito upang magtampisaw nitong Linggo ng umaga.

"From dito po, mga 300 meters... maitim pa. Maitim pa 'yung dagat kaya hindi pa p'wedeng paliguan. May mga basura pa po 'yan sa ilalim," diin ni Metropolitan Manila

Development Authority Metro Parkway Cleaning Group head Francis Martinez.

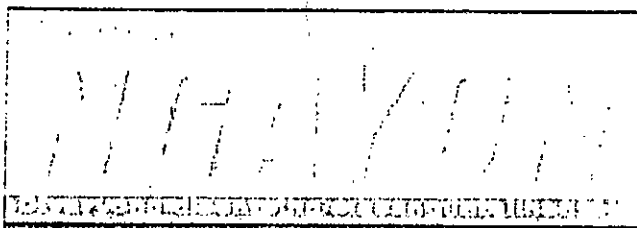
Pinuri ng mga Pinoy ang unang bahagi ng rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay makaraang kumalat sa online na malinis na ito sa basura.

Ito ay resulta ng clean-up drive nitong Enero 27, na pinagtulungan ng iba't ibang government workers at volunteers para sa Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

Gayunman, inabisuhan ng Department of Health (DoH) nitong Huwebes ang publiko na huwag lumangoy sa Manila Bay sa gitna ng massive clean-up drive ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ipinaliwanag ng DoH na kahit na mukhang malinis ang tubig, hindi ibig sabihin na ligtas itong liguan.

Kabilang sa maaaring maging sakit sa paliligo sa Manila Bay ay diarrhea, cholera, typhoid, dysentery, skin diseases, at eye infection.



04 FEB 2019

DATE

107 officials, mananagot sa Manila Bay pollution

May 107 lokal na opisyal ang unang natukoy ng Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) na dapat managot at pagkalooban ng 'show cause orders' kaugnay ng polusyon sa Manila Bay.

Hindi muna tinukoy ni DILG Undersecretary Martin Diño ang pagkakakilanlan ng mga naturang opisyal, ngunit kinabibilangan aniya ito ng mga alkalde at mga punong barangay.

Sinabi ni Diño na matapos na mabigyan ng show cause order ay idedemanda na umano nila sa Office of the Ombudsman ang mga naturang local officials.

Nabigo kasi aniya ang mga ito na ipatupad ng tama ang waste disposal laws sa mga komunidad sa paligid ng Manila Bay sa mga nakalipas na taon.

Monitoring, valuation, validation pagkatapos picture-taking lamang aniya ang naisagawa sa mga nagdaang panahon, kaya't natutuwa siyang ngayon, matapos ang monitoring ay kasunod na ang prosekusyon sa Ombudsman, dahil kailangang may managot sa kapabayaan sa Manila Bay. *Mer Layson*



04 FEB 2019

DATE

107 mayor, brgy off'l kakasuhan sa maduming Manila Bay

MAGPAPALABAS ang Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) ng show cause order laban sa 107 lokal na opisyal sa bansa na nagpabaya umano sa paglala ng polusyon sa Manila Bay.

Ayon kay DILG Undersecretary Martin Diño, kasama sa listahan ang mga alkalde at opisyal ng barangay na sumasakop sa Manila Bay.

Ang Manila Bay ay sumasakop sa kanlurang bahagi ng Luzon at sumasaklaw sa Metro Manila at Cavite sa silangan; Bulacan at Pampanga sa hilaga; at Bataan sa kanluran at kanlurang hilaga.

"For the past 10 years, ang nangyari d'yan... monitoring, valuation,

validation pagkatapos picture-taking. Kaya natutuwa ako nu'ng sa amin ngayon monitoring saka prosecution," ani Diño sa isang interview sa DZBB.

Dagdag ni Diño, sampahan nila ng kaso sa Office of the Ombudsman ang mga kasali sa kanilang listahan na mabibigong magpaliwanag sa mabilis na pagdumi ng tubig ng Manila Bay sa kanilang hurisdiksiyon.

Nakakadismaya aniya na hindi naaksyunan ng mga lokal na opisyal ang pangangalaga sa paligid ng Manila Bay, partikular ang pagpapatupad ng batas sa tamang pagtatapon ng basura sa kanilang mga lugar. **(Mia Billones)**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

11
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 FEB 2019

DATE

Manila Bay informal settlers to be relocated in Tondo

By **ELLSON QUISMORIO**

Over 2,000 families, which are facing displacement amid the ongoing cleanup of Manila Bay, have been assured of land by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) through the intervention of former President and now House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

This was revealed during the hearing of the Oversight Committee on Housing called by Arroyo to address the delay in the release of titles to the recipients of urban poor housing proclamations she issued when she was President.

During the hearing it was revealed that more than 2,000 families living in a property owned by PPA in Isla Puting Bato will be displaced because of the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

This prompted Arroyo to inquire about what arrangements are being made for the transfer of the affected residents. The Pangasinan 2nd district congresswoman also asked the PPA to ensure that they would not be deprived of their source of livelihood.

PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago responded that the agency, which is the owner of the property, was willing to give them five hectares of its property in a nearby area in Tondo. He also vowed to allot ₱1 million for the social preparation of

the residents prior to the transfer.

The announcement was met with jubilation by Isla Puting Bato residents, who attended the hearing at the House of Representatives.

Mansor Utto, who is a long-time resident of Isla Puting Bato, said they could not believe that they will be given a chance to acquire their own land. "Matagal na po naming pinapanalangin na mabigyan kami ng seguridad sa lupa at sobrang nabigla kami na ito ang matutupad na sa tulong ng ating Speaker GMA. Kung hindi sa kanya, baka kung saan na lang kami mapupunta dahil sa paglilinis sa Manila Bay (We've long prayed to gain security when it comes to land and we were so surprised that this will be attained with the help of our Speaker GMA. If not for her, we don't know where we would end up because of the Manila Bay cleanup)," Utto said.

Isla Puting Bato Barangay Chairman Bryan Mondejar said the thousands of residents of his village have been worried about their condition for years especially with the Manila Bay clean up and have decided to come to the hearing to bring to the attention to Speaker Arroyo about their condition.

"Sobrang malaking pasasalamat na dahil kay Speaker GMA ay nagkaroon ng katiyakan na mayroon silang malilipatan at

hindi na sila squatter kundi kanilang bahay at lupa na talaga yun (We are very thankful since because of Speaker GMA, they have been assured of relocation wherein they will no longer be squatters but owners of their own house and land)," Mondejar said.

Arroyo has called for the oversight hearing of the House Committee on Housing and Urban Development, chaired by Rep. Alfredo Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), to see why 15 years after she issued Proclamation No. 581 which reserved a parcel of land in favor of residents in Parola, Tondo, titles have yet to be awarded to qualified residents through the National Housing Authority (NHA).



HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARING

PPA OFFERS LOT FOR FAMILIES DISPLACED BY BAY CLEANUP

By DJ Yap
@deejayapINQ

More than 2,000 families who will be displaced by the ongoing government cleanup of Manila Bay have been assured of relocation to a 5-hectare property in Tondo, Manila, according to Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) made the commitment during last week's hearing of the House oversight committee on housing called by Arroyo to address delays in the release of titles to the recipients of urban poor housing proclamations.

The committee found out that more than 2,000 families living on a property owned by the PPA at Isla Puting Bato would be displaced because of the ongoing bay rehabilitation.

Arroyo asked what arrangements were being made for the transfer of affected residents and to ensure their source of livelihood.

PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago replied that the

agency would be willing to give the residents five hectares of its property at a nearby area in Tondo.

Social preparation fund

He also vowed to allot P1 million for the social preparation of the residents before their relocation.

The announcement was welcomed by Isla Puting Bato residents who attended the hearing at the House of Representatives.

Isla Puting Bato barangay chair Bryan Mondejar told the committee that thousands of residents had been worried about their condition due to the ongoing bay rehabilitation.

Earlier, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said that the cleanup would be a "long" battle, citing 230,000 informal settler families who needed to be relocated.

Authorities had said that around 80 to 85 percent of waste in Manila Bay came from informal settlers. INQ



GMA wants smooth Tondo relocation

By Hananeel Bordey
and Miguel Paolo Tagonon

After the successful government clean-up of Manila Bay, Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took the next step in the rehabilitation of the body of water by ensuring the 2,000 families affected by the

Turn to page 6

From page 1

determined effort are provided a decent relocation site.

The Oversight Committee on Housing found most of the families residing on Isla Puting Bato in Tondo were using a property owned by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA). The Manila Bay rehabilitation plan requires their relocation.

Arroyo asked PPA representatives about the relocation plan and directed the authorities to ensure a decent source of livelihood for the displaced families.

PPA general manager Jay Daniel Santiago told the panel that the port agency is willing to give the displaced families a five-hectare lot in Tondo and P1 million in total assistance to facilitate their transfer.

Isla Puting Bato Barangay Chairman Bryan Mondejar told the panel about the worries of residents on their relocation as an offshoot of the intensive rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

Relocation before break

Arroyo said the oversight committee will reconvene even during the Congress break, which starts next week, to ensure the proper implementation of housing projects for the relocated families.

The House Committee on Ecology also lauded Malacañang's initiative in the rehabilitation program.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources conducted a briefing on the rehabilitation program in line with the House's oversight function on the implementation of Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act.

The meeting also highlighted the closure of several establishments that contributed to polluting the bay.

107 execs queried

Interior Undersecretary Martin Diño said 107 local officials will be given show cause orders over their failure to act in the midst of Manila Bay's polluted state.

Diño told Super Radyo DZBB during an interview that those to be asked to account for their inaction include mayors and barangay leaders.

The DILG undersecretary said there was a failure over the past years in implementing waste disposal laws among communities around the bay.

The clean-up drive will be empty if no one is sent to prison for violation of environment laws relating to the body of water.

107 local officials will be given show cause orders over their failure to act in the midst of Manila Bay's polluted state.

Meanwhile, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Interior Secretary Eduardo Año have met with six Metro Manila mayors who supported plans to restore Manila Bay to its former beauty.

The mayors who will help restore the bay are Edwin Olivarez of Parañaque, John Reynald Tiangco of Navotas, Rexlon Gatchalian of Valenzuela, Imelda Aguilar of Las Piñas, Robert Eusebio of Pasig and Miguel Ponce III of Pateros expressed support to the plans.

The six mentioned mayors promised to continue the clean-up of the canals connected to the Pasig River and the bay, the first of three phases of a massive Manila Bay rehabilitation program. The two other phases involved resettlement of illegal settlers and the long-term implementation of the program.



State firm to address pollution issue

THE Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) said it will immediately take action to address the notice of violation for water pollution served to its head office in Pasay City.

The GSIS head office is situated along Roxas Boulevard

facing Manila Bay where rehabilitation and cleanup works are being done.

"I was actually surprised when I came to know about the notice as we have been religiously monitoring our compliance with the guidelines of

the Laguna Lake Development Authority by having our wastewaters tested by an independent laboratory. In fact, these self-monitoring tests have yielded negative results for pollution in the past three months," Jesus Clint Aranas, GSIS president and general manager, said.

Aranas said GSIS is set to upgrade its sewage treatment plant into a more cost-effective and low-maintenance system to

support the environment.

"As we speak, GSIS is finalizing the terms of reference to procure the upgrading of its sewage treatment plant that will trail the blaze in complying with the new water guidelines and general effluent standards of DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources)," he said.

He added GSIS is committed to support the government's campaign to clean up Manila

Bay and restore it to its old grandeur.

Meanwhile, the pension fund said in a separate statement it will preserve the lone tree park in Baguio City.

"We will neither sell the land where the park stands nor allow it to be converted into a commercial area by any party," Aranas said.

Aranas gave the assurance in response to the sentiments of

a grade 6 student at the Baguio Pines Family Learning Center to save the Tree Park near the Baguio Convention Center and University of the Philippines, after rumors came out that a condotel or carpark building will be constructed there.

"They can heave a sigh of relief because the GSIS property will remain to be the home of these beautiful trees," Aranas said.



Manila Bay informal settlers to get land

Over 2,000 families that faced displacement amid the ongoing cleanup of the Manila Bay had been assured of land by the Philippine Ports Authority, thanks to the intervention of former President now House Speaker Gloria M. Arroyo.

This came during the hearing of the Oversight Committee on Housing called by Arroyo to address the delay in the release of titles to the recipients of urban poor housing proclamations she issued when she was President.

During the hearing, it was revealed that more than 2,000 families living in a property owned by PPA in Isla Puting Bato in Tondo, Manila will be displaced because of the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

This prompted Arroyo to inquire what arrangements are being made in the transfer of the affected residents. She also asked the PPA to ensure that they would not be deprived of their source of livelihood.

PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago responded that the agency will be willing to give them five hectares of its property in a nearby area in Tondo. He also vowed to allot ₱1 million for the social preparation of the residents prior to the transfer.

The announcement was met with jubilation by Isla Puting Bato residents who had attended the hearing at the House of Representatives.

Mansor Utto, who is a long-time resident of Isla Puting Bato, said they could not believe that they will be given a chance to acquire their own land.

"Matagal na po naming pinapanalangin na mabigyan kami ng seguridad sa lupa at sobrang nabigla kami na ito ang matutupad na sa tulong ng ating Speaker GMA. Kung hindi sa kanya, baka kung saan na lang kami mapupunta dahil sa paglilinis sa Manila Bay," Utto said.

Meanwhile, people were unstoppable despite the public warning of the Department of Health that the Manila Bay is still unsafe for swimming.

Most bathers were children in their under wears while some put up a tent and laid down picnic blankets on the beach of Manila Bay.

After photos of the results of the cleanup spread on social media, more people than usual came over the weekend to the Manila Bay, resulting to heavy traffic on Roxas Boulevard.

DoH Undersecretary Rolando Enrique Domingo has issued an advisory saying that swimming in the Manila Bay is still unsafe as high levels of fecal coliform bacteria was detected in its waters.

Water-borne diseases like diarrhea, cholera, typhoid, skin diseases, and eye infections can be acquired through swimming in Manila Bay. **(Elson Quismorio and Michelle Guillang)**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

2K pamilya sa Manila Bay 'wawalisin'

Ni Leifbilly Begas

MAY lupang paglilipatan sa may 2,000 pamilya na paaalisin sa kanilang mga bahay bilang bahagi ng paglilinis sa Manila Bay.

Ayon kay House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, tiniyak sa kanya ng Philippine Ports Authority na may paglilipatan ang mga apektadong pamilya.

Nagpatawag ng pagdinig ang Oversight Committee on Housing upang humingi ng update sa mga titulo ng lupa na hindi pa rin naibibigay sa mga benepisyaryo nito.

Sa pagdinig, lumabas na 2,000 pamilya na nagtirik ng bahay sa lupa ng PPA sa Isla Puting Bato ang paaalisin bilang bahagi ng rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Sa pagtatanong ni

Arroyo, sinabi ni PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago na handa ang PPA na ibigay ang limang ektarya ng lupa nito sa Tondo para sa relokasyon ng mga maaapektuhan. Magbibigay din umano ng P1 milyon ang PPA para sa paglilipat.

Inatasan din ni Arroyo si House Committee on Housing and Urban Development na pinamumunuan ni Negros Occidental Rep. Alfredo Benitez na magsagawa ng pagdinig upang malaman kung bakit 15 taon mula nang ipalabas niya ang Proclamation No. 581 ay hindi pa rin naibibigay ang mga titulo ng lupa para sa mga residente ng Parola, Tondo.

Ang problema ay ang overlapping ng property ng Philippine National Railways at Government Service Insurance

System.

Dahil dito hiniling ni Arroyo sa PNR na ibigay na lamang ang 1,000 metro kuwadrang ari-arian nito sa mga benepisyaryo.

Sa susunod na pagdinig ay ipatatawag si PNR Chairman Roberto Lastimoso upang malaman ang posisyon ng PNR sa kahilingan ni Arroyo.



MWSS cites JICA-funded Maynilad STP project

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System has lauded the completion of Maynilad's P1.7-billion Paranaque Water Reclamation Facility, the largest sewage treatment plant in terms of processing capacity as well as Paranaque's 92 percent compliance rate in terms of sewer connections that underscore the combined efforts of all stakeholders in cleaning up Manila Bay and other tributaries.

"We are happy with the completion of this modern water reclamation facility three years after it was started. I commend both Maynilad and Paranaque City for remaining steadfast in pushing for this flagship project, despite protestations and brickbats from motorists, as this project is not only means to comply with Supreme Court mandamus to clean Manila Bay, but more so for the overall benefit of the people," said MWSS Administrator Reyrialdo V. Velasco.

Velasco made the state-

ment after the recent opening of the new STP facility in San Dionisio, Paranaque City with MWSS chairman Franklin Demonteverde, RO chief Patrick Ty, Paranaque City Mayor Edwin L. Olivarez, Maynilad president and CEO Ramoncito Fernandez, JICA official Yoshio Wada, Development Bank of the Philippines president and CEO Cecilia Borromeo, and other members of the MWSS Board of Trustees.

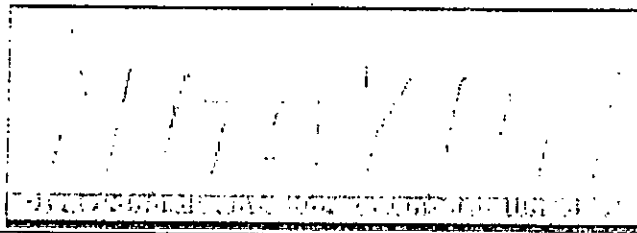
Maynilad president Fernandez said Maynilad would invest P26.4 billion in the next five years to build new sewage treatment plants (STP) and lay sewer lines in Caloocan, Las Pinas, Muntinlupa, and Kawit, Cavite.

The new facilities, which will have a combined treatment capacity of 320 million liters per day (MLD), will remove harmful substances from the wastewater generated by more than two million Maynilad customers, thus helping to reduce pollution loading into water bodies.

Of the P26.4-billion budget allocation, about P16.3 billion will be spent for the laying of some 241 kilometers of new sewer lines which will convey wastewater from households to Maynilad's new STPs for treatment.

Once completed in 2021, the new facilities will expand Maynilad's sewerage coverage to 47 percent up from only six percent in 2006 before Maynilad was re-privatized. The company aims to attain 100 percent sewerage coverage by the end of the concession period in 2037.

"So far, we have invested P23.3 billion to improve the wastewater infrastructure and expand coverage in the west zone since 2007. By sustaining investments in wastewater projects, we do our part in the cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay, per the Supreme Court Mandamus," said Fernandez, adding the company is investing P11.4 billion for wastewater projects this year.



04 FEB 2019

DATE



Editorial

Daming kompanya na lumalason sa Manila Bay

MARAMING kompanya na malapit sa Manila Bay ang lumalabag sa batas sa pagtatapon ng kanilang dumi. Malalaking kompanya ang mga ito pero walang sewage treatment plant na isa sa requirements para masigurong hindi marumi ang iniluluwa sa lawa. Dahil walang STP, lahat ng dumi ay direktang bumabagsak sa isang estero at mula roon, iluluwa naman ito sa Manila Bay. Nang suriin ng DENR ang kalidad ng tubig ng Manila Bay, umaabot na sa 330 milyon ang fecal coliform sa tubig nito. Ibig sabihin, talagang napakarumi ng Manila Bay at hindi na puwedeng pagliguan. Tuwing summer, maraming naliligo sa Manila Bay at wala silang kaalam-alam na ang kanilang sinisisid ay pawang dumi na delikado sa kalusugan.

Nang unang inspeksiyunin ni Cimatú ang mga estero na nakasubo sa Manila Bay, nagbabala na agad siya sa mga establisimento at kompanya na lumalabag sa Waste Water Act. Una na ngang binantaan ang Manila Zoo at makaraan ang ilang araw, pinasara na niya ito.

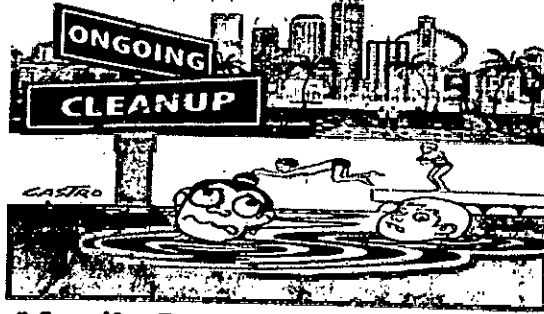
Noong Huwebes, apat pang establishments ang pinasara ni Cimatú, makaraang mapatunayan na lumalabag sa batas. Ayon kay Cimatú, lahat ng dumi ng apat na establishments ay itinatapon sa Manila Bay. Una nang naghain ng reklamo sa apat na establishments ang Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA).

Ang apat na kompanya na ipinasara ay ang Philippine Billion Real Estate Development Corp. na nasa Roxas Blvd., Pasay City; HK Sun Plaza na nasa Roxas Blvd. Pasay City; Tramway Bayview Buffet Restaurant na nasa Roxas Blvd. Pasay City at ang D. Circle Hotel sa M.H. Del Pilar St. Malate, Manila.

Ayon kay Cimatú, dapat maitama ng mga nangbanggit na establishments ang kanilang violations at saka pa lamang sila makapagpapatuloy sa operasyon. Kaya ang babala ni Cimatú sa iba pang nagluluwa ng lason sa Manila Bay, magkaroon ng sariling STP para masigurong hindi dumi ang itinatapon nila sa dagat. Isara na ang mga kompanyang lumalabag para mabawasan na ang mga lumalason sa makasaysayang lawa ng Maynila.

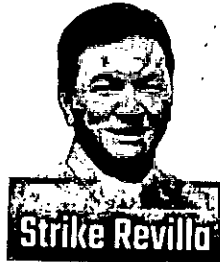


Editorial



Manila Bay, Boracay ningas cogon at utak talangka

STRIKE SA SERBISYO



TWITTER: @abante.com.ph

'Ningas Cogon' - kung gaanong kadali at kabilis sumiklab, ganoong kadali at kabilis rin matupok. 'Utak talangka' - pilit na hinihila pababa ang nagsusumikap makaahon dahil sa pansariling interes. Ito ang dalawang ugali na lagi na lamang humahadlang sa pagsulong ng Pilipinas. Sa rehabilitasyon ng Boracay at Manila Bay, 'yan ang malaking hamon at hadlang sa pagiging matagumpay ng mga ambisyosong programa ito ng pamahalaan.

Napakaganda ng buhga ng 'political will' sa pagpapasara at pagsasayos sa Boracay. Gayunpaman, may ilang grupo pa rin ang pilit hinihila

pababa ang ginawa at ginagawa ngayon sa Boracay. Pilit sinisiraan ang ginagawang ito ng pamunuan na tila yata pinagdarasal pa, sa kung anumang dahilan nila, na huwag ito magtagumpay.

At ngayon namang unti-unting binubuksan ang Boracay para sa parami nang parami na turista, sana naman ay tuloy-tuloy ang maging pagmamatyag at pagpapatupad ng mga regulasyon upang huwag nang bumalik sa dati ang isla.

Ganito rin ang kaso sa Manila Bay. Wala pang isang buwan mula nang ilunsad ng pamahalaan ang rehabilitasyon nito ay napakaraming kontra na ang naglabasan. Ito ay sa kabila ng kitang-kitang pagbabago sa lugar. Totoong napakalawak ng Manila Bay - mula Bataan hanggang sa Cavite - ngunit sadya namang napakahusay ng naging panimulang aksyon ng gobyerno. May beach pala sa Roxas Blvd., at napakarami ang muling nakakatanghal sa kagandahan ng sunset.

Nakikita natin na huwag lamang tayong papapigil sa mga talangka at bibigay sa ningas cogon ay matarami tayong kayang gawin at maipatupad. Ang paalalang ito ay hindi lamang para sa gobyerno kundi para sa bawat isa sa atin.



Winning the battle of Manila Bay

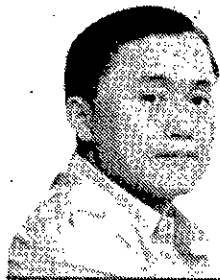
“ It has given us newfound optimism that all is not lost; that there is still hope not only for Manila Bay but also for our country. ”

On 1 May 1898, the American Asiatic Squadron under Commodore George Dewey fought and defeated the Spanish Pacific Squadron under Contraalmirante Patricio Montojo in a decisive naval engagement that will be known as the Battle of Manila Bay.

A century and 20 years have passed since that momentous occasion when a new battle of Manila Bay took place on 27 January 2019. The events that transpired would not be as destructive nor as bloody as a real war but the consequences would be as enduring and significant.

On that day, thousands of government workers, environmentalists and civilian volunteers trooped to the iconic Manila Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard to clean up the tons of garbage that littered its shores. It was truly a sight to behold as thousands of people of all ages and sectors descended to clean the Manila Bay shoreline. Simultaneous clean-up activities were also held in the nearby cities of Las Piñas and Navotas as well as in the neighboring provinces of Bulacan, Bataan and Pampanga.

The resulting success of the undertaking



GOING FORWARD
Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go

was immediately evident and it was truly remarkable. Pictures that went viral online show how portions of the iconic Manila Bay Baywalk were restored to its former resplendent glory. Social media and news outlets picked up the

transformation, prompting people from all over Metro Manila to come in droves to see the garbage-free shoreline. Migratory birds even appeared the following day to enjoy themselves on the beaches as if to approve and welcome the change.

The sheer scale and ambition of the clean-up, as well as its impressive aftermath, shocked the entire nation. For so long, people thought the task to be quite impossible and quixotic. But the government, in partnership with the volunteers, has demonstrated that the mission, no matter how difficult, can be done.

The success of the clean-up was truly a great victory for the Filipino people as the polluted waters of Manila Bay have come to symbolize not only the miserable condition of our ecology, but also the sad state of affairs in our society. Now that we have demonstrated that it is possible for us to clean Manila Bay, a world of possibilities opened up in the Filipino psyche. It has given us newfound optimism that all is not lost; that there is still hope not only for Manila Bay but also for our country.

I give credit to this accomplishment to the various government agencies that made it happen, particularly the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for spearheading this endeavor and especially to the thousands of volunteers who took part in this undertaking. They are the real heroes of this battle.

I also give credit to President Duterte for having the courage and resolve to get things done to realize the change that he promised to the Filipino people. We have seen this before during the campaign against illegal drugs, criminality and corruption; the

war on irresponsible mining; the battle for Marawi; the battle against red tape and bureaucratic inefficiency, and the rehabilitation of Boracay Island. We see it now during the successful battle of Manila Bay.

But our fight is far from over. These are just some of the many important battles that we have to win in order to rejuvenate this part of the nation's capital and create a better future for all Filipinos. We must continue to work together, in the spirit of *bayanihan*, to sustain the gains we made and bring about real, lasting and meaningful change in our country.

Blast from the past: On the night of 4 February 1899, sentries from the United States Army entered Barrio Santol in Sampaloc, Manila conducting a night patrol in the vicinity.

“ It was truly a sight to behold as thousands of people of all ages and sectors descended to clean the Manila Bay shoreline. ”

At around 8 o'clock in the evening, the American sentries caught sight of some Filipino soldiers walking towards the American-held sector whereupon one of them shouted "Halt!" As the Filipino soldiers did not understand what was being said, they continued on their way.

It was at this moment that one of the sentries fired at the Filipino soldiers, killing one of them. This triggered an exchange of gunfire between the Filipino and American soldiers stationed in the area, which eventually spread to nearby Paco and Sta. Ana.

In the morning, General Aguinaldo sent a messenger calling for a truce with the Americans, saying the fighting began accidentally and asking that the hostilities cease immediately. The Americans refused and instead used the incident to declare war on the Philippines, starting the Filipino-American War.

I am one with the Filipino-Chinese community as we celebrate the Lunar New Year and welcome the Year of the Pig!

Xin Nien Kwai Le! Kiong Hee Huat Tsai!



Clean-up truths

Don't get overexcited and I am not dashing your hope, but that start of the Manila Bay clean-up last week was just that -- a start.

Its water will not turn crystal blue overnight.

Its beach will not form sand in a decade.

Fish will not come back in five or so breeding cycles.

But, if statements by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are accurate, the clean-up would start all things needed to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

Manila Bay, despite its beauty and history, is a victim of progress and then the urban decay that followed it.

The Roxas Boulevard that we know today used to be Malate's beachfront. Yes, Malate had a beach!

Malate Church, which used to be the tallest building in Ermita, faced the beach where Japanese and American planes fought aerial dogfights.

“
Manila Bay, despite its beauty and history, is a victim of progress and then the urban decay that followed it.

The beach was for lovers to stroll on.

It was for family picnics, where boys and girls had their first swimming lessons when the poor could not afford to enter even the public pools.

It was where the boys had their first dip after undergoing their

first rites of manhood.

All those are gone now.

But on weekends still, we could see occasional anglers catching small fish that defied poison and oil until the lure was its last chance at an honorable death.

Paddlers still compete in its murky waters.

Children whose families still could not afford to use public pools continue to swim there.

Every year, the government tried to symbolically clean its waters. Who would forget Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada's gaffe of throwing trash back into its water for him to collect to be able to emphasize that



Aldrin Cardona

the city government is doing something to keep Manila Bay clean?

But that was just that. All for show.

We could only hope the latest clean-up is for good. Government is using its approach in Boracay as an example of showing political will in bringing back Manila Bay to life.

But keeping it clean will take more than a day of full-force mobilization of government workers and students to emphasize the clean-up project.

Manila has to shape up.

Its neighbor-cities have to follow strict rules on keeping clean their environment to help the nation's capital -- and the national government -- achieve the dream of seeing a breathing, living bay.

But it will take more than the P47-billion budget allocated for the initial phase of the clean-up. It would need more than that. Not double, not triple, but more.

Most important, however, is discipline from the people. Not only from the people of Manila or Navotas or Valenzuela. Cavite and Bataan contribute to the trash that wash ashore along Roxas Boulevard.

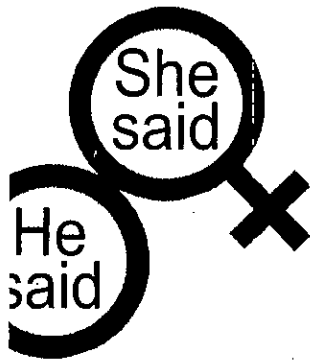
Local tourists never cared to throw their wastes in baskets when they promenaded at the bay.

There are settlers still. They need to be relocated, supported and explained why it is a must.

It's not going to be quick like a magic. All of us should contribute to make this effort magical.



Cove love



Dinah S. Ventura

It is considered auspicious to clean up your place like you have never cleaned it before 15 days before the Chinese New Year.

President Duterte is, of course, not Chinese, but this time around his mandate to clean up the mess that is Manila Bay is perfect for the turn of a new lunar year. It certainly led to amazed netizens expressing their wonder at how such a stinky dump could appear like the famed bay it used to be.

Say what you want about the ornery, tactless, outspoken Rodrigo Duterte, but the Manila Bay "transformation" was widely applauded. The President, once more, sternly warned businesses to comply with environment regulations or face closure.

So, two Sundays ago, volunteers participated in a clean-up along Manila Bay, signaling the start of its long-dreamed rehabilitation. The area, reports note, had been targeted just three months after the government's similar efforts to bring back Boracay.

This was because a water sampling had shown alarming results – "The bay's average fecal coliform level was at 330 million most probable number (mpn), 3.3 million times above the standard 100 mpn that is ideal for swimming," goes one report.

Three-point-three million times above standard, in this case, spells not excellence but massive neglect and abuse.

In fact, after that clean-up initiated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources recently, the news blared that 45 tons of garbage had been collected.

Writer Mikaela Zulueta in wheninmanila.com said: "Photos of a cleaner and brighter Manila Bay have been circulating after the clean-up efforts last 27 January. Around 5,000 volunteers and government workers put in the work to clear up the coastline! Simultaneous clean-up activities were also being held in Navotas, Las Piñas, Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga and Bataan."

Manila Bay, according to information on the Internet, is bounded by Cavite and Metro Manila. What is normally associated with it is the area seen along Roxas Boulevard, but the fact is it covers Bulacan and Pampanga, as well as Bataan.

The harbor is then the hapless victim to the cavalier attitude of those depositing garbage and pollutants from all these places.

There are environmental regulations that exist and, in this case, the local government units must be held responsible for the enforcement of these rules.

Manila Bay's ecosystem consists of "coastal and marine habitats" that include "upland forests, mangrove, mudflats, sandy beaches, sea grass and coral reefs."

Not many of us are aware of these as all we know is a body of water that offers some of the most fantastic sunsets in the metro. Sadly, however, the smell emanating from it during summer season signifies a level of pollution that we are now only getting to know by the horrific numbers.

It is also telling how local officials wrangled over how to make use of the area in terms of being a tourist attraction. One may recall Manila mayors, one of whom allowed the area along Roxas Boulevard to host establishments, making it a seaside dining hotspot and then the next mayor tearing it down for the noise pollution, among other reasons.

Yet we have hardly heard of anyone taking steps to ensure that the residents and businesses in the surrounding areas were complying with the environmental laws to keep our natural resources healthy.

"There are environmental regulations that exist and, in this case, the local government units must be held responsible for the enforcement of these rules."

Land reclamation and conversion also ate up some of the natural habitats around the bay. Developments around the area continue to this day. Illegal settlements have also compounded a growing environmental problem that, if we only cared to discover, affects a wider swathe of issues including, foremost, the global problem called climate change.

This is why the Manila Bay rehabilitation has sparked so much interest among the general populace. All of us have felt the effects of climate change to a point nowadays that no one can afford to ignore the fact something must be done.

This administration's efforts to stem the flow of degradation are noticed, yes, but it cannot work alone. Everyone must participate and make conservation a way of life.

Beyond smells and dirty waters, there are the floods that inundate urban areas and dying species of animals – all of which are connected to the smallest acts of improper trash disposal – to the massive changes made on the natural environment in the name of progress.

And so, beyond clean-up drives that will take months and maybe years to control and prevent further degradation, there must also be a consistent effort to educate the public even as government invests on setting up proper structures that would keep our natural environment alive.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU
INQUIRER

A-14
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

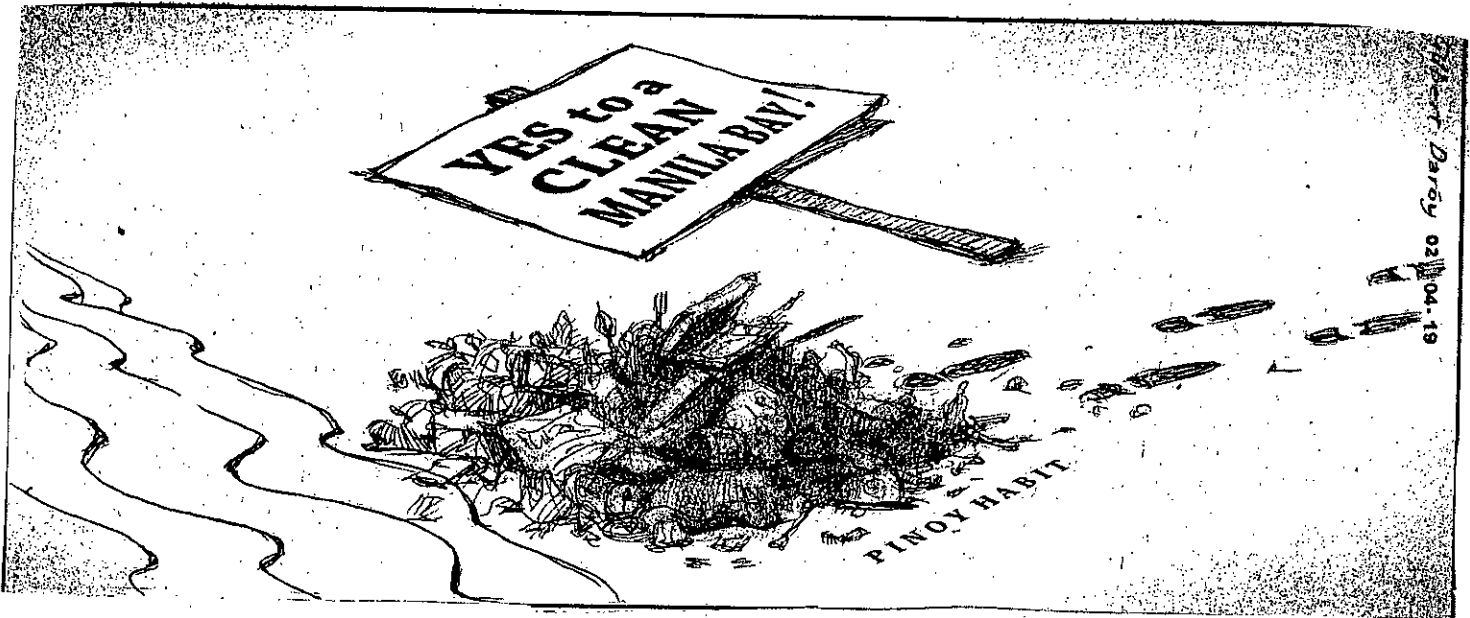
PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CAP

04 FEB 2019
DATE





Invented Since 1999

The Manila Times

A4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 FEB 2019

DATE





PATULOY ang paglilinis ng mga kinauukulan para mapaganda ang Manila Bay na matagal nang napabayaang, pero kitang-kita naman ng lahat ang pagbabago ng hitsura ng bay sa kasalukuyan.

Ito ay dahil din sa tulong ng ilang ahensiya at boluntaryong mamamayan, estudyante at iba pang tumulong para mabawasan ang mga basurang nagkalat na nagmula rin sa mamamayan.

Kaya kung noon, eh, mala-bundok na basura ang ating makikita sa tuwing daraan tayo sa kahabaan ng Roxas Boulevard kung saan matatanaw ang Manila Bay, ngayon, eh, malinis, maaliwalas at may buhangin na rito.

Sa katunayan, noong Sabado ng umaga ay nagmistulang resort ang sitwasyon sa Manila Bay dahil sa dagsa ng tao na nagpiknik at sa kabila ng malamig na panahon, may iba pang nag-swimming kahit na ipinagbabawal ito dahil marumi pa ang tubig.

Gayunman, sa kabila ng rehabilitasyong isinasagawa ay marami pa ring pasaway na bisita sa Manila Bay ang nagtatapon ng basura kung saan-saan, 'yun lang!

Ayon kay Marissa Cristobal ng Department of Public Services (DPS) ng Maynila, may mga tao pa rin silang sinita dahil sa iniwang basura ng mga ito sa Baywalk.

Kaya ang panawagan natin sa lahat, kung pupunta tayo sa Manila Bay, siguraduhin na-



BOSES

NI RYAN B. SISON

Sa kabila ng rehabilitasyon nito

Ilang Pinoy na namasyal sa bagong Manila Bay, nag-iwan ng basura!

tin na marunong tayong rumespeto at pairalin natin ang disiplina!

Sa totoo lang, hindi na kailangan pang ituro ang tamang pagtatapon kaya lang dahil may mga hindi pa rin makaintindi, kailangan pa rin yata itong ipaalala kada araw para tumatak sa ating isipan.

Samantala, hiling natin ang tagumpay ng rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay at sana, huwag itong gamitin para sa mga hidden agenda na alam nating hindi ikatutuwa ng karamihan.

Para sa inyong opinyon, sumbong, hinaling o nais hingin tulong ito ang pagkakataong maring 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.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



04 FEB 2010
DATE



PUSONG PANALO

ni Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

MARAMI ang natuwa sa nagaganap na reabilitasyon ng Manila Bay. Tulong-tulong na nilinis ng mga boluntaryong mamamayan ang dalam-pasigan sa pamamagitan ng pamumulot ng mga basura. Ginawa naman ng pamahalaan ang pag-iinspeksiyon sa mga establisimiyentong malapit sa Manila Bay at binigyan ng abiso ang

mga napatunayang nagtatapon ng dumi o basura sa dagat.

Maganda ang naging resulta ng clean-up na ito. Makikita sa mga larawan ang kaaya-ayang tanawin sa Manila Bay, lalo na sa oras ng paglubog ng araw. Tunay na kaakit-akit ang Maynila at marami itong mga parte o lugar na hindi pa rin nadidiskubre ng ma-

rami. May maibibigay na pambihirang karanasan ang paglalakad sa mga kalsada o lansangan ng Maynila.

Tuklasin ang angking ganda ng Maynila hanggang sa kasuluk-sulukan nito sa pamamagitan ng paglahok sa mga walking tours. May ilang mga guide o gabay na gumagawa nito, hindi lamang para sa mga turista kundi pati na rin sa mga Pinoy at Manilenyo't

Manilenya! Isa na rito si JP Ordon a ng Manilakad.

Sa ika-24 ng Pebrero, Linggo, sa ganap na ala-una ng hapon ay magsisimula ang kanyang Intramuros walking tour sa Manila Cathedral. P700 ang bayad sa pagsali sa walking tour na ito. Maaaring hanapin sa Facebook ang account na Manilakad o makipag-ugnayan sa kanya sa 0916-3597888

para sa karagdagang impormasyon. Bukod pa sa Intramuros walking tour sa araw na ito, maaari ring lumahok sa iba pang tours ng Manilakad: Quiapo/San Sebastian/Muslim Quarter; Ermita/Malate; at Old Makati.

Isama ang inyong mga kaibigan at kapamilya upang lakarin ang Maynila at mabighani sa kagandahan ng lumang siyudad na ating minamahal.



Families displaced by bay cleanup to get land

By RYAN PONCE PACPACO

MORE than 2,000 families to be displaced by the ongoing cleanup of Manila Bay have been assured of land by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) following the intervention of Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

This developed during the hearing of the Oversight Committee on Housing called by Arroyo to address the delay in the release of titles to recipients of urban poor housing proclamations she issued when she was president.

During the hearing, it was revealed that more than 2,000 families living in a property owned by PPA

in Isla Puting Bato will be displaced because of the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

This prompted Speaker Arroyo to inquire what arrangements are being made in the transfer of the affected residents. She also asked the PPA to ensure they would not be deprived of their source of livelihood.

PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago responded that the agency, which is the owner of the property, will be willing to give them five hectares of its property in a nearby area in Tondo.

He also vowed to allot P1 million for the social preparation of the residents prior to the transfer.

The announcement was met with jubilation by Isla Puting Bato residents who attended the hearing at the House of Representatives.

Mansor Utto, a long-time resident of Isla Puting Bato, said they could not believe that they will be given a chance to acquire their own land. "Matagal na po naming pina-panalangin na mabigyan kami ng seguridad sa lupa at sobrang nabigla kami na ito matutupad na sa tulong ng ating Speaker GMA. Kung hindi sa kanya, baka kung saan na lang kami mapupunta dahil sa paglilinis sa Manila Bay," Utto said.

Isla Puting Bato Bgy. Chairman Bryan Mondejar

said the thousands of residents of Isla Puting Bato had been worried about their condition for years especially with the Manila Bay cleanup and had decided to come to the hearing to bring to the attention to Speaker Arroyo about their condition.

"Sobrang malaking pasasalamat na dahil kay Speaker GMA ay nagkaroon ng katiyakan na meron silang malilipatan at hindi na sila squatter kundi kanilang bahay at lupa na talaga yun," Mondejar said.

Arroyo has called for the oversight hearing of the House committee on housing and urban development, chaired by Rep. Alfredo Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental); to see why 15 years after she issued Proclamation No. 581 which reserved a parcel of land in favor of residents in Parola, Tondo, titles have yet to be awarded to qualified residents through the National Housing Authority.

The House members discovered that the delay was mainly caused by the contention on some parts of Parola that are overlapping with the properties of the Philippine National Railways (PNR) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).



**BROADCASTER'S
VIEW**



Ely Saludar

TWITTER @ElySaludar

Dapat ay imbestigahan ang mga lokal na opisyal na pumasok sa

Mga kontrata sa reclamation project imbestigahan

mga kontrata para sa reclamation project sa Manila Bay partikular sa kahabaan ng Roxas Boulevard.

Makabubuting alamin kung anong proseso ang ginamit sa nasabing reclamation project at kung ito ba ay aayon sa interest ng publiko.

Imbestigahan kung nagkaroon din ng pag-abuso at posibleng katiwalian sa reclamation project sa mga lokal na pamahalaan.

Ito ay sa gitna ng isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay na pinangungunahan ng DILG at DENR.

Tinatayang aabot sa 43 bilyong piso ang gagastusin sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay na ang pondo ay mula sa taumbayan.

Kung matatapos ang rehabilitasyon at bubuti ang kalagayan ng Manila Bay ay hindi lubos na pakikinabangan ng publiko.

Matatapkan kasi

ng reclamation project ng Manila Bay sa Roxas Blvd. ang mga establisimyento na pag-aari ng maraming negosyante na makikinabang sa rehabilitasyon.

Dapat ay ipatigil ng DILG at DENR ang reclamation project at ipagbawal ito na gawin lalo na sa Roxas Blvd.

Kung magpipilit ang mga negosyanteng nakakuha ng kontrata sa reclamation project ay ipapasan sa mga ito ang 43 bilyong piso na

gastusin sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Tanging ang kahabaan ng Roxas Blvd. na magandang tanawin sa Maynila at Pasay ang nasa gilid mismo ng dapampasigan sa Manila Bay.

Gawin na lang itong parke upang maging pasyalan ng publiko at panatilihin malinis ang paligid upang mayroon naman tayong maipagmalaki sa mga turistang dadayo sa Pilipinas.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENTAL BATTLE
INQUIRER

4/9
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

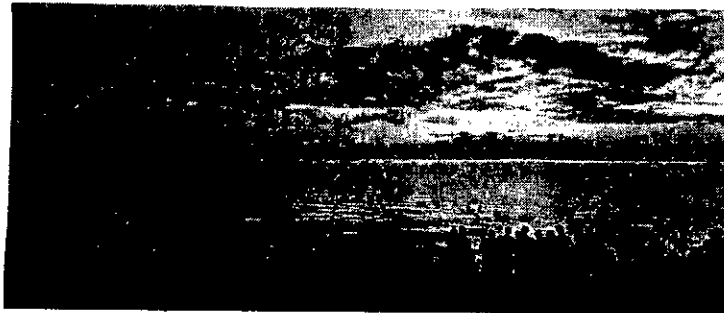
PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CAR

04 FEB 2019
DATE



ONE-OF-A-KIND SPECTACLE People flock to the seawall to marvel at the beauty of the sunset at Manila Bay which is undergoing a massive cleanup. —EDWIN BACASMAS



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Daily Tribune

www.DailyTribune.com

F
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 FEB 2019

DATE



Sun, sea, sand close-by Soon, a visit to the capital will not be complete without taking a dip in Manila Bay. Change is indeed at hand.

YUMMIE DINGONG



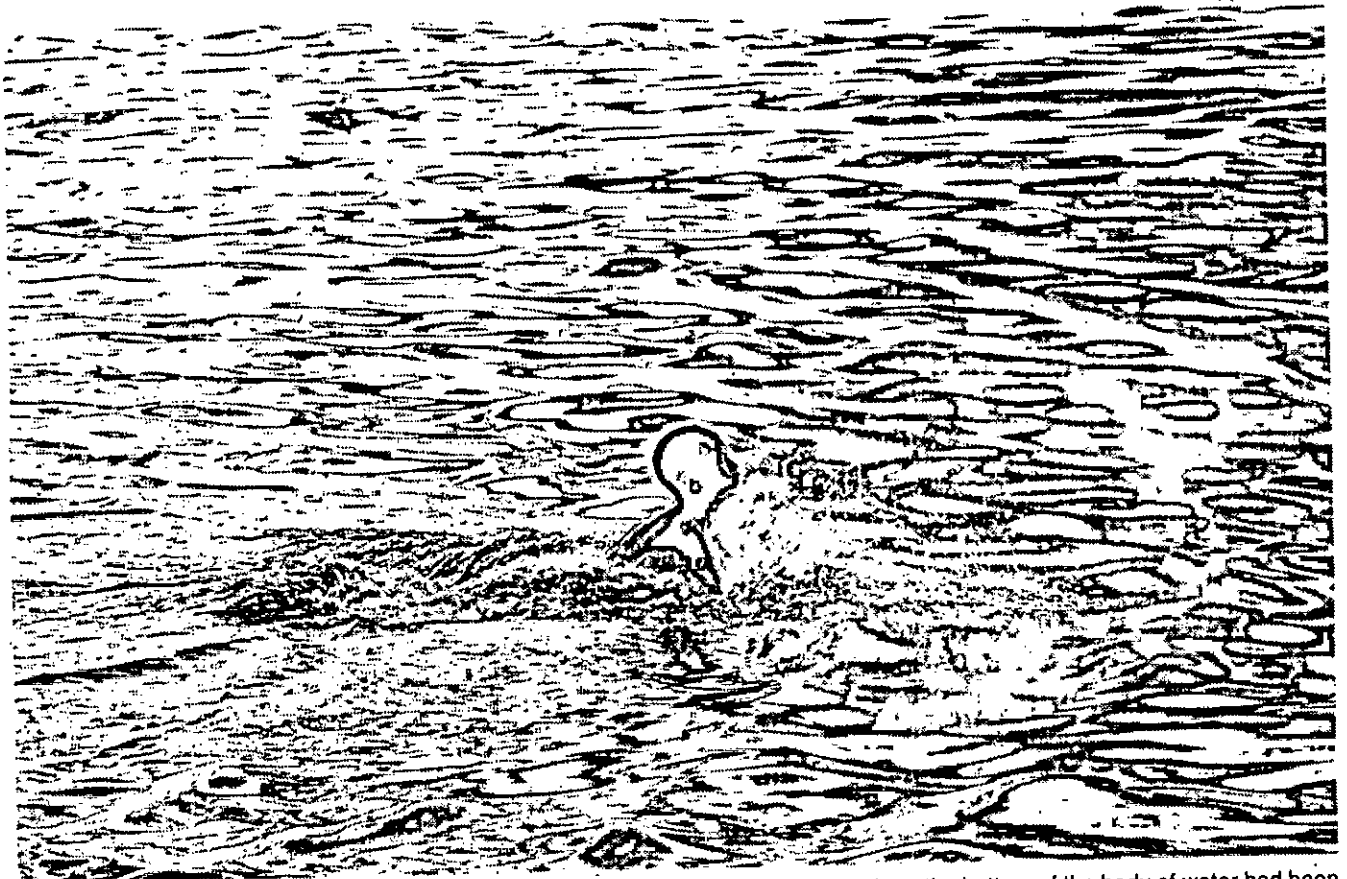
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Daily Tribune

www.DailyTribune.com



04 FEB 2013
DATE



Almost perfect Splashing in Manila Bay is near pleasant as foul odor emanating from the bottom of the body of water had been reduced.

YUMMIE DINGDING



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Abante

UNA SA BALITA

2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 FEB 2019

DATE



MANILA Bay dinagsa — Paanong mallinis ang Manila Bay kung dadagsain ng mga namamasyal ang baybayin ng Manila Bay, katulad na lamang ng tagpo kahapon? (Patrick Adalin)



TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

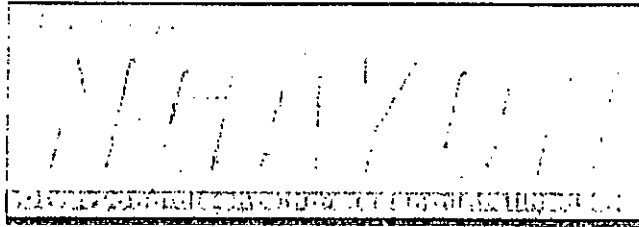
04 FEB 2010
DATE



MORE people than usual are flocking to the Manila Bay on Roxas Boulevard in Manila after photos of the results of the cleanup spread on social media. (Ali Vicoy)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



3
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTO

04 FEB 2010
DATE



Matapos malinis at maibalik ang dating ganda ng Manila Bay sa Roxas Blvd. sa Maynila, dumagsa ang mga tao sa lugar upang maligo sa kabila ng paalala ng mga otoridad na hindi pa lubusang ligtas na patiguan ito dahil sa nananatiling mataas pa rin ang antas ng fecal coliform bacteria ng tubig ng lawa. (Kuha ni Edd Gumban)



Land conversion threatens wetlands, DENR official warns

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

✉ @jonlmayuga

MASSIVE land conversions continue to threaten wetlands, an important habitat for native birds and staging ground for migratory birds, according to an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Citing the case of the Candaba Swamp, which encompasses 32,000-hectare freshwater ponds, swamps and marshes surrounded by seasonally flooded grasslands, Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez of the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) said wetlands are among the "most severely" threatened ecosystems in the world.

The DENR-BMB recently held a media tour in the Candaba Swamp as part of the country's celebration of the World Wetlands Day on February 2.

The Candaba Swamp, situated in the town of Candaba, Pampanga, is an important staging ground of migratory birds. During the rainy season, the Candaba Swamp is submerged underwater but it dries out during the months of November to April.

The DENR noted that many por-

tions of the swamp have been converted into farms by communities so they can cultivate rice and watermelon.

Wetlands, because of the misnomer that they are not important, are usually targeted for land conversion—for human settlement, for a commercial establishment, agro-industrial plantation and for purposes of food production, according to Rodriguez.

Often considered as mere "wasteland," the DENR official said wetlands are a unique ecosystem with very important ecosystem functions. She noted that wetlands help mitigate the impacts of climate change and protect vulnerable communities from disasters.

"They [wetlands] are kidneys of the Earth," Rodriguez, a forester, said.

"A well-managed healthy wetlands absorb and store excess rainfall and store it for the dry season, which helps communities cope with extreme weather events protecting them from disasters," she added.

To protect and conserve wetlands, Rodriguez said the DENR-BMB continues to implement communication, education and public awareness campaigns targeting local government units and the communities where wetlands exist.



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1800

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

6
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 FEB 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Illegal shipment of waste back in South Korea

By **CHITO CHAVEZ**

The 51 containers of illegal trash from South Korea arrived at Pyeontaek City Sunday after it was transported last Jan. 14 from the Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT) in

Misamis Oriental.

Based on the information sent by MICT Port Collector John Simon to the EcoWaste Coalition, the MV Spectrum, the ship carrying the shipment, carried the first batch of returned Korean garbage amounting to 1,400 tons.

The news drew cheers from the EcoWaste Coalition, a Quzeon City-based non-profit waste and pollution watch group in the Philippines.

"We mark this occasion as a special day to celebrate the rule of law and the reign of environmental justice, and we thank the governments and peoples of the Philippines and South Korea for making this happen," said Aileen Lucero, National Coordinator, EcoWaste Coalition.

However, Lucero said "this landmark victory is still incomplete as bulk of the dumped garbage, over 5,100 tons, are still stranded in the town of Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, posing health and environmental hazards."

The group had written Ambassador Han Dong-man last Jan. 15 to thank South Korea for its expeditious response, and to urge it to continue its positive collaboration

with the Philippine authorities to ensure the speedy re-export of the remaining garbage.

In their letter, the EcoWaste Coalition also expressed its objection to "any move to delay the repatriation of the illegal garbage cargoes or to have (them) treated or disposed of in the Philippines."

"For the last six months, the waste materials dumped in Tagoloan have been exposed to direct sunlight and rain. Many of the bags are now damaged and have to be replaced in preparation for their re-export to South Korea," Lucero said.

"To speed up their re-export, we request the South Korean government to intercede and assume responsibility for their re-bagging as the consignee has failed to do its job due to alleged lack of resources," she noted.

In July 2018, a boatload of plastic

waste materials arrived in Tagoloan. The shipment, wrongly declared as "plastic synthetic flakes," was exported by the Korean company Green Soko and consigned to a Filipino-Korean company Verde Soko.

Another batch of similar mixed waste cargoes entered the port in October 2018 bringing the total shipments to 6,500 tons. Last January 14, 51 containers, or about 1,400 tons of garbage, left MICT for PCTC.

Among the materials found in the unsorted plastic waste shipments were plastic bottles, straws, gloves, shower hose, utensils, toothbrushes, Styrofoams, wrappers, and cellophane.

Also included were textiles, wood, metal rods, vinyl tiles, broken glasses, paper boxes, spray cans, shoes, slippers, gloves, diapers, as well as electronic waste.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Manila Standard

AGI
PAGE

NEWS
Lowest

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOO

04 FEB 2010

DATE

'Piggy banks lined with toxic lead'

By Joel E. Zurbano

ENVIRONMENTALIST group Ecowaste Coalition on Sunday urged consumers to be cautious of piggy banks and pig-inspired decorations containing high levels of toxic lead, which is unsafe to the people, especially children.

The group made the warning in time for the celebration of the Chinese New Year beginning Wednesday, Feb. 5.

Ecowaste members found high concentrations of lead in three out of 10 pig-inspired coin containers and related adornments to welcome the year of the earth pig, the 12th of the Chinese zodiac animals.

"Lead-tainted ceramic piggy banks and related decors could end up in the hands of curious children who love to play with colorful and nice-looking figures," said Ecowaste chemical safety campaigner Thony Dizon.

"Lead exposure may occur if the product is broken or if its surface is chipped or corroded," he said.

As part of the group's campaign for a toxics-free Philippines, Ecowaste last week bought 10 pig-inspired items costing P35 to P200 each from retailers in the areas of Makati, Manila and Quezon City.

Based on chemical screening using a portable X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) spectrometer, three ceramic samples were found to contain 3,090, 4,929 and 5,042 parts per million (ppm) of lead, respectively.

Lead maybe attributed to the glaze used to give the products glasslike or smooth finish or to the colorful coatings used.

All the sampled products had no labels, and provided no information about their chemical composition.



04 FEB 2010

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Public warned vs toxic piggy banks

A waste and pollution watch group on Sunday warned consumers against buying lead-glazed or lead-painted piggy banks and pig-inspired decorations as the Chinese New Year celebration starts Monday, February 4.

Quezon City-based EcoWaste Coalition issued the warning after detecting high concentrations of lead in three out of 10 pig-inspired coin containers and related adornments to welcome the year of the earth pig, the 12th of the Chinese zodiac animals.

"Lead-tainted ceramic piggy banks and related decors could end up in the hands of curious children who love to play with colorful and nice-looking figures," said Thony Dizon, chemical safety campaigner of EcoWaste Coalition.

"Lead exposure may occur if the

product is broken or if its surface is chipped or corroded," he pointed out.

As part of the group's campaign for a toxics-free Philippines, the EcoWaste Coalition bought 10 pig-inspired items costing P35 to P200 each from retailers in Makati, Manila and Quezon Cities.

Based on chemical screening using a portable X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) spectrometer, three ceramic samples were found to contain 3,090, 4,929 and 5,042 parts per million (ppm) of lead, respectively.

Lead maybe attributed to the glaze used to give the products glasslike or smooth finish or to the colorful coatings used.

All the sampled products had no label, and provided no information about their chemical composition.

(Chito A. Chavez)



Cebu adopts Boracay rehab template

The initiative will be spearheaded by Cebu City Environment and Natural Resources Office which will kickstart on 22 February by cleaning Bulacao River

By Rico M. Osmeña

Using Boracay Island and Manila Bay rehabilitation programs as template and inspiration, Cebu City has scheduled a massive clean-up of its three biggest yet dirtiest and most polluted rivers.

In an interview, Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña on Sunday said they will need thousands of volunteers to ensure the success of the project.

"The project could not have come at a more appropriate time and I am elated that many people and groups have already signified their intention to help in the clean-up drive" he said.

The initiative will be spearheaded by Cebu City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CCENRO) which will kickstart on 22 February by cleaning Bulacao River.

The 11-kilometer waterway will be the first to be cleaned up because of its almost intolerable polluted condition, that if left unattended could possibly cause sickness on people living in its vicinity.

Aside from the clean-up, bio-fences are to be installed along the stretches of the river.

The bio-fences are made up of recycled plastic bottles that are wrapped in fishnets and are designed to trap garbage.

The next target will be the heavily-polluted Guadalupe River on 16 March followed by

Lahug River the following week.

Volunteers will be provided with free snacks which came from the donations from the private sector.

The CCENRO disclosed that the massive clean-ups are necessary since various rivers in the city are already dead because of pollution caused by untreated wastewater discharge from establishments and houses along the water systems.

The Environment Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-7 had classified Lahug and Bulacao Rivers as class D, which means the presence of pollutants there makes the rivers uninhabitable for water creatures especially fish.

CCENRO head Ma. Nida Cabrera said coliform contamination in the rivers is too high that it's no longer tolerable.

The other water systems considered dead are the Mahiga, Tejero, Tinago and T. Padilla creeks as well as Guadalupe River and Bulacao River.

Cabrera believes the Bulacao, Lahug and Guadalupe rivers are most polluted that can no longer sustain a healthy ecosystem and therefore will require massive rehabilitation.



Up for rehabilitation A portion of a heavily polluted waterway in Cebu City that needs massive rehabilitation and clean-up.

FILE PHOTO



Biodiversity expert to private sector: Take part in global effort vs plastic pollution

THE head of Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) Executive Director Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim called on other private companies in Southeast Asia to flight plastic pollution following the launch last month of a \$1-billion initiative by some 30 major industrial and consumer goods companies around the world for the purpose.

Lim said, "The private sector's commitment through the AEPW [Alliance to End Plastic Waste] is a very laudable action. At the present rate of threats to biodiversity, and with global Sustainable Development Goals to be met, the private sector has a huge role to play in biodiversity conservation."

Lim expressed "I hope other multinational companies, especially in the Asean region, could emulate this initiative. This move against plastic pollution by the private sector is a concrete example of integrating or 'mainstreaming' biodiversity conservation in the business sector, which is among the major thrusts of ACB."

The AEPW, which was convened by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, will fund initiatives in waste management and recycling infrastructure worldwide.

The alliance will support innovative technologies that could offer solutions to the large and growing issue of plastic pollution. Among the members of AEPW are Proctor and Gamble, Lyondell Basell, BASF, Dow and Mitsui Chemicals, Exxon Mobil, Total and Shell.

The AEPW announced that it would invest in an incubator network, run by Circulate Capital, which will help to develop innovative technologies and business models to prevent plastic waste. It would support Renew Oceans, an India-based organization that

aims to divert plastic waste from rivers.

A 2016 report from the World Economic Forum estimated that at current rates, the total weight of marine plastic will be greater than that of the fish in the oceans. Microplastics—invisible fragments of plastic waste—have been detected in many marine species, and are now in the human food chain.

Earlier in 2018, Lim lauded the Asean member-states in their continued efforts in reducing plastic wastes in the region. She cited ACB's hometown, Los Baños, Laguna, as the first-ever municipality in the Philippines to regulate use of plastic materials.

"I am happy to report that each Asean member-state has its own initiative in dealing with plastic wastes. For example, Brunei Darussalam has a campaign to stop the use of plastic bags in supermarkets by the end of 2019. In Cambodia, major supermarkets charge KHR 400 [\$0.10] per plastic bag to reduce its wasteful use. Lao PDR also encourages the public to use recyclable bags, which are being sold in downtown cafés and markets. Malaysia, Myanmar and Indonesia also implement bans and taxes on the use of plastic bags," said Lim.

Lim also reported that in Singapore, one of the world's giant players in the fast-food chain industry with 84 restaurants in the country banned the use of plastics for dine-in customers last year.

In Thailand, the government is promoting the importance of reducing the number of plastic bags to lessen the harmful effects to the environment. Large businesses and enterprises in Vietnam have introduced eco-friendly bags for shoppers, and the government imposes environment tax on plastic bags, at VND 40,000 (\$1.76) per kilogram.



This is On Me

Floro Mercene

Plastic pollution

AROUND the world, one million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute. What will happen to these bottles when the contents are empty? We have no

choice but to throw it away.

The average time for a plastic bottle to completely degrade is at least 450 years. It can even take some bottles 1000 years to biode-

grade. Half of all plastic produced is designed to be used only once. 90% of bottles aren't even recycled. The plastic waste we have generated could be with us for hundreds or even thousands of years.

PET bottles will never biodegrade. Think twice before you buy plastic bottled drinks or products packaged with single-use packaging. How much plastic waste has accumulated on earth? US researchers reported in 2015 that more than 9.1 billion tons of it has been produced

on Earth, with most dumped into landfills or the oceans.

To avert the plastic pollution more products should be sold without plastic packaging or the packaging should be reusable. We are now producing nearly 300 million tons of plastic every year, half of which is for single use. At the current pace, over 13 billion tons of plastic waste will be discarded in landfills or in the environment by 2050. While plastic has many valuable uses, we have become addicted to single-use

or disposable plastic. Disposable plastic is creating a nightmare for the planet now.

Small actions (like bringing a reusable water tumbler, reusable food containers and cutlery, eco-bag for grocery shopping) matter in the global effort to reduce plastic waste. Whenever you do end up with plastic or paper bags, reuse them as many times as possible. When you do decide to eat out, bring along a reusable container for leftovers.



Save Taal Lake to save the 'tawilis'

STORY BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA @jonlmayuga

'GULAY, bangus, tilapia kayo diyay [Please buy vegetables, milkfish, tilapia!]" shouted Jose (not his real name) as he passed by a group of people just outside a flea market in General Trias, Cavite.

Jose, an ambulant vendor, was asked by a customer if he is selling *tawilis* (bombon sardines).

"Not anymore," he said. "There's no more *tawilis*. You have to go to Batangas. If you are lucky, you might find some in the fish landing. What you see in the market today are most probably *salinyasi*. They are not from Taal [Lake]. They are saltwater fish," Jose laughed. "They are not *tawilis*. They are fake," he insisted.

'Endangered'

THE population of the *tawilis* that is endemic only in Taal Lake has been in the decline for more than a decade now. Recently assessed as "endangered" after it was included in the Red List of Threatened Species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in February 2017, the clamor to save it from extinction reverberated anew.

Officials of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Agriculture, and the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have agreed with the observation of the IUCN that the *tawilis*—the only freshwater sardine in the world—is becoming scarce because of various threats.

Overfishing, pollution and the problem brought about by invasive alien species have been identified as the threats to the *tawilis*, which is exclusively found in Taal Lake, a unique ecosystem which forms part of Taal Volcano Protected Landscape (TVPL).

Experts believe that to save the rare *tawilis*, the government intervention should also focus on saving the Taal Lake, which is itself an "endangered" ecosystem.

The TVPL is classified as highly urgent for biodiversity conservation by the DENR-BMB based on the results of the National Biodiversity Conservation Priority Setting Project jointly undertaken by the agency, in partnership with the University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies, and Conservation International-Philippines.

Tawilis is also being showcased as part of food tourism in towns around the lake, including the popular Tagaytay in Cavite, where *tawilis* delicacies are sold to local and foreign tourists eating in high-end restaurants or some small *carinderia* or eatery.

Temporary *tawilis*-fishing ban

OCEANA Philippines is calling on the DENR and the BFAR to impose a temporary fishing ban on *tawilis* in Taal Lake, to protect the species and save the livelihood of small fishers.

"The Protected Area Management Board of Taal Volcano Protected Landscape has already endorsed seasonal closure of *tawilis* to give it time to reproduce. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources proposed a three-month fishing ban on *tawilis* since 2013. The DENR and BFAR must join forces to curb the major threats to the survival

of *tawilis* and to ensure that there is sustainable management of this species," said lawyer Gloria Estenzo Ramos, vice president of Oceana Philippines, an international organization working to protect and restore the world's oceans.

Ramos added that while seasonal closure will contribute to reviving the stock, it must be supported by other fisheries management measures to ensure long-term sustainability of the area, such as tight control on fish pens, regular monitoring of water quality, prevention of invasive species and no-nonsense enforcement of environmental laws.

"Demand for *tawilis* has driven the fish to near extinction and this must be carefully studied by both scientists and resource economists," Ramos said.

Pablo Rosales, chairman of Progresibong Alyansa ng mga Mangingisda sa Pilipinas, said the overfishing of *tawilis* can be addressed by regulating the fishing activities of commercial fishers.

"The ban must focus on the commercial fishing sector. Their boats are large, and their gears are very efficient, so they catch majority of the stocks. At the same time, municipal fishers are also displaced, and left with lesser catch," Rosales added.

He said that illegal fishers in Taal Lake which operate without licenses and use destructive gears, and establishments which cause marine pollution in the area must also be held accountable.

Rosales urges the adoption of a national management framework to sustainably utilize and manage all sardine species in the country.

Data from the National Stock Assessment Program show that aside from *tawilis*, other sardine species which are harvested in the ocean, such as *Sardinella lemuru* and *Sardinella gibbosa*, or more commonly known as *tamban*, *tuloy* and *tagagak*, are also overfished.



P-2

Save Taal Lake to save the "tawilis"

"There's an urgent need to implement a science-based sardine management framework that will address issues on the overfishing of sardines, regulate the catch of juveniles, and allow sardine stocks to spawn and reproduce. The continuous encroachment of commercial fishers in municipal waters must also be addressed," Ramos said.

Oceana also welcomed the stoppage of production and voluntary withdrawal of *tawilis* products of certain companies in the market. "This goes only to show that the business sector is open to integrating sustainability as a corporate philosophy and is a much-lauded move," Ramos added.

Biodiversity loss

BESIDES *tawilis*, about 87 percent of fish species in Taal Lake had disappeared as of 1996, according to a study conducted as early as the 1920s, said AA Yaptinchay of the Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines.

"There was even a bull shark in the lake but it is now extinct," he said.

Yaptinchay said Taal is faced with problems caused by invasive alien species—both plant and fish. He noted that the major culprits are tilapia and water hyacinths. Others are the Thai catfish and Chinese soft-shelled turtles.

"Either they compete with space and food resources of the *tawilis*, or prey on them," he said.

According to Yaptinchay, the government should step in and put in place stricter regulations to address the various problems besetting the TVPL.

"There are many threats besides fishing, such as pollution and invasive species, which need to be addressed," he said, adding that all hopes are not lost in saving Taal Lake.

"If it undergoes ecological restoration, meaning clean up the pollution, remove invasive species and regulate fish catches, there is hope," he said.

'Abused, neglected economic resource'

BEING a watershed, the Taal Lake is an important economic resource for many people, particularly in Tagaytay City in the province of Cavite, and Taal lakeshore towns in the province of Batangas.

Besides its being a popular tourist destination, Taal Lake and its surrounding environment provide the people important economic resource like land for agriculture, and the lake itself for fisheries—both for small fishermen and small fish-cage operators.

The lake has a total surface area of 24,356.4 hectares, the country's third-largest lake next to Laguna de Bay and Lake Lanao.

There are close to 6,000 fish cages in various parts of Taal Lake where tilapia and *bangus* are being raised.

Around the lake are farms that make use of various pesticides and fertilizers. These agrichemicals all drain into the lake during heavy rains.

Worse, a total of 37 small rivers drain into Taal Lake, originating from Tagaytay Ridge, Talisay, Balete, Mataas na Kahoy, Alitagtag, Agoncillo and Laurel. Only one river, Pansipit River, about 8.2 kilometers long, drains Taal Lake at San Nicolas into Balayan Bay.

These rivers are all sources of pollution, particularly untreated wastewater from households with no sewer treatment plants or not connected to proper sewer lines, thereby, aggravating the

degradation of the important water body.

Protected area

PERHAPS the most popular tourist destination in the Southern Tagalog region, the TVPL was established by virtue of Proclamation 923, Series of 1996 signed on November 19, 1996.

The municipalities of Talisay, Malvar, Tanauan, Laurel, Agoncillo, Santa Teresita, Cuenca, Alitagtag, Mataas na Kahoy, Balete, San Nicolas, Lemery and Taal, and Lipa City, all in Batangas province, and Tagaytay City in Cavite province share jurisdiction and mandate over TVPL under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act.

Being a protected area and a source of income and livelihood of many fishermen, including fish-cage operators, the BFAR and BMB exercise joint regulatory powers over TVPL.

A former director of the DENR-BMB, Theresa Mundita S. Lim, said she is not surprised *tawilis* is already considered endangered.

"It has a limited range and there is anecdotal information from local folks that the fish is not as frequently seen or caught nowadays compared to more than decades ago," Lim, currently the executive director of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), said.

Stronger protection

DECLARING an area as a protected, like the Taal Landscape, should not be the end of the protection measure, the biodiversity conservation expert said.

Instead, Lim said it should give more reason for additional efforts to strengthening its protection, and the campaign to save the *tawilis* is one of those measures.

“This cannot be done by a single sector or entity alone.”—LIM



Save Taal Lake to save the "tawilis"

"As a protected area, your main goal is to maintain the ecological integrity of the landscape. And to do this, you must ensure that the various species that make the ecosystem function and sustain its capacity to provide the services the way it does, continue to exist and to thrive," she explained.

To save the *tawilis*, she said there is a need to address the various threats, holistically.

"This cannot be done by a single sector or entity alone," she noted.

"The management plan of TVPL already seeks to do this. But we need also the public, the consumers, to be more aware that if they want to continue to enjoy the scenic Taal, along with the unique taste of its endemic *tawilis* and the *maliputo*, they can also play a role by demanding for responsibly sourced/cultured fishery products from the lake," she explained.

Such public involvement, Lim said, can help make it easier to limit the fish cages and reduce unsustainable aquaculture practices, as well as illegal fishing.

In addition, she cited that pollution must also be addressed at the source.

"The LGUs [local government units], communities and the industries around the lake can also work alongside each other to keep the water quality up to standard. So perhaps we just need a rallying point for concerted action for TVPL, it could just be 'to save the *tawilis*.' The continued existence of the *tawilis* can, thus, be considered a good indicator for successful management efforts in the TVPL," she said.

Writ of Kalikasan

THE TVPL is the subject of a continuing mandamus issued by the Supreme Court in February 2012. Filed by then-Agham Party-list Rep. Angelo Palmones, the complaint aims to protect the lake from human activities, including fish-cage operation.

The Supreme Court, deciding in favor of the petition filed by the veteran radio broadcaster, referred the continuing mandamus to the Court of Appeals, which approved a memorandum of agreement reached by Palmones and the DENR.

These include strictly regulating fish-cage operation and monitoring of water quality in the lake.

Sought for comment, Palmones told the BUSINESSMIRROR the decline of the rare *tawilis* and other fish in the TVPL is a result of decades of neglect and abuse. The government intervention and program implemented in the TVPL appeared to be inadequate, Palmones said, and was not sustained.

He noted that in 2017, funding or budget allocation specifically for activities meant to help save the Taal Lake ceased.

"This is the right time to review what we have started in the TVPL," he said in a telephone interview on January 29.

Punitive action

ACCORDING to Palmones, to save the rare *tawilis* from extinction, it would require drastic measures and the complete support of various stakeholders.

The former lawmaker said overfishing, particularly by companies engaged in bottling sardines, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs), should stop.

"The continued depletion of *tawilis*, considered as an endemic treasure of the Philippines, clearly demands for punitive action on LGUs and businesses within the TVPL," he said.

According to Palmones, residents and establishments, especially livestock farms around TVPL never ceased on discharging pollutants and untreated wastewater to tributaries of the lake.

"The DENR must resume funding and empowering the PASu [Protected Area Superintendent] of TVPL to fully implement the continuing mandamus issued by the Court of Appeals in 2012 to save Taal Lake, and our *tawilis*," he said.

Rehabilitation, other measures

ACCORDING to Jose Elmer C. Bascos; Batangas Provincial Environment and Natural Resource Officer (Penro) and concurrent TVPL Protected Area superintendent, part of the continuing effort to save the *tawilis* is protecting and conserving the TVPL, particularly the Taal Lake's ecosystem.

The rehabilitation of Taal Lake, he said, is no letup even as he admitted that they need to step up measures to save the *tawilis* from extinction.

Various measures, he said, have also been introduced by concerned government agencies, including strictly limiting the number of fish cages in Taal.

Interviewed by the BUSINESSMIRROR via telephone on January 28, Bascos said as far as fisheries is concerned, the DENR-BMB, through the management of the TVPL, is working with the DA-BFAR and LGUs in implementing the Unified Fishery Rules and Regulation.

"On Thursday, we will have a stakeholders' meeting to discuss how to strengthen our protection and conservation measures for the TVPL and how to save the *tawilis*," he said.

"We are also planning to declare three areas in Taal Lake as *tawilis* conservation areas, where fishing will not be allowed," he said. The areas are the fishing grounds in Balete, San Nicolas and Cuenca town.

According to Bascos, starting this year, the management of the TVPL—which includes the various heads of agencies and LGUs comprising the Protected Area Management Board—will implement a *tawilis* closed season every March and April, the months they are known to breed, to allow the rare fish species to reproduce and replenish the lake with new stocks.

Confirming that the many rivers drain to Taal Lake, he said so far, the pollution level of Taal Lake is not as alarming as in Laguna de Bay. He said they now limit the number of fish cages in the lake to a maximum of 6,000 units and allow only floating fish feeds to reduce potential pollution.

He said he will recommend the massive rehabilitation of Taal Lake, similar to that in Boracay and Manila Bay, to further boost efforts in preventing the dumping of solid waste and untreated wastewater that find their way into rivers that drain into the lake.



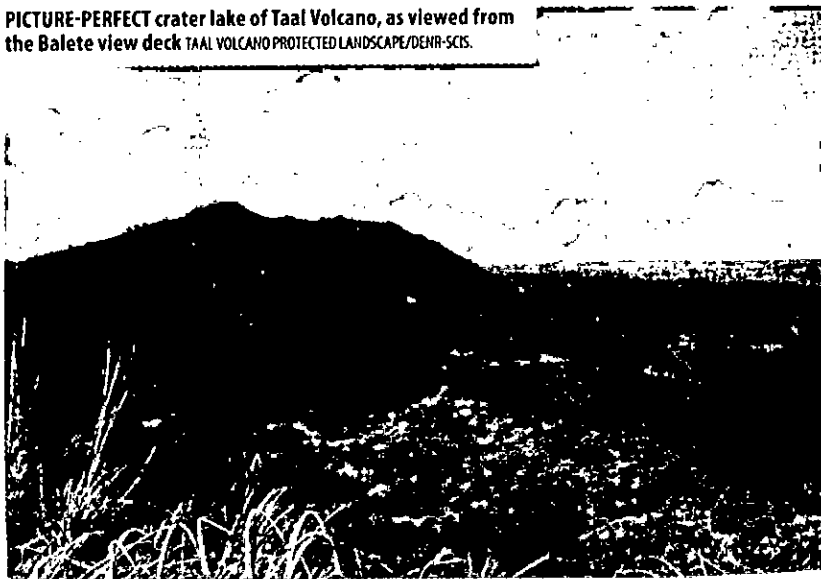
p. 4

Save Taal Lake to save the "tawilis"



THE now-endangered tawilis ARVEL MALUBAG

PICTURE-PERFECT crater lake of Taal Volcano, as viewed from the Balete view deck **TAAL VOLCANO PROTECTED LANDSCAPE/DENR-SCS.**





Malungon reforests critical riverbank



Bamboo planting in Malungon

AS part of its environmental protection program for sustainable development, the municipality of Malungon, Sarangani recently held a vast planting of bamboo seedlings along the watersides of Brgy. Upper Lumabat River to help rehabilitate the critical riverbanks which have become a source of flash flood in

the town's lowlands in recent years.

Some 5,000 bamboo seedlings were planted at a 4.2-kilometer stretch which was participated by municipal officials and employees, local police, civil society groups, people's organizations and local townsfolk.

The municipal government also signed a memorandum of agree-

ment (MoA) with the Brgy. Upper Lumabat council for the bamboo growing project, which will also be a potential income-generating project.

The bamboo reforestation is part of the 11th Slang Festival, which showcases the way of life of the Blaan and Tagakaulo indigenous people through dance,

music and sporting events.

A first-class municipality, Malungon is a touristic town known for the ecotourism and cultural sites such as the Lamlifew Cultural Village and School of Living Traditions, the Kalon Barak Skyline Ridge, and a couple of agri and farm tourism sites.



Metro Pacific shores up Balayan Bay ecosystem



Eco-Mer and Divers Institute of Technology consultant William McGillton, MPIC Foundation president Melody Del Rosario, and marine ecology expert Prof. Avigdor Abelson from the Tel Aviv University in Israel are shown prior to the underwater deployment of eco-reef modules.

As part of its corporate social responsibility, Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) Foundation, through its Shore It Up program, recently received a donation of 40 eco-reef modules, which will be installed in Balayan Bay, one of the country's top scuba diving destinations.

Since 2016, MPIC Foundation has been nurturing a Coral Restoration Field Laboratory in Bgy. Solo in Mabini, Batangas to help restore the marine ecosystem of the area.

Over the past two years, it has laid 12 modules, which have provided valuable data to help in the flourishing of aquatic life in the barangay.

MPIC vice president for PR and corporate communications Melody Del Rosario shares that Shore It Up started in 2009 as a coastal cleanup movement in the Anilao dive spot. The award-winning program has since expanded into a comprehensive marine biodiversity conservation program to cover underwater cleanups, mangrove propagation, giant clam rearrangement, artificial reef restoration, and community livelihood projects.

Coral restoration, she added, is one way of responding to the effects of climate change and helping work on solutions for the sustainable use of the sea as a source of food and livelihood for fishermen and ocean stakeholders.

Shore It Up has been held in key coastal areas such as Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro; Subic Bay Freeport Zone; Hundred Islands National Park in Alaminos City, Pangasinan; Del Carmen in Siargao Island; Panglao and Pamilacan Islands in Bohol; Surigao City; Medina, Misamis Oriental; and Cordova, Cebu.

To sustain its environmental undertakings, the foundation has also helped establish Mangrove Propagation and Information Centers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao which can be located in Alaminos City, Pangasinan and Del Carmen, Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte and the third in Cordova Cebu.