

08 FEB 2019

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Friday

# DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



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## Attitude change needed at bay

Cimatu itemizes budget allocation

By Kuhlín Ceslle Gacula

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu expressed belief yesterday that a change in mindset is needed if the pollution-bedeveled Manila Bay is to be restored and preserved.

"If they ask me what's the most difficult part in rehabilitating Manila Bay, I would say it is changing our people's behavior and attitude," Cimatu said.

He, however, said the seeming enthusiasm and willingness shown by 5,000 people at the start of the clean-up

last 27 January showed there's hope that change will come.

President Rodrigo Duterte has allocated P42 billion for the bay's clean-up in the next three years.

According to Cimatu, around P6 billion or roughly 14 percent of the allocation will be used for clean-up activities and to underwrite an information and education campaign.

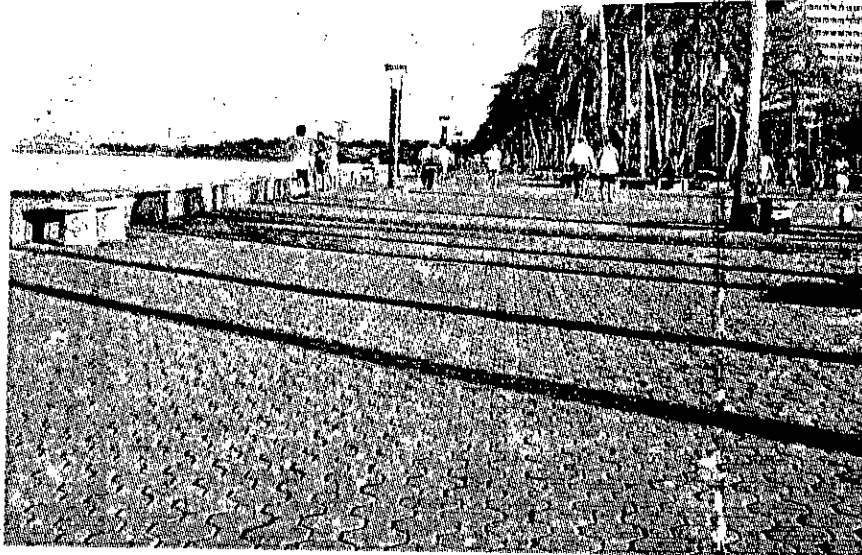
The remaining P36 billion will be spent in relocating and providing support systems to informal settlers contributing

to the bay's pollution.

At least 13 government agencies, given a standing order by the Supreme Court in 2008 to make Manila Bay's waters fit for swimming, are participating in what had been dubbed "Battle for Manila Bay."

"The more difficult part is the relocation of over 220,000 households. But the most difficult is to maintain and sustain its clean condition for the next generation," Cimatu said.

Fecal coliform level in Manila Bay, prior to the launch of the rehabilitation program, was recorded at 330 million mpn (most probable number) per 100 milliliters (ml). The acceptable level for coastal swimming is 100mpn/100 ml.



**Getting there** The coliform levels at Manila Bay are going down, but it's still not safe to swim in its waters.

FILE PHOTO.



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1898

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## DBP offers assistance for Manila Bay clean-up

State-run Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) is prepared to provide the necessary financing to all establishments located near Manila Bay in support of the National Government's efforts to rehabilitate the area, a senior official said yesterday.

DBP President and Chief Executive Officer Cecilia C. Borromeo said the bank's loan programs on environment protection and its experience in bankrolling water treatment and sanitation projects would be beneficial to companies seeking to

comply with existing environment rules and regulations.

"DBP is ready to provide the necessary financial and technical assistance to all establishments near or along the coast of Manila Bay to ensure compliance to environmental laws and regulations," Borromeo said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently spearheaded a massive clean-up of the 2,000 square kilometer Manila Bay, which has degraded over the years due to domestic sewage, toxic industrial effluents and leachate from dumps.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Malaya Business Insight



08 FEB 2019

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## ATI backs Manila Bay rehab

ASIAN Terminals Inc. (ATI), operator of international gateway port Manila South Harbor, expressed readiness to support multisectoral efforts, led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), to bring Manila Bay back to its glory days.

"Protecting the sea is of paramount importance to ATI. Ensuring the sustainability of Manila Bay, a major livelihood source for the community and a vital trade waterway for the country, is key to a vibrant economy," said ATI executive vice president William Khoury.

"We are ready to support government in this gargantuan effort, on top of initiatives we have already institutionalized in our own private capacity for the bay's preservation," he added.

As part of its comprehensive Environment Management System, ATI has long been using two wastewater treatment fa-



ATI employee volunteers take part in DENR's "Manila Bay-arhan" Program kick-off recentl, a multisectoral campaign to resuscitate the Manila Bay.

ilities, including oil and water separators, to cure effluents generated during cleaning of port equipment and facilities. Treated water are then reused for other purposes. A third wastewater treatment facility is set to be completed within the year.

In 2017, ATI invested in its own inflatable oil spill boom system, ready for

deployment in case of a maritime spill. The port's Emergency Response Team is on-duty 24/7 to immediately contain spills, while an accredited third-party responder in on-call should incidents so require.

ATI's other infrastructure and initiatives include the provision of emergency shut-off valves at the terminal drains, partnership with Bantay Kalikasan (Nature Watch) for recycling

and disposal of used vehicle batteries and tapping of solid waste haulers accredited by the DENR.

The port company also uses its own resources in regularly clearing flotsam washed along the port's shores, while sending hundreds of employee volunteers to coastal clean-up drives.



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**PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT**  
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## Manila Bay: Beyond the cleanup

**T**he recently launched cleanup of Metro Manila's "toilet bowl" has been long overdue. It actually would not have been needed if only its care and management were not fragmented as it is.

There are 5,714 barangays in 178 cities and towns in seven provinces (Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan and Zambales) in three regions that throw their waste into Manila Bay. These local government units (LGUs) are at the forefront in the issuance (or nonissuance) of building permits, occupancy permits and business licenses, as well as the enforcement (or nonenforcement) of environmental and sanitation regulations.

Sure, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and other government agencies are involved, too, but it is the LGUs that are empowered by the Local Government Code and other laws to police their territories with regard to polluting establishments and informal settlements.

As Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said at the launching of the cleanup, "... the required effort (for Manila Bay) will be about 330 times more (than Boracay)." He was referring to Manila Bay's total area of 1,994 square kilometers and a coastline of 190 km—equivalent to 1,700 Boaracays. The cleanup also requires the relocation and resettlement of some 40,000 informal settlers living around the bay, and dealing with the polluted waters from several rivers such as the Talisay (Bataan), Pampanga, Meycauayan-Marilao-Obando, Navotas-Malabon-Tullahan-Tenejeros, Pasig-Marikina-San Juan, Parañaque-Zapote, and Imus (Cavite) that flow into the bay.

The deteriorated condition of Manila Bay is not the result of oversight, but rather the continuous discharge into the bay and

### COMMENTARY

NATHANIEL VON EINSIEDEL



**THE PLAN, IF IT IS TO  
BE EFFECTIVE, HAS  
TO BE MULTISECTORAL,  
MULTILEVEL, MULTIYEAR AND  
EVEN MULTIGENERATIONAL.  
AND IT HAS TO BE  
SUFFICIENTLY FUNDED**

its rivers of untreated wastewater, garbage, industrial effluents, agricultural runoffs, and toxic oils over the past decades. With the continuous increase in population, urbanization and industrialization in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Calabarzon, Manila Bay is facing major issues arising from conflicts in the use of the bay and its natural resources, continued decline in the quality of the bay waters, and rapid destruction of its marine habitats. What was once a beacon of beauty with its glorious sunset is now a stinking cesspool of uncleanness.

While national agencies such as the DENR, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the LLDA have started to close down polluting establishments, including government offices, it is

not clear if there is an overall plan to guide all the different actions that are required, as well as to coordinate the efforts of all the stakeholders concerned, especially the barangays and the LGUs. It took several months for the Boracay cleanup to formulate a plan, and it was not even complete. And the magnitude of the Boracay case is miniscule compared to Manila Bay.

Resettling 40,000 informal settlers alone requires a major plan of its own. Requiring hundreds of thousands of business establishments to construct wastewater treatment plants is a massive challenge. And synchronizing the environmental infrastructure improvements of the numerous LGUs and national agencies concerned can be a very frustrating exercise. Orchestrating all these interrelated actions needs a comprehensive plan, as well as continuity of policy and funding.

The plan, if it is to be effective, has to be multisectoral, multilevel, multiyear and even multigenerational. And it has to be sufficiently funded. We have to look beyond the ongoing cleanup. The individual LGUs have crucial roles to play, but they cannot and should not be left on their own, lest parochial interests take priority over what collectively needs to be done.

Sustained cooperation and collaboration among the concerned national agencies and LGUs is critical. Continuity and performance targets should be established beyond individual political boundaries and presidential terms of office. Solving Manila Bay's problems will be better if acted on together.

Nathaniel von Einsiedel (nveinsiedel@gmail.com) is the former commissioner for planning of Metro Manila. He served as regional director for Asia-Pacific of the United Nations Urban Management Program, and is currently principal urban planner of Concepcion Inc.



## COMMONSENSE MARICHU A. VILLANUEVA

### Winning the war vs garbage

If we are to trace the historical roots of the present murky waters at the Manila Bay, blame it on the debris, junk and trash that have accumulated through the years and got buried in this body of water. As of present estimate by environmental experts, the deposits of sludge, mud, muck, filth, silt etc. have thickened up two to three meters below the waters of the Manila Bay.



Given the magnitude of the heavy siltation and pollution of this body of water, it is indeed a "tall order" for Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu to clean up and restore life to the moribund state of this iconic site of the Manila Bay sunset. President Rodrigo Duterte gave this ginormous task to the DENR Secretary.

Cimatu was designated to head the inter-agency task force to clean up and rehabilitate Manila Bay. Now popularly called as the "Battle of Manila Bay," Cimatu vows to wage this war against garbage and the culprits and the sources of the filth.

"We have to do what we have to do," Cimatu declared at the *Kapighan sa Manila Bay* last Wednesday.

The Manila Bay waters are considered the most polluted in the country due to domestic sewage, toxic industrial effluents from factories and shipping operations, and leachate from garbage dumps, among others. Water monitoring stations that were set up along the bay area have registered levels to as high as 330 million most probable number (mpn) per 100 milliliters.

The standard coliform level for coastal waters which is safe for swimming and other similar recreational activities is only at 100 mpn/100 ml. Swimming into waters with high fecal coliform levels could cause serious diseases not just of the skin but could also be fatal if it enters human body by ingestion.

While he was only too happy to see the "influx" of people back to the Manila Bay and frolic into the waters, Cimatu warned it is still premature to swim there.

**"We have to do what we have to do," Cimatu declared at the *Kapighan sa Manila Bay* last Wednesday.**

True to his words, Cimatu headed off to the Baywalk in Roxas Boulevard after attending our *Kapighan sa Manila Bay* weekly breakfast news forum. He checked the on-going fencing of the Bay area that has been turned into instant public swimming grounds. This was several days after 45 tons of garbage were hauled and cleared out of its waters.

He noted with a glimmer of hope that water monitoring stations set up along the Bay area reported that fecal coliform levels got reduced to as much as 35 million mpn per 100 milliliters, taken from the Rajah Soliman outfall, or Station 5. This is the area near the Manila Zoo which was temporarily shut down to install a water treatment system for the animal waste discharge.

"We have not yet gotten rid of pollutants such as those from untreated wastewater being discharged into the Bay. So we strongly advise the public, especially children, to refrain from swimming for now," Cimatu appealed.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), a member of the task force, started the first phase of the clean up to de-silt Manila Bay waters in order to remove the 40- to 50-year-old sludge and garbage at the bottom of the Bay.

DENR Undersecretary Sherwin Rigor disclosed during our *Kapighan sa Manila Bay* the DPWH will install "rubberized" diversion drainage along the Baywalk area through which wastewater flowing from the three esteros connected to Roxas Boulevard drainage will pass through. Rigor described this 1.5-kilometer drainage system at the Baywalk area as stretching from the United States embassy all the way to the Manila Yacht Club where a water treatment plant will be constructed by the DPWH.

On the other hand, the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) has set up eight water quality monitoring stations along Roxas Boulevard, between the US embassy and the Manila Yacht Club. Cimatu called for private sector support to the task force. Initially, the task force was looking at P45 billion of available funds to bankroll this year the Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

According to Cimatu, only 15 percent of the water-served population in the National Capital Region (NCR) are connected to a sewerage system with either the Maynilad Water Services Inc. or the Manila Water Co. Inc. But more than 200,000 informal settler families - the politically correct term for squatters - residing in esteros and riverbanks discharge human wastes at the waterways that eventually end up at the Manila Bay.

Under their concession contracts with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), Cimatu was informed the two concessionaires are already scouting for government land space to speed up the construction of additional water treatment plants in these unserved areas.

Aside from national government agencies like the DENR and the DPWH, local government units (LGUs) in NCR, Bataan, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, and Pampanga and private concessionaires like Maynilad and Manila Water were impleaded in the mandamus issued by the Supreme Court (SC) on Dec. 8, 2008 "to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay in their different capacities." On Feb. 15, 2011, the SC issued a continuing mandamus to all concerned to comply with the order after taking to task these government agencies for lack of implementation of the High Court order.

So through these years, it is only now that the Manila Bay rehabilitation is getting this all-out implementation by the government. Cimatu's latest task came after the "cess-pool" clean up of the Boracay island resort. Cimatu was earlier part of the inter-agency task force on Boracay that closed down booming tourism business at the entire resort island last year for six months during its rehabilitation.

In the case of the Bay area rehabilitation, Cimatu assuaged the public there would be no closure of the picture-perfect Manila Bay sunset except for the "no swimming" for now restrictions.

From Boracay to *Burak-ay* (rough translation sludge), Cimatu also intends to win this war to remove garbage out of the Manila Bay. But where and how, the devil is in the details. Otherwise, it will get a "not in my backyard" retort.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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# How to rehabilitate Manila Bay



**VIRTUAL REALITY**  
**TONY LOPEZ**

IN 1975, ENVIRONMENTAL planner Architect Felino “Jun” Palafox and colleagues with the Planning and Project Development Office of the Department of Public Works, Transportation, and Communication unveiled the Manila Bay Metropolitan Region Strategic Plan.

They emphasized the importance of not only focusing on the metropolitan area but targeting the provinces and cities beyond. This is why the MBMR comprises Manila and the provinces of Rizal, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna, Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan, and Zambales.

Back in 1975, planners had identified how economic development and social uplift must transpire simultaneously with environmental protection and cultural advancement. Until today, Manila Bay holds a primary role in the Philippines’ economic growth as the area.

The National Capital Region and Regions 3 and 4 contribute approximately 55 percent of the nation’s output of goods and services or GDP. The bulk of Philippine trade goes through the port of Manila.

Manila Bay, therefore, is the heart and economic lifeblood of the nation. However, there are 250,000 squatter families or 1.25-million people along the bay’s 190-km shoreline.

That scales up the cost of rehabilitation and eats up a substantial chunk of the P47-billion budgeted for cleanup. Palafox laments that in spite of its economic and cultural endowment, Manila Bay’s environment has been deteriorating at an alarming rate.

It is severely polluted with marine, domestic, industrial, and commercial waste—threatening marine life and the livelihoods primarily dependent on the Bay’s resources. Per recent water samples tested by the DENR, Manila Bay’s coliform level is 330 million MPN—exceptionally way beyond the acceptable level of less than 100 MPN! Palafox estimates rehab of Manila Bay could take at least five years, and the government agencies and LGUs tasked with rehabilitating Manila Bay need all the help they can get from the private and social sectors.

Palafox has some ideas on how to clean up Manila Bay. First, the formulation of a comprehensive master plan is immensely

crucial. Rehabilitation must be cohesive, integrated into an overall framework.

Do not focus on the metropolitan region alone because this would not address the root causes of environmental degradation in adjacent areas. Second, stricter environmental regulations must also be implemented in Pasig River, Laguna Lake, San Juan River, Marikina River, and Pampanga River because a great number of violators can be found here, and waste disposed on these bodies of water flow into Manila Bay.

Third, waterfronts. The waterfront is a major community resource, there must be urban waterfront developments that can enhance people’s quality of life in all aspects.

Esplanades, promenades, and linear parks are great waterfront public spaces that have an invigorating effect to a city’s image and sense of place. These structures should be walkable, bikable, and well-lit with minimal environmental impact, ultimately enhancing community health and development while interconnecting our fragmented metropolis.

**“Economic development and social uplift must transpire simultaneously with environmental protection and cultural advancement.”**

“Remarkable public spaces are what make cities great,” notes Palafox. He cites the Central Park in New York, the Eiffel Tower in Paris, Las Ramblas in Barcelona, and Trafalgar Square in London.

Among the world’s best waterfronts are Amsterdam’s and Denmark’s picturesque waterways; Venice’s famous canals, Sydney Harbour, the Bay of Naples, Dubai’s waterfront developments, and the French Riviera’s famous beachfronts. “We should follow best practices abroad where waterfronts, including inland waterways, are treated as prime locations and can be enjoyed by all—not as places for waste disposal,” insists Palafox.

Fourth, the triple bottomline—people first, planet Earth, and then the economy. Informal settlers near the waterfront of Manila Bay and other waterways should be relocated and provided with decent housing.

Fifth, easements. Once the waterfront is cleared, standard easements should be strictly applied: 50 meters for the coastline of Manila Bay, 10 meters for all rivers, and 3.5 meters for esteros or estuaries.

Sewage treatment plants and sewer interceptors can lower the coliform level, and establishments must be connected to sewer pipelines that will collect sewage before reaching the waterways. In terms of connectivity, the Manila Bay Metropolitan Region has high development.

Sixth, establish a more efficient water transportation system that can improve accessibility and linkage between regions. Pasig River and Pampanga River can be dredged, so these can be more navigable.

Well-known major waterways that were dredged to improve navigation of commercial shipping are the Thames River, Dubai Creek, and the Suez Canal. Palafox’s recommendations can help Manila Bay’s rehabilitation to become more sustainable well into the future for the present and coming generations to enjoy.

In its 2008 ruling mandating Manila Bay’s cleanup (G.R. Nos. 171947-48), the Supreme Court said: At the core of the case is the Manila Bay, a place with a proud historic past, once brimming with marine life and, for so many decades in the past, a spot for different contact recreation activities, but now a dirty and slowly dying expanse mainly because of the abject official indifference of people and institutions that could have otherwise made a difference.

The high court cited these laws and principles to assert its right in ordering the cleanup of Manila Bay: (1) Respondents constitutional right to life, health, and a balanced ecology; (2) The Environment Code (PD 1152); (3) The Pollution Control Law (PD 984); (4) The Water Code (PD 1067); (5) The Sanitation Code (PD 856); (6) The Illegal Disposal of Wastes Decree (PD 825); (7) The Marine Pollution Law (PD 979); (8) Executive Order No. 192; (9) The Toxic and Hazardous Wastes Law (Republic Act No. 6969); (10) Civil Code provisions on nuisance and human relations; (11) The Trust Doctrine and the Principle of Guardianship; and (12) International Law

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## Thoughts on Manila Bay clean-up

**“The true significance of this project is how it has breathed life into a decision issued by the Judicial branch.”**

A lot has been said about the ongoing Manila Bay clean-up. The pictures online speak the truth – and it is off to a good start. Naysayers and critics make noise that this is all a farce, that similar clean-ups have done the same before and this is destined to fail. Of them all, I am most disappointed to see how revered Carlos Celdran, now self-exiled in Madrid, has been publishing discouraging posts on how this is a mere band-aid solution and that how people should think long-term – Not helpful at all.

Those pulling the project down have been purposely ignorant that the clean-up will indeed take years, until 2022 to be exact, pursuant to the Operational Plan for the Manila Bay Coastal Strategy and will cost billions which have already been allocated by the government. And, for reference, they should see how the Boracay clean-up has impacted the environmental cleanliness and raw aesthetic beauty of the island paradise. After being labelled as a “cesspool” by the President, it is fast gaining back its reputation as a pristine white beach island with waters clean enough for babies to bathe in.

Indeed, the success of the Boracay clean-up last year was enough for the President to direct Secretary Roy Cimatu to do the same for Manila Bay. Now with more experience and a script for success, Cimatu is trailblazing this effort like a man on a mission. There may have been many critics of this administration and its policies but there have been few, if not, nonexistent opposition or criticism to the results of the actions and efforts of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in saving and rehabilitating the environment.

The effectiveness of the secretary in leading the DENR is this administration’s best example of why the President puts his trusts in military men, regardless of the mandate of the office. Their discipline and accuracy



**QUO VADIS**  
Darren M. de Jesus

in accomplishing their mission allow this administration to simply get things done. Something tells me that Sen. Gregorio Honasan will do the same once he takes the helm of Department of Information and Communication Technology, albeit armed with his Jurassic phone.

The Manila Bay clean-up has garnered a lot of support. House Committee on Ecology chairman Rep. Dakila Cua said it well, on behalf of the House of Representatives, to wit: “The Committee of Ecology and its members fully support the rehabilitation. As part of the whole-of-government approach, we are open to proposing legislation to complement the efforts of the Executive.”

As for the Senate, it is definitely Sen. Cynthia Villar who is most delighted since this clean-up stands to benefit her district, Las Piñas, and for her two ongoing projects related to and most affected by this: the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park and Villar Social Institute for Poverty Alleviation and Governance at the Baseco Compound in Manila.

Definitely, the clean-up has been having great success with the proactive participation of the Executive and Legislative branches but the true significance of this project is how it has breathed life into a decision issued by the Judicial branch. In 2008, the Supreme Court (SC) issued *MMDA v. Concerned Citizens of Manila Bay*, G.R. 171947-48, where the High Court of the land issued a continuing *mandamus* to compel government agencies to preserve and protect Manila Bay. Penned by now retired Associate Justice Presbiterio Velasco Jr., the

decision is a thorough discussion on the sorry state of Manila Bay more than a decade ago and how it may be best protected. May I invite Carlos Celdran and other naysayers to read this excerpt from the decision:

“The clean-up and/or restoration of Manila Bay is only an aspect and the initial stage of the long-term solution. The preservation of the water quality of the bay after the rehabilitation process is as important as the cleaning phase. It is imperative then that the wastes and contaminants found in the rivers, inland bays and other bodies of water be stopped from reaching Manila Bay. Otherwise, any clean-up effort would just be a futile, cosmetic exercise, for in no time at all, the Manila Bay water quality would again deteriorate below the ideal minimum standards set by PD 1152, RA 9275 and other relevant laws.... Under what other judicial discipline describes as continuing *mandamus*, the Court may, under extraordinary circumstances, issue directives with the end in view of ensuring that its decision would not be set to naught by administrative inaction or indifference. In India, the doctrine of continuing *mandamus* was used to enforce directives of the court to clean up the length of the Ganges River from industrial and municipal pollution.”

Truly, this SC directive via continuing *mandamus* is nearing full circle, from its first RTC hearing held at the Manila Yacht Club and its ocular inspection thereafter to a celebrated clean-up drive attended by the administration’s top officials. I pray for the success of Secretary Cimatu and his men at the DENR. Though there may be some supposed and unverified underlying agenda for this clean-up (i.e., reclamation in Manila, airport city in Cavite), these are the by-products of an administration that is capable of producing results. Big businesses follow effective leaders, after all.

When all this is done, I hope that the President still has time to give Secretary Cimatu his next mission, to which I offer a humble suggestion: the Pasig River clean-up.

Email: darren.dejesus@dejesuslegal.com





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**EDITORIAL**

# No-swimming area

**T**HE seaside promenade along Manila Bay is a must-see destination among tourists and the general public because of its spectacular sunset view.

But it must not be used as a staging ground for any swimming or recreation activity, until Manila Bay is completely rehabilitated and declared pollution-free.

Cleaning up Manila Bay, including the two-kilometer promenade area that stretches from the US Embassy near Rizal Park up to the Cultural Center of the Philippines just past the Manila Yacht Club, may take years before it can be declared safe for swimming.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is closing the Manila Baywalk for swimming activity at least for the next six months by installing a perimeter fence along the beachfront.

This stretch of coastline is un-

derstandably popular among slum dwellers and the poor in Metro Manila because of its proximity.

Piles of trash in the area and heavy pollution, however, have prevented the public from enjoying the seaside promenade and dipping into the water.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said while fecal coliform count in the swimming area of Manila Bay had improved to 7.5 million most probable number per 100 millimeters from 330 million mpn before the start of the cleanup drive, it was still far from being safe.

The standard coliform level for coastal waters safe for swimming and other similar recreational activities is at only 100 mpn/100m.

The rehabilitation of Manila Bay will not be an easy task because it will require the cooperation of several local government units of Laguna, Cavite and Metro Manila in the south to the provinces of Bulacan, Pangasinana and Bataan in the north.

Thousands of commercial establishments operating along Laguna de Bay, Pasig River and other estuaries that empty into Manila Bay will also have to be policed to assure the cleanup.

Manila Bay has become an ecological disaster after many establishments and informal settlers along Metro Manila's waterways dumped untreated water and waste into the tributaries that ended up in the bay.

The cleanup job is one environmental task that should receive a status of national significance, similar to vital energy projects defined by Executive Order No. 30.

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## Kalidad ng tubig sa Manila Bay, bumubuti – DENR

**· TODO** paalala parin ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa publiko na hindi pa rin ligtas na maligo o lumangoy sa Manila Bay.

Ito'y sa kabila ng ulat ng kagawaran na unti-unti na raw bumubuti ang kali-

dad ng tubig sa look dahil sa naitalang pagbaba ng lebel ng fecal coliform.

Ayon kay DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, batay sa kanilang pagsusuri, bumaba na raw ang coliform level sa ilang lugar sa paligid ng Manila Bay gaya ng Manila Yacht Club, at mga area malapit sa mga kalye ng Padre Faura at Remedios sa lungsod.

Sa yacht area, mayroon na lamang daw 52 million most probable number (MPN) ng coliform sa bawat 100 milliliters.

Ito raw ay mas mababa kumpara sa 1.3 billion MPN na kanilang naitala bago magsimula ang rehabilitasyon.

Habang sa bay area na-

man na malapit sa Padre Faura, mayroon na lamang 7.9 million MPN mula 330 million MPN; at 35 million MPN mula 160 million MPN naman sa Remedios.

Paliwanag ni Cimatu, ang nasabing mga lugar umano ay kabilang sa mga nagpadumi sa Manila Bay.

Samantala, iginiit ng kalinim na ang nagpapatuloy na rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay ay hindi umano pambungad sa umano'y reklamasyon sa lugar.

Katwiran ni Cimatu, kanila lamang ipinatutopad ang inilabas na mandamus ng Corte Suprema noong 2008 na nag-aatas sa paghilinis at pangangalaga sa look.



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# Balita

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**IMBESTIGADoVe**

Dave M. Veridiano, E.E.

## 'Kplastikan' ang mas lalason sa Manila Bay!

**W**ALANG pagsidlan ang naramdaman kong kaligayahan sa nakita kong pagsasaya ng mga kababayan natin na gustong magtampisaw at mag-swimming sa "bagong linis" na Manila Bay. Ngunit saghit lang ang pagsasaya kong ito na agad nahalinhan ng sambakol na simangot, dala nang pagkadismaya sa narinig kong hinaing ng ilang mangingisda na nakihalubilo sa nagtipun-tipon na mamamayan sa aplaya.

"Nalinis nga nila ang Manila Bay mula sa burak ng mapanirang plastic na itinatapon ng mga salaulang kababayan natin, pero ang mas nakatatakot-- ay 'yung "kaplastikan"

ng mga opisyal ng gobyerno, na magdadala ng mas makamandag na lason sa makasaysayang look na ito sa ating bansa," ang narinig ko sa isang mangingisda na ang tanging ipinambubuhay sa kanyang pamilya ay ang pamamalakaya sa Manila Bay.

Nang mag-usisa ako sa grupo ng mga mangingisdang ito, mabigat ang kanilang naging alegasyon laban sa mga opisyal ng pamahalaan na nagpasimuno sa biglang paglilinis ng Manila Bay.

"Ginastusan ng milyones ang paglilinis, 'yun pala susundan lang ito ng 43 reclamations-- 'di ba malaking kaplastikan ang pinaggagagawa nilang iyan? Ang mahal siguro ng naging dahilan kaya agad na ipinatupad ang kabulastugang ito ng ating gobyerno," ang may panunudyong dagdag pa ng isang nakatatanda sa grupo.

Ang sinasabi nilang "makamandag na kaplastikan" na mas lalason at sisira sa Manila Bay ay ang nagbabantang "43 reclamation project" ng pamahalaan, sa lugar na may sukat na 265 hectares, sa nasasakupan ng Pasay City.

Naka-plano nang tayuan ang mare-reclaimed na lugar ng isang malawak na commercial complex na tatawaging "The Pearl Harbor City" -- at siyempre pa, ang magpapatakbo nito ay grupo ng mga

negosyanteng umano' malapit sa Duterte Administration.

Sa tingin ko, alam na alam ng mga mangingisdang ito ang kanilang pinagsasabi dahil sa malalim at maraming detalye ang mga hinuhugot nilang impormasyon na isa-isa nilang binanggit sa akin nang malaman na isa akong kolumnista ng pahayagang Balita.

Ang hinala nila, sino-short cut ng mga opisyal sa Palasyo ng Malakanyang ang napipintong 43 reclamation ng 264 hectares na lugar sa Manila Bay, at ang paglilinis na ginagawang ayon sa aplaya ay isang "parlilito" lamang upang 'di mapansin ng mga mamamayan ang napipintong reklamasyon sa lugar.

Ang sinasabi nilang pag-short cut ay binubuo nang paglipat ng Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) sa ilalim ng Malakanyang mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), at ang biglang pagtanggap din sa papel ng National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) sa pagbalangkas ng panuntunan sa gagawing 43 reclamation project sa Manila Bay.

"Tila umano nakatibag ang dalawang ahensiya sa mabilis na pag-e-execute ng plano sa Manila Bay kaya minabuti na lang na ma-echapwera ang dalawang ahensiya.

Ganito rin ang hinala ng ilang

mambabatas, sa pangunguna nina Mi party-list Rep Gary Alejano at Anak party-list Rep Ariel "Ka Ayik" Casil kapwa nagdududa sa motibo ni Pang Duterte sa paglipat ng dalawang tang sa ilalim ng kanyang opisina.

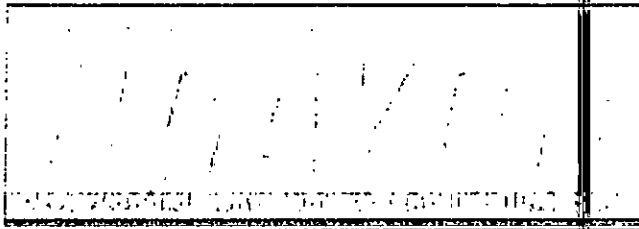
Mas lalo pang lumalim ang I ng pag-short-cut sa proyektong ito ipalabas ng Palasyo ang Executive No. 74 na sumusuporta sa pagpapab 43 reclamation sa Manila Bay.

"There is a need to ratio the approval process for reclan projects towards an economically environmentally sustainable res development," ang sabi ng isang bah EO 74.

Ang pinangalanan ng mga mambi at maging ng mga mangingisda nakaututang dila ko sa aplaya ng Manila Bay, ay marami nang nakomer na bil na negosyo mula sa administrasyong

Ang may hinanakit na pahabol r ng mga mangingisda sa Manila Bay: "na nga makapamalakaya ang mga k namin sa Panatag Shoal dahil sa reklan du'n, ngayon pati rito sa Manila B matagal na naming teritoriyo, ay maw na rin."

Mag-text at tumawag sa 09369953459 o mag-email sa: daveria@yahoo.com

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## Mayors na nagpabaya sa Manila Bay, parusahan!

ANG lansangan at kapaligiran ay repleksyon ng estilo ng pangangasiwa. Either ang nakaupo ay ginagawa ang kanyang trabaho bilang pinuno o kaya'y nagpapalaki lang ng bombolyas. Kapag ang isang lokal na pamahalaan ay nagpabaya sa kanyang tungkulin, makikita ang epekto sa lansangan. Sa garapalang pagsasalaula sa Manila Bay, makikita ang pagiging inutil ng mga mayor na nakakasakop sa lugar.

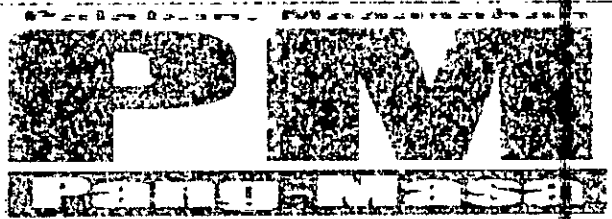
Matagal nang sakit sa ulo ang Manila Bay, panahon pa ni P-Noy at Gloria. Nagdaan ang pagkahaba-habang termino, Walang nagawa sa puwesto. Imbes na bumuti, lumala pa ang sitwasyon. Naging normal na tanawin na lang ang dagat ng basura sa mismong capital ng bansa. Kinailangan pa ng isang presidenteng Rodrigo Duterte para magkaroon ng resulta. Wala namang pinagkaiba 'yan sa isyu ng Boracay. Parehong case study. Hinintay pang manghimasok ang national government bago magtrabaho. Nagdaan din ang iba't ibang presidente. Pati na ang tuwad, este, tuwid na daan ni

P-Noy, hindi nabigyang pansin ang Boracay.

Mga boss, kung kayo'y OFWs o kaya naman ay naninirahan sa ibayong dagat, madali niyong mapupuna ang pagkakaiba. Sa mga malinis na lugar tulad ng Australia, America, at ibang parte ng Europa, maayos ang pamamahala at nakikita ang resulta. 'Wag na tayong lumayo, ang kapitbahay lang natin na Singapore, napakalinis. Dito sa 'Pinas, karamihan sa mga punongbayan, walang bayag sa pagpapatupad ng batas o walang pakialam. Abalang-abala sa pagiging trapo at korap. 'Yung ibang mayor, hindi na nga epektibo, ayaw pang umalis sa puwesto. Ang gusto, maghari sa trono hanggang sa kamatayan. 'Till death do us part ang gusto ng putok sa buho.

Isang malaking poso negro na tuloy ang Manila Bay. Ang sama ng itsura, lalo na kapag dumarating ang bagyo. Nagkalat ang mga tinapong basura... nakakasuka. Hindi mapanagot ang malalaking establisimientong na number one sa kababuyan. Mga dumji nila, direktso sa Manila Bay. Hindi nalalaman ng mayors na nakakasakop. Ngayong next target ng pangulo ang Manila Bay, kita agad ang pagbabago. Unti-unti nang gumaganda... may mga treatment lang na aabutin ng siyam-siyam kaya kailangan tiyagaan talaga. Malaking sampal para sa mga lokal na pamahalaan. Sarili nilang bakuran, hindi mapangalagaan. Marapat lang na parusahan ang mga nasa LGUs sa sinapit ng Manila Bay.

Kayong mga mayors, nasasaktan na ba kayo? Tinatamaan ba kayo sa mga sinasabi ko? Gamitin n'yo na ang pagiging pulpolitiko at maghanda-handa na kayo ng maraming palusot.



PEBRERO 8, 2019

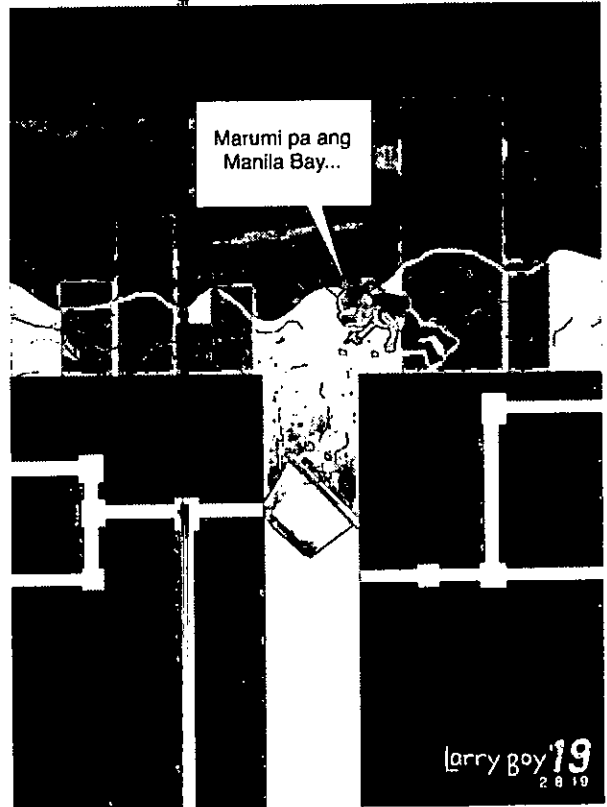


Editorial

# Marumi pa ang Manila Bay at hindi dapat paliguan

**B**ASURA lamang sa dalampasigan ng Manila Bay ang naalis at hindi ang fecal coliform sa tubig nito. Masyadong mataas ang level ng coliform bacteria na kapag na-exposed sa tao ay magdudulot ng sakit. Ang fecal coliform ay bacteria na nagmula sa dumi ng tao at hayop. Galing ito sa mga poso negro ng establisimento na nakapaligid sa Manila Bay. Mula sa poso negro, dadaloy ito sa mga estero at sapa at saka hahantong sa Manila Bay. Noong nakaraang linggo, apat na establisimento na walang waste treatment plant ang ipinasara ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Una nang ipinasara ang Manila Zoo dahil lahat nang dumi ng mga hayop doon ay direktang bumabagsak sa isang estero at mula roon, tutungo sa Manila Bay.

Walang ibang hantungan ang dumi at mga basura



RONNIE M. HALOS • Editor

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kundi ang Manila Bay kaya naman napakarumi nito at delikadong pagliguan. Kamakalawa, nakita ang makapal na burak at mga basura sa ilalim ng dagat. Ang makapal na burak ang patunay na sobrang dami ng dumi na nailuwa sa makasaysayang dagat noon pa man. Mahabang panahon nang nasalaula ang Manila Bay at walang Presidente noon na nagpakita ng kamay na bakal para linisin ito. Tanging si Presidente Duterte ang nagpakita ng bangis para linisin ang Manila Bay gaya nang ginawa niya sa Boracay na sinalaula rin ng mga resort owners at walang di-diplinang mamamayan.

Mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang pagtatapon ng basura o kahit ano pa mang dumi sa Manila Bay. Huhulihin ang magtatapon at pagmumultahin. Bawal din ang maligo sapagkat delikado sa kalusugan. Hindi pa malinis ang Manila Bay kaya nararapat na huwag hayaang makalusong sa dagat ang mamamayan.

Noong Martes, maraming tao ang naligo sa Manila Bay sa pag-aakalang malinis na ito. Wala silang kaalam-alam na basura lamang ang naalis sa paligid at hindi ang bacteria sa tubig. Puwedeng makainom ng tubig na may bacteria at humantong sa pagkaka-sakit. Posible ring magkaroon ng sakit sa balat.

Nararapat bantayan ang mga tao para hindi makalusong sa dagat. Ngayong papalapit na ang summer, tiyak na marami na namang dadagsa sa Manila Bay. Kailangang ipaunawa sa kanila na napakarumi pa ng dagat at matagal pa bago mapaliguan.



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**BAY PATROL** A policeman keeps an eye out for bathers in Manila Bay which seems deserted after the government installed barriers to reinforce a ban on swimming due to health risks. —LYN RILLON

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# Manila Standard

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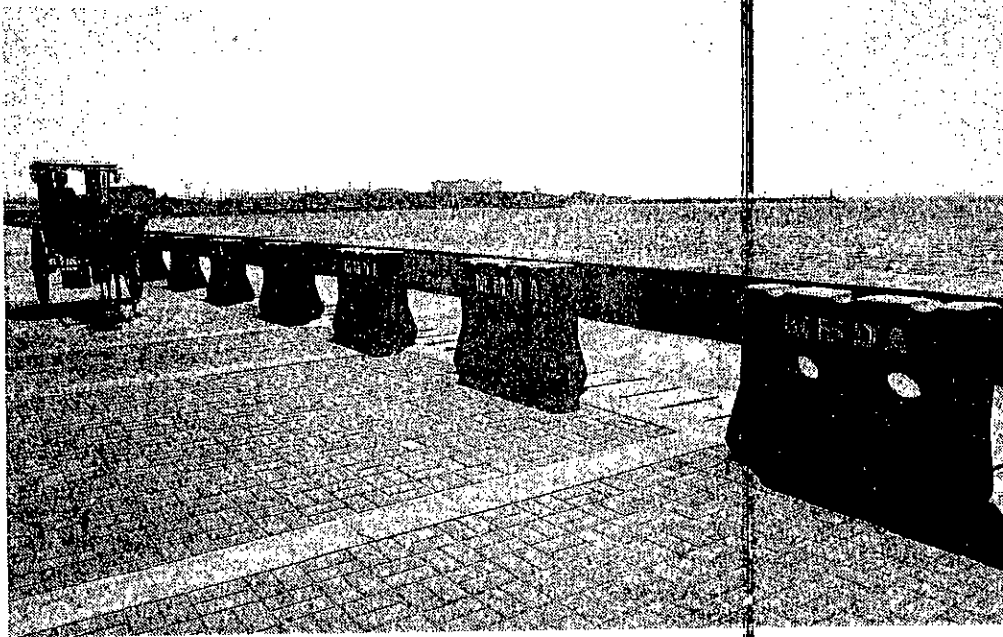
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**BARRIERS.** Metro Manila Development Authority personnel put up orange barriers along the Manila Baywalk in Roxas Boulevard as part of its ongoing rehabilitation. **Lino Santos**





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## Senators warn vs reclamation

By Leila B. Salaverria  
@LeilasINQ

Two senators have expressed concern about reclamation projects in Manila Bay, which is undergoing rehabilitation on orders of the President.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel III said that reclamation projects could nullify the effects of government efforts to clean up the bay.

"We are saving the bay, that is why there is a cleanup of not only the shore, but also the quality of the water. Any reclamation project disturbs the ecology or the situation below the water," Pimentel told reporters on Thursday.

### Government priority

According to Pimentel, the government should determine its priority. "Are we cleaning up Manila Bay or not? If we will conduct reclamation, all of the cleaning up will be useless," he said.

For Pimentel, he would rather focus on making the bay clean and improving the quality of the water there which, according to the Department of Health, was still not clean enough for swimming.

Sen. Nancy Binay, Senate tourism committee chair, said she might look into the reclamation projects when sessions resume in May after the midterm elections.

Saying she was unsure if the reports about the projects

were true, Binay stressed that she was not in favor of conducting reclamation activities in Manila Bay.

### Adverse effects

According to her, reclamation affects the environment. It has been blamed, for instance, for causing floods in areas that did not experience elevated water levels in the past, she said.

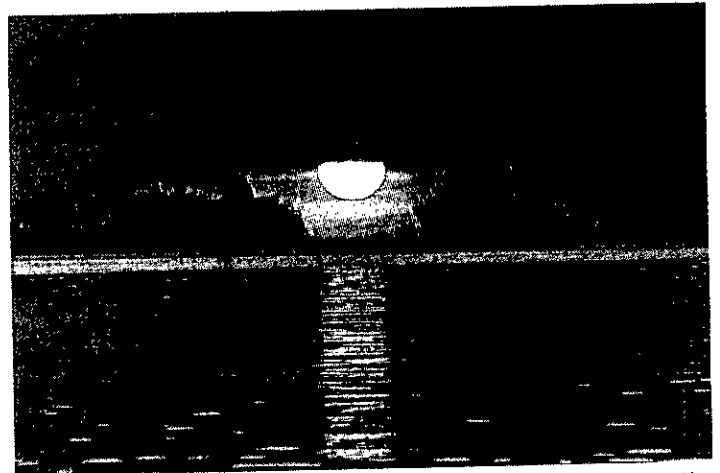
The militant Makabayan bloc in the House of Representatives has pushed for the suspension of the bay cleanup, warning that its rehabilitation may be in preparation for 43 reclamation projects in the area.

Malacañang recently issued an executive order giving the Office of the President direct control and supervision over the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA).

The PRA has jurisdiction over 43 reclamation projects in Manila Bay. One of these was awarded to Davao-based businessman Dennis Uy, a friend and campaign contributor of President Duterte.

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said the transfer of PRA control to the President from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources placed in doubt the government's motive for ordering the bay cleanup.

Pamalakaya also warned that reclamation projects would displace coastal communities and destroy the marine environment. INQ



WORD OF CAUTION. Reclamation projects may reverse all of the benefits from the ongoing Manila Bay cleanup, a senator has warned. —INQUIRER FILE PHOTO



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## Solons: Declare Manila Bay reclamation-free zone

By CHARISSA L. ATIENZA

The Makabayan bloc of the House of Representatives wants to declare Manila Bay a reclamation-free zone.

The group of progressive lawmakers filed House Bill 9067 that seeks to pro-

hibit all forms of reclamation activities that will affect a part of or the entire Manila Bay area.

Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casillao, who led the filing of the bill, said there should be "genuine" rehabilitation of the Manila Bay and it should not ▶ 7

## Solons: Declare...

be used to disguise the reclamation of the coastal area.

"If we intend or opt for genuine rehabilitation of Manila Bay, wag na nating hintayin na talakayin isa-isa ang napipintong reclamation projects," he told reporters in a press conference.

ACT Teachers party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio also warned the government against pursuing the reclamation projects, saying the looming reclamation is a "form of privatization" which would only benefit big businessmen.

"Reclamation means destroying the coastal resources at mapapahamak ang kabuhayan ng libo libong taong nabubuhay sa (and putting at risk the livelihood of thousands who depend on) Manila Bay," he said.

"Ang rehabilitasyon ay ginagawang tabing para pabanguhin ang malaking reclamation projects (The rehabilitation is just a smokescreen for the big reclamation projects)," he said.

He noted that a businessman with close ties with President Duterte is involved in the reclamation project.

Under House Bill 9067, the sea waters of the Manila Bay Area are declared a reclamation-free zone.

The acts prohibited under the bill are all activities that seek to fill, cover, or overlay the sea waters of the Manila Bay Area with soil, gravel, stones or other similar materials to create artificial land space beginning from the coast; or any activity that will construct artificial islands or floating structures, build overhang infrastructure above the sea waters or will result in the receding of the sea waters and the surfacing of the soil beneath the sea waters.

"All plans for reclamation projects pending with the office of the Philippine Reclamation Authority or any government agency or local government unit are hereby disapproved," the bill said.

HB 9067 seeks to revoke all Environmental Clearance Certificates (ECCs) issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and all permits issued by any government agency or LGU (local government unit) for the purpose of reclaiming a part of or the entire Manila Bay Area.

The measure also disapproves all applications for ECCs pending with the

DENR and all applications for permits pending with any government agency or LGU for the purpose of reclaiming a part of or the entire Manila Bay Area.

The bill provides that the violators of the proposed Act shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of six years to 12 years imprisonment and a fine ranging from P5 million to P15 million.

Any public officer who violates the proposed Act shall also be dismissed from public service and perpetually disqualified from holding public office.

"If the offender is a juridical entity, the highest ranking official and the members of its board of directors or trustees who authorized the violation shall suffer the penalty imposed under this Act. The operator or owner thereof shall not be allowed to operate similar establishment or enterprise in a different name or style or in a different location," according to the bill.

The measure tasks the DENR shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation of the proposed Act.

### Four firms closed

Meanwhile, the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) has shut down four more establishments found dumping untreated wastewater into the Manila Bay.

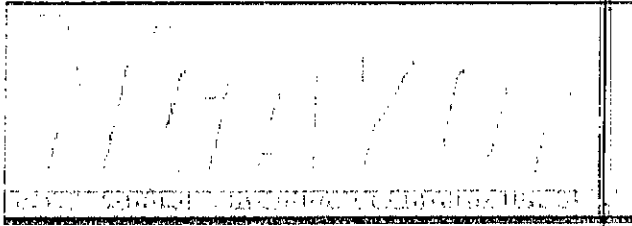
It issued cease and desist orders (CDOs) against Billion Building, HK Sun Plaza, Tramway Bayview Buffet Restaurant in Pasay City, and D Circle Hotel in Manila.

LLDA also issued additional 13 notices of violation (NOVs) and four ex-parte orders, just a few days after the kickoff of the Manila Bay rehabilitation on January 27.

Earlier, it issued CDOs against Aristocrat, Gloria Maris, Esplanade, and E Universe Entertainment and KTV Bar. They were found discharging pollutive water into Manila Bay and have no proper wastewater facility.

Improper wastewater disposal is a violation under Republic Act (RA) 9275 or the Philippine

Clean Water Act of 2004 and could be a ground for closure of the establishment and its wastewater facilities. (With a report from Ellalyn Ruiz)



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### **Reclamation free zone sa Manila Bay**

Hiniling ng Makabayan bloc sa Kamara na ideklara na reclamation free zone ang Manila Bay. Sa House Bill 9067 na inihain ng grupo, nais nila na ibasura na ang mga planong reclamation projects na nakabinbin sa Philippine Reclamation Authority o sa ano mang ahensya ng gobyerno at local government units. Sa ilalim pa ng panukala, ang mga lalabag ay maparusahan ng pagkakapiit ng hindi bababa sa anim na taon hanggang 12 taon at pagmumulta ng mula P5 milyon hanggang P15 milyon. *(Gemma Garcia)*



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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# Abante

UNA SA BALITA



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## Manila Bay ideklarang reclamation-free zone

**PINADEDEKLARA** ng mga kongresistang miyembro ng Makabayan bloc ang Manila Bay bilang reclamation-free zone.

Nakapaloob ito sa inihaing House Bill (HB) 9067 na pumupuntirang ipagbawal ang lahat ng klase ng reklamasyon sa Manila Bay.

Ang Makabayan bloc ay binubuo nina Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao, Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate, ACT Teachers Reps. Antonio Tinio at France Castro, Gabriela Women's Party Reps. Emmi de Jesus at Arlene Brosas, at Kabataan Rep. Sarah Elago.

Nakasaad sa Section 4 ng panukala na babawin at hindi aaprubahan ang lahat ng plano sa mga reclamation project na nakabinbin sa Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), o anumang ahensya ng gobyerno o local government unit (LGU).

Ang mga lalabag ay makukulong ng anim na taon hanggang 12 taon at pagmumultahin ng P5 milyon hanggang P15M.

Kapag ang sumuway ay opisyal ng gobyerno ay sisibakin ito sa tungkulin at madidiskuwalipika na muli pang pumuwesto sa anumang posisyon.

Sinabi naman ni Tinio na ang reclamation ng Manila Bay ay malinaw na privatization. **(Aries Cano)**



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## **Hirit sa Kongreso**

### **RECLAMATION PROJECTS, IPAGBAWAL SA MANILA BAY**

IPINADEDEKLARA ng Makabayan Bloc sa Kamara na reclamation free zone ang Manila Bay.

Sa inihang House Bill 9067, ipinababasura na ang mga planong reclamation project na nakabimbin sa Philippine Reclamation Authority o sa anumang ahensiya ng gobyerno at local government units.

Ipinawawalambisa rin ang mga ipinalabas na Environmental Clearance Certificates (ECC) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at mga aprobado o aplikasyon pa lang na reclamation permit sa 1,994 square meters na sakop ng Manila Bay.

Sa ilalim ng panukala, ang mga lalabag ay maparurusahan ng pagkakapiit ng hindi bababa sa 6 hanggang 12 taon at pagmumulta ng mula P5 milyon hanggang P15 milyon.

Ang mga opisyal ng gobyerno na lalabag ay maaari ring masibak sa serbisyo at madiskwalipika sa paghawak ng anumang posisyon sa pamahalaan.

Kung kumpanya o grupo naman ang lumabag, mananagot sa nabanggit na mga parusa ang pinakamataas na mga opisyal at miyembro ng Board of Directors. *(V. Reyes)*



## Manila Bay reclamation hahalukayin ng Senado

Ikinukunsidera 'ni Senate committee on tourism Chairperson Sen. Nancy Binay na magsagawa ng imbestigasyon hinggil sa sinasabing reclamation project sa Manila Bay.

Ito ay kasunod ng mga impormasyon na paghanda sa reclamation ang isinasagawa ngayong paglilinis sa Manila Bay.

Bagama't hindi kumbinsido si Binay na may katotohanan ang mga impormasyon, sinabi nito na posibleng maghain siya ng resolusyon para sa pag-sisiyasat sa pagbabalik nila ng sesyon sa Mayo.

"Sigurado na ba? Totoo ba 'yun? Ako, unang-una parang hindi ako sang-ayon sa reclamation kasi nakita n'yo naman ang sunset sa Manila Bay, world famous 'yun. Baka hindi naman, baka walang katotohanan, baka fake news lang 'yan," saad ni Binay.

Sa kabila nito, mas maigi na rin aniyang madinig ang bawat panig sa alegasyon ng reclamation.

"Maganda pagbalik namin, meron pa naman kaming 9 session days. Siguro puwedeng mag-file ng reso investigating itong Manila Bay reclamation," dagdag ng senador. **(Dang Samson-Garcia)**



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## PH NAGSASAGAWA NA RIN NG RECLAMATION SA PAG-ASA

MISMONG ang Washington think tank na Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative (AMTI) ang nagsabing nagsasagawa na rin ngayon ng kanyang reclamation ang Filipinas sa Pag-asa island na isa sa pinakamalaking islang saklaw ng Kalayaan group of island na inaangkin din ng China.

Ayon sa AMTI, hindi lamang pagtatayo ng beaching ramp sa Pag-asaang ginagawa ngayon ng Filipinas kundi land reclamation para sa 32,000 square meters.

Subalit nilinaw agad ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na wala itong katotohanan. "As of now, only the beaching ramp is being undertaken. Next is the concreting of the runway. Third phase is the lengthening of the runway which will entail the reclamation of about 300 meters."

Pinaliwanag din ng kalihim na ang reclamation ay pag-repair lamang o pagbuo sa mga nasira o na-wash out na bahagi ng isla.

"Reclamation means there is land before and you are reclaim-

ing the land back. Since there is no land but water we call it filling up the space with stones, gravel and soil," ani Lorenzana.

Noong nakaraang taon ay naglabas ng satellite images ang AMTI na nagpapakita ng dredging equipment sa kanlurang bahagi ng air strip sa isla na nag-collapse na sa dagat.

"It appears that a grab dredger consisting of a crane with a clamshell bucket is installed on the smaller barge to the west, while the other carries a backhoe." **VERLIN RUIZ**



# 108 local execs face raps over ailed waste management

By **EMMANUEL TUPAS**

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) yesterday issued show cause orders against 108 local chief executives across the country for their alleged failure to prepare and submit their 10-year Solid Waste Management plans.

Interior Government Secretary Eduardo Año directed the mayors to submit within 10 days from receipt of the orders a notarized explanation on why no administrative case should be recommended against them for not submitting such plans in violation of Republic Act 9003 or the

Ecological Solid Waste Management law.

Año signed the orders on Wednesday and the local chief executives are expected to receive the documents by early next week.

"We don't want another case of Manila Bay. These LGUs have, unfortunately, been accustomed to leniency," he said in a statement.

"The Solid Waste Management plan is a requirement of law, yet for many years they have ignored it. Hence, we have no recourse but to issue show cause orders to them," he added.

Most of the LGUs are from the Autonomous Region in

Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), with a total of 78 mayors violating the law.

Lanao del Sur has the most violators with 31 local executives, followed by Sulu with 18; 11 in Maguindanao and nine each in Basilan and Tawi-Tawi.

Eight LGUs are from the Bicol region, followed by five from Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan or Mimaropa; one from Western Visayas; four each from Cagayan Valley, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas and Cavite; Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon or Calabarzon.

Año stressed that concrete actions should be undertak-

en to prevent environmental degradation similar to the situation in Manila Bay and the recently rehabilitated Boracay Island from happening.

"If we are serious about protecting the environment, we really have to follow through with the implementation of

these laws," he said.

DILG spokesman Assistant Secretary Jonathan Malaya said they would give the local officials ample time to submit their explanations before deciding on whether to file administrative charges against them.

"If we find they were negligent we will go to the ombudsman," he said in a television interview over CNN Philippines.

To avoid facing legal actions, Año urged local officials to immediately submit and implement their solid waste management plans.





# 108 LGU ordered to submit solid waste plan

We don't want another case of Manila Bay. These LGU have, unfortunately, been accustomed to leniency

By Miguel Togonon

Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Ano yesterday issued show cause orders to 108 local government units (LGU) for their failure to submit a 10-year solid waste management plan as required by law.

In a statement, Año said the orders were issued as the government beefed up efforts to rehabilitate tourist spots in the country.

"We don't want another case of Manila Bay. These LGU have, unfortunately, been accustomed to leniency. The Solid Waste Management Plan is a requirement of law, yet for many years they ignored it. Hence, we have no recourse but to issue show cause orders to them," Año said.

The DILG chief directed the concerned LGU to

submit within 10 days from receipt of the orders a notarized explanation on why no administrative penalty should be recommended against them for not submitting the solid waste management plan.

The orders will be received by the LGU as early as next week, DILG Assistant Secretary Jonathan Malaya said.

Citing policy, the DILG did not divulge the names of the concerned local officials.

"We are according these local chief executives due process. But once we have received their reply and validated their explanations, we will be releasing the names of those found to be negligent in the performance of their functions," Malaya said.

According to the DILG, most of the LGU that were issued a show cause order were from the Bangsamoro region with 78.

Of this number, 31 are from Lanao del Sur; 18 from Sulu; 11 from Maguindanao, and nine from Basilan and Tawi-Tawi.

Five LGU from Mimaropa, eight from the Bicol Region; one from Western Visayas, and four each from Cagayan Valley, Calabarzon, Central Visayas and Eastern Visayas will also receive said orders.

Section 16 of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 mandates all provinces, cities or municipalities through their local solid waste management boards to prepare a 10-year plan consistent with the National Solid Waste Management Framework and submit it to the National Solid Waste Management Commission.

The DILG chief also said the LGU should immediately submit the plan for the agency to refrain from pursuing further legal action.

"If we need to be upfront and strict, *gagawin namin 'yun* (we will do that), all for the proper implementation of the laws of the land and the protection of the environment," Año said.



## #nationataglance

### 108 local government heads ordered to explain absence of waste management plan

THE DEPARTMENT of Interior and Local Government (DILG) has issued show cause orders to 108 local government unit (LGU) leaders for failure to submit a 10-year solid waste management plan as required under Republic Act 9003, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. "We don't want another case of Manila Bay. These LGUs have, unfortunately, been accustomed to leniency. The Solid Waste Management Plan is a requirement of law, yet for many years they ignored it," said DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año in a statement on Feb. 7. Most of the LGUs involved are in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) with 78. Of this number, 31 are from Lanao Del Sur; 18, Sulu; 11, Maguindanao; and 9, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi. The others are: 5 in MIMAROPA (Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan); 8, Bicol; 1, Western Visayas; and 4 each in Central Luzon, CALABARZON (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon), Central Visayas, and Eastern Visayas. — **Vince Angelo C. Ferreras**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

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## 108 local execs in hot water

THE Interior department has issued show-cause orders against 108 local chief executives over their failure to craft a 10-year solid waste management plan as mandated by law.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said Thursday the order was part of the government's efforts to enforce environmental laws similar to what it did in Boracay and what it was now doing in Manila Bay.

"We don't want another case of Manila Bay. These LGUs have, unfortunately, been accustomed to leniency," Año said in a statement.

*Next page*

## 108 local execs...

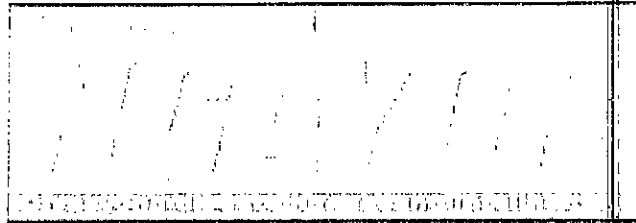
*From A1*

"The Solid Waste Management Plan is a requirement of law yet for many years they ignored it. Hence, we have no recourse but to issue show-cause orders to them."

Año said the local chief executives would be given 10 days from receipt of the orders to explain why they should not be charged over the failure of their LGUs to comply with the policy.

"If we are serious about protecting the environment, we really have to follow through with the implementation of these laws," Año said.

The laws have long been enacted but they lack implementation, so we continue to have problems like what happened in Boracay and Manila Bay. The law is the law and we will implement it." PNA



## ***Sa solid waste management*** **108 mayors pinagpapaliwanag**

Nagpalabas na kahapon ng show cause orders ang Department of Interior and Local Government laban sa 108 Local Chief Executives (LCE's) o mga alkalde dahil sa kabi- guang maghanda at magpasa ng 10 year solid waste management plan kaugnay ng rehabilitasyon sa kanilang hurisdiksyon partikular na sa mga destinasyon ng mga turista sa bansa.

Ito'y bahagi ng mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng pamahalaan sa batas pangkalikasan na kasalukuyang ipinapatupad sa Manila Bay, Boracay at iba pang tourist spots. Inutos ni DILG Secretary Eduardo Año sa 108 na pamahalaang lokal na magbigay ng notaryadong paliwanag sa loob ng 10 araw mula sa pagkatanggap ng mga ito ng show cause orders at kung bakit hindi

silang dapat patawan ng kaparusahan sa kabi- guang pagpapasa ng 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan." Ayon naman kay DILG Assistant Secretary at Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya, hindi muna pangangalanan ang mga pamahalaang lokal na ito bilang pagtupad sa patakaran ng Kagawaran. Alinsunod sa Section 16 ng RA No. 9003 na

kilala din bilang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, lahat ng lalawigan, lungsod o bayan sa pamamagitan ng kanilang Local Solid Waste Management Boards ay inaasahang gumawa ng kanilang 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plans na naaayon sa National Solid Waste Management Framework na ipapasa sa NSWMC. (Joy Cantos at Mer Layson)



## 'Wag kayong dugyot: 108 mayor binalaan ng DILG

INISYUHAN ng 'show cause orders' ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) ang 108 local chief executives (LCEs) dahil sa kanilang kabiguan maghanda at magpasa ng 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan na ipinag-uutos sa ilalim ng RA 9003.

Iniutos ni DILG Secretary Eduardo Año sa 108 na pamahalaang lokal na magbigay ng notaryadong paliwanag sa loob ng 10 araw "kung bakit hindi sila dapat patawan ng kaparusahan sa kabiguang pagpapasa ng 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan."

"Kung tayo ay seryoso sa pangangalaga sa kalikasan, kailangang tiyakin natin na mahusay ang implementasyon ng mga batas na itó. Matagal nang

nariyan ang mga batas ngunit kulang sa ngipin at implementasyon kaya patuloy tayong nagkakaroon ng problema tulad ng Boracay at ng Manila Bay. Ang batas ay batas at atin itong ipapatupad," anang kalihim.

Ayon kay DILG Assistant Secretary at Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya, hindi muna pangangalanan ang mga ito bilang pagtupad sa polisiya ng kagawaran at bibigyan muna ang mga local chief executive ng karampatang due process.

Karamihan sa mga pamahalaang lokal na makatatanggap ng show cause orders ay mula sa Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Mimaropa, Region V, Region VI, Region II, Calabarzon, Region VII at Region VIII. (Dolly Cabreza)



# Remate

## ANG DIARYO NG MASA

08 FEB 2019  
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Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

### LINIS BANSA, AYAW NINYO?

**UNA**, ang nilulumot at bumabaho na isla ng Boracay. Maliban sa bumabaho ang dalam-pasigan, naghahari na rin ang makapal na lumot na likha ng dumi ng mga tao mula sa kanilang mga tahanan at gusali.

Nang pumasyal si Pang. Digong sa Boracay, isa lang ang kanyang paglalarawan sa sikat na Boracay, cesspool o kasilyas! Kaya naman agad na ipinasara at ibinalik ang ganda ng isla. Malinis!

Ang nakatutuwa, bago ipinasara ni Mayor Digong ang Boracay, animo mga asong ulol ang kanyang mga kritiko at kalaban sa pulitika, kasama ang mga ganid na negosyante, na nagbintang ng kung ano-ano.

Matapos ang itinakdang panahon, malinis, maganda, at balansyado na ang isla sa lahat ng aktibidad bagaman may

ilan pa rin ang nagpakita ng walang disiplina sa basura.

Ang mga kritiko, tameme at nag-unahan pang magselfie sa nagbalik-ganda na isla.

Ilang buwan ang nagdaan, ang Manila Bay naman ang pinuntirya ni Pang. Digong. Gusto niyang ibalik ang linis, disiplina at ganda nito.

As usual, tahulan na naman ang mga asong ulol na politiko at nagsabi pa na balak lang daw magsagawa ng reklamasyon si Tatay Digong para sa kanyang mga kaalyado?

Super na bintang na naman!

Pero nakita ng mamamayan ang nagsama-samang boluntaryo mula sa maraming ahensya ng gobyerno at pribado. Isang araw lang, nalinis ang paligid ng Manila Bay na sakop ng Maynila at Pasay.



## BALETODO

ni ED VERZOLA

Matapos ang aktibidad, may mga nagkusa na maglinis sa paligid hanggang kaya nila.

Sumunod na mga araw, nagkalat sa social media ang pamamasyal ng maraming turista, lokal at dayuhan, para masilayan ang magandang paglubog ng araw.

Nakaka-paglaro ang mga bata sa maliit na buhanginan. Mas nakikita natin ang sumunod na kabanata.

Ang pagdating ng tag-ulan.

Hindi lang sa lungsod ng Maynila at Pasay nanggagalang ang mga basura tuwing

bumabagyo.

Sa Cavite, Parañaque, Las Pinas, Navotas, Obando, Bulacan, Pampanga hanggang Zambales.

Babantayan natin 'yan.

Ilang tonelada kayang basura ang dadalhin ng bagyo?

Ilan kaya sa mga kababayan natin na handa muling maglinis sa Manila Bay kung saka-ii?

Ilang politiko na naman kaya ang tutulong o posturang kritiko?

Aabangan natin ang mangyayari.

**Ang tanong, linis bansa, ayaw ba ninyo?**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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# INQUIRER

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PRESIDENT BLAMING REDS, RED TAPE

# DUTERTE IRKED BY SLOW PACE OF LAND CONVERSION

By Julie M. Aurelio  
@JMAurelioINQ

Frustrated by the sluggish land use conversion process, President Duterte had an "outburst" at a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, blaming bureaucratic red tape and communist rebels.

The outburst came two days after Malacañang announced that the Philippine Reclamation Authority had been placed under the direct control of the Office of the President because Mr. Duterte wanted to be more hands-on with the approval of reclamation projects, 43 of which are in Manila Bay.

The President's exasperation with the slow pace of land conversion prompted him to rest for a few minutes during the meeting with his Cabinet, according to presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo.

He said Mr. Duterte was so frustrated with the requirements for conversion that he talked about these for half an hour.

## Many requirements

"It turns out that there are many requirements from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), local government units," he said.

Panelo made the remarks following the Cabinet meeting, during which the President reminded agencies to streamline the conversion process.

Panelo said the President also blamed the New People's Army (NPA) for slowing down the land use conversion program by threatening government inspectors from surveying land.

"So how will you give the permit if you cannot examine the land? That's why there are so many pending applica-

tions," he said.

On Thursday, Mr. Duterte slammed new red tape.

"In the land conversion, it took two years, that includes corruption, where the applicant keeps on coming back," he said.

Speaking at an oath-taking of government officials in Malacañang, the President said he left the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday night during a discussion of the land use conversion process.

"If that is red tape or black tape... I cut them. I would not like to be a part of this briefing," he said.

## Pending for 25 years

The President said he found out that some applications had been pending in the National Economic and Development Authority for 25 years.

In Davao City, he cited the case of a company that was ap-

plying for a permit to construct a brewery but ended up buying land beside the provincial boundary because of red tape.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles earlier said the government wanted to reduce the application period for land conversion to 30 days, from the previous 26 to 36 months.

Last year, 140 conversion cases were pending in the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

Between 1988 and the first half of 2016, the DAR approved 97,592.5 hectares of land earlier awarded to agrarian reform beneficiaries for conversion into nonagricultural purposes.

## Food security

Farmers' groups have opposed conversion of farms into nonagricultural use such as subdivisions, shopping malls and industrial parks, saying

these adversely affect the country's ability to feed itself.

In September 2016, then Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael Mariano proposed a two-year moratorium on the conversion of agricultural lands to ensure food security.

Calling the proposed ban antithetical to economic growth, job generation and poverty reduction, Economic Planning Secretary Ernesto Perina, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez, Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno and Vice President Leni Robredo urged Mariano to instead press for the passage of a national land use plan.

Mariano's proposal went nowhere. He failed to get confirmation from the Commission on Appointments in September 2017.

The President is pushing for a speedier conversion of agri-

cultural land into other uses even as he claims that he supports land reform.

## China factor

The demand for agricultural land is not only coming from real estate and industrial park developers, but also from foreigners.

Ramon Tulfo, who was appointed special envoy to Beijing in 2018, wrote last October that China was interested in contract farming—leasing idle agricultural lands and fishponds.

Tulfo said he could facilitate applications and issuance of permits to Chinese investors to generate jobs in the countryside.

China has also been reported to be looking at more than five areas in Luzon and Mindanao as potential locations for industrial parks. —WITH A REPORT FROM INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ



# Slow land-use conversion provokes Duterte 'outburst'

MALACAÑANG said Thursday that President Rodrigo R. Duterte wants the processing of land-use conversion applications fast-tracked.

In a briefing on Thursday, the President's spokesperson Salvador S. Panelo said the President, during the 34<sup>th</sup> Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, expressed his disappointment over the slow processing of land-use conversion applications.

"The President was so frustrated, he spent I think half an hour saying that he was so frustrated about the requirements... he was dismayed (about an instance) that took two years without making progress on conversion. It emerged that there were many requirements — from the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources), local governments... it's becoming a problem for the people in the various departments. So they are trying to streamline that... the President said that there are many corrupt officials who do not move on applications without grease money. So he's looking into that," Mr. Panelo said.

He also said the President stepped out of the Cabinet meeting after his outburst. "In fact he excused himself. He excused himself... and took a break in the holding room," he said.

Mr. Panelo said the streamlining of the land-use conversion



RICHARD MADELO/PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO

**PRESIDENT Rodrigo Roa Duterte presides over the 34<sup>th</sup> Cabinet Meeting at the Malacañang Palace on Feb. 6.**

process was the first item discussed at the meeting.

"The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Undersecretary for Legal Affairs talked about streamlining of internal processes of all agencies involved in conversion, including the imposition of definite timelines for its processing such as the provision of government permits," he said.

Mr. Panelo said there were two formal proposals by DAR and local government units on the matter which were not presented because the President's "outburst."

DAR Secretary John R. Castriciones was asked for comment but had yet to reply at deadline time.

Section 65 of Republic Act No. 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program provides that "[a]fter the lapse of five (5) years from its award, when the land ceases to be economically feasible and sound for agricultural purposes, or the locality has become urbanized and the land will have a greater economic value for residential, commercial or industrial purposes, the DAR, upon application of the beneficiary or the landowner, with due notice to the affected parties, and subject to existing laws, may authorize the reclassification or conversion of the land and its disposition: Provided, that the beneficiary shall have fully paid his obligation."

DAR Administrative Order No. 01-02 or the 2002 Comprehensive Rules on Land Use Conversion details the procedures for land-use conversion.

Persons who can apply for conversion are "owners of private agricultural lands or other persons duly authorized by the landowner; beneficiaries of the agrarian reform program after the lapse of five (5) years from award, reckoned from the date of the issuance of the Certificate of Landownership Award (CLOA), and who have fully paid their obligations and are qualified under these Rules, or persons duly authorized by them; and government agencies, including government-owned or controlled corporations, and LGUs, which own agricultural lands as their patrimonial property."

Applications are filed at the "Regional Center for Land Use Policy Planning and Implementation (for applications involving lands with an area less than or equal to five (5) hectares, or a fraction above five (5) hectares. The Regional Director shall be the approving authority for such applications); and at the Center for Land Use Policy Planning and Implementation (for applications involving lands with an area larger than five (5) hectares. The Secretary shall be the approving authority for such applications and may delegate the same authority to any Undersecretary." — Arjay L. Balinbin





## DENR exec: Let's just give the 'tawilis' in Taal a break

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

✉ @jonlmayuga

**T**O save the endangered *Sardinella tawilis*, or simply *tawilis*, from extinction, a two-month fishing moratorium and declaring certain fishing grounds as "tawilis no-take zones" should suffice, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

This as DENR Undersecretary for Local Government Units (LGUs) and Solid Waste Management Concerns Benny D. Antiporda rejected the idea of a massive rehabilitation for Taal Lake similar to what was implemented in Boracay in the near future.

"Maybe not in the near future. Right now, we have our hands full with Manila Bay," Antiporda, also the deputy spokesman of Secretary Roy A. Cimatu told the BUSINESS-MIRROR in an interview.

Taal Lake is the third largest lake in the country. It is the source of income and livelihood of hundreds of small fishermen.

The lake's main attraction, the Taal Volcano, is the smallest volcano in the world. The lake is frequented by local and foreign tourists who are treated with a taste of a number of special delicacies cooked from *tawilis*.

Over the years, the lake's ecosystem is besieged by environmental problems that threaten the lake's ecological integrity, as well as the existence of native fish that once thrived in Taal—including the rare *tawilis*.

According to Antiporda, however, the situation in Taal is manageable.

For now, he said, the decision to impose a fishing moratorium every March and April of each year should be enough to allow the now endangered *tawilis* to reproduce and replenish the lake.

Antiporda also supports the idea of declaring several fishing grounds within the lake as *tawilis* reservation areas or "no-take zones."

This, he said, will allow *tawilis* to have a safe haven where they can breed and reproduce new stocks.

The DENR through the Protected Area Management Board

(PAMB) of the Taal Lake Protected Landscape (TLPL), the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) and concerned LGUs surrounding Taal Lake have agreed to declare fishing grounds in Balete, San Nicholas and Cuenca towns as *tawilis* reservation areas after they have been identified as breeding ground of the rare freshwater fish.

Batangas Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer and concurrent Protected Area Superintendent of the TLPL Elmer Bascos said during a meeting on January 29, various stakeholders of Taal Lake agreed to conduct further study about the *tawilis* after a group of fishermen, vendors and restaurant owners questioned the basis of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to declare the *tawilis* "endangered."

"During our meeting, the ExeCom decided to conduct a further scientific inquiry to determine whether the IUCN report about *tawilis* is accurate or not..." he said.

During the months when the *tawilis* fishing ban is in effect, Bascos said the BFAR, DENR and concerned LGUs will monitor fishing activities, including wet markets to ensure that fishermen are abiding by the rule.

"If fishermen will fish for their own consumption, it is okay. But if we found out that they are selling in the market, or if vendors are selling in the market, it is a violation," Bascos said.

He said the LGUs vowed to mobilize concerned personnel to make sure that the ban is strictly imposed.

"We are hopeful of the support and cooperation of our fishermen and our vendors on this policy," he said, adding that if the study, to be conducted jointly by the DA-BFAR, DENR, and what he called as Research Council of the TVPL PAMB that includes the Batangas state universities and other research institutions will reveal that *tawilis* is not endangered as claimed by the IUCN, the fishing ban may eventually be lifted," Bascos said.



## #nationataglance



ALBIN MAGNATE

**A DEAD 10.48-meter male Sei whale species (*Balaenoptera borealis*) was spotted floating off Gigantes Sur Island on the morning of Feb. 4.**

### **WESTERN VISAYAS: CARLES, ILOILO Village plans to build statue of dead whale as reminder of marine resource protection**

BARANGAY GABI, where the body of a dead Sei whale species (*Balaenoptera borealis*) was spotted near the shore, plans to build a statue of the creature to serve as a constant reminder of the importance of marine resource protection. The 10.48-meter male whale was found floating off the village located in Gigantes Sur Island, which is part of the municipality of Carles. According to the report submitted by the town's Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Office, the animal is likely to have been "in pursuit of target food" and got strangled by a rope of a moored boat's anchor. "It was suspected that incident was a result of the animal's pursuit of target food which presumed to be abundant in the near-shore areas of Gigantes Islands due to the implementation of the marine protected area and the continuous campaign against illegal fishing," the report said. To prevent possible health hazards from the leakage of the whale's decomposing body, barangay officials wrapped it in concrete mixture instead of burying it on the ground. The concrete will be used as a foundation for the planned monument. — **Emme Rose S. Santlagudo**



## LEBEL NG TUBIG SA ANGAT DAM, PABABA NG PABABA KADA LINGGO

**NAKAPANAYAM** ng Inyong lingkod si Dr. Sevilla D. David Jr., ang Executive Director ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) sa programa **HEALTH & TRAVEL @ SERBISYO PUBLIKO** sa DWBL 1242 kHz at sa TV Radio Hilda Ong Facebook Fanpage at Hilda Ong YouTube Channel.

Ayon kay Executive Director David, "Sapat pa rin ang tubig sa Angat Dam para sa lahat nang pangangailangan, maging sa mga irigasyon. Ngunit, dahil sa papasok na ang buwan ng tag-init, marapat lamang na ang bawat isa, ay makapag-isip nang mabuting paraan kung papaano limitahan ang paggamit ng tubig. Kailangang maintindihan at paka-dibidin ang kataga ng pagtitipid."

Base sa pinakahuling utat ng Hydrological Information ng

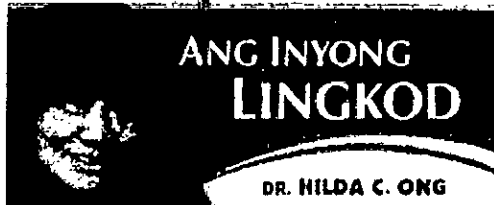
Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC), nasa 211.62 meters ang level ng tubig sa Angat Dam noong Enero 28, 2019 (8:00AM). Ngunit, pagkalipas ng isang linggo, bumaba muli ang level ng tubig sa 210.59 meters na noong Pebrero 28, 2019 (8:00AM), kulang ng 1.41 meters base sa 212 normal high water level (NHWL).

### PAALALA NG NWRB SA PUBLIKO

Magtipid ng tubig, dahil ito ay limitado! Makiisa sa pag-sulong ng NWRB sa pagtitipid sa tubig, upang maayos na mapangasiwaan ang interes ng publiko sa maaaring danasin ng bawat isa, kapag nagkaroon ng kakulangan sa tubig, dahil sa kawalan ng disiplina.

Huwag iwanang nakabukas ang gripo, gaya nalang kapag nagsisipilyo. Maaari makakunsumo ng 5 galong (5 gallon) tubig sa pag-gawa ng ganoong bagay.

Huwag gumamit ng tubig



## ANG INYONG LINGKOD

DR. HILDA C. ONG

na umaagos kapag paghuhugas ng mga prutas, o gulay sa halip ay gumamit ng pangsakot para gamitin sa paghuhugas ng mga ito.

Pagtapos ay itabi ang tubig na nagamit at ilaan sa iba pang paglilinis sa bahay gaya ng pagdidilig ng halaman.

Kapag may tulo sa mga gripo agad itong ipaayos. Dahil, maaaring makaakosaya ito ng halos isandaang galon (100 gallon) kada araw.

Kung posible, wag nang gumamit ng toilet flush upang maiwasan ang halos anim na gallon (6 gallons) na tubig kada flush. Itabi ang tubig na ginamit sa paghuhugas ng prutas, gulay, nilabhan para siyang gamiting pang-flush ng toilet.

Gumamit ng tabo at himba sa patiligo sa halip na gumamit ng shower. Sa sampung minutong (10 minutes) paggamit ng shower sa patiligo ay makakunsumo ng 40 gallons ng tubig.

ligo ay makakunsumo ng 40 gallons ng tubig.

Mas maiging mag hand washing kasya gumamit ng washing machine dahil sa ganitong paraan ay makontrol mo ang dami ng tubig na dapat lamang gamitin.

Mag reuse ng tubig hanggang sa kaya itong i-reuse. Ang tubig na pinaglabahan ay maaaring gamitin sa paglilinis ng mga sahig, panghugas sa kotse.

Maari ding gamitin ang mga ito sa paglilinis ng mga driveway at sa marami pang iba.

Diligang ang halaman ng sapat lamang na tubig.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Abante

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08 FEB 2010

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## MWSS kunsintidor ng Manila Water, Maynilad

SA halip na rendahan ang mga pasaway na kompanya na naghahatid ng serbisyo sa publiko, ang mga naatasang ahensiya na dapat na kumakastigo ang mistulang nag-aabogado pa sa mga ito, ayon kay Negros Oriental Rep. Arnolfo Teves.

Pinuntirya ni Teves ang Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) dahil sa naging pagdinig ng House committee on Metro Manila development nitong Miyerkoles, Pebrero 6 ngayong taon, ay lumilitaw diumano na sa halip na magrenda ang MWSS sa Maynilad at Manila Water Company ay ito pa ang nagpapalaki ng ulo ng dalawang kompanya.

"...Doon sa meeting makikita mo na 'yung MWSS, 'yung administrator (MWSS Administrator Reynaldo Velas-

co) una nagsabi siya na non-compliant 'yung water utilities. Pero mahahalata mo medyo nag-aabogado sila nang konti sa water utilities, sabi nila compliant partially," ani Teves.

"...Kung compliant, compliant, kung hindi compliant, hindi compliant. Pinasa niya doon sa regulator nila. Sabi noong regulator nu'ng una compliant, sabi ko bakit sabi ni administrator hindi compliant so hindi na naman daw compliant. So you see that even our regulator sila 'yung nagdedepensa sa water utilities. So may mali talaga," dagdag nito.

Ang Maynilad ay minamay-ari ng binatang negosyanteng si Mariny V. Pangilinan, habang mga Ayala naman ang may hawak sa Manila Water. **(Aries Cano)**



# DENR eyes alternatives to open pit mining

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is studying alternative ways of extracting minerals aside from the open pit method.

"The study is ongoing. We hope to finish it as soon as possible, probably in the next six months," Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones told **The STAR**.

"Right now, open pit is the only method to extract minerals. But we need to look for options and possible substitutes. It may be costly, but we need an alternative," he said.

The DENR will present to the stakeholders the results of the study once it has been completed. There are three hanging open pit mining projects in the country that could potentially give P303 billion in national revenue and an additional P40.4 billion in local government revenue.

These projects include the Tampakan mine in South Cotabato, King-King in Compostela Valley and Silangan mine in Surigao del Norte.

The Silangan mine of Phillex Mining Corp. is already looking at the possibility of shifting to underground mining, while the Tampakan project is expected to yield P142 billion in combined national and local government revenues.

Silangan, on the other hand, will give the government P140.4 billion in revenues.

King-King, on the other hand, is expected to turn in P61 billion in revenues with a capital investment of over \$2 billion.

The ban on open-pit mining was first ordered by former environment chief Gina Lopez in April 2017, shortly before she got removed from her post.

In October 2017, the interagency Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) recommended the lifting of the open pit ban.

A month later, however, Duterte rejected the Council's recommendation and ordered mining companies to shape up.

Open-pit mining remains to be an internationally accepted method for mining.



## Researcher touts mine site rehab using microbes

THE National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) proposed on Thursday to rehabilitate degraded mining sites by deploying microbes into the soil, a process called bioremediation.

"There are 50 active metallic mines that will surely become mined out or (contaminated with) mine tailings if there is no responsible mining. That means we will have more abandoned mines," according to Dr. Nelly S. Aggangan, lead researcher of a study commissioned by the NRCP.

Ms. Aggangan was presenting her 2017 study, "Greening Mined-out Areas in the Philippines," during the NRCP-Legislative Scientific Forum for Policy Development.

The study, conducted in mine-tailing areas in Mogpog, Marinduque, recommended bioremediation to rehabilitate abandoned

mining sites. The process involved the use of microbial fertilizers on degraded soil.

"There is an urgent need to address degradation to reduce health risks from heavy metals contaminating water, food, and air," she added.

Ms. Aggangan also said biofertilizers are affordable at P100 per kilogram, compared to much higher costs for reforestation put forward by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In the same forum, the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD) highlighted the need for "evidenced-based" policy-making in Congress.

"It's important that policy be based on scientific evidence," CPBRD Director-General Romulo E. M. Miral, Jr. said. — **Reicelene Joy N. Ignacio**

PHOTO BY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link  
[bit.ly/MineSiteRehab](http://bit.ly/MineSiteRehab)



## Masungi Georeserve, finalist sa 2 int'l tourism awards

Nakuha ng Masungi Georeserve sa lalawigan ng Rizal ang finalist spot para sa dalawang pinakamalalaking sustainable tourism awards sa mundo — ang 15th United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Awards at ang World Travel and Tourism Council's (WTTC) Tourism for Tomorrow Awards.

Napili ang Masungi Georeserve bilang isa sa tatlong world finalists sa enterprises category ng 15th UNWTO Awards.

Maglalaban ito para sa top prize, na igagawad sa UNWTO General Assembly sa St. Petersburg, Russia sa Setyembre 2019 katapat ang mga proyekto mula sa India at Italy.

Nilalayon ng UNWTO award na kilalanin ang inspirational projects na nakagawa ng mahalagang kontribusyon para isulong ang sustainable tourism.

Para sa ika-15 taon ng UNWTO Awards competition, 190 applications mula sa 71 bansa ang tinanggap sa tatlong kategorya, ang public policy and governance, enterprises, at NGOs

Isa rin ang Masungi Georeserve sa tatlong global finalists para sa WTTC's Tourism for Tomorrow Awards for 2019 sa ilalim ng Destination Stewardship category.

Makakalaban nito ang Grupo Rio da Prata sa Brazil at St. Kitts Sustainable Destination Council sa St. Kitts and Nevis para sa top award.

Ipinamamalas ng WTTC Tourism for Tomorrow Awards, nasa ika-15 taon na, ang business practices na may pinakamataas na standards na nagbabalanse sa pangangailangan ng "people, planet and profits" sa loob ng travel and tourism sector.

Kasunod ng mabusising three-phase judging process, na kabilangan ng onsite evaluation, ipapahayag ang mga nagwagi sa 2019 Tourism for Tomorrow Awards sa awards ceremony sa 19th WTTC Global Summit sa Seville, Spain simula Abril 2 hanggang 4, 2019.

Ang Masungi Georeserve ay isang conservation project na nagpoprotekta sa limestone formations at mahigit 400 species ng biodiversity sa Baras, Rizal.

**Elalyn De Vera-Ruiz**



**MATINDI** ang epekto ng bisyo ng paninigarilyo.

Sa Amerika, nasa 500,000 ang namamatay taon-taon.

Sa mahal kong Pinas, nasa 100,000 taon-taon.

Pero kahit libo-libo ang namamatay at milyon ang nakakasakit taon-taon dahil sa sigarilyo, sige pa rin tayo.

Ano kung may batas at ordinansa laban sa paninigarilyo na umiiral?

Ano kung kabilaan sa mga kaha ng sigarilyo ay may nakatatakot na larawan ng mga biktima ng sigarilyo?

Nandiyan pa rin ang mga pabrika ng sigarilyo at mga tindahan at takatak boys na naglilinda ng sigarilyo kahit saan.

Nandiyan pa rin ang paninigarilyo din ng pamahalaan ng buwis kaugnay ng sigarilyo, lokal man o imported.

Nandiyan pa rin ang

kawalan ng pakialam ng mga tindahan kung bata ang bibili ng sigarilyo.

### LOKAL, PAMBANSANG PAGBABAWAL

Noong 1999, pinairal ang batas para sa malinis na hangin, ang Clean Air Act of 1999.

Dito na nagsimulang magkaroon ng mga ordinansa laban sa paninigarilyo sa mga pampubliko at saradong gusali.

Isa sa mga nauunang nagpatupad ng batas sa pamamagitan ng ordinansa ang Davao City noong 2002 at mayor pa si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Ramdam din agad ang pagbabawal ng paninigarilyo sa Nueva Vizcaya noong 2010.

Nitong nakaraang taon, isinama na ng Nueva Vizcaya ang vaping o paninigarilyo gamit ang electronic cigarette.

Noong 2003, ipinagbawal na rin ang paninigarilyo sa lahat ng pampublikong lugar sa

## 500K KANO, 100K PINOY PATAY SA YOSI TAON-TAON

bisa ng Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003.

### MALAKING BASURA

Malaking basura ang nililikha ng paninigarilyo.

Kapag halungkatin ninyo ang mga basurahan, mga Bro. nariyan ang mga upos, mga kahang gawa ng plastik at karton at mga carton na kahon ng mga sigarilyo.

Ang mga upos at plastik na mga balot ng bawat kaha at pakete ay hindi nabubulok samantalang nabubulok naman ang mga karton.

Anak ng tokwa, malaking porsyento ng mga basurang ito ang laman ng mga basurahan natin araw-araw.

Ang masakit, karaniwang kung saan-saan ilinatapon ang mga upos at kaha na may plastik at kasama ang mga ito sa mga nagbabara sa mga drainage at pumupuno sa mga sapa, ilog at estero na punb ng mga basura.

### SMOKING IS DANGEROUS

Matindi ang epekto sa kalusugan ng paninigarilyo.

Smoking is dangerous to your health, anunsyo ng Department of Health.

Mabuti kung ang matitigas ang ulo lang ang napiperwisyo kung sila'y nagkaka-sakit.

Pati ang iba, napiperwisyo rin.

Tingnan ninyo ito, mga Bro. Kung smoker ka, pwedeng sabay-sabay o sunod-sunod kang tamaan ng kanser sa baga, heart attack, stroke at type 2 diabetes.

Masama rin ang epekto ng smoking sa mga nagbubuntis dahil pati mga beybi nila, nagkakasakit din.

Kaya naman, pinakamababa ang P5,000 para sa gamutan at 'yung iba, umaabot ng P1 milyon.

Sa kanser, aabot sa P30,000-P100,000 kada sesyon ang chemotherapy.

Pagkatapos, pupunta kina kapitan, mayor, gobernador, kongresman, senador, justice, Pangulong Dlgong, mga civic organizations gaya ng mga Lions Club ang mga biktima para humingi ng tulong pinansyal, pampaospital, pampalibing at kung ano-ano pa.

### MAY SUNOG DIN

Pinagmumulan din ng sunog ang paninigarilyo. . . .  
"Ilang komunidad na ba'ang

nasunogan dahil sa kapabayaan o sadyang pagtatapon ng nakasinding sigarilyo kung saan-saan?

Ilang beses na rin bang may nasunog na mga kapundukan dahil sa pagtatapon ng buhay na upos ng sigarilyo?

Marami na ring nasunogan dahil sa paninigarilyo, kasabay ng pagsinghot ng droga ng mga addict.

### NILINAW NI DIGONG

Para magkaroon ng higit na kalinawan at mahigpit na pagpapairal ng mga batas laban sa paninigarilyo, nagpalabas na rin si Pangulong Dlgong ng Executive Order No. 26 na naging epektibo noong Hulyo 23, 2017.

Ayon sa EO 26, bawal ang paninigarilyo sa lahat ng pampublikong lugar sa buong Pilipinas.

Kasama sa mga nasabing lugar ang mga eskwela, ospital, klinika, opisina ng gobyerno, handaan ng mga pagkain, elevator, jeepney, bus at marami pang iba.

Bawal din ang pagbebenta ng pagbill ng mga menor-de edad.

May multa ring P500 hanggang P10,000 ang violator.

Ang mga establisimiyentong magtitinda naman ng sigarilyo sa menor-de-edad, eh, magmumulta ng P5,000 at makukulong ng 30 araw.

Maaari ring makansela ang business permit at lisensya ng mga establisimiyento.

Pinalaki na rin ang buwis ng sigarilyo para kumonti ang maninigarilyo.

### MATITIGAS ANG ULO

May mga palatandaan na kumonti na ang naninigarilyo sa pag-iral ng mga balas laban sa smoking at malaking buwis.

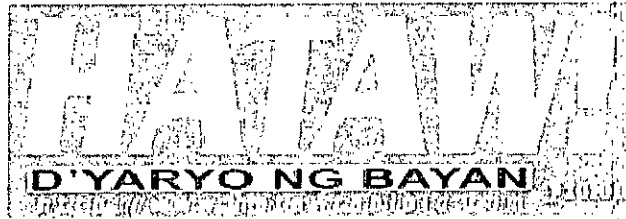
Pero sa kalaunan, lumipat lang pala ang mga smoker sa mas murang sigarilyo at lumalabas na hindi talaga gaanong nabawasan ang mg ito.

Matitigas ang ulo? Paano kaya kung tirahin mismo ang mga pabrika at importer ng sigarilyo?

oOo

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo ay maaaring iparating sa 0922 8403333 o I-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.





03 FEB 2010

DATE

## Isang trail isinara **Mt. Pulag sa Benguet** **isang linggo** **nang nasusunog**

**PATULOY.** na nasusunog nabuhay dahil sa mga nag-ang bahagi ng sikat na Mt. babagang alipato na tina-Pulag sa Kabayan, Benguet ngay ng hangin. Inamin niyang wala na nakaraang Biyernes, 1 Pe-silang magagawa para brero. mapatay ang sunog sa bundok dahil malawak na ito

Ayon kay Protected Area Superintendent Victor Gorinto, higit limang araw nang nasusunog ang bahagi ng bundok, partikular sa pagitan ng Barangay Eddet at Barangay Poblacion. Napag-alaman sa inisyal na imbestigasyon ng forest rangers at mga bombero ng Kabayan, ang sunog ay dahil sa aktibidad ng mga gumagawa ng uling.

Gayonman, patuloy ang kanilang karagdagan imbestigasyon para malaman ang totoong sanhi ng nasusunog na hagsimula noong Biyernes, ngunit muling bundok sa Benguet.



TITLE:

### Sunog sa bahagi ng Mt. Pulag naapula

Umabot sa pitong araw bago tuluyang naapula ng mga rumespondeng bombero ang sunog na sumiklab sa bahagi ng Akiki trail ng Mt. Pulag sa Cordillera.

Nagsimula ang sunog noong Enero 31 ayon sa Bureau of Fire Protection Cordillera.

Una umanong sumiklab ang apoy sa Sitio Balangabang, Brgy. Duacan sa bayan ng Kabayan, Benguet na umabot ang pinsala sa mga bahagi ng Brgy. Poblacion, Eddet at sa Akiki trail.

Nahirapang maapula ang apoy dahil sa malakas na hangin sa lugar, tuluyan lamang itong naapula dakong alas-4:23 kamakalawa nang hapon.

Iniiimbestigahan na kung ano ang nagsimula ng sunog. Isinara rin ng pamuhuan ng Mt. Pulag National Park ang nasabing trail para gagawing rehabilitasyon at masiguro ang kaligtasan ng mga trekker.

Matatandaan na noong Enero 2018, isinama din ang trail nang masunog ang anim na hektarya ng bahagi ng bundok dahil sa natwang butane stove ng isang grupo ng trekker.



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**BAYANIHAN FOR ANTIPOLO'S NATURAL RESOURCES.** Volunteers and employees of the local government of Antipolo pick up trash on the Boso-Boso River as part of the nationwide launching of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. According to Mayor Jun Ynares, the local government supports the advocacy of the city of Manila and the Duterte administration to restore the beauty and cleanliness of Manila Bay. The Antipolo City government was included in the Hall of Fame of the Department of the Interior and Local Government after it bagged the Manila Bayani Award for two consecutive years.



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# PEOPLES JOURNAL Tonight

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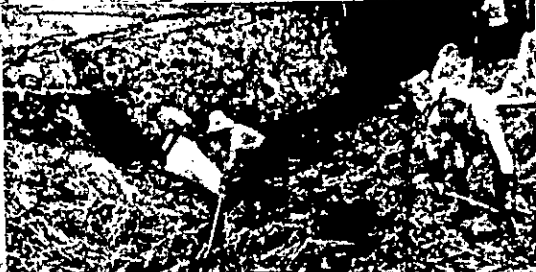
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08 FEB 2019

**BAYANIHAN PARA SA KALIKASAN SA ANTIPOLO**— Sabay-sabay na nagpulot ng mga basura ang mga volunteers at mga kawani ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Antipolo sa kahabaan ng Boso-Boso River kamakallan bilang bahagi ng nationwide launching ng Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Ayon kay Mayor Jun Ynares, suportado ng pamahalaang lokal ang hangarin ng Lungsod ng



Maynila at ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) matapos nitong magungkit ang prestihiyosong Manila Bay Pumasok na rin ang Antipolo City Gov't sa Hall of Fame ng magkasunod na tabn.

**DIVISION PERFORMANCE COMMITMENT AND REVIEW (DPCR)  
Strategic Alliance and Environmental Partnership Division (SAEPD)**

I, **RAYMOND R. VIRGINO**, commit to deliver and agree to be rated on the attainment of the following Targets in the accordance with the indicated measures for the period **JANUARY to JUNE, 2018**

**RAYMOND R. VIRGINO**  
Division Chief  
Strategic Alliance and Environmental Partnership Division

Approved By:  <p align="center"><b>MA. SABRINA R. CRUZ</b> Director Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service</p>	Date: 15 April 2018
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ACTIVITIES	SUCCESS INDICATORS ( TARGETS + MEASURES )	Allotted Budget	Division/ Individuals Accountable	Actual Accomplishments	Rating				Remarks
					Q1	E2	T3	A4	
<b>MFO 1 – ECOSYSTEMS POLICY SERVICE</b>									
Planning and programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2018 Annual Work and Financial Plan based on 2017 planning guidelines submitted to SCIS Director on prescribed period.</li> <li>• Monthly accomplishment Report based on targets compliant to prescribed format submitted to SCIS Director on prescribed period.</li> </ul>		Raymond R. Virgino Julita Mustapha Melanie Rey						
<b>SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS (STO)</b>									
1. Partnership with groups and institutions on ENR projects/programs through volunteerism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 volunteer activities conducted with groups/partners by end of each month with reports submitted 7 days after the event;</li> <li>• 1 memorandum of agreement jointly forged with a partner by end of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter</li> </ul>		SAEPD Staff  Raymond R. Virgino Julita Mustapha Roy Gulane						
2. Management and conduct of local and international events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 events organized/co-organized/coordinated by end of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter with interim reports/highlights submitted 7 days after the event.</li> </ul>		SAEPD Staff						



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*Bayanihan sa Antipolo* --- Sabay-sabay na nag-pulot ng mga basura ang mga volunteer at mga kawani ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Antipolo sa kahabaan ng Boso-Boso River kamakailan bilang bahagi ng nationwide launching ng Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Ayon kay Mayor Jun Ynares, suportado ng pamahalaang lokal ang hangarin ng Lungsod ng Maynila at ng administrasyong Duterte na ibalik ang ganda at kalinisan ng Manila Bay. Pumasok na rin ang Antipolo City Gov't sa Hall of Fame ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) matapos nitong masungkit ang prestihiyosong Manila Bayani Award ng magkasunod na taon.



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**PAPASOK** sa kanyang trabaho ang lalaking ito gamit ang kanyang kakai-  
bang slim folded self electric scooter bukod sa tipid sa pamasahang ay en-  
vironment friendly pa at iwas traffic sa kahabaan ng Dela Rosa Street, sa  
Makati City. Kuha ni **DINDO CAPILI**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

PEOPLES JOURNAL  
**Tonight**

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**THE LAST MOHICAN**



**By MARIO FETALINO JR.**

**LAWMAKERS** should heed the concerns of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) before they pass a law that lowers the optional retirement age for government employees

GSIS expressed its reservations on lowering the

**Reservations on lower retirement age**

optional retirement age for government employees from 60 to 56. Such as the proposed under Bill No. 8683.

"Our main concern on the lowering of retirement age for government employees stems from the results of our actuarial study that it will reduce the financial life of the social insurance fund by 12 years," GSIS President and General Manager Jesus Clint Aranas said.

"With a shorter actuarial life, GSIS will ultimately be forced to effect possible adjustments such as putting into play a mix of benefit decreases or an increase in premium contribution or

even both in order to mitigate the risk of being underfunded," Aranas added.

According to him, the fund life of GSIS, if the lowering of the retirement age will push through, will be shortened by 12 years and depleted by 2039, from the current fund life of 2051.

"The shorter actuarial life will be a result of the decreased period of contributions of members that will spell lower collection but longer period of benefits' payment," he said.

He also warned that the proposal would increase the burden of current actively paying members particular-

ly in light of longer life expectancy.

Lawmakers should take note of this.

Aside from lawmakers, developers in Baguio should understand the wisdom behind the move of GSIS to preserve the lone tree park in Baguio city. The GSIS said it will neither sell the land where the park stands nor allow it to be converted into a commercial area by any party.

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.

"We empathize with Alicia Flores and other students concerned. They can heave a sigh of relief because the GSIS property will remain to be the home of these beautiful trees," Aranas said.

"We all share the same concern for the environment. If we are responsible stewards of God's gifts, then we will surely reap the rewards such as having cool, clean, and fresh air," he added.

"In fact, GSIS employees helped plant trees in the park, too."

Aranas is optimistic that the negotiations with the city government of Baguio to purchase the lot on which the park sits will finally come to a fruitful resolution. Baguio City Mayor Mauricio Domogan earlier offered to buy the lot so it can definitively preserve the park.

"I hope that the good Mayor would understand that the value of a property appreciates over time. In any decision, investment or otherwise, we have to ensure that this will help grow our funds to benefit our

members and pensioners" Aranas said.

Caring for the environment is one of GSIS's corporate social responsibility programs. Every year, GSIS holds tree-planting activities as part of the National Greening Program. In particular, GSIS has adopted a 50-hectare planting site at Barangay Balagbag, San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan where 25,360 fruit-bearing saplings have been planted.

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For comments, please call or text 09055080126 or email lastmohican2004@yahoo.com