

17 FEB 2019

DATE :

DAY :

Monday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



TITLE:

PAGE: /

# DENR, DepEd link up for tree planting in schools

By HELEN FLORES

The Department of Environment and Natural

Resources (DENR) will partner with the Department of Education (DepEd) for a project to promote planting of native trees in public schools nationwide.

The School in a Garden Project (SIGA) aims to teach children about the importance of trees and forests, and help them become an environmentally conscious generation, DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said.

"We hope that through the SIGA program, we are able to instill in young minds how significant forests are to their lives, so that the heritage of environmental conservation continues," he said.

Leones said the DENR and DepEd are set to sign a memorandum of agreement to formalize their partnership.

The SIGA program is a revival of a past DepEd project that enabled students to plant medium-sized flowering trees similar to the concept of cherry blossoms in Japan, according to the DENR.

It aims to showcase trees that are endemic to the Philippines, such as *banaba* and fire trees, which are colorful and flowering all year round.

DepEd Undersecretary Alain Pascua said these colorful trees would be

planted not only within school campuses but also in neighboring areas.

Also to be planted in school premises are heritage trees, which are typically individual large trees with unique value and considered irreplaceable because of their designation such as age, rarity and size, and historical value, the DENR said.

The DENR earlier agreed to provide planting materials, training and technical expertise to the DepEd to ensure the success of the undertaking.

"DENR can provide the saplings. We can also involve the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau to include native species. Our timeline for these convergence activities should be done as quickly as possible," Leones said.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

F4  
PAGE

OFF  
 PAGE 1 STORY  
 BANNER STORY  
 EDITORIAL  
 CARTOON

11 FEB 2019

DATE

# DENR rehabs over 125k hectares of forests

1/3

By MJ Blancaflor

**O**VER 125,000 hectares of forest lands were rehabilitated last year, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The DENR reported that 116.5 million tree seedlings have been planted on 125,214 hectares of forests covered by the government's Expanded National Greening Program (E-NGP) as of November 2018.

Moreover, the agency raised some 144.8 million native and fast-growing tree species as planting materials, from January to November 2018.

About 3.3 million bamboo culms or cuttings and 1.72 million mangrove propagules and beach forest tree seedlings have been produced, exceeding the 2018 targets of 3.1 million and 1.6 million, respectively.

E-NGP is the government's flagship reforestation project.

In 2018, the E-NGP generated a total of 334,317 jobs which resulted in the hiring of 52,872 people in plantation site development, plantation maintenance and protection, and establishment and operation of

seedling nurseries.

The reforestation program also serves a national strategy to ensure food security, poverty reduction, environmental stability and biodiversity conservation.

It started as a six-year forest rehabilitation program that aimed to cover 1.5 million hectares of open forest lands with trees by the end of 2016.

In a bid to rehabilitate additional 7.1 million hectares of forests, the program was extended until 2028 through an executive order.

Meanwhile, the DENR also made progress in its forest protection and anti-illegal logging efforts.

The agency reported that some 108,000 kilometers of forest line have been patrolled by 1,175 forest protection officers who were hired

and trained under the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System developed by the DENR and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

As of November 2018, a total of 3.1 million board feet of undocumented timber products were seized, 332 cases were filed, and 25 individuals were convicted for violating the Revised Philippine Forestry Code.





Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

F 7  
PAGE

OFF  
Jewell

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOO

11 FEB 2019

DATE

2/3



The seedlings used by Manila Standard's annual Adopt a Tree Project are courtesy of the DENR.





Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
INTEGRIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

PAGE 1

OFF

PAGE 1 STORY

RATHER STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 FEB 2019

DATE

3/3



As a licensed forester and president of the DENR- Association of Career Executives (ACE), DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs puts to heart all efforts to reforest the country's denuded areas as he leads fellow executives in the department in planting some 1,000 native tree species in a 10-hectares area within the Angat watershed in Norzagaray, Bulacan province. Held October 6, 2018, the tree planting event was one of three community-focused activities of DENR-ACE in celebration of its 45th founding anniversary of the Career Executive Service Board on November 10, with theme: "Serbisyonng CESO, Kalibre 45: Community Passion Projects." The other two activities include a massive mangrove planting rehabilitation in Nasugbu, Batangas and coastal clean-up in the Las Pinas-Paranaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area on October 13 and 20, respectively.



1/2

# LLDA cites 17 more bay polluters

**Violators include PICC, hotels, condominiums, restaurants and a popular marine attraction**

By Jhesset O. Enano  
@JhessetEnanoINQ

A total of 17 more establishments in the cities of Manila and Pasay, including the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) and several hotels, have been cited by the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) for polluting Manila Bay.

On Friday, cease-and-desist orders were issued against Akchang Korean Restaurant, the Networld Hotel, and Legend Food Restaurant for discharging pollutive wastewater to the bay waters.

### More pending closures

The three establishments named eight others that were closed earlier with similar orders. As a result, their water sources and wastewater-discharging facilities were shut down by LLDA personnel until they could show proof of compliance with the law.

On the other hand, notices of violation for water pollution cases were served to the PICC, Harbour View Square (Block 1 & 2), China Oceanis Inc. Philippines-Manila Ocean Park, Breeze Residences, and the Sofitel Philippine Plaza.

Also cited for the same offense were the Sogo Hotel on Roxas Boulevard, Harrison Mansion, Midas Hotel and Casino, and Carwash by Benjas.

Five other companies likewise received show-cause orders for water pollution—San Andres Public Market (Xentro Mall), Malate Royale Development Corp.-Malate Crown Plaza Condominium, Center for International Trade Exposition, Metroescapes Corp.-Seascape Village, and Antel Seaview Towers Condominium.

The LLDA gave the five establishments 15 days to submit an explanation.

Under the continuing rehabilitation of Manila Bay, the Department of Environment and

Natural Resources said that as of Feb. 5, it had issued cease-and-desist orders to 21 establishments in Central Luzon.

It also issued notices of violation to 265 establishments in Metro Manila and 45 others in Calabarzon.

As of last week, the LLDA, which has jurisdiction over sev-

eral cities in Metro Manila, had inspected 341 commercial establishments and 58 hotels for possible environmental violations.

Government officials had

said that the cleanup of the 194,400-hectare bay would not only involve cities in Metro Manila, but also eight provinces in three regions that have rivers and estuaries which flow into the bay.

### Bay forum

On Monday, Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año will meet with 178 top government officials to ensure their commitment to the bay's rehabilitation.

In a statement, Año said the town and city mayors from Central Luzon, Calabarzon and Metro Manila would attend a forum on the program for the bay's cleanup and preservation at the New World Manila Bay Hotel in Manila.

Año said he would also remind the officials of their roles and responsibilities in the bay's rehabilitation as ordered by the Supreme Court in 2008. —WITH A

REPORT FROM JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE INQ



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

PLANNING THE FAMILY

INQUIRY

A14  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

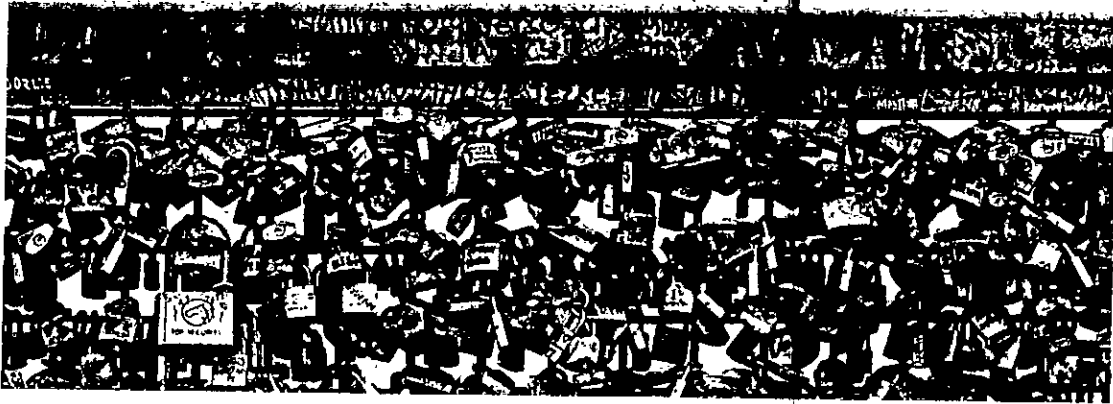
BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 FEB 2019  
DATE

2/2



**LOVELOCKS BY THE BAY** Lovelocks—padlocks bearing the names of couples wishing for a happy ever after—take up every available space on a metal barrier beside Manila Bay in Pasay City. **MARIANNE BERMUDEZ**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
 SINCE 1898

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

1/8  
 PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
 STORY

BANNER  
 STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

17 FEB 2019  
 DATE

## DILG convenes today 178 mayors to discuss Manila Bay rehab

By CHITO A. CHAVEZ

As the "Battle of Manila Bay" goes into high gear, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) will

convene today 178 city and municipal mayors to spell out to them their critical roles and responsibilities in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año

added the forum aims to keep the local chief executives (LCE) abreast of their roles in rehabilitating Manila Bay under the Supreme Court Mandamus. **▶8**

### DILG convenes today... **◀1**

"Local government units (LGUs) should be at the forefront of efforts to clean-up, rehabilitate, and preserve the waters of Manila Bay. They should, therefore, be more proactive in encouraging the support and cooperation of their constituents and other stakeholders to bring back the glory of Manila Bay," said Año.

The "Manila Bay Watershed Area for the Local Chief Executives' Forum on the Manila Bay Clean-up, Rehabilitation, and Preservation Program" at the New World Manila Bay Hotel in Manila will focus primarily on the strict enforcement of environmental laws that has long been neglected and which led to the sorry state of the bay now.

A Supreme Court (SC) decision dated 18 December 2008 and Resolution dated 15 February 2011, G.R. Nos. 171947-48, mandated the DILG and 12 other national government agencies to clean, rehabilitate, and preserve the Manila Bay in order to prevent the continuous cycle of man-made pollution.

To ensure compliance with the SC mandamus, the DILG directed all LGUs in Regions III, IV-A and NCR within the Manila Bay Watershed Area to do their part in helping the government wage the so-called "Battle of Manila Bay".

One of the highlights of the forum is the dialogue with the secretaries

where the local chief executives will have an opportunity to discuss with the mandamus agency heads the problems and issues that hamper the effectiveness of their efforts in rehabilitating Manila Bay.

The results of the current LGU Environmental Compliance assessment as well as Status Report: Informal Settler Families (ISFs) will also be tackled during the activity.

Also expected to attend the forum are the 178 city/municipal environment and natural resource officers and representatives from the mandamus agencies.

Following efforts to rehabilitate and enforce environmental laws in Manila Bay, Boracay Island, and other tourist spots in the country, the DILG has issued show cause orders to 108 local chief executives for their failure to prepare and submit a 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan as mandated under Republic Act 9003.

Most of the LGUs that will receive show-cause orders are from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) with a total of 78. Of this number, 31 are from Lanao del Sur; 18 from Sulu; 11 from Maguindanao; and nine apiece for Basilan and Tawi-Tawi.

Five LGUs from Mimaropa, eight from Region V; one from Region VI; and four each from Regions II, Calabarzon, VII, and VIII will also receive

show-cause orders.

Año also directed the 108 LGUs to submit within 10 days from receipt of the orders a notarized explanation "on why no administrative penalty shall be recommended against you relative to the failure of your LGU to submit the 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan."

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

Año stressed the DILG has no recourse but to mete out sanctions against local chief executives (LCE) who are unable to vividly explain why no appropriate penalties should be imposed on them.

The DILG chief clarified the agency never acted in haste in issuing show cause orders stressing the environmental laws have long been in existence but poor implementation by the LGUs has resulted in the poor state of Boracay Island, Manila Bay, and similar tourist spots.

Based on the show cause orders issued by the DILG, the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), through the DILG, "calls the attention of the LGUs regarding their responsibility under Republic Act No. 9003 to submit the 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan."

According to Section 16 of RA No. 9003 also known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, all provinces, cities or municipalities through their Local Solid Waste Management Boards, shall prepare their respective 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plans consistent with the National Solid Waste Management Framework to be submitted to the NSWMC.

The DILG chief noted that to avoid pursuing further legal action, the Department is expecting the LGUs' immediate submission and implementation of their 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan. (Chito A. Chavez)





# DILG to convene mayors on Manila Bay rehab today

By EMMANUEL TUPAS

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) will convene today 178 city and municipal mayors to discuss the rehabilitation efforts for Manila Bay.

DILG Secretary Eduardo Año said the local chief executives' forum on the Manila Bay cleanup would be held at the New World Hotel.

The forum aims to keep mayors abreast of their roles and responsibilities in the bay's rehabilitation, Año said.

"Local government officials should be at the forefront of efforts to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve the waters of Manila Bay. They should be more proactive in encouraging the cooperation of their constituents and other stakeholders to bring back its

glory," he said.

Año is expected to discuss problems, which hamper efforts in improving the bay's condition.

Mayors of towns and cities within the Manila Bay watershed area in the National Capital Region, Central Luzon and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) are expected to attend the forum.

Also expected to join the forum are officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the lead agency tasked to clean up Manila Bay.

Año cited the writ of continuing mandamus issued by the Supreme Court (SC) on Dec. 18, 2008 mandating the DILG and 12 other agencies to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

To ensure compliance with the SC order, the DILG directed local govern-

ment units to do their parts in helping the government to rehabilitate the bay.

Non-compliant local chief executives may face administrative complaints before the Office of the Ombudsman for dereliction of duty, DILG spokesman and Assistant Secretary Jonathan Malaya said.

Around 40,000 commercial establishments in the National Capital Region are subjects for inspection for environmental compliance.

Promenaders yesterday trooped to the Baywalk area in Malate, but they were barred from swimming in the bay.

The "Battle for Manila Bay" started on Jan. 27 with the so-called solidarity walk attended by government officials and volunteers from the Quirino Grandstand to the Baywalk area.

- With Rey Galupo



# DILG convenes mayors on bay rehab

BY DEMPSEY REYES

**I**NTERIOR Secretary Eduardo Año will convene on Monday, February 11, chief executives from cities and municipalities to discuss with them efforts being undertaken to rehabilitate Manila Bay and to seek their support.

In a statement on Sunday, Año said 178 municipal and city mayors would gather at the New World Hotel in Manila, which was near the bay.

"Local government units (LGUs) should be at the forefront of efforts to clean-up, rehabilitate and preserve the

waters of Manila Bay," Año said in a statement.

"They should, therefore, be more proactive in encouraging the support and cooperation of their constituents and other stakeholders to bring back the glory of Manila Bay," he added.

The forum aims to keep the

local leaders aware of their "critical roles and responsibilities" in rehabilitating Manila Bay, as cited under the Supreme Court mandamus order on December 2008.

The high tribunal ordered concerned government agencies to "clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to SB level to make them fit for swimming, skin diving, and other forms of contact recreation."

SB level, according to Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative

Order 34, Series of 1990, refers to Class B water "primarily contact recreation such as bathing, swimming, skin diving, etc."

Año cited the Supreme Court's order and resolution dated Feb. 15, 2011 that mandates the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and other government agencies to rehabilitate Manila Bay to prevent the "continuous cycle of man-made pollution."

The DILG has directed all LGUs in Central Luzon (Region 3), Calabarzon (Region 4) and Metro Manila within the Manila Bay watershed area to do their

part for the clean-up dubbed as "Battle of Manila Bay."

During today's forum, mayors will hold dialogues with agency heads to discuss problems and issues hampering the rehabilitation of the bay.

Provinces and cities located within the watershed area of Manila Bay include the cities of Manila and Malabon, and the provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga and Cavite.

The forum set for today will also tackle the results of the LGU Environmental Compliance assessment as well as the status report of

informal settlers.

Apart from the local chief executives, the municipal and city environmental and natural resource officers and representatives of several agencies are expected to attend the forum.

As the bay clean-up continues, authorities have banned swimming in the bay, as the pollution levels remain high.

The cleanup of Manila Bay and surrounding areas started on January 27.

Experts said the bay's rehabilitation could take years and could cost P47 billion.

WITH FRANCIS EARL CUETO



## LGUs magpupulong para sa Manila Bay rehab

Bilang pagtupad at pakikiisa sa "Battle of Manila Bay", magtitipon ngayong araw, Pebrero 11, ang nasa 178 mayor ng mga lungsod at bayan sa palibot ng look.

Sa pangunguna ng Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), pagtutuunan ng Manila Bay Watershed Area for the Local Chief Executives' Forum on the Manila Bay Clean-up, Rehabilitation, and Preservation Program, na

matiyak ang pagpapatupad ng mga batas kalikasan, na matagal nang nabalewala na nagdulot ng nakapanlumong kalagayan ngayon ng Manila Bay.

Ayon kay DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año, layunin din ng pagtitipon na masiguro ang tiyak na pagtalima ng mga local chief executives (LCE) sa kanilang tungkulin at responsibilidad para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila

Bay sa ilalim ng Supreme Court Mandamus.

"Local government units (LGUs) should be at the forefront of efforts to clean-up, rehabilitate, and preserve the waters of Manila Bay. They should, therefore, be more proactive in encouraging the support and cooperation of their constituents and other stakeholders to bring back the glory of Manila Bay," ani Año.

**Chito A. Chavez**



## Bay frolickers back in droves

By Francis Earl Cueto

Hundreds of frolickers and some swimmers were back at the Manila Bay over the weekend after parts of the barrier placed to keep them out of its polluted waters were removed.

The barriers were put up along the shoreline from the US Embassy to Manila Beach Club by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) after a clean-up brought

a surge of "tourists" to the bay.

Antipolo starts clean-up of creeks and rivers as its contribution to rehabilitation.

Those who defied a DENR warning that the bay remains polluted and unsafe for swimming entered through a grill fence at the US Embassy that had been taken down.

A DENR undersecretary said a new

barrier will soon be installed along the seawall to stop incursions into the shoreline. Parts of the bay without beaches remained fenced off.

The clean-up of Manila Bay and surrounding areas started last 27 January, following the six-month rehabilitation of Boracay Island which ended in October last year.

The quality of water off the bay has started to improve while tons of garbage were collected by volunteers and

government workers, the environment department said.

Despite these improvements, it remained unsafe to bathe in Manila Bay due to the very high level of fecal coliform content in the water, the agency said.

Meanwhile, several local government units have started moves to contribute to the rehabilitation of Manila Bay which is famous for its sunset.

The Antipolo City government

initiated a clean-up of the city's creeks, canals and rivers that lead to Manila Bay. Mayor Jun Ynares said this will ensure that no trash from Antipolo would reach Manila Bay.

An estimated 350 volunteers joined hands with the city government in cleaning of Southville & Boso-Boso River, Barangay San Jose and Pinugay, Antipolo-Baras, Rizal.

Manila Bay's rehabilitation could take years and is estimated to cost P47 billion, experts earlier said.



**Weekend warriors** Bikers enjoy riding on the 3.3-meter-wide bike lane along the Laguna Lake Highway in Bicutan, Taguig City yesterday. The lane stretches 6.6 kilometers.

BOB DUNN



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Malaya Business Insight



11 FEB 2019

DATE

## 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. Borrromeo 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," Borrromeo 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.

DBP recently joined the inauguration of the bank-funded Paranaque Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) of the Maynilad Water Services, Inc. which is the pioneer large-scale Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR)-compliant wastewater treatment facility in the country. The plant uses Conventional Activated Sludge technology to remove pollutants from wastewater currently collected from about 100,000 Maynilad customers in

Paranaque City before its discharge to the Malabon Creek, which eventually flows out to Manila Bay.

Borrromeo said DBP will further coordinate with the DENR, the local government units, other government entities, and the private sector in finding a sustainable solution to improve water quality in Manila Bay.

"DBP is prepared to do its share in this inter-sectoral initiative to clean up, rehabilitate, and improve the water quality of Manila Bay and its tributaries," Borrromeo said.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



G10  
PAGE

UPP  
Letter

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOO

11 FEB 2019

DATE

## Families displaced by Manila Bay Rehab, Parola residents get helping hand from SGMA

THANKS to the intervention of former President and now Speaker Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, more than 2,000 families to be displaced by the ongoing cleanup of Manila Bay had been assured of land by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA).

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

During the hearing it was revealed that more than 2,000 families living in a property owned by PPA in Isla Puting, Bato will be displaced because of the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay. This prompted Speaker Arroyo to inquire what arrange-

ments are being made in the transfer of the affected residents. She also asked the PPA to ensure that they would not be deprived of their source of livelihood.

PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago responded that the agency, which is the owner of the property, will be willing to give them five hectares of its property in a nearby area in Tondo. He also vowed to allot P1 million for the social preparation of the residents prior to the transfer.

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

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

acquire their own land.

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

Moreover, SGMA has also vowed to help more than 5,000 urban poor families in Parola, Manila get their land titles.

Speaking during the awarding ceremonies of Certificate of Land Awards to some 80 beneficiaries in Parola, Binondo, Speaker Arroyo said she will ask Negros Occidental Rep. Albee Benitez to convene the Oversight Committee Housing which he heads to facilitate the awarding of titles to

the urban poor beneficiaries in Parola, both in Binondo and Tondo.

"Magpapa-convene tayo ng Oversight sa Committee on Housing kay Cong. Benitez para maayos natin ang mga titulo ninyo," she told residents.

Speaker Arroyo went to Parola recently to lead the awarding of CELAs to beneficiaries. It was the first time the first batch of CELAs were distributed to residents since 2004.

Speaker Arroyo first went to the house of Lucy Santos in Gate 15, Area D to see condition of the community. Santos was the resident who first talked to then President Arroyo in 2004 when asked for help to give housing security in their barangay.

As a result of her consultations with San-

tos and the homeowners' organization in the area, she issued Presidential Proclamation 581 in March 2004 setting aside more than 5 hectares in Parola in Tondo and in Binondo for socialized housing for the informal settlers in the area.

But since she issued the proclamation, the giving of titles was delayed as several government agencies had laid their claims over the property.

Speaker Arroyo has since instructed Manila Rep. Yul Servo and Manuel Lopez to coordinate with Benitez to convene his Oversight Committee on Housing to summon the said government offices and other attached agencies to thresh out the issues with respect to the land titling in Parola.

**Peter Paul Duran**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

FILE PAGE OFF PAGE 1 BANNER EDITORIAL CARTOON  
PAGE STORY STORY STORY

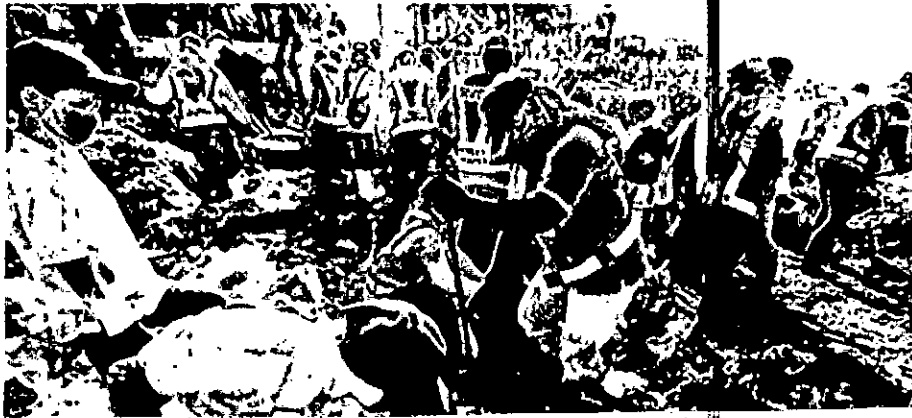
17 FEB 2019  
DATE

1/4

## initiatives for Pasig River and Manila Bay

By MJ Blancaflor

WHILE coastal cleanups are considered band-aid solutions in reviving bodies of water, these are still deemed as prerequisites in raising awareness on the importance of restoring our rivers and bays.





# Manila Standard

That is why private firms and government agencies have launched various cleanup drives for major bodies of water, especially in the country's capital. One such example is Pasig River, which used to be an important transportation route and water source in Metro Manila.

Let's take a look at some of the activities which aim to help in Pasig River rehabilitation:

- **Sagip Estero, Balik Sigla Project.** Launched by Maynilad Water Services Inc., it seeks to improve the water quality in tributaries leading to Pasig River. The esteros involved are Estero dela Reina, Estero de Sunog Apog, Estero de Magdalena, and Estero de Concordia. Maynilad has partnered with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), the local government of Manila, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for this project.

- **Lakbayan Water Trails.** Headed by Manila Water, it is a free half-day educational tour which gives the participants an insider's look of Manila Water treatment facilities, where raw water is treated to become potable and safe for drinking. There is also an actual sewerage treatment plant where used water is treated before returning it to the rivers. Over the years, Lakbayan has accommodated participants from NGOs, government agencies, LGUs, and private companies.

- **Estero Blitz.** It is the annual flood mitigation activity of Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) aimed at de-clogging and cleaning up the waterways such as creeks and esteros.

- **#Salikalikasan.** Hosted by the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA), it is cleanup drive in cooperation with government and private organizations which help revive Pasig River.

- **Estero dela Reina Cleanup.** To celebrate last year's World Water Day, an inter-agency cleanup drive headed by PRRC was carried out at Estero dela Reina, one of the major tributaries of Pasig River.

- **Bayaning Kalikasan: GDPES-PRRC Cleanup Drive and Environmental Advocacy Campaign.** It is a joint effort of the PRRC, Gen. Gregorio Del Pilar Elementary School (GDPES), PCGA, Maynilad, American Association of the Philippines (AAP), and City

of Manila. The cleanup drive was also joined by 200 volunteers comprised of students, faculty members, as well as partners in the government, NGOs, and private sector last Nov. 30.

- **Blockchain technology.** The PRRC and cryptocurrency startup Cypher Odin have joined hands to save the Pasig River using Internet-of-Things (IoT) and blockchain technology by linking their networks to share and exchange data vital to the restoration of the 25-kilometer river.

Equally besieged by environmental degradation is Manila Bay. Here are some of the initiatives directed to restore its pristine waters:

- **SM By the Bay Cleanup Drive.** Aimed at engaging the community to save the environment, this cleanup drive was held in partnership with the DENR, Pasay City Environment Office, ICC-PH, Maynilad, Philippine National Red Cross, and Philippine Coast Guard.

- **The Manila Bay SUNSET.** It is Landbank's flagship corporate social responsibility program for the environment. Since 2003, Landbank has been organizing annual cleanup activities, dubbed as "Linis Lakad para sa Manila Bay Campaign" during its anniversary celebrations in August. Each year, more employees volunteer to help clean the Manila Bay together with other project partners.

- **Coop's Walk for Manila Bay Cleanup.** The Cooperative Union of Taguig and Pateros in coordination with Cooperative Development Authority-Manila Extension Office (CDA-MEO) spearheaded Manila Bay Cleanup, a kick-off activity in the observance of Coop Month Celebration held last October.

- **Student-participated cleanup drive.** Thousands of college students last August trooped to Roxas Boulevard to join the two-hour cleanup drive of Manila Bay. Organized by Global Peace Foundation Philippines, the activity was joined by students from Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Technological University of the Philippines, Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Technology, San Beda University, National University, San Sebastian College, and University of Makati.

- **Manila Bay Cleanup Drive.** It is part of the MMDA's 43rd anniversary celebration last November, where 200 street sweepers cleaned the bay.

2/4





Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

F  
PAGE

UPP  
DOWN

PAGE 1  
STORY

HEADER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOO

3/4

11 FEB 2019

DATE

**SM BY THE BAY  
CLEANUP DRIVE.**  
Aimed at engaging the community to save the environment, this cleanup drive was held in partnership with the DENR, Pasay City Environment Office, ICC-PH, Maynilad, Philippine National Red Cross, and Philippine Coast Guard.





Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

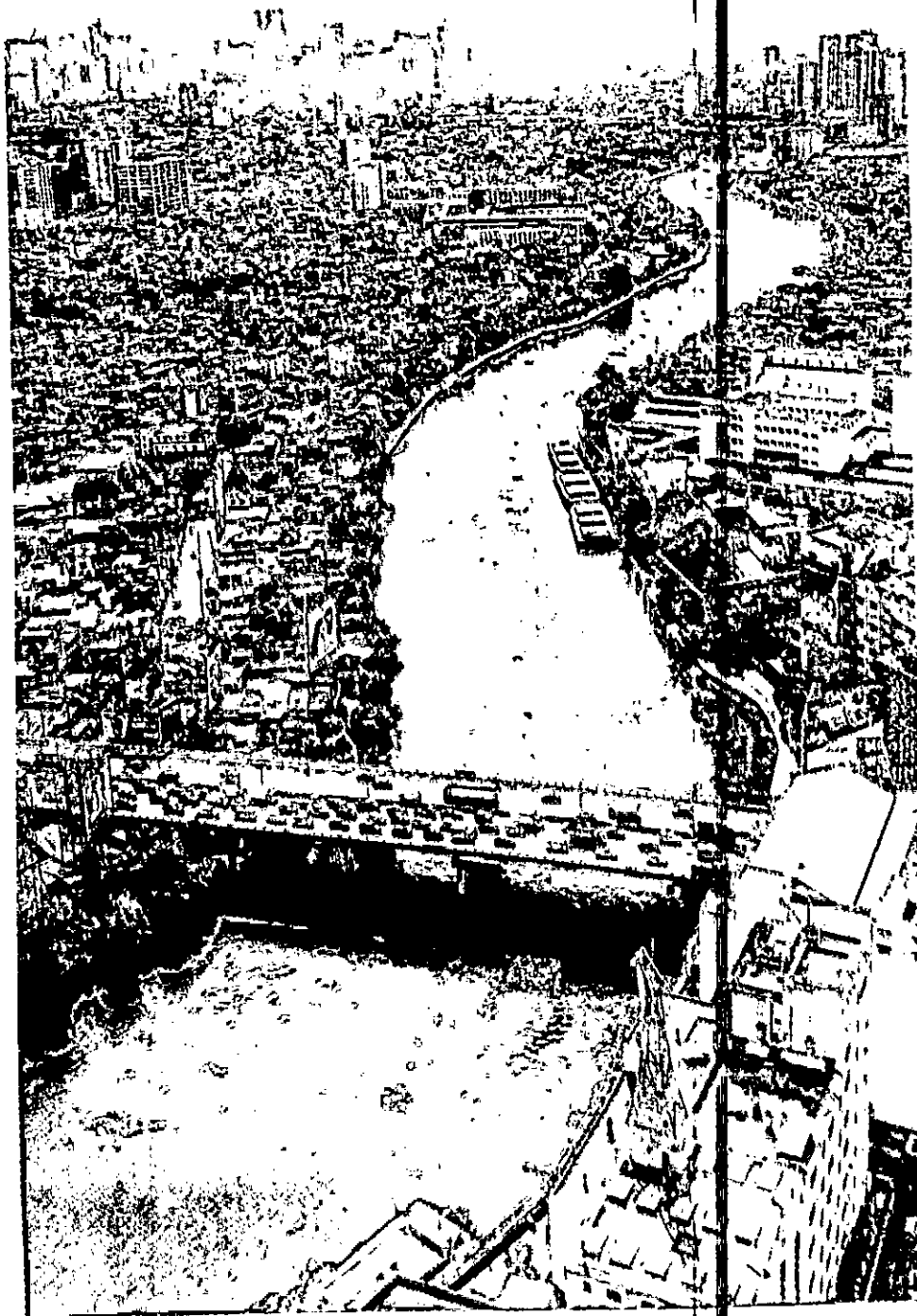
# Manila Standard



11 FEB 2019

DATE

4/4





Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXHIBENT OF SINCE 1800 PHILIPPINE PROGRESS

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

12  
 PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
 STORY

BANNER  
 STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

17 FEB 2019

DATE

## BELOW THE LINE

# Sentimento de Azucar

By **JOSÉ ABETO ZAIDE**

*"That is the land of lost content,  
 I see it shining plain,  
 The happy highways where  
 I went, and cannot come again."  
 — William Wordsworth (?)*

**M**Y senior memory remembers special weekend treats like evening rides on the Matorco - that double-decker which plied the Roxas Boulevard (for the older ones, "Dewey Boulevard"), with the conductress serving drinks and sandwiches on the route from Luneta to Baclaran. At Baclaran, on a good day, there was a strip of beach where I could go for a swim.

When I was in high school, our mother found an apartment at the end of Bayview Drive in Tambo, Paranaque. Our backyard extended all the way to the beach; and I came home from school in the afternoon and took a dip at Manila Bay. Friends came to our "private beach" on weekends; it was always party time.

In the early 60s, the breakwaters reached up to our neighborhood and Roxas Boulevard cut off our beach. But we could still drive farther to Las Pinas and picnic at Ja-Le (Jalandoni-Ledesma) Beach.

\*\*\*

My father, Joe F. Zaide, was press counselor at the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo and extolled our beaches and the sunset of Manila Bay. "But have you been to Rio?", asked one of his fellow members at the Foreign Correspondents Club.

Rio de Janeiro, namesaked capital of Brazil's third most populous state, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Rio

is known for its natural settings and its famous beaches - Barra da Tijuca, Copacabana, Ipanema, and Leblon. (Remember "The Girl from Ipanema?"). Famous landmarks include the giant statue of Christ the Redeemer atop Corcovado mountain (one of the New Seven Wonders of the World), Sugarloaf Mountain cable car, etc.

Despite all odds and after several martinis, the competition was declared a draw because Joe Zaide would not let Manila take second place to Rio. In truth, Rio de Janeiro has many things for it, but more importantly, the Brazilians preserved the beauty of the beaches.

\*\*\*

If this is not enough to make a grown-up cry... The Manila we knew isn't the same - and that goes for Manila Bay, too. Manila Bay has a coastline of 190 kms bounded by 29 settlements, including Cavite and Metro Manila on the east, Bulacan and Pampanga on the north, and Bataan on the west and northwest. It has six islands (Corregidor, Caballo, El Fraile, Carabao, La Monia, and Limbones). It drains approximately 17,000 kms of watershed area. With an average depth of 17 meters, it is estimated to have a total volume of 28.9 billion cubic meters. Entrance to the bay is 19 kms wide and expands to a width of 48 kms. But all of nature's endowments are overwhelmed by over 40 years accumulated tons of refuse and garbage.

\*\*\*

**YET HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL.** After the success at first aid job on Boracay, President Rodrigo Duterte directed his Man Friday for Environment, Roy Cimatu, to Manila Bay. The first burst of energy excited the populace, who came in droves and collected in the succeed-

ing days at Manila Bay and waded in the waters.

**THE VERDICT.** No spoil sport, but Secretary Roy Cimatu said that recovering Manila Bay isn't going to be an overnight wonder. It will go long and hard to undo over 40 years of neglect and abuse, and the bigger challenge is far ahead. Manila Bay is unsafe for bathing due to high levels of "fecal coliform bacteria" in the water; so it remains a "no swimming zone." Fecal coliform level which can cause all types of illnesses is 330 mpn per 10 milliliters (vs. acceptable level of 100 mpn per 100 milliliters). A four-foot fence was installed along the Manila Bay boardwalk to prevent swimming. DPWH is desilting Manila Bay waters to remove garbage which accumulated three meters deep in a survey of 1.5 kilometer stretch. A diversion drainage along the seaside for wastewater of nearby establishments would pass a water treatment plant. Promenaders may enjoy the sunset and sunrise in Manila Bay, but nothing beyond. Cimatu projects "total rehabilitation of Manila within three to seven years" and is optimistic that "the succeeding administration would continue the good programs that we will leave involving Manila Bay."

It may take longer than that. But this is a challenge that all Filipinos, Manilenos most of all, should support. Regardless of political color, we have every reason to recover for our children what we have squandered. This could be President Duterte's best legacy. Just like the tagline of a famous watch, "You don't own a Patek-Philippe [Phippines], you take care of it for the next generation."

**FEEDBACK:** [joseabetozaide@gmail.com](mailto:joseabetozaide@gmail.com)





## No to reclamation, yes to decongestion



WE have a national treasure in Manila Bay, but we have allowed it to rot through years and years of neglect and wanton disregard. Now we have a President who wants it cleaned up and restored to old glory.

That is not an easy task. In fact, if seriously pursued, it will take not just the remaining years of this administration; it will require maybe two or three more presidencies with the same political will and determination to sustain whatever gains the process of rehabilitation will require.

But just as the clean-up efforts (the easiest part of the massive rehabilitation required) have begun, we hear once more about several reclamation projects to be located in the bay. It's not strictly reclamation, but the building of artificial islands in the bay itself, connected to the present shoreline.

One of the major causes of the degradation of our Manila Bay is over-population, and the corresponding inability of both national agencies and local governments to control the discharge of the collective effluents and detritus of residential, commercial, industrial and even informal settlers through decades.

If Boracay was despoiled by an excess of population, whether transient or permanent, far above its carrying capacity, Manila Bay is in worse state.

Boracay serves only the tourism industry. Manila Bay serves every economic aspect of our lives.

We have seen the degradation of Boracay's waters only for a generation, starting from when tourists other than Ferdinand Marcos and his friends "discovered" it in the late eighties. The national government, under the leadership of FVR and Erap, began to take measures to control the coliform level in the waters facing the fabled white beach and around the 1,100 hectare island, but local government negligence laced with greed rendered these attempts useless.

Duterte took charge, and after six months of frenzied efforts and a total closure, Boracay's waters have been restored, hopefully to be sustained.

Now Duterte wants to replicate the success in Boracay to a bay that is thousands of times dirtier and which involves not only most of Metro Manila but the

surrounding territories of Bataan, Cavite, Batangas, Bulacan and Pampanga as well.

It is a legacy that will enshrine him in the hearts and minds of future generations, but only, repeat, only, if the efforts succeed and are sustained. Those are two different endeavors, and both are Herculean in scope and complexity.

Metro Manila, particularly the cities facing the bay, are all congested. It shows in the failure of public transport systems to service the ever-increasing number of passengers. It shows in the urban squalor and decay that characterize these cities. And it shows in the putrid environment of Manila Bay, over which one of the most beautiful sunsets in the world is a spectacle to cherish.

*“Renew the decongested urban landscape of our cities.”*

Senior citizens will remember when Roxas, then Dewey, Boulevard was a beautiful stretch from the US Embassy by the bay all the way to the coast of Las Pinas. Then Harry Stonehill reclaimed the bayfront from the Philippine Navy headquarters and the Manila Yacht Club in the boundary of Manila and Pasay up to EDSA. That was where Imelda Romualdez Marcos built the Cultural Center, later the Philippine International Convention Center – and thank her for the vision and the saving grace of these cultural treasures.

FVR later expanded the reclamation effort all the way to the Paranaque area, and that is where the Entertainment City and SM's Mall of Asia now sit, both magnets of tourism and consumer spending.

Should these not be enough?

These two reclamation projects injected a stream of migrants from all over the country, first as brawn-power of construction, later to stay for good in the metropolis where jobs abound in contrast to the countryside from where they came.

Administrations, one after another, have always mouthed the need for decongesting the nation's premiere metropolis and developing the countryside. But by and large, that has been more talk and less action. We convert our farmlands to house the middle class. And if we allow more

reclamation instead of decongesting the capital region, forget Manila Bay.

First, we will rob the ordinary man of the fabled sunset, and make it a come-on for rich people, mostly foreigners, to enjoy the same from the balconies of their expensive condominium units. The reclamation, actually the creation of large artificial islands, will obliterate views of the bay from Roxas Boulevard. The construction work will, on the other hand, draw in thousands upon thousands of semi-skilled and unskilled workers from the provinces, leaving our farms without workers to grow our food.

And after the artificial islands are created, and the gleaming skyscrapers of steel and glass are completed, where do you suppose these legions of workers will stay? In the now inner cities, in its warrens of congestion and poverty, its slums.

And yet, just beyond the hills of Antipolo and Tanay, there are thousands of hectares of agriculturally unproductive land which can be used to relocate present informal settlers. Create townships complete with the basics of decent living, and connect them to the metropolis through efficient public transport. That is where taxpayer's money should be devoted.

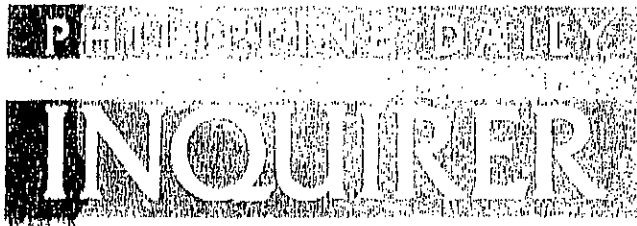
Bataan, Bulacan, even Pampanga beyond Clark and Subic, are quite near. Imagine making Norzagaray and Remedios Trinidad more accessible, with new townships equipped with schools, hospitals and parks.

But the first step ought to be a comprehensive program of transferring the national government and all its agencies elsewhere, Clark with its inherited and yet-to-be-built additional infrastructure being the logical site.

Thus, we decongest Metro Manila, leaving it as the financial, commercial and even cultural center, enhancing it with parks and pockets of green to make Upon the other hand, reclamation projects will only attract the rich, mostly foreigners. We keep aping what we see in Hong Kong, or the Emirates like Dubai, creating more and more enclaves for the rich, and forgetting the rest of humanity now residing in our capital. But these are cities where habitable land is scarce and the demand for habitat quite high. Aside from which, they are centers of wealth.

The better models would be Putrajaya in Malaysia, Ankara in Turkey, Canberra in Australia, Ottawa in Canada, Brasilia in Brazil, even Washington D.C. in the US of A.

Decongest Manila. Renew the decongested-urban landscape of its cities. And forbid any further reclamation in Manila Bay.



A13  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER  
 PAGE 1  
STORY  
 BANNER  
STORY  
 EDITORIAL  
 CARTOON

11 FEB 2019

DATE

## CHEAP ANTICS AND EMPTY PR

THE front page of the Inquirer last Feb. 7 caught my attention: "Coliform levels down but swimming still banned."

For ordinary people, the government's move to clean up Manila Bay will elicit much appreciation. However, the exaggerated newspaper coverage of a series of events the past few days over the bay "rehabilitation" is much ado about nothing. These cleanup activities will never stop Manila Bay's pollution even if done every day for 100 days, as long as the sources of pollutants are not stopped!

Luckily for us, the effort to clean up the waters in Metro Manila started without fanfare more than 10 years ago. Water concessioners Manila Water and Maynilad had been mandated to construct and install sewage treatment plants all

over Metro Manila and surrounding cities, each plant costing more than a billion pesos. The first plant installed was in Marikina, followed by ones in Pasay, Muntinlupa and others. Parañaque also has one now in the final stage of completion. Las Piñas has just awarded the project to a contractor. Many more STPs (sewage treatment plants) are to follow, with EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) firms from Europe, Japan and others participating in the bidding process.

This is the way to really address a national problem. The government should show more respect for our people's level of intelligence and discard those cheap antics and empty PR.

WILFREDO LUPOS,  
walupos@gmail.com



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

79  
PAGE

UP  
PAGE

PAGE 1  
STORY

BARRIER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

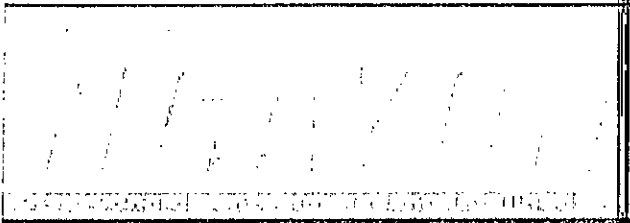
11 FEB 2019

DATE



Estero Blitz (above) is the annual flood mitigation activity of Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) aimed at de-clogging and cleaning up the waterways such as creeks and esteros. At right, Landbank, since 2003, has been organizing annual cleanup activities, dubbed as "Linis Lakad para sa Manila Bay Campaign" during its anniversary celebrations in August (right). Landbank photo





11 FEB 2019  
DATE

## **DTI, iminungkahing isama sa Manila Bay rehab**

Iminumungkahi ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na isama ang Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) sa Manila Bay rehabilitation's interagency task force.

Personal na iminumungkahi ni Antiporda na isama sa Manila Bay rehabilitation project ang DTI para sa livelihood projects ng mga informal settlers na malilipat ng ibang lugar.

Ang kawalan umano ng mapagkakakitaan sa re-settlement areas ang dahilan kaya ang mga illegal settlers ay bumabalik sa kanilang mga lugar matapos ang relokasyon.

Paliwanag ni Antiporda ito rin ang isa sa kanilang tinitingnan kung paano bibigyan ng matihong kabuhayan at mapapasukan ng trabaho ang mga informal settlers para hindi na sila bumalik sa mga pinanggalingan nila.

Magugunita na noong nakaraang buwan ay nagsagawa ng solidarity walk ang may 5,000 katao sa kahabaan ng Roxas Blvd. bilang hudyat ng pagsisimula ng Manila Bay rehabilitation program ng DENR. (Gemma Garcia)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



9  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 FEB 2019

DATE

## Apektado ng Manila Bay rehab **NEGOSYO SA INFORMAL SETTLERS**

**HINILING** ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Manila Bay rehabilitation interagency taskforce na isama ang Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) sa kanilang proyekto.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, layon nitong mabigyan ng gabay ang mga informal settler sa pag-relocate o paglipat sa ibang lugar.

"Personal po na iminumungkahi ng inyong lingkod na isama rin sa interagency task force ang Department of Trade and Industry upang makatulong ito sa aming rehabilitation program sa Manila Bay."

sabi ni Antiporda.

Dagdag pa niya, tinitingnan din ng kanilang tanggapan kung paano mabibigyan ng matinong kabuhayaan ang mga informal settler at mapapasukan ng trabaho upang hindi na sila bumalik sa pinanggalingang lugar.

Kasabay nito, nanawagan din si Antiporda sa publiko na makipagtulungan sa awtoridad sa rehabilitation efforts ng pamahalaan sa pamamagitan ng boluntaryong pagsama sa kanilang clean up drive o 'di kaya'y tumulong na huwag magkalat ng basura para 'di lumala ang polusyon sa Manila Bay.

**BENEDICT  
ABAYGAR, JR.**





## ESTABLISIMYENTONG MAHUHULING NAGTATAPON NG POLUSYON SA MANILA BAY, IPASASARA AT PANANAGUTINI!

NANGAKO si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na pananagutin nito ang mga pasaway na establisimyento na nagtatapon ng dumi sa Manila Bay bilang bahagi ng malawakang rehabilitasyon nito.

"No establishment that is polluting Manila Bay will be spared from the crackdown," sabi ni Cimatu. "We will make sure all establishments will go through inspection and the violators will have to pay the price for polluting the environment."

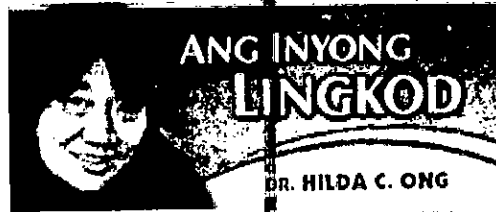
Ang pahayag na ito ni Cimatu ay matapos na magla-

bas ng kautusan ang Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) na nagpapasara sa apat pang establisimyento na natukoy na nagtatapon ng "untreated wastewater" sa Manila Bay.

Ang LLDA ay naglabas ng cease and desist orders (CDOs) laban sa Billion Building, HK Sun Plaza, Tramway Bayview Buffet Restaurant sa Pasay City at D Circle Hotel sa Manila.

Nakapagpalabas na rin ang LLDA ng karagdagang 13 na notice of violations (NOVs) at apat na ex-parte orders ilang araw pagkatapos simulan ang Manila Bay rehabilitation noong Enero 27.

Bago ito, naglabas na rin ng CDOs ang LLDA laban sa mga restaurant na kinabibilangan ng Aristocrat, Gloria Maris at Esplanade, at E Universe Entertainment and KTV Bar matapos matuklasang nagtatapon ang mga ito ng maruming tubig diretso sa Manila Bay at napatunayan



DR. HILDA C. ONG

din na wala ang mga itong kaukulang wastewater facility.

Base sa nakasaad sa Republic Act 9275 o mas kilala sa tawag na Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 ang direktang pagtatapon ng wastewater sa mga daluyan ng tubig ay maaaring maging dahilan upang ipasara ang isang establisimyento.

Nagbabala pa si Cimatu sa mga establisyemento na posibleng maipasara ang mga ito sa patuloy na pagtatapon ng kanilang dumi sa Manila Bay.

"This is just the initial salvo as inspection of establishments for their compliance goes full swing not only here in Metro Manila, but also in the provinces that affect the water quality of Manila Bay," dagdag pa ni Cimatu.

Nakapagbigay na rin ang Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) ng DENR ng

NOVs sa 265 establisimyento sa National Capital Region (NCR), 21 cease and desist orders sa Region 3 at 45 NOVs sa Region 4A. Kabilang sa mga nilabag ng mga ito ay ang RA 9275, RA 8749 o Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 at RA 6969 o Toxic and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act.

Nadiskubre rin na may mga negosyong nakapag-cooperate ng walang kaukulang Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECC) at lumabag sa Presidential Decree 1586 o mas kilala sa tawag na Environmental Impact Statement System:



## Matagumpay na rehab ng Manila Bay pinuri ni Ex-Mayor Lim

**PINAPURIHAN** kahapon ng nagbabalik na alkalde ng Maynila na si dating Mayor Alfredo S. Lim si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa matagumpay na rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay at pagsasakatuparan ng pagbabalik nito sa dati nitong estado bilang isang malinis na pasyalan, na akala aniya ng lahat ay imposible nang mangyari pang muli.

Ginawa ni Lim ang pahayag nang mag-jogging ito kahapon ng umaga sa Baywalk area at makita gaano na kalinis ang lugar gayundin ang pagtutulong-tulong ng iba't-ibang grupo mula sa gobyerno at private sector upang linisin ang mga kalat na dala ng alon.

Nang mamataan nila si Lim, na nakasuot ng puting t-shirt at shorts at rubber shoes, daan-daang mamamasyal at grupo ng mga cleanup volunteers ang nagsisugod upang makipagkuhanan ng litrato kasama siya o di kaya ay mag-selfie, habang ang iba naman ay nagmano, humalik o yumakap pa sa kanya, habang nagpapahayag na susuportahan siya sa darating na halalan. Si Lim ay tumatkbong alkalde para sa ruling Partido Demokratiko Pilipino -Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) ni Pangulong Duterte.

Pinuri ni Lim ang iba't-ibang grupo na nasa baywalk upang lumahok sa boluntaryong paglilinis nito, kabilang na ang National Parks Development Committee (NPDC) staff sa pamumuno ng executive director nitong si Penelope Belmonte - na napag-alamang ginagawa na ang nasabing paglilinis nitong mga nakalipas na taon-MMDA, non-government organizations kasama na ang grupo ng motorcycle riders na 'Angkas,' Toyota Makati staff, barangay officials mula sa iba't-ibang lugar, student groups at maging mga kapulisan.

Nagulat at ikiniatiwa din ng dating alkalde ang aniya ay mataas na antas ng enerhia ng mga volunteers at pinuri niya ang mga ito sa kanilang malasa-kit sa kapaligiran at paglalaan ng oras para sa clean-up activities.

Matatandaan na tung kayang panunungkulan bilang alkalde ay tiniyak ni Lim na kada linggo ay may regular na lingguhang clean-up sa Manila Bay area, na ang naturang lugar ay walang anumang hangang at pinanatili niya ito bilang 'perfect spot' kung saan matalanaw ang 'Manila Bay sunset' na siyang nagpasikat dito sa buong mundo.

(Leonard Basilio)



**PINURI** ni Manila Yacht Club Commodore Robert Bobby Lim nang maging panauhin sa Balita sa Tinapayan ang hakbang ng DENR sa pangunguna ni Sec. Roy Cimatu na buhayin ang Manila Bay para maayos ang sewerage system ng mga establisimyento sa paligid ng Manila Bay at makaakit ng mga turista. **CRISMON HERAMIS**



## RECLAMATION PROJECT SA MANILA BAY INAWAT NI LENI

### Reclamation project sa Manila Bay inawat ni Leni

Naalarma si Vice President Leni Robredo sa mga ulat kaugnay sa mga reclamation project sa ilang bahagi ng Manila Bay.

Ayon kay Robredo, may makabubuti na pag-aralan munang mabuti ang magiging pangmatagalang epekto ng isusulong na mga reclamation project sa kalikasan at maging sa buong Metro Manila.

Sinabi ni Robredo na sobrang siksikan na ang mga tao sa Metro Manila at dapat umanong matiyak muna kung makabubuti ba ang reklamasyon sa Manila Bay.

Nilinaw naman ni Robredo na kanyang sinusuportahan ang Manila Bay rehabilitation at ang pinapakitang political will ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte para maibalik sa dating kagandahan at kalinisan ang naturang lugar. (Juliet de Loza-Cudia)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
**INQUIRER**

32-1  
PAGE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
UPPER	PAGE 1	BANNER	EDITORIAL	CARTOON
LOWER	STORY	STORY		

11 FEB 2019

DATE

## MAYNILAD TO START TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**  
@RonWDomingoINQ

Maynilad Water Services Corp. is pushing ahead with plans to build a new treatment plant to tap water from the Laguna de Bay even as regulators insist on focusing new investments on the Kaliwa Dam amid rising demand.

In a notice to potential contractors, Maynilad announced a contract to build its Laguna Lake Water Treatment Plant in Muntinlupa City, which would have a capacity to process 150 million liters a day (MLD).

"The proposed project aims to serve portions of the southern part of the West Concession Area as part of Maynilad's service level improvement in terms of water supply coverage," the firm said.

"The project shall also serve as an additional water source in case of climate-induced water supply scarcity in the future," it added.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) assures the public that Metro Manila and neighboring provinces will have secure supply of potable water over the next five years and until 2037 when water service concessions end.

MWSS identified as potential medium-term water sources the Laguna Lake with a potential to provide 900 MLD; Sumag River, 188 MLD; Tayabasan River, 175 MLD and Wawa River, 500 MLD.

The other MWSS concessionaire, Manila Water Co. Inc.,

has been pushing for its own integrated water supply facility in Pakil, Laguna—called East Bay project—which will have a capacity to produce 250 MLD.

Manila Water earlier warned that without a new source of water, it might not be able to keep up with increasing demand and a shortfall might happen starting 2021.

But the MWSS was not inclined to approve Manila Water's East Bay project, showing concern that the resulting increase in water rates would be much more compared to the tariff hikes that would result from the agency's Kaliwa Dam.

Kaliwa Dam project will be funded through China's overseas development assistance funds. INQ



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



B14  
PAGE

UPPER  
POWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

PAINTER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 FEB 2019

TITLE :

PAGE /

DATE

# Maynilad offers desludging service this February

West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. (Maynilad) is offering septic tank cleaning services to its residential and semi-business customers this February in select parts of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Quezon City, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Parañaque, and in Cavite province at no extra cost.

Maynilad customers residing at Barangays 19 to 22 and

133 in Caloocan; Baritan and Catmon in Malabon; Bagumbayan North, Bangculasi and Sipac-Almacen in Navotas; and in Bagong Silangan, Batasan Hills and Holy Spirit in Quezon City may avail of this cleaning service, which normally costs around P4,000 per truck.

Customers in the south may also avail of this service, particularly those from: Almanza

Uno and Dos and Pamplona Uno in Las Piñas; Bayanan and Poblacion in Muntinlupa; Baclaran and Don Bosco in Parañaque; Habay I and Ligas III in Bacoor, Cavite; Barangays 6, 13, 23, 38 and 44 in Cavite City; and in Bayan Luma III and IV in Imus, Cavite.

Maynilad president and CEO Ramoncito Fernandez emphasized that Maynilad's sanitation program is part of

the effort to lessen pollution loading into our river systems, "We ask our customers to avail of this service to protect community health and the environment."

Maynilad customers interested in availing of the company's septic tank cleaning service may call the Maynilad Hotline 1626 to determine the requirements and procedures. Additional information are

also available in the company's website, [www.mayniladwater.com.ph](http://www.mayniladwater.com.ph), and social media accounts (Twitter: @maynilad, Facebook: MayniladWater).

Maynilad is the largest private water concessionaire in the Philippines in terms of customer base. It is the agent and contractor of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for the West Zone of the Greater Manila

Area, which is composed of the cities of Manila (certain portions), Quezon City (certain portions), Makati (west of South Super Highway), Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon, all in Metro Manila; the cities of Cavite, Bacoor and Imus, and the towns of Kawit, Novleta, and Rosario, all in Cavite province.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1880

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

4/8  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 FEB 2019

DATE

## Water conservation urged as La Mesa Dam reaches 'too low' level

Water at the La Mesa Dam is at below normal level, raising the need for water conservation among its customers to help ensure the availability of reserve until the rainy season begins in early June.

The dam's 6 a.m. water level on Saturday was only 72.19 meters, noted Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) hydrologist Richard Orendain. "That water level is too low,"

Orendain said.

He added that La Mesa's water level around this time of the year is normally between 78 meters and 79 meters.

"Water conservation will help make a reserve there available over a longer period," he said.

There's a need to prolong the availability of La Mesa's reserve as the dry season is not over and the rainy season generally begins between late May and early June, he **►8**

## Water conservation urged... ◀1

explained.

Experts are recommending that repairing leaking pipes, reusing water, turning off the faucet while brushing, and mulching plants should be among the water conservation measures to be undertaken.

Orendain said that at present, La Mesa Dam has a 47-cubic-meter-per-second (cms) allocation of water from Angat Dam, its sole source.

Such allocation is higher than the 44 cms the government normally earmarks for La Mesa Dam during the dry season, he noted.

La Mesa Dam's reserve is still decreasing due to the increasing population and water use in the facility's service areas like Metro Manila, he said.

Orendain added that water prospects can be better if the dam has another source that would augment supply from Angat Dam.

He said water from Angat passes through the Ipo Dam then flows into

the La Mesa Dam.

The Angat-Ipo-La Mesa water system supplies most of Metro Manila's water.

The expected rainfall shortage during the dry season's peak or during summer is also fueling urgency for conserving La Mesa's reserve, he said.

"If nothing's done to conserve La Mesa's reserve, water level there can dip to about 65 meters or 66 meters by April 2019's end," he said, adding that the projection is below La Mesa's lowest 2018 water level of 70.16 meters on June 6 last year.

Earlier, PAGASA forecast below-normal rainfall this month and March in Metro Manila where the La Mesa Dam is located.

PAGASA also forecasts way-below normal rainfall in Metro Manila this April, one of the country's hottest months.

Water use surges during the summer months of April to May. (PNA)



## Magtipid sa paggamit ng tubig

**M**ABABA na sa normal na lebel ang tubig ng La Mesa Dam, kaya kinakailangan nang magtipid ng tubig ng mga konsyumer nito para masigurong magkakaroon ng sapat na supply ng lahat bago pa man magsimula ang panahon ng tag-ulan ngayong taon.

Ang water level ng dam nitong Sabado ay nasa 72.19 meters, ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) hydrologist na si Richard Orendain. "That water level is too low," sabi ni

Orendain.

Dagdag pa niya, sa panahon ngayon karaniwang nasa pagitan ng 78 metro at 79 metro ang level ng tubig sa La Mesa.

"Water conservation will help make reserve there available over a longer period," sabi niya.

Kailangang mapanatili na may maisupply na tubig ang La Mesa lalo na at hindi pa tapos ang tag-init, dahil kadalasang nagsisimula ang panahon ng tag-ulan tuwing katapusan ng Mayo at unang linggo ng Hunyo, paliwanag ni Orendain.

Ang pagsasaayos ng mga butas na tubo, paggamit ulit ng gamit nang tubig, pagsasarado ng gripo-habang nagsisipilyo at maayos na pagdidilig ng halaman ang ilan sa mga ilang palatuntunan para makatipid sa tubig, ayon sa mga eksperto.

Binanggit din ni Orendain na sa kasalukuyan, ang La Mesa Dam ay mayroong 47-cubic-meter-per-second (cms) alokasyon ng tubig mula sa Angat Dam, na tanging pinagkukunan nito.

Ang naturang alokasyon ay mas mataas kaysa 44 cms na itinalaga ng gobyerno para sa La Mesa Dam tuwing tag-init, aniya pa.

Patuloy ang pagbaba ng lebel ng tubig sa La Mesa Dam dahil sa lumalaking bilang ng populasyon.

Dagdag pa ni Orendain, magiging mas maayos ang pangangasiwa rito kung magkakaroon pa ang dam ng ibang pagkukunan bukod sa Angat Dam.

Ang tubig tumatawid mula sa Angat sa Ipo Dam bago tumutuloy sa La Mesa Dam.

Ang Angat-Ipo-La Mesa water system ang nagsu-supply sa halos lahat ng lugar sa Metro Manila.

"If nothing's done to conserve La Mesa's reserve, water level there can dip to about 65 meters or 66 meters by April 2019's end," aniya.

Una rito, magkaroon na ng forecast ang PAGASA ng below-normal rainfall ngayong buwan at sa Marso sa Metro Manila, na kinatatayuan ng La Mesa Dam.

Ililang pag-ulan din ang magaganap sa Metro Manila sa Abril, ayon sa PAGASA, na isa sa pinakamaiinit na buwan sa bansa.

Ang 'summer' ng Pilipinas ay mula Abril hanggang Mayo. At malaki ang konsumo sa tubig ng publiko sa mga nabanggit na buwan.

PNA





# INQUIRER

B4  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 FEB 2019

DATE

## Garbage in, garbage out

### BIZ BUZZ

**D**espite the global trend against burning solid wastes that produce toxic fumes, the Quezon City government appears to be going against conventional wisdom by espousing incineration to produce energy.

Biz Buzz sources said outgoing Quezon City Mayor **Herbert Bautista** is entertaining a last-ditch public-private partnership and joint venture proposal from a consortium led by Metro Pacific Investments Corp., Covanta Energy and the Macquarie Group. The unsolicited proposal includes the design, financing, construction, operation and maintenance of the Quezon City Integrated Solid Waste Management Facility capable of processing up to 3,000 metric tons a day of municipal solid waste. If approved, the plan will bind the city government and its residents for 35 years from the start of operations, plus possible extension of another 15 years.

Environment watchdogs are wary of the project, which proposes a Stoker-type waste-to-energy plant that use fire grates to ensure stable waste combustion. Burning garbage, they point out, is a clear violation of the Clean Air Act and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act that prohibit waste incineration. Worse, they claim that waste-to-energy plants produce some of the most toxic substances known to man. This includes by-products like dioxin, which can stay airborne for hundreds of years. Toxic even in small concentrations, dioxins are known to cause different types of cancers, reproductive disorders in both men and women, birth defects and impaired brain development, among others.

There are also concerns about the city government's minimum waste delivery commitment under the proposed joint venture. Pegged at 1,700 metric tons a day, this means that the local government unit must be able to collect, haul and supply the incineration facility more than 600,000 metric tons of municipal solid waste a year.

Should the local government unit fail to deliver the committed volume, it may be subjected to penalties.

According to Quezon City government insiders, this provision goes against the

grain of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, which advocates waste segregation and waste reduction. In fact, they note that the imposition and observance of the minimum delivery commitment negates the law's intent as it encourages local residents to produce more garbage instead of teaching them to segregate, reuse and recycle.

Given numerous questions about the project's environmental and fiscal impact, Quezon City residents and environment groups are calling for more transparency about the planned facility, whose approval is reportedly being pushed shortly before the election ban on awarding of contracts. For more developments on this project, watch this space, people. —DAX-IML LUCAS



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

16  
PAGE

PFP  
PAGE

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 FEB 2019

DATE



## Globe says NO to plastic, launches 'Wag Sa Single Use Plastic' campaign

GLOBE Telecom has joined several organizations that have taken a stance against the proliferation of plastics by instituting a ban on single use plastics within its headquarters at The Globe Tower.

The company also embarked on an employee education campaign entitled WASSUP ("Wag Sa Single Use Plastic") tackling the impacts of plastics to the environment. The campaign was launched in time for the celebration of Zero-Waste Month, a government advocacy that "promotes the managing of products and processes to avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste materials." "Globe is committed to having sustainable programs that will benefit our country and every Filipino. We are definitely looking at innovative ways to

address our country's plastic problem, starting with ourselves, our employees and partners, and in future, with the help of our customers and other stakeholders. Unfortunately, not all types of plastics are recyclable. We need to improve our recycling infrastructure and reduce or altogether stop the use of non-recyclable plastics. It is a grave environmental concern and the solution requires changes on how we use and produce plastic," said Yoly Crisanto, Globe Chief Sustainability Officer and SVP for Corporate Communications. Globe is a strong advocate of environment protection and conservation and supports 10 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Programs. Given its wide business footprint, Globe recognizes the environmental impact of its operations,

prompting the company to institute measures to lessen carbon emissions, reduce paper consumption, restore primary rainforests, and recycle e-waste, among other environmental initiatives.

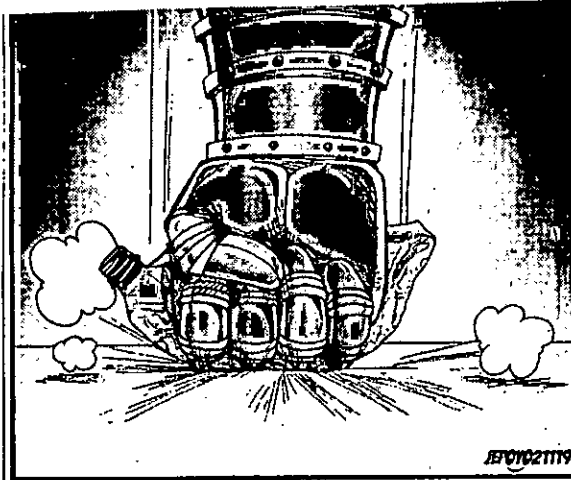
For instance, Globe was able to save 58 tons of paper in 2017 from customers who enrolled in paperless billing while its Project 1 Phone was able to recycle over 500,000 kilograms of electronic waste since its launch in 2013. Likewise, in partnership with Save Philippine Seas (SPS), an independent non-government, non-profit organization that aims to protect the country's rich marine resources through citizen-led initiatives, Globe rolled out marine biodiversity programs in Boracay and Siargao to equip the community and business stakeholders

with modules on best practices on sustainability and biodiversity. Meanwhile, the Philippines ranks third in terms of total contribution to ocean plastic pollution based on a report released by the Ocean Conservancy and McKinsey Center for Business and Environment. This dire situation caught the people's attention last year when massive piles of garbage crashed into the Manila Bay breakwater during heavy rains. A recent audit conducted by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives and Mother Earth Foundation in select areas, likewise, showed that about 79 percent of branded plastic residual wastes come from food packaging, followed by household products with 12 percent, and personal care products with eight percent.



11 FEB 2019

DATE



### *Editorial*

## Plastic na basura

**B**UONG mundo ay namumroblema sa plastic na basura. Bawat baybaying dagat ng mga bansa ay may mga inaanod na plastic. Hindi lamang Manila Bay ang namumulaklak sa mga basurang plastic kundi marami pa. Kung tutuusin, baka mas malala pa ang basura sa ibang bansa.

Sa pag-aaral na ginawa, tinatayang 437 million hanggang 8.3 billion plastics ang inaanod sa mga coastline sa buong mundo. Sa baybaying dagat ng America, tinatayang 7.5 million plastics ang nakatambak at maski ang mga namumuno roon ay problemado sa mga inaanod na basura.

Pandaigdig ang problema sa mga basurang plastic kaya marami ang nananawagan na ang bawat bansa ay magdeklara ng paglaban sa plastic pollution. Ipagbawal na ang paggamit ng plastic na sumisira sa kapaligiran. Ang Pilipinas ay ikatlo sa mga bansang may maraming plastic na basura. Nangunguna ang China at pumapangalawa ang Indonesia.

Magandang malaman na aktibo si Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu sa paglaban sa mga nagtatapon ng basura. Minsang nagsalita silya sa isang forum, sinabi niyang tapos na ang araw ng mga gumagawa ng krimen laban sa Inang Kalikasan. Ang pag-abuso sa kalikasan ay tutuldukan na sapagkat mahigpit nang ipatutupad ang environmental laws, rules, regulations at ordinances.

Nakakatuwa na ganito kasidhi si Cimatu sa paglaban sa mga sumisira sa kalikasan. Sana ang kasunod nito ay ang pagpapakita ng kamay na bakal laban sa mga irresponsableng mamamayan na walang pakundangan kung magtapon ng plastic sa mga kanal at estero.

Ipamulat sa mga irresponsable na ang mga basurang plastic na kanilang itinapon ay humahantong sa Manila Bay. Kaya anumang kampanya sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay ay mawawalan ng saysay kung hindi itigil sa pagtatapon ng dumi at basura. Totohanan na ang paglilinis kaya nararapat makisasa ang mamamayan. Tuldukan na ang walang disiplinang pagtatapon ng mga plastic na basura sa kalisada, kanal, estero, llog at dagat man.



11 FEB 2019

DATE



## CENTRAL VISAYAS: CEBU CITY

### Court junks petition vs Cebu City's Inayawan landfill rehab and closure

THE CLOSURE and rehabilitation of the Inayawan Sanitary Landfill in Cebu City can now proceed as planned after a regional trial court (RTC) junked a petition for a temporary restraining order and/or writ of preliminary prohibition filed by a construction company. "Even assuming that this court finds the application to be meritorious and grants the same, such order may not be enforced in the province of Cebu where the act sought to be enjoined is allegedly being committed," reads a portion of the order of Judge Catherine P. Manodon of the RTC-Branch 104 in Quezon City. Expedition Construction Corp. asked the court to stop the Cebu City government from allowing another company, Full Advantage Phil. International Inc. (FAPIL), to complete the contract for the closure and rehabilitation of the landfill. Expedition Construction alleged that the previous administration, led by former mayor Michael L. Rama, accepted their unsolicited proposal on the landfill rehabilitation in 2014. The city government under the current administration awarded the contract to FAPIL. City of Cebu, through lawyers Joseph Bernaldez and Bernard Inocentes Garcia, denied the submission of an unsolicited proposal in 2014 for lack of knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the truth. Mr. Garcia said the city government will now ask the court to dismiss the case.--

*The Freeman*

>> Read more at <https://goo.gl/KkP1FJ>



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

16  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 FEB 2019

DATE

## 1,500 volunteers in beach cleanup

TACLOBAN CITY - Over 1,500 volunteers took part in a beach clean-up in Borongan City, Eastern Samar Saturday. Cherrie Ann Calacá, president of the Borongan City Tour Guides Association which spearheaded the activity, said aside from the cleanup they wanted to raise awareness among Boronganons especially the youth who visit their park along Baybay village. "When our group was formed in December, our first project was to conduct an information drive to remind the public where to dispose their trash. Then the Manila Bay cleanup happened. We were inspired to create a bigger project involving the community, so the coastal cleanup of Baybay Borongan came about," she explained. About five truckloads of trash composed of driftwoods and coconut husks were hauled coming from the barrio near the river by 70 organizations who participated in said activity. (Marie Tonettè Marticlo)



## Coastal areas, nilinis

TACLOBAN CITY - Tinatayang aabot sa 1,500 volunteer ang nakibahagi sa paglilinis ng dalampasigan ng Borongan City sa Eastern Samar, nitong Sabado.

Pinangunahan ni Cherrie Ann Calacal, pangulo ng Borongan City Tour Guides Association, ang clean up operation sa coastal areas ng Baybay Borongan kung saan nahakot ang tone-toneladang basurang inanod mula sa mga karatig-lugar nito.

"When our group was formed in December, our first project was to conduct an information drive to remind the public where to dispose their trash, then the Manila Bay cleanup happened. We were inspired to create a bigger project involving the community, so the coastal cleanup of Baybay Borongan came about."

Layunin aniya nito na maiwasan ang dati na nilang naranasang malawakang pagbaha sa lungsod na isinisisi sa hindi maayos na pagtatapon ng basura.

**Marie Tonette Marticio**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

F3  
PAGE  
DATE  
11 FEB 2013  
1/2  
DATE

# Cebu Pacific, Siargao stakeholders join forces for sustainable tourism



Juan Effect advocates Kyle "Kulas" Jennerman, Jasmine Curtis-Smith, and Erwan Heussaff join Cebu Pacific in engaging locals to practice proper waste management in Siargao.

**A**S more Filipinos travel around the country, it opens up cultural and leisure opportunities that were not accessible and available to previous generations. Tourism has also provided employment and business opportunities to rural communities which lack a diversified economy.

But there is another side to tourism expansion. Natural habitats and ecosystems are affected by the development of roads, hotels, restaurants, and other establishments. Leisure activities such as trekking, climbing and scuba diving also have negative impacts such as littering and damage to coral reefs, flora and even fauna.

Leading Philippine carrier Cebu Pacific ramps up its "Juan Effect" sustainable tourism program, particularly in its pilot area of Siargao Island. A partnership with the Department of Tourism (DOT), "Juan Effect" aims to mitigate the impact of tourist arrivals on the environment.

"Juan Effect" engages travelers and local stakeholders, raising awareness among Filipinos



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

PAGE  
 P3  
 BPP  
 PAPER STORY  
 BANNER STORY  
 EDITORIAL  
 CARTOON

11 FEB 2019  
DATE

2/2

about their responsibilities as tourists and encourages them to make a difference by changing one daily habit. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Interior and Local Government are also involved in the roll-out of "Juan Effect."

Cebu Pacific has been mounting flights in and out of Siargao for the past ten years—the very first airline to do so. Since then, the island has become a popular tourist destination, on top of maintaining its status as a world-class surfing area.

"Since we launched 'Juan Effect' in August 2018, we have been working with the local government units in Siargao and the province of Surigao Del Norte to spur concerted action to properly manage the ever-increasing visitor numbers, ease the negative impact of tourism on the island, and balance the social and environmental concerns with its economic benefits," said Candice Iyog, Vice President for Marketing and Distribution of Cebu Pacific.

Cebu Pacific flies once daily between Manila and Siargao and up to four times a day between Siargao and Cebu using its fleet of ATR 72-600 aircraft, which has the lowest fuel consumption and the lowest environmental footprint in its category. The ATR 72-600 produces 40% less carbon dioxide emissions than other turboprops. And as with all other Cebu Pacific and Cebgo flights, all non-recyclable plastic spoons, forks, stirrers and cups used for inflight meals have been replaced with sustainable alternatives.

So far, the implementation of the "Juan Effect" program has resulted in the passage of ordinances in some municipalities in Siargao that pertain to waste reduction and the usage of single-use plastic. To help educate tourists and local residents, colorful murals and signs made of used surfboards have also been put up prior to the peak surfing season that began in September 2018.

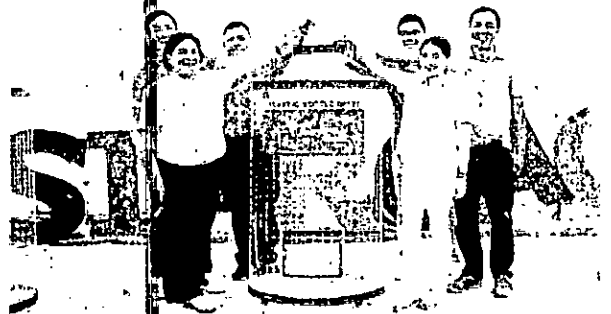
The airline also commissioned the design and fabrication of receptacles that tourists can use to properly dispose of plastic bottles, which can then be collected to be made into eco bricks or recycled. Designed to withstand strong waves and winds, these plastic bottle receptacles will be deployed at key points in Siargao as well as outlying islands to encourage proper waste disposal.

Cebu Pacific will also work with local stakeholders to introduce practices to minimize waste in the ground and in the ocean. Engagement activities will be led by "Juan Effect" advocates Erwan Heussaff, Jasmine Curtis-Smith, and Kyle "Kulas" Jennerman. To drum up even more public awareness and support, a colorful mural of the underwater designed by fast-rising visual artist and muralist, Anina Rubio, will be painted on the perimeter wall of the Dapa Elementary School to bring life to the community and inspire every Juan to contribute towards improving the environment.

Join Cebu Pacific in keeping the Philippine islands clean and beautiful by making a pledge at [www.juaneffect.com](http://www.juaneffect.com).



Cebu Pacific Director for Passenger Sales Arlene Tena and DOT Secretary Berna Romulo-Puyat are joined by (from left) DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Concerns Benny Antiporda, Surigao del Norte 1st District Congressman Bingo Matugas II, Surigao del Norte Vice-Governor Hon. Arturo Carlos Egay, and DOT Assistant Secretary for Branding and Marketing Communications Howard Lance Uyking in donating plastic bottle trash bins to Siargao communities to encourage proper waste segregation practices among locals and tourists.







Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

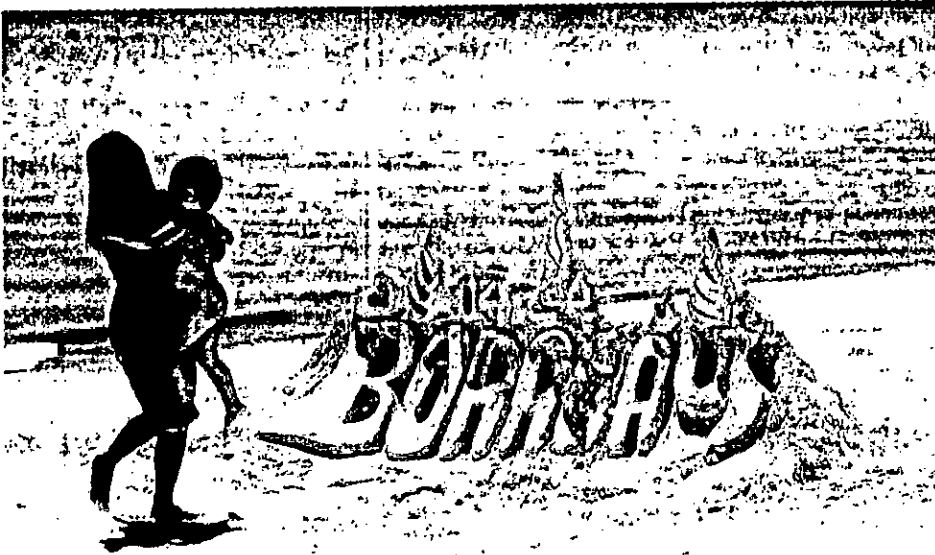
FOI PAGE OFF PAGE 1 STORY BANNER STORY EDITORIAL CARILDO

11 FEB 2019

# BORACAY REHABILITATION Restoring Paradise

By Lyka Navarrosa, Kyle Ureta and Lorelee Yap

**T**HE Philippines is a country abundant in natural resources, boasting of famous tourist spots known the world over.



But as tourism grew, so did the demands and stress on the tourist spots, many of which couldn't handle the weight of the pressure, leading it into ruin instead of prosperity. One such place is the famous Boracay Island.

Boracay's popularity attracted not only tourists, but bad business practices, as well. The island's natural beauty suffered, forcing the government and President Rodrigo Duterte to intervene. On April 26 of 2018, the island of Boracay was closed upon orders of the President as part of a six-month plan to jumpstart the environmental rehabilitation of the island.

According to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), a further and more comprehensive rehabilitation plan for Boracay is comprised of four parts; enforcing laws and regulation, controlling and preventing pollution, rehabilitating and recovering lost and damaged ecosystem, and sustaining island activities without going against the previous three parts.

The first step after closing the island was to issue 'show cause' orders to 900 establishments present in the island done by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Major problems that were seen based on a survey conducted were the damaged tourist spots like Puka beach and its caves, as well as the mistreatment of forests and wetlands. Another problem was the massive amount of garbage from both tourists and locals, plus the abysmal state of the island's drainage system and sewer lines.

To achieve the goal of rehabilitating the island for six months, the DENR worked with

other government agencies like Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Health (DOH), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). All were responsible not just for the rehabilitation of the island's environment, but of the concerns of the workers and the residents, as well.

They are also looking towards garnering support from the private sector, with over 200 projects to be launched over the course of several years.

As Boracay reopened on Oct. 26, 2018, the Philippine government has limited the number of tourists who can stay at Boracay to only 10,000 daily, while 6,405 people can enter the island each day, assuming that visitors will remain there for three days and two nights.

DENR Usec. Sherwin Rigor explained that the island paradise only has a 55,000 capacity, which would require the workers on Boracay to not surpass the 15,000 people per day.

The plan to sustain the restoration of Boracay needs serious amount of money (P25.27 billion). Sixty four percent of the funds coming from the private sector will be put into infrastructure.

There's still a long way to go before Boracay is fully restored to its former glory and many more actions must be taken to make sure it stays that way. But with enough effort and cooperation from all parties involved, there is a chance to achieve this.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

F81  
PAGE

UPF  
 JETTED

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CAP

11 FEB 2019

DATE

2/2





11 FEB 2019

DATE

## MGB officials told: Refund SONA incentives

BY PETER TABINGO

THE Commission on Audit has ordered officials of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Regional Office 4 to reimburse the government P744,625 paid out as unauthorized cash incentives to agency officials and employees in 2002.

In a decision released last week, the COA Commission Proper affirmed the notice of disallowance issued by the COA Region 4-Regional Legal and Adjudication Sector declaring that the grant of the State of the Nation Address (SONA) Incentive violated Section 35, Chapter 5 of the Administrative Code of 1987.

The payment was based on Memorandum Circular No. 2002-08 dated September 2, 2002 issued by then DENR Secretary Ramon Paje that authorized the grant of P7,000 as SONA incentive to all officials and employees of DENR supposedly "in recognition of their efficient and effective contributions" to the attainment of the agency's targets for 2001-2002.

Auditors, however, noted that the SONA incentive was intended only for individuals or groups who made "superior accomplishments and personal efforts contributing to the efficiency, economy, or other improvement in the government operations."

They stressed that the incentive

was not meant as an across-the-board benefit as what the DENR Circular did.

The ruling also invoked a 2005 COA decision that disallowed the grant of P6,000 SONA incentives to DENR-Region 4 Office personnel on the ground that it was supposed to be given only to employees who performed "extraordinary acts or services."

"Applying the foregoing COA Decisions and considering that the nature of the disallowed transaction therein is similar to this case, this Commission finds no reason to deviate from this ruling. The grant of SONA Incentive to the officials and employees of MGB RO No. 4 is illegal," the COA said.

COA chairman Michael Aguinaldo and Commissioners Jose A. Fabia and Roland Pondoc signed the COA CP decision.

However, the commission said that only agency officials who were directly responsible for allowing the illegal expenditure shall be liable.

"Hence, the MGB RO No. 4 officials and employees who authorized, approved, or certified the payment of the SONA Incentive, are liable for the disallowance. Good faith cannot be appreciated as to them," the commission said.

Ordinary employees who are considered passive recipients were excused from having to return their cash incentive.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

PAGE 1  
 NEWS  
 PAGE 1 STORY  
 BANNER STORY  
 EDITORIAL  
 CARTOON  
 11 FEB 2019  
 DATE \_\_\_\_\_ / 2

# Mindful Mining

By Kyle Gabrielle Ureta

**M**INING has always been a business full of risks. A mine may not yield enough resources to maintain a business, malpractice and carelessness can lead to mines collapsing or causing landslides and accidents. And one of the biggest impacts the mining industry has had on the country is on the environment.



Philex Mining photos



For the longest of times, indigenous and environmental groups have pushed strongly for change in the way mining corporations run their business. It wasn't until around 2016 that real changes have started happening both from the government's stance on the issue and from the mining companies themselves, and early 2018 saw

the mining industry making promises to adhere to more responsible and environmentally safe mining.

This is important not just to the environment but to the economy. The Philippines is the world's biggest supplier of nickel ore, copper and gold. Safe and responsible mining will not only ensure the survival of nature but

of the business itself. For irresponsible and destructive mining will only lead to self-sabotage. Responsible mining benefits everyone in the long run.

During the 65th Annual Mine Safety and Environment Conference by the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA) late November of 2018, PMSEA president Walter Brown expressed the Association's goals to increase efforts in creating a better and more environmental mining industry.

Various mining companies have CSR programs focusing on preserving and protecting the environment.

Companies like Apex Mining Co., Inc. and the Philex Mining Corporation take care of the surrounding environment where they operate. In addition to fully complying with the government's environmental rules and regulations, mining companies also partake in Tree Planting and Reforestation Projects.

These mining companies also conducts regular monitoring and maintenance on its tailings embankment facility in accordance with the government's standards and to ensure that it has no adverse effects on nearby communities or any local body of water. Philex Mining also regularly monitors the air and water quality of areas they operate in to ensure that they are doing the least amount of harm possible to the environment.

The Philex Mining Corporation in particular have reforested more than 2,800 hectares of the Padcal Mine with some eight million trees with a



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

Page

OFF

PAGE 1  
STORY

BRIEF  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 FEB 2019  
DATE

survival rate of 90%. They also have the Bulawan Project, where they were able to reforest 26.42 hectares with total dispersal of 23,811 Mangium seedlings. They aim to minimize their company's adverse environmental impact, to comply with the appropriate legislations and requirements, and to promote environmental awareness.

Furthermore, Filminera Resources Corp. and Phil Gold Processing & Refining Corp are both part of the Masbate Gold Project (MGP), which helped the town of Aroroy, Masbate grow into a socio-economically successful town. The MGP created over 1,600 jobs and embarked on a mangrove reforestation project in eight coastal barangays of Aroroy town with the help of the locals.

Nickel Asia Corporation, the Philippines' largest producer of lateritic nickel ore and one of the largest mining corporations in the world, have an Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP) for every mining site they own and use.

The EPEPs goals include reforestation and rehabilitation of mine disturbed areas, construction and/or maintenance of environmental facilities, solid and hazardous waste management, air and water quality monitoring and preservation of downstream water quality.

Plenty of other mining companies have similar projects, helping build communities and rebuild natural sectors in and around where they operate. Responsible mining might as well be the hottest trend in the mining industry, and is looking to continue to be the standard throughout the country.

2/2





P-1

# SAVING CANDABA SWAMP

## PAMPANGA'S BIRD SANCTUARY AND HAVEN FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS

STORY & PHOTOS BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](mailto:jonlmayuga)

**I**T was cold, dark and awfully quiet when we left a resort in San Simon on a bus to the nearby town of Candaba. It was 5:30 a.m. on February 2, the World Wetlands Day (WWD).

The bus stopped in the middle of a highway surrounded by rice paddies on both sides.

From an unexciting bus ride, we got to experience an adventurous ride on carabao sled, sitting down tight and holding on firmly to avoid falling after every curve.

Occasionally, we heard chirping sounds from a distance, adding to our excitement.

As we drew near the area where hundreds of native and migratory birds flock during the migration season, the chirping sounds became louder and clearer.

"Look, there's one," Gregg Yan, an environmentalist and conservation communication specialist whispered to a blogger next to him.

"Look, there's another," another excited tour participant, a bird enthusiast and a photographer said.

Finally, we reached the Paligui Wetlands within the famed Candaba Swamp, a haven for migratory birds and the biggest of such unique ecosystems in Luzon.

As the sun started to shine, more of our feathered friends were visible, flying above us. Suddenly, our feathered friends were all around us.

### World Wetlands Day

ORGANIZED by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) and the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW), the Media Wetland Exposure Activity held on February 1 and 2 was part of the country's celebration of WWD.

The WWD held every February 2 commemorates the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971.

In 1999, by virtue of Presidential Proclamation 74, February 2 was also declared by the Philippine government as the National Wetlands Day.

This year's theme, "Wetlands and climate change," highlighted the importance of wetlands, one of the world's most threatened ecosystems.

Underscoring the importance of protecting and conserving wetlands, Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez of the DENR-BMB said healthy wetlands provide natural solutions in coping with climate change.

According to the DENR-BMB, destructive human activities contribute to the degradation of wetlands. Besides destructive development projects, dump-and-fill activities and indiscriminate dumping of garbage, water pollution, overfishing and exploitation of natural resources within wetlands threaten these very important ecosystems.

### Ecosystem services

PEATLANDS, mangrove swamps and seagrass beds, in particular, are the world's most effective carbon sinks, Rodriguez said.

"While inland wetlands like rivers and lakes absorb and store water from excessive rains and floods during the dry season, these wetlands slowly release stored water, minimizing droughts and water shortages," she said.



P-2

## Saving Candaba Swamp

Rodriguez underscored the importance of maintaining coastal wetlands because they act as protective buffer against storm surges and tsunamis, providing a shield to coastal communities.

"In times of and after most disasters, fully functional wetlands sustain communities by acting as a reliable source of food, fresh water and raw materials for livelihoods. The multitude of benefits we get from these ecosystems are our natural wealth, but their potential for climate mitigation is largely undervalued," she said.

Sadly, she said wetlands are often seen as "wastelands"—a place to be drained and burnt off.

"Not many know that when they are burned or drained, for example, for agriculture, they turn from being a carbon store to a carbon source, from flooding protection to cause of flood and from being a source of sustenance to cause of harm," Rodriguez explained.

### Land conversion, climate change

THE DENR-BMB official said many wetlands are threatened with extinction because of massive land conversion.

Citing the case of the Paligui Wetland, she noted that vast portions of wetlands are privately owned and are used for food production.

Worse, wetland-cum-agricultural lands may eventually be sold by owners to real-estate developers to convert them into a human settlement.

In Barangay Paligui, a 70-hectare portion of the wetland adjacent to the bird sanctuary is being developed into rice paddies by the new owner after it was sold by the former owner.

Climate change is also being eyed as a contributory factor to the degradation of wetlands.

In the Candaba Swamp, farmers observe that the swamp dries up easily because of intense heat.

"It dries up easily, unlike before, when we used to enjoy fishing a lot," said Gaudencio de Leon, president of Macagatal Irrigators Association (MIA).

"Especially now, a portion of the dike collapsed, so water goes out. We need it during this time of year for rice cultivation," de Leon said.

On the other hand, during typhoon season, he said they have to cope with the challenge of flash flood as the Pampanga River overflows because of typhoon-induced rain, he said.

Besides land conversion and climate change, other threats to Candaba Swamp are the resurgence of hunting or poaching of birds and excessive growth of vegetation, particularly water hyacinth.

### Important bird area

THE Candaba Swamp, also called Candaba Wetlands, is an important staging and wintering area for ducks and other threatened waterbirds.

It is one of the country's 117 Important Bird Areas and a candidate for the Ramsar Site or Wetlands of International Importance.

The swamp is shared by four

towns in Pampanga and one town in Nueva Ecija. These are the Arayat, Candaba, San Luis, Santa Ana towns in Pampanga and Cabiao town in Nueva Ecija.

According to Joy Navarro, specialist of the DENR-BMB's Caves, Wetlands and Other Ecosystems, the Candaba Wetlands is a complex of freshwater ponds, swamps and marshes with surrounding areas of seasonally flooded grassland, arable land and palm savanna on a vast alluvial flood plain.

Besides providing agriculture and fisheries a boost, a "healthy" Candaba Swamp helps mitigate climate change, as it acts like a sponge that absorbs overflowing water from the Pampanga River,

hence, mitigating potentially disastrous flood.

"It is a backswamp of Pampanga River. Once the water level in Pampanga River rises over a natural levee, it overflows toward Candaba Wetlands, which is relatively lower than the levee. As there is no place for the water to drain out, it settles in the backswamp," Rodriguez said in mixed English and Filipino.

### International importance

ACCORDING to the DENR-BMB, there are about 54 species of resident birds and 68 migratory birds recorded in Candaba Wetlands since 1940.

Because of its strategic location, the Philippines, being part

of the Asian-Australasian Flyway, the DENR-Central Luzon and DENR Pampanga Office are pushing for its recognition as a wetland of international importance in Asia, by being listed as a Ramsar Site.

The Candaba Swamp satisfies at least three important criteria.

These include support to vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities; support to plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions; and support to 1 percent of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.

The Philippine duck, Baer's pochard, streaked reed-warbler are among the globally threatened wetland-dependent species that Candaba Swamp supports.

“Not many know that when they [wetlands] are burned or drained, for example, for agriculture, they turn from being a carbon store to a carbon source, from flooding protection to cause of flood and from being a source of sustenance to cause of harm.”

—RODRIGUEZ



P-3

## Saving Candaba

### Downward trend

OVER the years, the number of birds visiting Candaba Swamp had dwindled. Environment officials fear it is caused by the degradation of the swamp.

Migratory birds are ecosystem indicators. Birds stay longer in an area that can support their sustenance, feeding on fruits, fish and even small insects and mollusks their beaks could reach.

According to Ronald Estrada, Development Management Officer of DENR Central Luzon Conservation Development Division, the vast tract of land was formerly being used as a fishpond, which attracts native ducks and other migratory birds.

Before, thousands of migratory birds, or what the Capampangans call *ibong dayo*, visiting Candaba Swamp were recorded every year. This made the swamp a popular tourist destination, especially for bird watchers, bird photographers and nature trippers.

Because of massive land conversion, as of January 17, this year the Asian Waterbird Census recorded only 2,188 birds.

Last year was worse. Bird count volunteers were able to record a total of 1,700 birds only.

### Paligui Wetland

A 135-hectare farmland within Barangay Paligui in Candaba, Pampanga, the Paligui Wetland is owned and managed by MIA.

It is adjacent to the locally declared bird sanctuary called Candaba Swamp Wildlife Reserve that is owned by the former municipal mayor of Candaba, Jerry Pelayo.

The SCPW is helping the members of MIA to protect and conserve the Candaba Swamp as a showcase for wetlands conservation with the support of Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia Wetland Fund.

The project is "an attempt to conserve a portion of the Candaba wetlands with the primary objective of increasing the awareness of its key stakeholders," said Amy Lecionnes, executive director of SCPW.

Through the project, SCPW aims to provide baseline data and information for its management and conservation, and to develop a management plan to increase the capacity the members of MIA on sustainable farming practices.

MIA is currently composed of 75 farmers responsible for the water irrigation in the area, which covers 24 hectares of irrigation canals and dikes.

### Ecotourism

LECIONNES told the BUSINESSMIRROR in an interview that they intend to promote ecotourism in Paligui as part of the project, which aims to increase awareness about the importance of wetlands.

Through various programs, they intend to promote homestay, bird-watching tour guiding, community or wetland tour guiding, vehicle service from Baliwag, Bulacan, and from Santa Ana and Mexico towns in Pampanga, and individual or group meal preparations to boost the income of the farmer-partners. "We have started providing training to some fishermen to act as bird-watching tour guides," she said.

Besides bird watching, other attractions and activities in Candaba Swamp are "Wetland Walk," a guided walk around the wetland and the scenic view of the rice fields with Mount Arayat in the background, exploring the various natural and human-made features of the swamp; hook-and-line fishing; carabao cart ride; and boodle fight meals.

### Pledge of support

WITH its battle cry, "We are not powerless against climate change," SCWP is highlighting its Communication, Education and Public Awareness efforts.

With the WWD 2019 event, a media exposure and birding activity, the DENR and SCWP hoped to rally the support of mainstream media practitioners and netizens, including bloggers, to help increase public awareness that will strengthen the protection of wetlands all over the country.

At the end of the activity, participants were asked to write a pledge, their commitment to help save wetlands in general and the Candaba Swamp in particular.

"I pledge to continue to write for the environment, communicate and help increase awareness to protect and conserve our wetlands," I said.





Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

ES  
PAGE

UPP  
Lower

PAGE 1  
STORY

BARRIER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CART

11 FEB 2019

DATE

## Globe myBusiness leads awareness campaign on Marine Biodiversity Conservation in Siargao Island

Following its recent rehabilitation efforts in Boracay, Globe Telecom led an awareness campaign on Marine Biodiversity Conservation in Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte which is dubbed as the surfing mecca of the Philippines.

This was done through Globe myBusiness which caters to the business needs of micro, small, and medium enterprises, in partnership with Save Philippine Seas (SPS), an independent non-government, non-profit organization that aims to protect the country's rich marine resources.

Several stakeholders including 30 business owners and a representative from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) attended the 1.5 day marine biodiversity workshop to discuss best practices on sustainability and biodiversity.

"This program of Globe about Marine Biodiversity and Sustainable Business Practices is a big help to the municipality of General Luna. The program serves as a tool to give proper education and awareness to every household and every barangay in order to solve our solid waste management problem. I would like to appeal to the local community and all business establishments here in General Luna that we help each other and work together for the success of our environment conservation efforts; for the prosperity and progress of our own municipality," said Jose Wilbert L. Gorgonio, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer, General Luna.

While the island is very progressive and has become a booming tourist destination, Siargao is not yet too commercialized, thus, an early intervention is ideal to avoid the pitfalls that Boracay had encountered. Siargao has several establishments in the capital of General Luna which are working together to create a better sustainable development, making it one of the best places to start the awareness campaign.

Harana Surf Resort, for instance, gave a commitment through its General Manager Veda Alcos that while the establishment is not yet fully plastic-free, "we are aiming to be one very soon."

The Philippines is considered as one of the 25 biodiversity hotspots in the world but it is also the 3rd largest polluter of plastic into the ocean, according to Earth Day Network, prompting Globe myBusiness to help address the situation.

"We want to help combat this growing concern on marine litter. Through the workshop, we were able

to inform and influence business stakeholders that this advocacy on marine conservation and the problem on plastic litter is everyone's responsibility. They have a big role in this endeavor and that together, they can create huge positive social impact," said Derrick Heng, Senior Adviser for Globe myBusiness.

During the workshop, Globe myBusiness and SPS shared tips on how to integrate sustainable best practices into day-to-day operations of businesses. These include the use of ecobags, reusable utensils, refillable containers and the reuse of printed tarps and signage. The business owners were also requested not to use sand, seashells, corals, and sea stars as decorations as well as avoid balloons and lantern releases.

At the same time, Globe myBusiness, being a trusted business partner of MSMEs, gave participants a sneak peek into its Labbay session by providing them with useful information on how they can utilize technology to

run their business more efficiently in order to provide the best experience to their customers.

"We have prepared a portfolio of business solutions to give them the competitive advantage to improve efficiency and productivity, reduce cost, and further grow their business so that they can focus on what matters most - the customers," said Mitch Peralta, Head, Marketing for Tourism of Globe myBusiness. Among the solutions being offered by Globe myBusiness are WiFi connectivity, digital advertising, website creation, auto SMS blast, digitized forms, and a personalized loyalty program.

Globe Telecom has committed to contribute to 10 UN Sustainable Development Goals which include (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities, (12) Responsible Production and Consumption, and (14) Life Below Water.

1/2



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

E3  
PAGE

UP  
 OFF

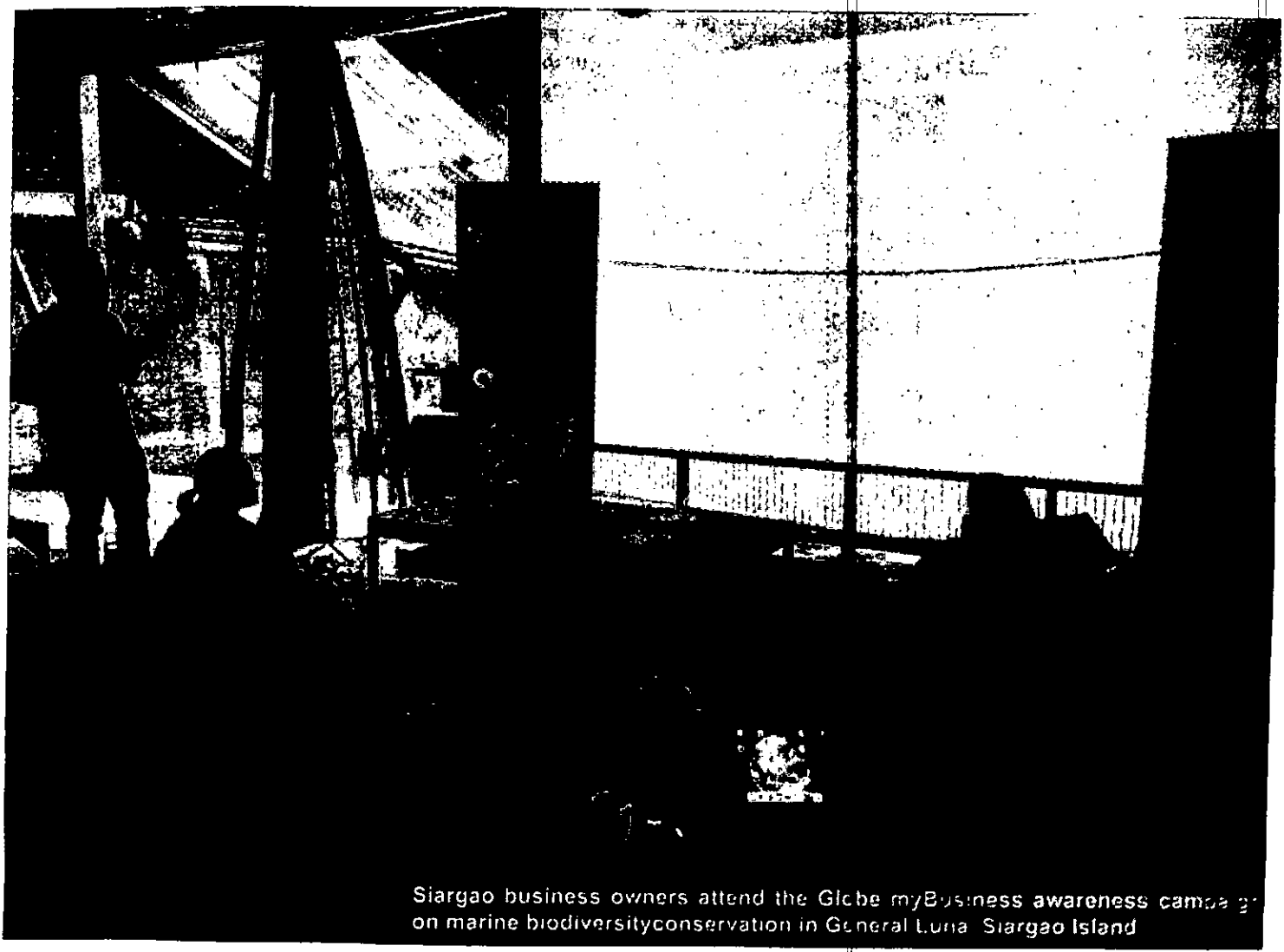
PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CART

13 FEB 2019  
DATE



Siargao business owners attend the Globe myBusiness awareness campaign on marine biodiversity conservation in General Luna, Siargao Island



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Founded 1858

# The Manila Times

B7  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BATTER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 FEB 2019

DATE

## LWUA goes to Bataan and Bulacan for water information and sanitation campaign



■ Participants (left) were given pails and dippers during the program. Conducting the event are, from left: Reynaldo Mallari, LWUA's acting div. manager, Engineering Services; Eduardo Sulangi, MWD Board Chairman; Minerva de León, MWD general manager with members of LWUA's Gender and Development (LWUA-GAD).

RESIDENTS of Morong, Bataan get a refresher on water conservation and personal hygiene as beneficiaries of the Buhay KYUT (Kalusugang Yaman Ugnay sa Tubig) Program implemented by the Local Water Utilities Administra-

tion (LWUA) in partnership with Morong Water District (MWD). Catering to women and children, the campaign is an ongoing effort under the leadership of LWUA Acting Administrator Jeci Lapus to promote cleanliness and respon-



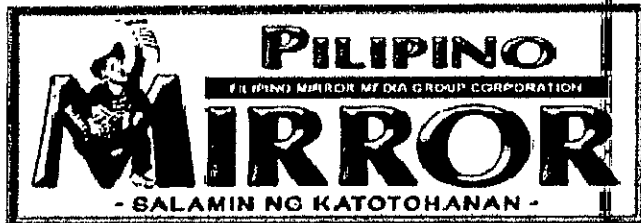
■ CWD General Manager Ronnie Lagrado (front) leading the hand washing activity at the school's newly-donated wash basin facility with Board Chair Arthur Carlos (extreme end). Staff members (right) of CWD distributed individual hygiene kits to the youngsters.

sible use of water. Meanwhile, LWUA Buhay KYUT goes to Calumpit, Bulacan to share with students of Pascual O. Cruz Memorial Elementary School a project on water and sanitation. This is in partnership with Calumpit

Water District (CWD) to orient the children on water conservation, care for the environment and proper hygiene especially the importance of regularly washing of hands. The project is in cooperation also with Rotary Club in Calumpit.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



2  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 FEB 2019

DATE

## TASK FORCE TAAL LAKE BINUHAY PARA PROTEKTAHAN ANG PAGKAWALA NG TAWILIS

**INUDYUKAN** ng provincial government ng Taal na buhayin ang Task Force Taal Lake sa gitna ng mga nakita sa pagsasaliksik ng International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), na nagdeklara na ang katutubong tawilis ay

nanganganib na uri. Ipinahayag ni Jennilyn S. Aguillera, Batangas public information office chief sa isang panayam kamakailan na ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 4-A (Calabarzon) at iba't ibang kaanib ng Taal

Lake ay kasalukuyang nakikipag-ugnayan sa opisina ni Governor Hermandando Mandanas sa pagrekomenda ng muling pagbuhay ng Task Force Taal Lake para maprotektahan at hindi mawala ang tawilis sa pamosong karagatan.

Sa naunang report,

binale-wala ni Mandanas ang IUCN report, at sinabing ang mahinang buwan ng tawilis ay mula sa Nobyembre hanggang Pebrero. Ito ay panapanahon at ang buwan ng pangangitlog ay mula sa Marso hanggang Abril.

"It's all out in the news that it is an endangered species. But it is not endangered, because it is seasonal. What we are trying to do now is to clean the Pansipit River as a continuing activity. So, this will ensure the flow of clean water," sabi niya.

Ang 9-km. Pansipit River ay tumatawid sa mga bayan ng Agoncillo, Lemery, San Nicolas at Taal, kung saan ang orihinal na uri ng tawilis ay marami at sa basehan ng heograpiya ay siyang sanga ng ilog na dumadaan papuntang Balayan Bay.

Dagdag pa niya na ang inter-agency collaboration sa national, provincial at gobyernong lokal kasama ang mga asosasyon ng mga mangangisda at non-government organizations (NGOs), ay

matagal nang nakikipag-ugnayan sa isa't isa para matugunan ang isyu na nakaapekto sa tawilis, na roon lamang matatagpuan sa Taal Lake.

Sinabi ni Elmer Bascos, Batangas Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office chief, na ang kanilang opisina ay nakikipag-ugnayan sa Protected Area Management Board (PAMB)

ng Taal Volcano Protected Landscape bago pa lumabas ang report ng IUCN.

Binigyang-diin ni Bascos na ang PAMB ay nakapagpasa na ng resolusyon na nagdedeklara ng "closed season" para sa pangangisda ng tawilis at ipatutupad na sa Marso hanggang Abril.

Idinagdag pa niya

na ang DENR at Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources 4-A ay nagbalangkas na ng conservation area ng tawilis sa fishing grounds ng bayan ng Cuenca, San Nicolas, at Balete.

Mariin nilang inirekomenda ang close monitoring ng populasyon ng tawilis at ang level ng kalidad ng tubig sa volcanic lake. **PNA**





Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



4  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BRIEF  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 FEB 2019

DATE

## Save Baguio City

THE Duterte administration "saved" the island of Boracay from being a cesspool and is now saving the Manila Bay "cesspool" which is three times bigger than Boracay. The administration is now planning to save Cebu City. But what about Baguio City, long known as the summer capital of the Philippines?

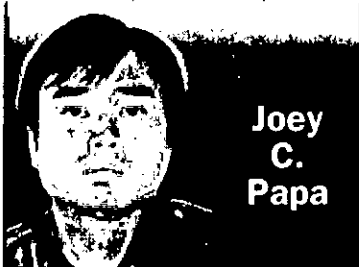
Baguio, like Boracay, contributes a substantial share to the tourism industry. But what was once an ecological city, with all the pine trees that gave the surroundings such fresh and fragrant smell and absorbed pollution is now reduced to a city of structures in cement and steel.

One comment I read is that the city is going down the drain. The traffic situation is worse than before. It is overpopulated. Big business is lording over its economy, never mind the damage done to the environment.

I remember years ago when my family visited Baguio City. My children were young then. We rented a small house near a cascading creek but the stench was very annoying because, as the owner of the house informed us, the creek had become a garbage dumpsite for residents and visitors of the city. They have disrespected the nature spirits, she said.

"Ang baho ng amoy!" natatandaan kong sabi ng mga anak ko. Kinabukasan ay nagyaya na silang umalis patungong Pangasinan kung saan may beach na mapagliliguan. Mainit na raw sa Baguio.

### BANGON KALIKASAN



Joey  
C.  
Papa

Nang gabing matulog kami sa Baguio, ang mga anak kong lalaki ay nakasuot lamang ng shorts at walang suot na pang-itaas dahil naiinitan sila! Naiinitan na sila sa Baguio City!

Wala na ang Baguio noon, kung saan sa paanan pa lang nito ay pinaapatay na namin ang air-condition ng aming sasakyan dahil malamig na hanggang sa makarating na sa itaas; at maaamoy mona ang mababangong pine trees.

Wala na ang Baguio na malalanghap ang sariwang hangin habang naglalakad sa Session Road. Ngayon, usok-lason' polusyon na ang malalanghap!

Nagkaroon pa ang lungsod ng mabahong tambakan ng basura na naging kontrobersyal sa buong Pilipinas. Nagkaroon din ito ng malaking isyu hinggil sa pagpuputol ng puno upang gawing parking lot ng isang malaking mall.

Ngayon ay nananawagan ang

mga batang Baguio kay Pangulong Duterte na huwag putulin ang mga pine trees sa isang ektaryang lupa na diumano'y gagawin ding parking lot.

Ngayong eleksyon, tatakbo sa pagka-mayor si former CIDG Chief Superintendent Benjamin Magalong na naniniwalang dapat proteksyunan ang Inang Kalikasan ng Baguio City. Naniniwala siya na lahat silang nakatira sa lungsod na ito ay kailangang maging responsable sa pangangalaga sa Inang Kalikasan ng lungsod.

Sa Baguio ipinanganak, lumaki at nag-aral si Benjie Magalong hanggang sa maging isang kadete ng Philippine Military Academy (PMA). May mababait na magulang na mahal na mahal niya na silang nagturo sa kanya na maging matapang sa lahangang pinasok niya bilang isang pulis, at maging mapagmahal sa kapwa Pilipino.

"I will be a steward of Mother Nature in Baguio City because genuine progress in the city will not prosper if taking care of its environment will take a back seat," Magalong told me.

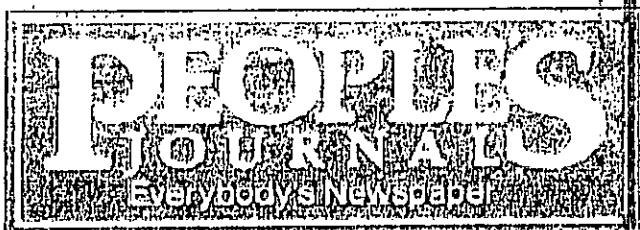
"I don't believe that Baguio City should be destroyed in the name of material 'progress.' Baguio is our home, home, habitat; our refuge. We love it and will preserve it for genuine progress," added Magalong.

I know Benjie and his good parents from way back.

(bangonkalikasan@yahoo.com)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



7  
PAGE

UP  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 FEB 2019  
DATE

## House may approve bill on corporate social, environment responsibility

THE House of Representatives approved on second reading a bill principally authored by Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo seeking to encourage all business organizations established and operating under Philippine laws, whether domestic or foreign, to observe corporate social re-

sponsibility (CSR) in the operation of their businesses in the country.

Arroyo said many corporations and other business corporations have shown very little care for the welfare of society and the community where they operate and the natural environment around them.

"Their sole purpose is

to maximize their respective returns on investment, totally disregarding the impact of their activities on customers, employees, shareholders, communities, and environment," said Arroyo on her House Bill (HB) No. 9061.

The Speaker explained that the bill seeks to foster sustainable economic and

environment development and environment protection, among other things by institutionalizing corporate social responsibility in corporations, whether domestic or foreign, partnership and other establishment performing business in the country.

The proposed "Corporate Social Responsibility

Act" declares that the State recognizes the vital role of the private sector in nation-building and shall encourage its active participation in fostering economic development and environment protection in the country.

In view of this, the government shall mobilize its various agencies, in coordination with non-govern-

ment and people's organizations to work hand in hand for the integration, promotion and strengthening of CSR in all business organizations.

CSR is referred to in the bill as the commitment of business to contribute on a voluntary basis to sustainable economic development by working with

relevant stakeholders to improve their lives in ways that are good for business, sustainable development agenda and society at large.

To encourage companies to engage in CSR, Section 43 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 68 or the Corporation Code of the Philippines, shall be amended. **RPP**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

2  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 FEB 2019

DATE

## Study says most PH households unprepared for disasters

By MINERVA BC NEWMAN

**CEBU CITY** - A recent study by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) DisasterNet Philippines revealed that only 36 percent of households in the country was "very prepared" for disasters, with the majority citing money as the main reason that has prevented them from preparing more adequately for calamities.

The study also said respondents living in areas more frequently impacted by typhoons perceived themselves as being more prepared.

The HHI study surveyed 4,368 Filipino households across the country and 74 percent said they were unable to invest in disaster preparedness due to lack of funds and lack of time.

The study was conducted in 2017

that aims to highlight people's perceptions of their own level of disaster resilience and experience with disaster preparedness systems in the Philippines.

HHI Resilient Communities Program Director Vincenzo Bollettino said the HHI report offered important insights into the way Filipinos understand and prepare for a variety of natural hazards that they face.

"In the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) alone, 92 percent reported insufficient funds," the study read.

The study also bared that, despite massive campaigns from the public and private sector groups and the media, nearly 47 percent of respondents claimed to have done nothing to prepare for a natural hazard in the last five years.

Although most respondents

at 83 percent claimed to have discussed emergency plans with family members, 82 percent still said they did not have a "go-bag" or emergency kit, and 62 percent did not have first aid kit.

What was striking, the study said, was that very few Filipinos are adequately insured to deal with disasters. Only 19 percent claimed to have life insurance, 56 percent had health or medical insurance, three percent had home insurance, and two-and-a-half percent had asset insurance.

The study also revealed that 38 percent of Filipinos have difficulty recovering from a disaster in the near future and only 22 percent were confident they would be able to recover.

"People living in the Visayas noted the longest periods of time required to recover from disasters," the study noted.

Aside from preparedness, the study also tackled other measures of resilience such as, adaptability, coping, and recovery.



## Mas magiging maitim ang karagatan dahil sa climate change

**S**A pagtatapos ng siglong ito, inaasahang mas magiging maitim ang karagatan dulot ng climate change, ayon sa pag-aaral na inilathala sa journal ng Nature Communications, nitong Lunes.

Natuklasan ng mga mananaliksik mula sa Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) na sa pagsapit ng taong 2100, higit kalahati ng mga karagatan ng mundo ang mag-iiba ang kulay, sa pagbabago ng populasyon ng mga algae.

Sa pag-aaral, lumalabas na ang mga nasa asul na rehiyon, katulad ng subtropics, ay mas magiging asul, dulot ng mas mababang bilang ng mga phytoplankton at buhay sa pangkalahatan sa bahaging ito ng tubig.

Sa mga berdeng rehiyon naman, katulad ng mga nasa malapit sa poles, magiging mas berde ang tubig dahil sa pag-init ng temperatura na magdudulot ng mas maraming phytoplankton, base sa pag-aaral.

"The changes won't appear huge to the naked eye, and the ocean will still look like it has blue regions in the subtropics and greener regions near the equator and poles," pahayag ng pangunahing may-akda ng pananaliksik na si Stephanie Dutkiewicz.

"But it'll be enough different that it will affect the rest of the food web that phytoplankton supports," dadag pa ni Dutkiewicz, principal research scientist sa MIT.

Lumalabas na kulay asul ang karagatan dahil sa mga water molecules na tumatanggap ng halos lahat ng sikat ng araw maliban sa asul na bahagi ng spectrum, ngunit sa anumang organism sa karagatan, katulad ng phytoplankton halimbawa, "the pigment in it will absorb less in the green portions and reflect more green light."

Lumikha ang mga siyentista ng MIT ng isang modelo upang masukat ang ugnayan ng temperatura at kulay ng dagat at kung ano ang magiging kulay kung tataas ang pandaigdigang temperatura sa 3 degrees Celsius sa taong 2100.

"It could be potentially quite serious. Different types of phytoplankton absorb light differently, and if climate change shifts one community of phytoplankton to another, that will also change the types of food webs they can support," paliwanag ni Dutkiewicz.

Ayon kay Dutkiewicz, kayang matukoy ng mga satellite ang pagbabago sa hue, na maaaring magbigay ng maagang paalala sa mga pagbabago sa marine ecosystems.

Xinhuanet/ PNA





# Asia's forests fast receding

By MICHAEL A. BENGWAYAN | Special to the BUSINESSMIRROR

**T**HE destruction of Asia's forests continues at an alarming pace, averaging 1.8 million hectares a year, or 5,000 hectares a day. Frantic governments are instituting measures to arrest the rapid decline, but so far the success has been very limited.



FELLED trees at a forest in the Cordillera.

This is the grim assessment of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization after a comprehensive survey of Asia's forest resources. UNEAO conducted the survey with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Deforestation is heaviest in Southeast Asia, which produces some of the world's best timber. According to the survey, Indonesia's annual deforestation rate of 500,000 hectares is the highest in the region. Second is Thailand with 333,000 hectares; the range of between 100,000 and 150,000 for West Papua, Malaysia, India, Lao PDR, the Philippines and Burma.

These countries were among the Asian and Pacific nations covered in the study. The others were Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam.

## End of virgin forests

THE ravaging of forests is felt most by Asia's closed or virgin

forests which totals over 300 million hectares. The survey said that from 1976 to 1980 alone, the total closed forest ravaged was more than 9 million hectares.

The figure leveled off in the next five years to 1.82 million hectares a year.

But even at this rate, Asia's virgin forests were reduced to just more than 270,000 million hectares after year 2000. The region's annual rate of deforestation of closed forests is between 0.60 and 1.2 percent.

From 1981 to 1985, the deforestation rate was its worst in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, Kampuchea and the Philippines; while there was a decrease in Thailand, Lao, Brunei and India.

The other Asian countries had either slight deforestation increases. But other countries turned from being wood exporters to timber importers.

Take the case of Thailand, to keep its sawmill industry rolling, the country has become increas-

ingly dependent on log exports.

From a net exporter, with depletion of forest resources, ban on exports and growing demand for wood, Thailand has become a net importer.

Sizable import of logs started in 1977 and increased even after 2000, mostly from Malaysia and Indonesia.

## Loggers no longer are the only culprits

THE UNFAO-UNDP study said unlike before, loggers are no longer mainly to blame for the rapid destruction of forests. The report noted that forest resources were ravaged faster in areas with high population density and where shifting cultivation have not been effectively stopped.

Population pressure on Asia's existing forest resources is undeniable. Unorganized and spontaneous encroachments, squatting, migration by lowlanders—manifestations of increasing demand for cultivable land by the landless and unemployed rural poor—are already accounting considerable for deforestation, warned the UN bodies.

This form of deforestation is more prevalent in the Philippines, where almost all the culprits are landless tenants, farm laborers or just plain land speculators.

In Nepal, the population pressure on the hills has caused people to migrate to the plains and encroach into forestland.

Over in Thailand, unrest in neighboring countries has let loose a flood of refugees contributing heavily to deforestation.

Slash-and-burn agriculture or shifting cultivation also wrecks havoc to Asia's forest resources. The practice is variously known throughout the region as *kaingin*, *jhum*, *chena* or *podu*. Available figures indicate that more than 75 million Asians depend on shifting cultivation for livelihood. The extent of forests affected is over 200 million hectares.

## Shifting cultivation

EXAMPLES abound: In Bangladesh, *jhuming* is practiced by 26 tribes living in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region, involving

almost a million people. The overall effects are loss of timber, water and soil, and the decline of the capacity of the land to produce agricultural crops.

In India, shifting cultivation is practiced in 12 states, where some 7 million people are involved in an area of more than 1 million hectares; the northeastern states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya account 80 percent of India's shifting cultivation population.

Shifting cultivation is also practiced by more than 20 million Indonesians. However, it is confined on the islands of Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Maluku and Nusatenggara. Over 20 million hectares of forest have been adversely affected from the viewpoint of soil cover and soil fertility.

## Timber...more timber

AS Asia's population increases, so does the demand for timber and fuelwood. And this, in no small measure, contributes to the destruction of forest resources. Estimates are that of all wood cut in Asia, over half for timber, one-third for fuel, most of which are consumed by the region's poor. The oil-price hikes yearly is exacerbating the situation.

Logging operations, particularly in Southeast Asia, has been merciless, plus the fact that millions of hectares are being cleared of trees in Indonesia to accommodate palm-oil plantations.

The UNFAO-UNDP study said forests are major foreign-exchange earners by many cash-exchange developing Asian countries, but also asks "is it worth it?"

"No," it concluded, because, "the full amount of export value cannot be viewed as representing a benefit to the exporting country."

Simply said, no amount of money can ever compensate for the destruction done to the contribution forests do for humanity and the whole of creation.

*Bengwayan has a master's degree and PhD in Development Studies and Environmental Resource Management from University College Dublin, Ireland, as a European Union fellow. He is currently a fellow of Echoing Green Foundation in New York.*



AYAW mamatayan ng anak, ayaw magkagastos-gastos sa pagpapagamot

Gustong hindi magkasakit, gustong hindi mawalan ng oras sa paghahanapbuhay o trabaho.

Huwag lang Dengvaxia.

Ito ang mga pangunahing dahilan ng mga magulang at iba pang may alagang bata kung bakit biglang dumami ang nagpapakununa laban sa tigdas.

Pero tatandaan, kung hindi pa nagkaroon ng outbreak ng tigdas sa iba't ibang lugar ng mahal kong Pinas, ayaw pang magpakununa ang mga mamamayan.

### MALAGANAP NA TIGDAS

Heto ang mga may malaganap na tigdas habang tinitipa natin ito.

Metro-Manila: na may 441 kaso at nasa 60 patay; Calabarzon - 575 kaso at 9 patay; Eastern Visayas - 104 at 3 patay; Central Luzon - 192 kaso at 4 patay; Central Visayas - 71 at 1 patay.

Karamihan sa mga namatay ang bata na nasa edad 6-9 buwan.

Napakahirap ngang alagaan ang mga lito dahil hindi pa nila masabi kung ano ang masakit sa kanilang katawan at saka lang itinatakbo sa mga doctor kung nanghihina at lupaypay na.

Yung iba dinaraan pa sa erbolaryo, magtatawas, hilot at iba pa.

Pero ang isa pang nakatatokot ay ang sinasabi ng mga doctor na bawat 1 pasyente, pwedeng makahawa ng 18 dahil sumasama sa hangin ang virus dito, bukod pa sa tuwirang kontak sa mga pasyente na nagnahana ang katawan kung napabaya.

### 90% PATAY SA WALANG BAKUNA

Dahil sa takot o pagiging diskumpiyado sa Dengvaxia, umayaw ang mga magulang at bata na mabakunahan.

Kaya naman, sa pag-aaral sa mga namatay, 90 porsyento sa mga lito ang walang bakuna sa tigdas.

Nataranta tuloy ang mga taga-Department of Health sa pangyayari.

Mismong si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte nga ay nanawagan sa lahat na magpakununa



## ULTIMATUM

NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

### BATAS KAILANGAN PARA SA BAKUNA

maliban lang sa Dengvaxia.

Kaya naman, todo kampanya ngayon ang DOH at lahat ng local government unit at kanilang mga health center para akayin ang lahat na magpakununa.

Bara-barangay at bahay-bahay na ang kampanya.

Sangkot na maging ang mga taga-barangay sa kampanya.

Kasabay ng paliwanag sa mga tao na kaibang ang Dengvaxia sa mga bakuna sa ibang sakit at 98% na epektibo ang mga bakuna at hindi nakamamatay.

Hayun, nagtatagumpay naman ngayon.

### KAILANGAN ANG BATAS

Dahil klarong boluntaryo ang kilos ng lahat sa usaping ito, may nakaisip at nagpapanukala nang gumawa na ang pamahalaan ng batas para pilitin na magpakununa ang mga walang bakuna.

Ang panukala, eh, laman ang mga pandisiplinang aksyon gaya ng pagpapakulong sa mga magulang o ibang may alagang bata na hindi sumunod sa batas sa bakuna.

Maaaring magmulta rin ang mga lito.

Maganda ang panukala.

Pero dapat na tingnan ang napakalaking pananagutan dito na maaaring lilikha ng kapalapakan, maging sa mga health worker ng pamahalaan.

Isipin na lang natin, mga Bro, na may 22 pang sakit na nangangailangan ng bakuna.

Dahil dito, may gastos sa mga magulang at iba pang may alaga.

Kung seseryosohin din ng mga health worker ang pagbabakuna ng 100 porsyento, may gastos din para sa mga lito.

Kabilang sa mga may gastos ang nasa mga liblib na lugar at karamihan ay mahihirap ang naniirahan.

Hindi sapat na sabihin ng DOH na sapat ang mga gamot para sa bakuna.

Sa panukatang batas na ay may laan para sa

mga gastos?

Sana naman meron dahil karaniwang nauubos ang sahod ng mga health worker sa kakilos para magbakuna at mabigat din sa mga mahihirap mula sa malalayong lugar ang pagpunta-punta sa mga health center na maaaring nasa mga sentrong barangay, munisipyo o lungsod kaya.

### HUWAG ILIHIS

Ngayon ay tinitira ng mga walang magawang politiko si Public Attorney's Office chief Persida Acosta sa problema sa tigdas at ibang mga bakuna.

Masyadong naging maingay raw si Acosta at PAO laban sa bakunang Dengvaxia para sa dengue kaya nadamay na ang pagpapakununa para sa ibang mga sakit.

Anak ng tokwa, kung titingnan ang mga politikong ito, karamihan ang mga kritiko at kaalyado ng mga nasasampahan ng demanda sa pambababoy sa salaping bayan na P3.5 bilyon kaugnay ng Dengvaxia.

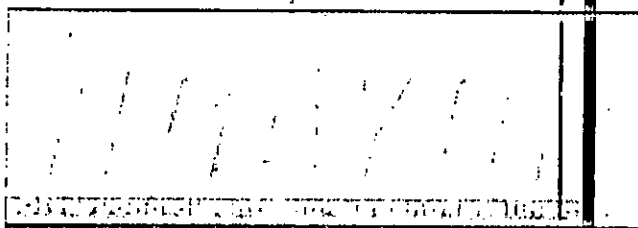
Pero ang pinakamasakit sa Dengvaxia, nasa 800,000 katao, karamihan ang bata, ang delikado at pinaniniwalaan na nga nina Acosta at PAO na mayroon nang mga namatay rito.

Lalo't inaamin mismo ng Sanofi Pasteur na grabe ang sasapitang sakit o dengue ng mga naturukan ng Dengvaxia na hindi pa nagkakasakit nito.

Para kay Acosta at PAO, may natagpuan na silang 32 patay sa Dengvaxia, kabilang na ang isang doctor na taga-Pangasinan at nagtrabaho sa Quezon City Health Department.

Lumalabas na gusto lang nilang ilihis ang isyu ng kamatayan sa Dengvaxia at sisihin si Acosta at ang PAO sa problema ng tigdas.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo ay maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.



## Road users' tax puwedeng paunlarin ang industriya

KUNG hindi sinalaula ng katiwalian, maganda sana ang pakay ng road users' tax. Dinoble ang bayad sa rehistro ng sasakyan. Ang koleksiyon ay ipinangasiwa sa Road Board. Binubuo ito ng mga Secretaries ng Public Works and Highways, Finance, Transportation, Budget, Environment and Natural Resources, Economic Planning, at Energy. Nakakakolekta ng mahigit P20 bilyon taun-taon sa road tax. Dapat gastahin ang pondo para sa road safety, o kaligtasan sa kalsada. Sakop nito ang pagtambak sa lubak; pag-ayos ng sirang bangketa at manholes; at paglagay ng traffic lights, street lamps, directional signs at mga babala, cat's eyes, pintura ng lanes, speed

bumps, highway railings, emergency telephones; pagkontrol at panukala sa polusyon ng tambutso; atbp.

Problema nga lang, pinamunuan ng mga kawatan ang Road Board. Pinamahagi ang tig-P5 milyon lump sum kada taon sa mga kongresista, senador, gobernador, at mayor. Bahala na sila kumuha ng kontratista. Siyempre pinili nila ang mga nagbibigay ng kickback na 30-55%. Samantala, kumomisyon din ang mga taga-Road Board sa mahalaking proyektong pailaw ng kalsada. Nawaldas ang pondo.

Ngayon ipinabubuwag ni President Duterte ang burog na ahensiya. Gagamitin na lang daw ang road tax sa mga nasasalanta ng bagyo, baha, at iba pa.

Sana kumbinsihin ng advisers si Duterte na gamitin pa rin ang road tax para sa mga proyektong pangkaligtasan. Kumbinsihin ang mga negosyante na mag-supply ng maiinam pero murang produkto -- na gawang Pilipino. Halimbawa, mga breath-alizer na pangtiyak kung nakainom ang nagmamaneho. Isang libo-lang ang gan'ung gadget ng Land Transport Office. Kulang na kulang. Labinlima ang namamatay araw-araw dahil sa drunk driving; sa Metro Manila 25 ang aksidente araw-araw. Kung gagawa ng gadgets atbp. sa Pilipinas, maraming mae-employo habang nagiging ligtas ang mga kalsada at biyahe.