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Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Implement programs to protect communities from climate-induced disasters – Cimatu

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu urged governors from climate-vulnerable provinces to fully implement a program that would help protect communities from climate-induced disasters in the future.

"Climate change is already here, and it will be here for the next generations. It is now, therefore, our obligation to take this program for implementation, so that the next generations will have a guide," Cimatu said.

He made the appeal during the planning and convergence budgeting on the Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) for the eight priority climate vulnerable provinces held at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Central Office in Quezon City.

The eight provinces are Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Samar, Sarangani, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands.

These provinces are vulnerable for their high susceptibility to climate hazards such as flooding, rainfall-induced landslide, storm

surge and drought.

The DENR chief, who chairs the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), told governors that the decisions they make today will have lasting consequences for future generations.

"You leave behind in the provincial capital this program. This will be the template of the younger generations to achieve what we intend to do, what the national government intends to do with this program," Cimatu said.

The RRP is a convergence program of the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR. It envisions strengthening the resilience of natural systems and the adaptive capacities of vulnerable groups and communities to curb future risks and disasters.

Aside from Cimatu and the governors of eight priority climate vulnerable provinces, the meeting was attended by representatives from the Department of Agriculture, National Economic Development Authority, Department of Public Works and Highways, and Department of the Interior and Local Government.

"We need to increase our efforts in resiliency and strongly urge renewed cooperation from key national

government agencies with our concerned provincial governments. It should be a collective undertaking, and in doing so, we can create great solutions together," Cimatu said.

At the meeting, provincial governors presented the current situation of climate vulnerabilities in their respective jurisdictions.

The meeting was intended to discuss the climate vulnerabilities in the priority provinces, and reinforce government thrust for a more prudent and targeted spending by fostering collaboration among agencies in planning, budgeting and implementing priority resilience programs and projects in the said provinces.

Also discussed during the meeting was the CCAM-DRR Roadmap for 2018 to 2022, which serves as "an important guide for the implementing agencies in the programs and projects to mainstream climate change and disaster risk reduction in a vision to build adaptive and resilient communities."

The Roadmap also aims to establish climate-resilient communities and their enhancement in the 17 climate vulnerable provinces, and major urban centers such as Metro Manila, Cebu, Iloilo and Davao.



Climate resilience program urged

By Kuhlín Ceslie Gacula

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu on Thursday called on local governors whose areas of jurisdiction are considered vulnerable to climate changes to implement programs that would help protect communities from climate-induced disasters.

In a statement, Cimatu said governors of vulnerable provinces should create programs that can at least minimize the effects of climate change and spare future generations from its worst impacts.

"Climate change is already here, and it will be here for the next generations," Cimatu said. "It is now, therefore, our obligation to take this program for implementation, so that the next generations will have a guide."

The Environment secretary said the next generation will suffer a greater and bigger effect of climate change and appealed to governors during the planning and convergence budgeting on the Risk Resiliency Program for the eight priority climate-vulnerable provinces.

Cimatu noted that the eight provinces – Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Samar, Sarangani, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands – are vulnerable on their high susceptibility to climate hazards such as flooding, rainfall-induced landslide, storm surge and drought.

He also stressed that the decisions they will make today will have lasting impact on future generations.

"You leave behind in the provincial capital this program. This will be the template of the younger generations to achieve what we intend to do, what the national government intends to do with this program," Cimatu said.



DILG warns officials of 95 towns, cities: Help us in bay rehab or face charges

Año: Assessment, on-site inspections show that 95 LGUs are not complying with environmental laws

By Jeannette I. Andrade
@jiandradeINQ

Out of 178 towns and cities within the Manila Bay watershed area, 95 have not been complying with environmental laws, according to Interior Secretary Eduardo Año.

He warned the local officials in areas connected either to Manila Bay or its tributaries that they would face administrative charges if they fail to cooperate with the national government in its rehabilitation efforts.

Citing the results of the 2018 regional interagency committee assessments and on-site inspections, Año said that of the 95 cities and towns, 16 of them had the "worst problems." However, he did not say what these problems were.

Breakdown by region

Of the 95, 56 were in Central Luzon; 37 in Calabarzon; and two in Metro Manila.

The compliance assessment results were shared by Año with local government officials concerned in a forum on the rehabilitation of Manila Bay held on Monday.

The assessment was aimed



ROMANCE ON THE BAY The sunset in Manila Bay provides the perfect romantic setting for a couple celebrating Valentine's Day.
—EDWIN BACASMAS

at evaluating their compliance with existing environmental laws and policies; identifying the necessary assistance they needed and demanding ac-

countability from them. "Based on our assessment, we still have a lot of work to do, and we intend to start with these 16 local government units

(LGUs) as we go along assisting all of the 178. We will help them. We will not leave them on their own," Año said in a statement on Thursday.

"There are a lot of lapses that contributed to the decades-old problem of Manila Bay," he added.

"But we are not here to point

fingers anymore. We, through the directive of the President, are here to bring back the bay to its former glory and we need all LGUs to do their part," Año said.

But at the same time, he warned local officials who refuse to cooperate in the ongoing rehabilitation, saying: "We can also file cases against them with the Ombudsman or recommend disciplinary action to the President, if warranted."

Año's challenge

Año added: "We challenge all LGUs to shape up. We need them to fight and win the Battle for Manila Bay."

The Department of the Interior and Local Government, he said, could extend assistance to LGUs, including providing capacity development and conducting workshops, coaching and mentoring, to ensure that they were fully capable of exercising their mandates.

Government officials have said that the cleanup of the 194,000-ha Manila Bay would not only involve cities in Metro Manila, but also eight provinces in two regions that had rivers and estuaries flowing into the bay. INQ



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95 LGUs around Manila Bay flagged

56 from Central Luzon, 37 from Calabarzon,
2 from NCR found non-compliant to environmental laws

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

Ninety-five of the 178 local government units (LGUs) in Metro Manila, Regions III (Central Luzon), and IV-A (Calabarzon) within the Manila Bay Watershed Area or 53 percent of the localities were discovered to be non-compliant to existing environmental laws.

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año said the findings were based on the 2018 Regional Inter-Agency Committee table assessments and on-site inspections.

The DILG assessed LGUs around Manila Bay as its rehabilitation is now in full gear.

He noted that non-compliant LGUs failed to hit the indicators ▶ **6**

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95 LGUs around... ◀1

gauging their compliance to existing environmental laws, with 16 of the localities having the worst problems being prioritized by the DILG.

"Based on our assessment, we still have a lot of work to do, and we intend to start with these 16 LGUs as we go along assisting all of 178. We will help them, hindi namin sila pababayaan (We will not abandon them)," said Año.

Of the 95 LGUs that failed the assessment, 56 are from Central Luzon; 37 from Calabarzon (Cavité, Laguna, Batangás, Rizal, and Quezon); and two from the National Capital Region (NCR) or Metro Manila.

"Maraming pagkukulang na nagdulot ng dekadang problema sa Manila Bay (Laxity led to decades of deterioration at Manila Bay). But we are not here to point fingers anymore, we, through the directive of the President, are here to bring back the Bay to its former glory and we need all LGUs to do their part," he noted.

Stiff sanctions

But Año warned stubborn local chief executives of the stiffest possible sanctions should they insist on violating environmental laws.

"We can also file cases against them with the Ombudsman or recommend disciplinary action to the President, if warranted. So we challenge all LGUs to shape up. We need them to fight and win the Battle for Manila Bay," he said.

The results of the LGU Compliance Assessment were released to the LGUs during the local government executives' forum on the rehabilitation of Manila Bay held recently.

The assessment aims to assess LGU compliance to existing environmental laws and policies; identify necessary assistance needed by LGUs;

and demand accountability from LGUs based on their actions/inactions based on their mandates.

Año added that depending on the assessment, the DILG can extend the provision of capacity development, workshops, coaching, and mentoring, among others to ensure that the LGUs are fully capable of exercising their mandates.

"Kung ang problema ng LGU ay ang creation of drainage master plan para mas maging maayos ang kanilang liquid waste management, we can hold capacity development programs para sa kanila, this assistance, ibibigay ng Kagarawan para sa kanila (If the problem of the LGU is the creation of drainage master plan to improve their liquid waste management, we can hold capacity development programs for them. We will provide them with this assistance. The Department will give this to them," the DILG chief assured.

The DILG also committed the issuance of relevant directives, inter-agency joint memoranda, consultations, and download of funding, among others.

The DILG chief disclosed that apart from its current efforts to assist the LGUs, the Department also devised a continuing plan to address LGUs' problem areas in Solid Waste Management; Liquid Waste Management; Informal Settlers Families (ISF); and Biodiversity Management.

He is now looking at establishing the DILG Manila Bay Rehabilitation Task Force, which will be composed of task groups such as: Law Enforcement and Security Task Group; Barangay Clean-up and Enforcement Task Group; Informal Settler Families Relocation Task Group; LGU Supervision and Capacity Development Task Group;

and Inspection and Permit Issuance Task Group.

Continued monitoring

Año also assured the DILG will continue its stringent monitoring of LGU compliance on the environmental laws for the clean-up, rehabilitation, and preservation Manila Bay.

He added the LGUs will be monitored through the LGU Compliance Assessment tool which will gauge their compliance with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, the Clean Water Act, the Urban Development and Housing Act, the Water Code, and other related environmental laws.

Año explained that through the LGU Compliance Assessment tool, the DILG will determine which LGUs committed violations under existing environmental laws and which are compliant.

No ECC, no business

Año called on the LGUs to pass ordinances that will ensure that businesses without the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) will not be allowed to operate.

"You have to be consistent na kapag walang ECC, hindi na makakatuloy ang business. And if there are violations, make them pay the fine (if there are no ECC the business will have to cease. And if there are violations make them pay fines)," he said.

He also addressed the rehabilitation's critics, saying that "detractors would always have an opinion about the administration's undertakings" and encouraged the LCEs to be focused on the noble cause of rehabilitating the Bay.

"Ang masama ay iyong mga detractors natin ay wala naman ginawa nung sila ang nakaupo. Sana tumulong na lang sila (What is worse is the detractors never did anything when they were in power. I just hope that they just support us)," he ended.



MANILA BAY REHAB

95 towns, cities broke environment laws - DILG

By EMMANUEL TUPAS

A total of 95 towns and cities within the Manila Bay watershed area have not complied with environmental laws, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said yesterday.

DILG Secretary Eduardo Año said the number comprises 53 percent of the 178 local government units (LGUs) from Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), according to the assessments and on-site inspections by their regional-interagency committee in 2018.

Of the 95 LGUs, 56 are from Central Luzon followed by 37 from Calabarzon and two in the National Capital Region. Año did not reply when asked which two LGUs in Metro Manila are non-compliant.

The LGUs, Año said, failed to hit the indicators gauging their compliance with existing environmental laws, with 16 having the worst problems.

"Based on our assessment, we still have a lot of work

to do, and we intend to start with these 16 LGUs as we go along assisting all of 178. We will help them," he said in a statement.

While they are not in the habit of pointing fingers on who are responsible for the environmental woes at Manila Bay, Año warned local chief executives to shape up or they will not hesitate to file administrative complaints against them before the Office of the Ombudsman or even straight to President Duterte.

Año says that depending on the assessment, the DILG can extend the provision of capacity development, workshops, coaching and mentoring, among others, to ensure that the LGUs are fully capable of exercising their mandates.

He underscored the need for the DILG continue with its stringent monitoring of LGUs for the cleanup and rehabilitation of the Manila Bay is sustained.

Año also urged LGUs to pass ordinances that will ensure that commercial establishments without environmental compliance certificates will not be allowed to operate.



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'LGUs violating environmental laws'

BY ROY D.R. NARRA

MORE than 50 percent of local government units (LGUs) surrounding Manila Bay were not complying with environmental laws, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said on Thursday.

A total of 95 or 53 percent of the 178 LGUs failed to hit indicators gauging compliance

with environmental laws, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said in a statement.

ority by the DILG, Año said.

"There were decades' worth of shortcomings that led to the problems of Manila Bay, but we are not here to point fingers anymore. We, through the directive of the President (Rodrigo Duterte), are here to bring back the bay to its former glory and we need all LGUs to do their part," Año said.

The DILG, he added, could

extend help to these LGUs by providing capacity development, workshops, and coaching and mentoring toward creating programs in line with environmental laws.

Año also warned LGUs that they would face sanctions if they refused to cooperate in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

"We can file cases against them with the Ombudsman or

Based on data from the 2018 Regional Inter-Agency Committee table assessments and on-site inspections, the DILG said 56 of these LGUs were from Central Luzon, 37 were from Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), and two were from the National Capital Region.

Sixteen LGUs with the "worst problems" would be given pri-

recommend disciplinary action to the President if warranted. So, we challenge all LGUs to shape up. We need them to fight and win the Battle for Manila Bay," he said.

Año said the department would continue monitoring LGUs to ensure that they were complying with environmental laws for the rehabilitation and preservation of Manila Bay.



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95 LGUs along Manila Bay fail environment law

MORE than half of the local government units surrounding Manila Bay have failed to comply with environmental laws, the Interior department said Thursday. Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said 95 LGUs of 53

percent of the total 178 failed to hit the indicators measuring their compliance with environmental laws.

The number consists of 56 LGUs from

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Central Luzon, 37 from Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) and two from the National Capital Region.

The department identified these LGUs based on the 2018 Regional Inter-Agency Committee table assessments and on-site inspections.

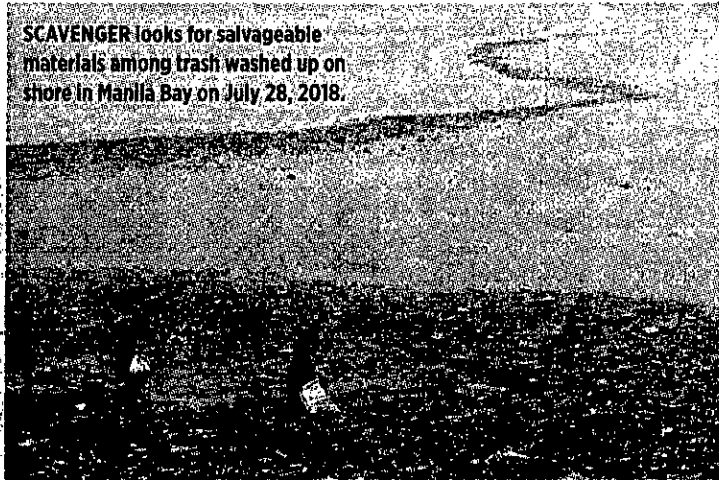
“There were decades worth of shortcomings that led to the problems of Manila Bay but we are not here to point fingers anymore,” Año said in a statement.

“We, through the directive of the President, are here to bring back the Bay to its former glory and we need all LGUs to do their part.”

Año said 16 of the LGUs were described as having the “worst problems,” and that the department would be helping them first. PNA



SCAVENGER looks for salvageable materials among trash washed up on shore in Manila Bay on July 28, 2018.



PHILIPPINE STAR/KRIZ-JOHN ROSALES

Half of LGUs around Manila Bay violate anti-pollution laws — DILG

MORE THAN HALF of the local government units along the Manila Bay watershed have been found non-compliant with environmental law, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) said.

The DILG said that 53% or 95 of the 178 LGUs from the various regions along the bay failed a checklist that gauges their compliance with environmental laws, with 16 of the worst performers targeted as priorities.

"Based on our assessment, we still have a lot of work to do, and we intend to start with these 16 LGUs as we go along assisting all of the 178. We will help them, *hindi namin sila pababayaan*," Interior Secretary Eduardo M. Año in a statement Thursday.

Of the 95 LGUs that failed the assessment, 56 are from Central Luzon, 37 from Calabarzon, and two from Metro Manila.

The DILG performed the assessment to measure the LGUs'

compliance with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, the Clean Water Act, the Urban Development and Housing Act, the Water Code, and other such laws.

The Interior Secretary also warned LGUs that do not cooperate with the government's rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

"We can also file cases against them with the Ombudsman or recommend disciplinary action to the President, if warranted. So we challenge all LGUs to shape up. We need them to fight and win the Battle for Manila Bay," Mr. Año said.

The DILG also offered assistance to LGUs in order to comply with environmental laws.

"If the problem of the LGU is to create a drainage master plan to upgrade their liquid waste management, we can hold capacity development programs para for them," Mr. Año said. — **Vince Angelo N. Ferreras**



95 LGUs around Manila Bay non-compliant with 'envi' laws

More than half of local government units surrounding Manila Bay have failed to comply with environmental laws, the Department of the Interior and Local Government said yesterday.

DILG Secretary Eduardo Año said 95 LGUs, or 53 percent of the total 178 LGUs, failed to hit the indicators gauging their compliance to existing environmental laws.

Fifty-six LGUs are from Central Luzon, 37 from Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon area), and two from the National Capital Region.

The DILG identified these LGUs based on the 2018 Regional Inter-Agency Committee table assessments and on-site inspections. **(PNA and Chito Chavez)**



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95 gov, mayor sabit sa pambababoy sa Manila Bay

AABOT umano sa 95 local government units (LGUs) sa paligid ng Manila Bay, ang hindi umano nakakatugon sa environmental laws.

Ito ang ibinunyag ni Interior Secretary Eduardo Año kung saan 95 LGUs o 53% sa may 178 LGUs.

Sa naturang bilang 56 LGUs ang nasa Central Luzon, 37 sa Calabarzon

(Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal at Quezon), at dalawa sa National Capital Region (NCR).

Ang naturang bilang ay ibinase ng DILG sa 2018 Regional Inter-Agency Committee table assessments at sa isinagawang on-site inspections.

Nalaman na 16 LGUs ang may pinakamaraming problema

at sila ang bibigyang prayoridad ng DILG sa ipagkakaloob na tulong.

Kaugnay nito, binalaan rin ni Año ang mga LGU na hindi makikipagkooperasyon sa gagawing rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Maari din sampahan ng kaso sa Ombudsman o irekomenda na magbigyan ng parusa kung kinakailangan. **(Juliet**



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53% NG PAMAHALAANG LOKAL DI' MAKASUNOD SA BATAS PANGKALIKASAN

AABOT sa 95 pamahalaang lokal o 53 porsiyento ng 178 pamahalaang lokal sa Metro Manila, Rehiyon III at IV-A sa loob ng Manila Bay Watershed Area ang bigong sumunod sa mga batas pangkalikasan, ayon sa pagsusuri ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Ayon kay DILG Secretary Eduardo Año, batay sa 2018 Regional Inter-Agency Committee table assessments at on-site inspections, ang mga pamahalaang lokal na ito ay hindi pumasa sa pagsukat sa kanilang

pagtupad sa mga batas pangkalikasan at 16 sa kanila na may pinakamalalang problema ang bibigyang prayoridad ng kagawaran.

Sa 95 pamahalaang lokal na hindi pumasa sa pagsusuri, 56 ay mula sa Gitnang Luzon; 37 mula sa Calabarzon; at dalawa mula sa National Capital Region (NCR).

Ngunit pinaalalahan din ng kalihim ang mga pamahalaang lokal na hindi makikipagtulungan sa mga hakbangin ng DILG sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Sinabi ni Año na depende sa pagsusuri ang

pagtulong na maaaring maipagkaloob ng DILG tulad ng capacity development, workshops, coaching, mentoring, bukod sa iba pa, upang tiyakin na matupad ng mga pamahalaang lokal ang kanilang mandato.

Balak ding magtatag ng DILG Chief ng DILG Manila Bay Rehabilitation Task Force

na bubuun ng Law Enforcement and Security Task Group; Barangay Clean-up and Enforcement Task Group; Informal Settler Families Relocation Task Group; LGU Supervision and Capacity Development Task Group; at Inspection and Permit Issuance Task Group.

PAULA ANTOLIN



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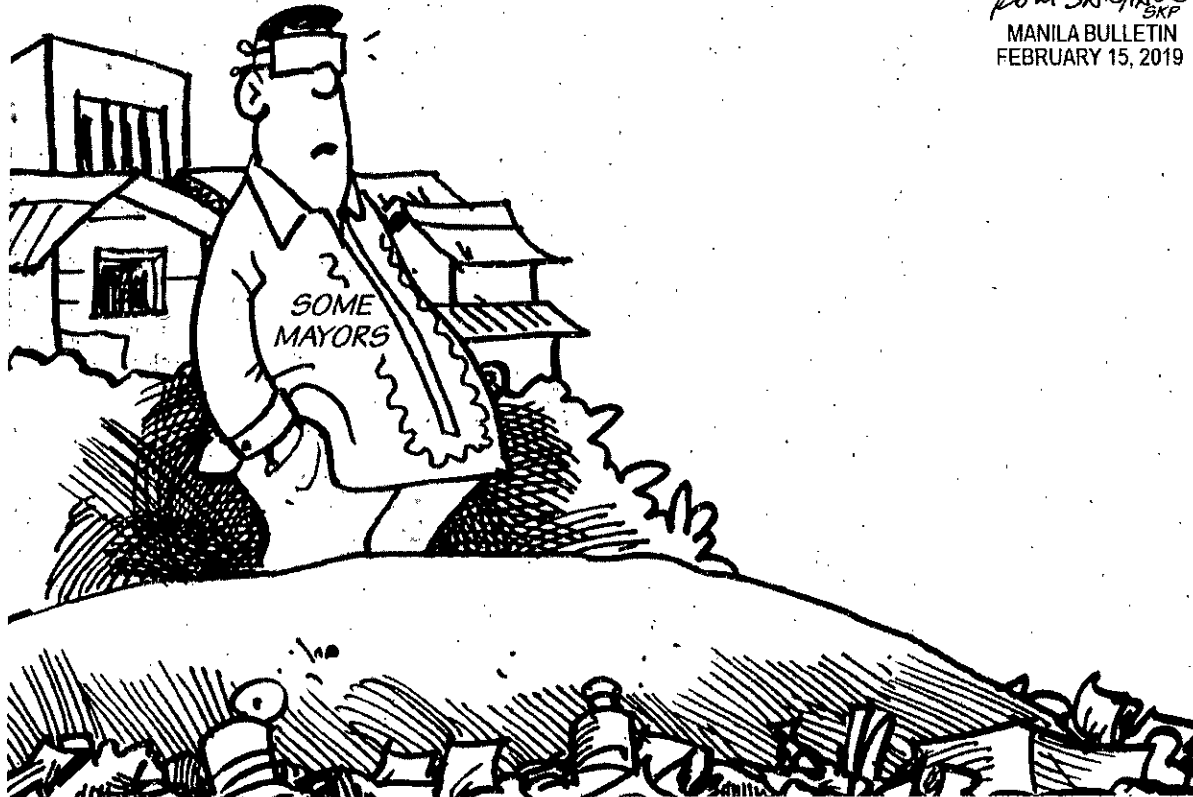
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Roni Santiago
SKP
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Mayors have key role in Bay rehabilitation

THE Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) called a meeting last Monday of mayors of Metro Manila and other towns and cities in the provinces around Manila Bay as part of the total effort to clean it up after many long years of inaction that led to its present state of degradation.

DILG Secretary Eduardo Ano said 178 mayors were asked to attend the meeting. There was yet no specific plan of action for the mayors. The meeting was just an initial effort by the DILG to support the rehabilitation program led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) headed by Secretary Roy Cimatu. But four of the Metro mayors did not attend, along with many of the 178 mayors of towns around the bay – in Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, and Cavite.

Their absence from this initial meeting reflects the neglect suffered so long by Manila Bay. If this thinking persists among so many of these mayors, especially those from Metro Manila, the total effort to clean up the bay is facing real difficulties ahead.

The support of the mayors is crucial to the drive to stop the pollution of Manila Bay. The DENR and other national government agencies have started the campaign with the closure of the Manila Zoo and several restaurants and hotels for pouring their untreated wastes through three outfalls directly into

the bay, the operation of treatment plans by Metro Manila's two water utilities, and the drawing up of plans to move hundreds of squatter families from their present sites along the rivers.

But the problem of Manila bay is so big that the direct involvement of all the cities and towns around the bay is needed. This is why the DILG called that meeting last Monday. After that initial meeting, there will be others which will take up specific action plans.

Secretary Cimatu says it will take at least seven years to carry out the project. There will be need to review many projects in various stages of planning that may have to be revised, such as ten proposed reclamation projects in the bay.

The Supreme Court, in a 2008 decision calling for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, named 13 government agencies with definite roles to play in the total rehabilitation plan, among them the DENR, the DILG, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the Department of Health (DOH), the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Philippine Coast Guard.

But possibly biggest role will have to be played by the local governments led by the mayors of cities and towns which are the principal sources of the pollution that has so degraded Manila Bay.



Mayors have key role in Bay rehabilitation

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But possibly biggest role will have to be played by the local governments led by the mayors of cities and towns which are the principal sources of the pollution that has so degraded Manila Bay.



May malaking gampanin ang mga alkalde sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay

NAGPATAWAG ng pagpupulong ang Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) nitong Lunes sa mga alkalde ng Metro Manila at iba pang bayan at lungsod sa mga probinsiya sa paligid ng Manila Bay, bilang bahagi ng kabuuang pagsisikap na malinis ito makalipas ang ilang taong kawalan aksiyon na nauwi sa kasalukuyan nitong kalagayan.

Ayon kay DILG Secretary Eduardo Año, nasa 178 alkalde ang inimbitahan sa pagpupulong. Wala pang partikular na planong pagkilos para sa mga alkalde. Ang pagpupulong ay paunang pagsisikap ng DILG upang suportahan ang rehabilitation program ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), sa pamumuno ni Secretary Roy Cimatu. Ngunit apat sa mga alkalde ng Metro Manila ang hindi dumalo, kasama ang iba pa sa 178 alkalde ng mga bayan sa paligid ng Manila Bay - sa Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, at Cavite.

Sumasalamin ang kanilang pagliban sa unang pagpupulong sa matagal nang pagpapabaya sa Manila Bay. Kapag nagpatuloy ang ganitong gawi ng mga alkalde, lalo na ang mga nasa Metro Manila, ang kabuuang pagsisikap na malinis ang Manila Bay ay nahaharap sa pagsubok.

Mahalaga ang suporta ng mga alkalde upang mapigilan ang polusyon sa Manila Bay. Sinimulan na ng DENR at iba pang national government agencies ang kampanya sa pagpapasara sa Manila Zoo at ilang kainan at hotel sa pagdiretso ng kanilang mga dumi sa Manila Bay, ang operation of treatment na inihanda ng dalawang water utilities ng Metro Manila, at ang pagbuo ng plano na paalisin ang daan-daang pamilya mula sa kasalukuyan nilang kinalalagyan sa kahabaan ng mga ilog.

Ngunit ang problema ng Manila Bay ay malaki na kinakailangang makiisa ng lahat ng lungsod at bayan sa paligid nito. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit nagpatawag ng pagpupulong ang DILG nitong Lunes. Matapos ang unang pagpupulong, magkakaroon pa ng mga susunod kung saan tatalakayin ang ilang plano.

Sinabi ni Secretary Cimatu na tatagal ng pitong taon bago matapos ang proyekto. Kinakailangan pag-aralan ang maraming proyekto sa iba't ibang bahagi ng pagpapalano na maaaring palitan, gaya ng 10 mungkahing reclamation projects sa look.

Ang Korte Suprema, sa 2008 decision na nananawagan ng rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, ay nagbanggit ng 13 government agencies na may malaking papel sa kabuuang planong rehabilitasyon, kabilang sa mga ito ang DENR, DILG, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Department of Health (DoH), Philippine National Police (PNP), at Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

Ngunit posibleng ang pinakamalaking papel ay gagampanan ng local government sa pangunguna ng mga alkalde ng mga lungsod at bayan na pangunahing pinagmumulan ng polusyon na sumira sa Manila Bay.



Sayaw kikay vs Manila Bay mega reclamation

Idinaan sa sayaw ng grupo ng mga kababaihan ang protesta para tutulan ang ipinormang 'mega reclamation' sa Manila Bay.

Ayon kay Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Arlene Brosas, mahigit 500 kababaihan ang nakiisa sa 'One Billion Rising' dance protest sa Tondo, Maynila kahapon upang almanhan ang reklamasyon sa Manila Bay.

Maraming pobrang

pamilya aniya ang tatamaan ng mga reclamation project sa Manila Bay.

"Walang puso ang reklamasyong ito, na pinapakete at pinatamtamis gamit ang pekeng rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay," pahayag ni Brosas.

Naniniwala ang lady solon na kinakailangang isailalim sa rehabilitasyon ang Manila Bay.

Pero hindi umano

dapat masagasaan ang mahihirap na matagal nang napabayaang at napagkaitan ng serbisyo ng gobyerno.

"Imagine, the area to be reclaimed is as huge as the entire Quezon City and Manila combined...and this is not to house poor families but to house mega casinos and commercial establishments catering to the rich," paliwanag ni Brosas.

(Aries Cano)



IMBESTIGADA

Dave M. Verdiano, E.E.

Pinsala ang dala ng reclamation sa Manila Bay!

(Unang bahagi)

LAGO pa lamang pumasok ang nakaraang dekada ay marami nang pagsasaliksik ang mga sayantipiko na nagpapakita na tumang uri ng "reclamation" sa baybayin ng arula Bay ay makasasama sa mga kabayanan palibot nito.

Ngunit sa kabila ng mga pag-aaral na ay itinakda pa rin - nakasalang na at sa long ng Executive Order 74 sa wari ko'y ala nang makapitigil pa sa pagsirang ito sa akasaysayang look sa ating bansa - ang 43

reclamation, na ang dalawa ay sa nasasakupan ng Maynila, tig-isa naman sa Pasay City at Cavite, at sa iba pang baybaying bahagi - na may kabuuang sukat na 265 hectares o 2,650,000 square meters.

Pakiwari ko pa nga ay ginawang panakip-butang lamang ang bukamibig ngayong "paglilinis" sa Manila Bay, na tumanggap ng papuri mula sa marami nating kababayan dahil sa nakita nilang malaki ang ipinagtago nito. Wala nga lang silang kanalay-malay sa mas matinding dumi na mababalik dito kapag naumpisahan ang 43 reclamation sa makasaysayang look.

Sa bawat laki at lawak ng pagtatambak na gagawin dito, ang mga lugar sa buong Metro Manila at ang mga kanugnog lalawigan ng Bulacan, Bataan, Pampanga at Cavite ay siguradong mapapahirapan ng mga biglang pagbabaha ng tubig na galing sa dagat, dahuyong (storm surges) tuwing ulan nang malakas o magkakabagyo, at ang biglang paglubog ng ilang lugar na "tinambakan" dulot ng phenomera na kung tawagin ay "liquefaction" o ang pagkalusaw ng lupa dahil sa biglang pagluwag nito sa ilalim kapag napasok ng tubig sunhi ng lindol.

Kabilang sa mga pantas sa siyensiya na nagbigay

ng babala sa kapahamakang idudulot ng reclamation sa Manila Bay ay si Dr. Kelvin S. Rodolfo, scientist na gumawa ng mga pag-aaral hinggil sa bagay na ito, na ang pinakabago ay noong 2015 na may pamagat na - "On Geological Hazards that Threaten Existing and Proposed Reclamations of Manila Bay". Siya ay isang Filipino-American "professor emeritus of Earth and Environmental Sciences" sa University of Illinois sa Amerika.

Lumutang ang pangalan ni Doc Kelvin - ito ang tawag ko sa kanya nang makilala ko siya sa Subic Bay - nang pumutok ang bulkan Pinatubo noong 1991 dahil sa walang mintis na hula niya sa sunud-sunod na mangyayari sa Pampanga dulot ng pagputok ng Pinatubo.

Kung hindi ako nagkakamali, sa balitang isunulat ko sa Inquirer unang lumabas ang katagang "LAHAR" matapos ko itong marinig kay Doc Kelvin, nang magkasama kami sa isang Huey Helicopter na umikot sa buong lugar ng Pampanga, ifang araw matapos ang makasaysayang pagputok ng Pinatubo.

Itinuro niya sa akin ang animo'y ulap na nakalambong sa palibot ng tuktok ng Pinatubo - at

may pagkabalang sinabi, "Ang kulay puti na 'yan na natalanaw natin ay aagos pababa at tatabon sa malaking bahagi ng lalawigan kapag bumuhos ang malakas na ulan, at walang makapitigil sa pinsalang idudulot nito sa mga kabayanan!"

Makalipas lamang ang ilang linggo, naganap ang itinatagala ni Doc Kelvin na pagdaloy ng LAHAR sa lahat ng lugar na itinuro niya sa akin habang kami ay sakay sa helicopter - ganyan kagaling ang kababayan nating ito na biglang nag-alsa balutan. Sa tingin ko ay sumama ang loob niya sa pagbalewala ng ilang opisyal ng pamahalaan noon sa mga inilatag niyang solusyon, upang mabawasan ang pinsalang dala ng LAHAR sa mga stalantang kabayanan.

Ani Doc Kelvin sa isa niyang artikulo: "Today, it seems that science is again being blithely ignored by the financial interests and government authorities promoting the various reclamation projects. Will we never learn?"

Sa susunod na bahagi ay tatalakayin natin ang detalye ng panganib ng mga reclamation sa Manila Bay, base sa pag-aaral at pagsusuri ni Doc Kelvin.

Mag-text at tumang sa Globe: 0936-9953459 o mag-email sa: daverdiano@yahoo.com



#nationataglance



THE FREEMAN

THE LAHUG River in Cebu City.

CENTRAL VISAYAS: CEBU Manila Bay clean-up to be replicated in Cebu City

THE ONGOING Manila Bay clean-up may soon be replicated in Cebu City. Commodore Robert Lim Joseph of The Manila Yacht Club, who was among those who spearheaded the Manila Bay initiative, discussed this on Wednesday with the Rotary Club of Metro Cebu (RCMC) members, together with the past president of the Rotary Club in Manila. "I want to tell the media that we will now prioritize Cebu because Cebu is the microcosm of tourism in the Philippines," Mr. Joseph said. He encouraged his fellow Rotarians and all Cebuanos to adapt and participate in the movement, saying he wants immediate actions, not just plans. "Join us in saving Manila Bay. Join us in saving Cebu," he said. He also assured financial support for the project. Cebu City Agriculturist Joey Baclayon said they welcome the RCMC initiative, noting that they have been doing this kind of activity for three years now and for this year, they will be focusing on the 10 major rivers in the city. — *The Freeman*



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Good feeling Better seaside views after the Manila Bay clean-up results in more intense emotions as this couple shows.

YUMMIE DINGDING



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Batangas cement factory ordered shut

By LYKA MANALO

MABINI, Batangas - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Calabarzon has issued cease and desist order to Mabini Grinding Mill Corporation (Holcim Phils., Inc.) for violating environmental rules.

EMB representatives served the closure order to Plant Manager Alex Garcia last Wednesday here.

Garcia refused to give any comment to media. But in her order EMB

Calabarzon Officer-in-Charge Noemi Paranada said the cement company in Barangay Pulong Balibaguhan was directed to stop operations until an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) is issued to it.

Paranada said the company's existing ECC only covers the establishment of a bulk terminal facility for storage with a port facility project.

The local government of Mabini did not renew the company's business permit in 2017 for non compliance of its ECC, but the plant continued to operate.

Municipal administrator Gerville

Luiostro said the local government took action after residents complained about the noise and dust from the factory.

Luiostro said since 2013, residents had been raising health and environmental concerns against the plant, citing the damage to corals and marine life.

"Yesterday (Tuesday), I made a dialogue with the legal service office of (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu (and) I was requesting for an order of the secretary holding in abeyance the processing of the new ECC until such time that the environmental issues are resolved," Luiostro said.

"Whoever is the source of the damage is the responsible to do the rehabilitation" she said.

Municipal Health Officer, Dr. Melanio Ramir Beloso, on the other hand revealed that since the cement factory started to operate, the number of patients at the municipal health center rose to an average of 50-100 patients daily.

"They are complaining of having cough, colds, skin allergies," Beloso said.

Most of the patients come from Barangay Talaga East, which is next to the barangay where the factory is located.



Revival of 'tawilis' cottage industry for Taal Lake fishermen eyed

A PROVINCIAL official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is calling for the revival of a livelihood program to raise earnings of Taal Lake fishermen.

Batangas Provincial Environment and Natural Resource Officer Jose Elmer C. Bascos, also the concurrent Protected Area superintendent of the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape (TVPL), said he will meet with leaders of small fishermen in Taal to explore the prospects of reviving bottled *tawilis* sardines industry that would add value to the lake's most popular fish product.

"Before, there is a cooperative that produces bottled sardines. But somehow, it stopped operation, I think in 2017," Bascos told the BUSINESSMIRROR.

The idea, he said, is to maximize the benefit from catching the endangered *Sardinella tawilis*, the only freshwater sardine in the world endemic to Taal Lake, which he said, is nevertheless are sold at a very low price. Fishermen, Bascos said, sell *tawilis*, possibly cheaper than the P30-per-kilogram standard price of *tawilis* in a market in Talisay, Batangas.

In the next few weeks, Bascos said, he will bring up the idea to the TVPL Protected Area Management Board, which includes local government units.

"Before, we even gave the cooperatives some pressure cooker. I don't know what happened," he said in a mix of English and Filipino.

According to Bascos, with fishermen protesting the decision to impose a two-month *tawilis* fishing moratorium starting next month and the declaration of at least three fishing grounds as "no-take zone" for *tawilis*, it is high time to revive the livelihood program. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



House forest-management bill requiring sustainable practices passes on 2nd reading

A BILL requiring the protection and sustainable management of forests has been approved by the House of Representatives on second reading.

House Bill No. 9088, or the "Sustainable Forest Management Act," which was approved via voice vote, also proposed to establish a Sustainable Forest Development Fund.

House Majority Leader Fredenil H. Castro of the 2nd district of Capiz said he expects third-reading approval of the bill before the 17th Congress adjourns on June 7.

"I am confident that it can be approved on third reading if we have a quorum," Mr. Castro, who is among the authors of the bill, said in a phone message Thursday. Its counterpart measure, Senate Bill No. 402,

written by Senator Loren B. Legarda, however, remains pending at the committee level.

If enacted, it will establish Forest Management Units under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to formulate management plans for forests.

The plan covers the sustainable management of mangrove resources and forest land considered mined-out or abandoned fishpond areas, and the utilization of forest resources, including those within ancestral land.

It will also allow the DENR and any natural or juridical person to enter into a Forest Management Agreement for the exploration, development and utilization of forest lands and resources.

"The Forest Management Agreement shall have a dura-

tion of 25 years and may be extended for another 25 years," as stated under section 24 of the bill.

The agreements may be for the purpose of agroforestry plantations, forest plantation development, ecotourism development and other special uses.

The measure also hopes to establish the Sustainable Forest Development Fund to finance proposals for the FMU. It identified the DENR as the preferred government financing institution to invest 75% of the net interest income from loans extended for forest development.

The SFDF may also be sourced from at least 70% of imposed forest charges and collected government share as well as local and international grants, donations, and endowment.

Further, the bill will ban illegal practices such as utilization or possession of forest resources from protected forest land, the illegal harvest of forest resources, and unauthorized grazing of livestock, among others. Violators may face up to 20 years' imprisonment and face fines of up to P1 million. — Charmaine A. Tadalán

