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Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

INQUIRER



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Cimatu uses PMA for Manila Bay plea

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who was the guest of honor at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) alumni homecoming in Baguio City on Saturday, used the event as a platform to call on his fellow alumni to help the government rehabilitate Manila Bay. In his speech, Cimatu cited President Duterte's "political will" in the success of the six-month cleanup of Boracay Island in Aklan. He said months after the rehabilitation of Boracay, the President now wanted to save Manila Bay. He called on his fellow cavaliers "to help us rehabilitate our national treasures." Cimatu is a member of the PMA Class of 1970.

—INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON



HISTORICAL WALK: Last Jan. 27, the historical 'Save Manila Bay' project kicked off with a 3.6-km walk led by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu (center). Joining the event led by Commodore Bobby Joseph of Manila Yacht Club are the Rotary Club of Manila, Skai International Club of Makati, Network of Independent Travel Agencies and Services, and Manila Interline Club, among others. In photo are (from left) MMDA chairman Danny Lim, Joseph, Cimatu, Tourism Secretary Berna Puyat and DILG Secretary Eduardo Año.

For comments, e-mail at mareyes@philstarmedia.com



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Diwata-1 images help monitor, sustain Manila Bay rehab

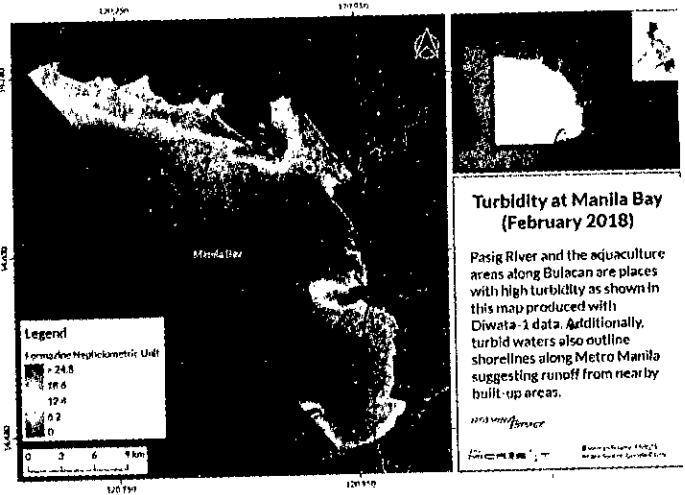
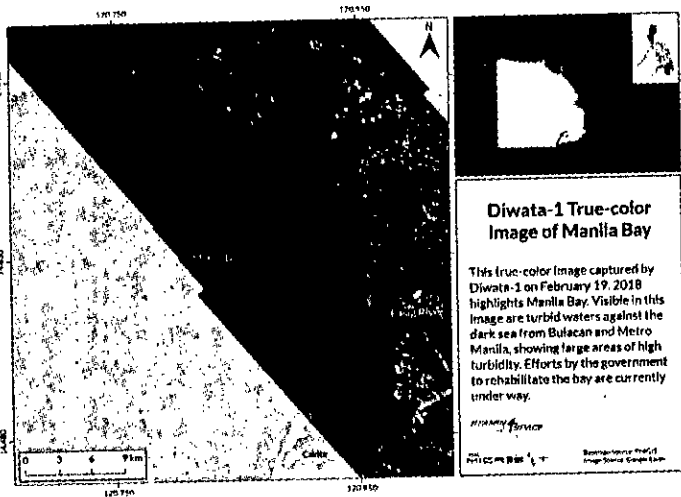
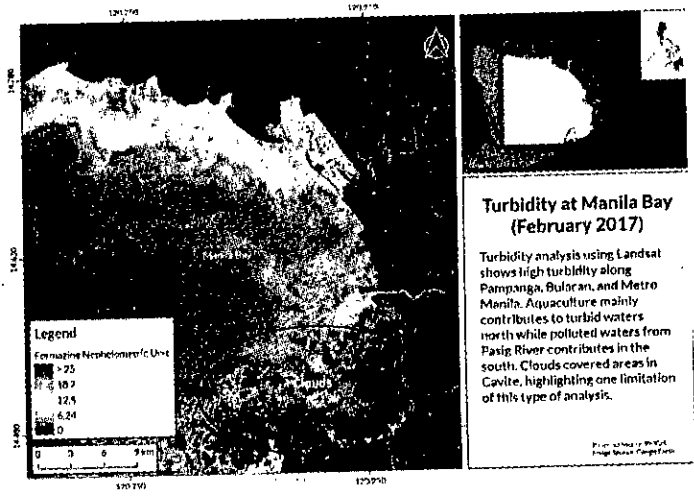
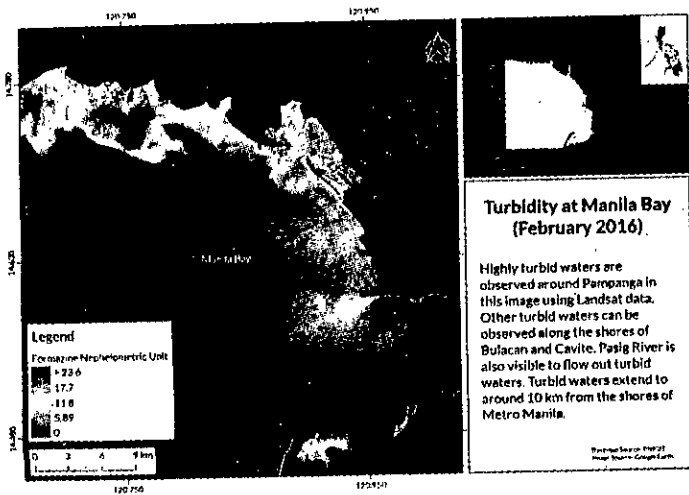


FIGURE 1. A portion of Manila Bay as captured by Diwata-1 at 3:24 p.m. Pht using its Spaceborne Multispectral Imager

FIGURE 2. Turbidity map (February 2018) of Manila Bay using Diwata-1





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Diwata-1 images help monitor, sustain Manila Bay Rehabilitation

FIGURE 3. Turbidity map (February 2016) of Manila Bay using Landsat-8 data

AFTER the massive cleanup and rehabilitation efforts on world-renowned Boracay last year, all eyes are on Manila Bay as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources began rehabilitation operations on January 26.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu started the campaign with the cleaning of the iconic bay's coastlines and esteros, followed by a crackdown on establishments around the area that would be identified as sources of pollution and wastewater.

Not just trash collection

More than just a trash-collection initiative, the multiagency effort by the Philippine government to improve the environment of Manila Bay is meant to restore and maintain the bay's water-quality level to make it suitable for swimming and other recreational activities.

On February 19, 2018, nearly a year before the rehabilitation project, Diwata-1 was able to capture an image of Manila Bay using its Spaceborne Multispectral Imager (SMI). Satellite data in the form of images yielded by the microsatellite can help track changes in water quality.

An analysis of turbidity, using the Formazin Nephelometric Unit (FNU) to measure water clarity, shows unmistakably turbid murky waters at the mouth of Pasig River appearing to flow out from the river.

Using a baseline of less than 5 FNU based from Figure 2, which generally indicates clear waters, more than 25 FNU units are shown to move out from the mouth of the river even extending inside the river.

Figure 2 shows that the extent of water pollution extends inland, which may point to the built-up areas inside the river as source of pollutants.

This means that residential and industrial runoffs, such as wastewater from factories, are dumped onto the river.

Long-term rehab

IT is important to note that for the successful long-term rehabilitation of Manila Bay, the sources of pollution that enter the river, as well as other river systems that drain to the bay, should be identified and regulated, as well.

Figure 2 also helps in identifying that turbid waters are also present at the shores of Bulacan and Pampanga. These turbid waters have originated from aquaculture.

Impact on food supply

IN the figure, the environmental impact of the growing demand for food to supply the growing Philippine population could be seen.

To keep up with supply, masses of aquaculture farms have to be set up for intensive fish farming, which is an activity commonly associated with using fish feed and fertilizers.

Unfortunately, unregulated usage of fish feed and fertilizers contaminate water, resulting in the milky blue waters at the area as shown in Figure 1. These also contaminate the waters of Manila Bay.

Diversifying and promoting alternative ways for aquaculture should be explored, as limiting aquaculture activities in this area—a possible effect of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project—may lead to a food-supply crisis.

Overall, Figure 2 showed the multitude of sources of the bay's pollution.

Restoring the natural environment of the bay will require efforts to reduce waste material from sources. These sources can be easily identified by satellite images, such as those provided by the Diwata microsatellites.



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Diwata-1 images help monitor, sustain Manila Bay rehab

FIGURE 4. Turbidity map (February 2017) of Manila Bay using Landsat-8 data

Heavy metal pollution—bad for ecosystem, humans

WHAT exactly are the effects of water pollution in Manila Bay?

For one, there is evidence of bioaccumulation of lead in fish muscles, as well as deterioration in muscle fibers of the fish captured from the bay.

Mamon, et al. (2016) found growth impairments to green mussel, a bioindicator of water quality, due to pollution in Manila Bay.

Heavy metal pollution is bad for both the ecosystem and humans, as these metals are transferable when eaten.

Manila Bay is one of the sources of food for many individuals who live in the area, and their health may be impaired from consumption of contaminated fish captured by fishermen.

High turbidity

INTERESTINGLY, applying the analysis to earlier images obtained through other satellites (Landsat) showed that high turbidity reaching above baseline levels occurred at the same general areas at same month.

Figures 3 and 4 show that turbidity is not a unique event captured by Diwata-1. It is most likely have been part of the bay for a long time.

The use of satellite images gives more dimension to the gravity of the rehabilitation project aimed to improve the coexistence of the environment and humans.

Sat images: Invaluable tools for rehab

SATELLITE images, such as those provided by Diwata-1, and their capability to provide timely and periodic information are invaluable tools to help the rehabilitation project.

In ideal conditions, satellite images can help track the temporal changes of turbidity within Manila Bay helping the efforts of the government to rehabilitate the bay.

With Diwata-2's revisit capability, it could better monitor certain high-priority areas—such as Manila Bay—to compare water-quality changes over time.

Also, remote sensing is a cost-effective way to conduct large-scale assessments of water quality at the bay, as both Diwata-1 and Diwata-2 can

capture a large area of the bay to be used for water-quality assessments.

Diwata-1 is a Philippine microsatellite deployed into orbit from the International Space Station (ISS) on April 27, 2016.

It is the first 50-kilograms satellite of the Philippine Scientific Earth Observation Microsatellite (PHL-Microsat) Program, a three-year research and development program funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) of the Philippines.

The program is a collaboration between the University of the Philippines, the DOST-Advanced Science and Technology Institute (DOST-Asti) and Japan's Tohoku University and Hokkaido University.

Diwata-1 has since captured over 36,000 images around the world and over 21,000 images of the Philippines data as of February 6.

PHL-Microsat and Stamina4Space Programs

THE PHL-Microsat program is the country's first initiative in developing the country's capacity in space science and technology.

In its four years of implementation, it had successfully launched two microsatellites: Diwata-1 and Diwata-2; and a nanosatellite, Maya-1.

It is funded by the DOST, monitored by DOST-Philippine Council for Industry and Emerging Technology Research and Development and done through the collaboration between the University of the Philippines Diliman, the DOST-Asti, Hokkaido University and Tohoku University.

The PHL-Microsat Program is succeeded by the Space Technology and Applications Mastery, Innovation and Advancement (Stamina4Space) Program.

Stamina4Space is aimed at further developing deep expertise that enable and sustain the growth of a local scientific-industrial base in space technology and applications in the Philippines.

Through science-based policies and programs supported by innovations in space technology, Stamina4Space intends to contribute to building a resilient Filipino society and a productive, knowledge-based economy.



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BusinessMirror

Always look at today's business



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Clean sweep 24/7 To shorten the estimated seven years to rehabilitate Manila Bay to a state safe for swimming, volunteers vow non-stop work. BOB DUNGO JR.



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ASEANA CITY LOCATORS PARTICIPATE IN MANILA BAY REHABILITATION

By Alena Mae S. Flores

THE Aseana Business Park Estate Association, an organization of locators and lot owners at Aseana City (formerly Aseana Business Park), has joined the call of the government to clean up Manila Bay and nearby esteros.

Located along Roxas Boulevard, Manila Bay is a natural harbor that hosts one of the world's most majestic sunsets. However, garbage and other

pollutants from countless land and sea-based sources have been an eyesore and health issue at Manila Bay.

With the ambition to restore the bay to its former glory, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources started a three-year clean-up campaign, dubbed as the Battle for Manila Bay.

The massive clean-up focused along the coast of Manila Bay, while simultaneous activities are being done in various cities. Aseana City took part

through the Adopt-an-Estero program.

As early as June 2013, ABPEA teamed up with the DENR in rehabilitating the 1,404-meter Redemptorist Water Channel, which stretches from Roxas Boulevard to Manila Bay.

Aseana City's assigned personnel collect an average of 60 to 70 sacks of garbage a week, produced by families living upstream in these canals. To date, ABPEA has already collected more than

Turn to C2

168 metric tons of garbage.

Now in its sixth year, the program resulted in a much cleaner waterway which has become a breeding ground for freshwater fish.

"There are so many ways to help our environment bloom again. As an individual, the easiest thing that you can do is to not litter. Pocket your trash. As an establishment owner, segregate waste materials," said Rhiza Montances, the environmental compliance head of ABPEA.

Montances said Aseana City aims to improve the condition of waste disposal by spearheading environmental seminars directed to businesses and commercial estates within Aseana City.

She said this effort includes proper segregation of garbage, treatment of wastewater discharge and strict implementation of waste management.

According to ABPEA, zeroing waste materials in these water channels might take a long time but can be sustained by provision of boats to easily collect trapped waste materials, installation of floaters and water channel barricades that are made of steel, to the upper and lower area of the water channel, regular clean-up action by Aseana City's very own volunteer cleaners, and the innovative use of bio fences, inspired by Guatemala's clean up movement along the Caribbean islands.

In the future, Aseana City hopes to give more life to its adopted estero by increasing pedestrian activity and beautifying the landscape along the water channel. Private institutions and establishments within Aseana City are also encouraged to take part in the clean-up.

Creating healthy ecosystems and keeping the environment robust will always be one of Aseana City's fundamentals, as it progressively meets its goals of global development, the group said.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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POLITICAL WILL PINAIRAL NI DUTERTE SA MANILA BAY REHAB

POLITICAL will ang pinairal ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte upang mailunsad at mapagtagumpayan ang Manila Bay Rehabilitation campaign.

Ito ang inihayag kahapon ni Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu nang dumalo bilang panauhin at tagapagsalita sa ginanap na Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Alumni Homecoming kahapon sa Fort Del Pilar sa Baguio City.

Sa kanyang talumpati sa harap ng may ilang libong dumalo sa taunang homecoming exercise ay nakiusap si Cimatu sa kapwa PMAers na tulungan siya para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

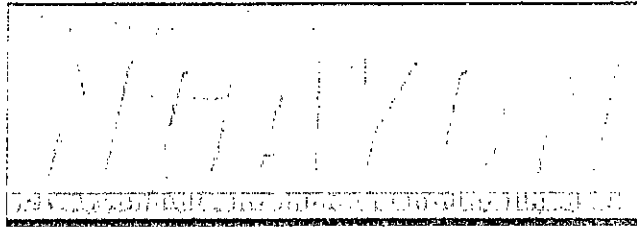
Ayon pa kay Cimatu, sa pamamagitan ng political will ay naging matagumpay ang rehabilitasyon sa Boracay Island at puwede rin umanong maulit ito sa Manila Bay.

Idinagdag pa ng opisyal na mas magiging madali ang kanilang bagong misyon kung tutulong dito ang kanyang mga kapwa nagtapos sa premier military school sa bansa.

Idinagdag pa ni Cimatu na miyembro ng PMA Class of 1970 na malaki ang kanyang tiwala sa mga kapwa cavalier na hindi siya bibiguin sa kanyang pakiusap.

Tinatayang nasa 6,000 alumni ang dumalo sa taunang event.

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Baka nakakalimutan naman

BINALAAN ni DILG Sec. Eduardo Año ang mga local government units (LGU) sa kapaligiran ng Manila Bay na hindi sumusunod sa mga alituntunin hinggil sa kalikasan. Sa kanilang imbestigasyon, 95 sa 178 siyudad at munisipalidad ang lumalabag sa mga alituntuning iyon. Nahaharap sila sa mga administratibong kaso kung hindi sila susunod, dagdag ni Año. Dalawa sa listahang ito ay nasa Metro Manila. Handa naman daw ang gobyerno na tulungan itong mga siyudad at munisipalidad. Ang interes naman ay ibalik ang dating kabantugan ng Manila Bay.

Hindi naman pinangalanan ni Año ang mga hindi umano sumusunod.

Pero sa kabila ng paghihigpit ng DILG at DENR hinggil sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, baka nakakalimutan nila ang 22 proyektong reklamasyon na pinaplano sa nasabing karagatan. Tatlo nga rito ay aprubado na, ang isang proyekto sa Pasay ay pinamumunuan umano ng taong malapit kay Pres. Rodrigo Duterte. Inamin pa nga ng isang opisyal ng Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) na may epekto sa kalikasan ang mga proyektong ito. Hindi rin nilinaw kung ano ang mga sistemang gagamitin para mabawasan daw ang mga masasamang epekto. Ang awtoridad naman sa PRA ay nilipat sa ilalim ng tanggapan ng Presidente.

Mabuti naman ang intensiyon ng lahat pag dating sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay. Pero pag-aralan na muna nang mabuti kung mas malaki ang benepisyo ng mga proyektong reklamasyon sa pangkahabaang epekto sa kalikasan, at kung may tulong nga sa ekonomiya ng bansa. Hindi ko rin alam kung bakit inalis sa ilalim ng NEDA ang PRA, kung ang NEDA nga ang nag-aaral

(Sundan sa pahina 5)

kung magiging matagumpay ang mga proyekto. Kinakatwiran na ang mga establisimyentong tinayo sa mga lupang nabawi sa Pasay ay nagdulot ng trabaho para sa libu-libong tao. Kung ganun, isa na namang casino ba ang pina-planong itayo sa lupaing

mababawi sa karagatan? Dahil wala akong maisip na iba pang negosyo na kukuha ng maraming tao, kundi hotel o casino.

Kailangan pa ba ng isa pang casino? Akala ko ba ayaw ni Duterte ng mga casino? O sa Boracay lang iyon?

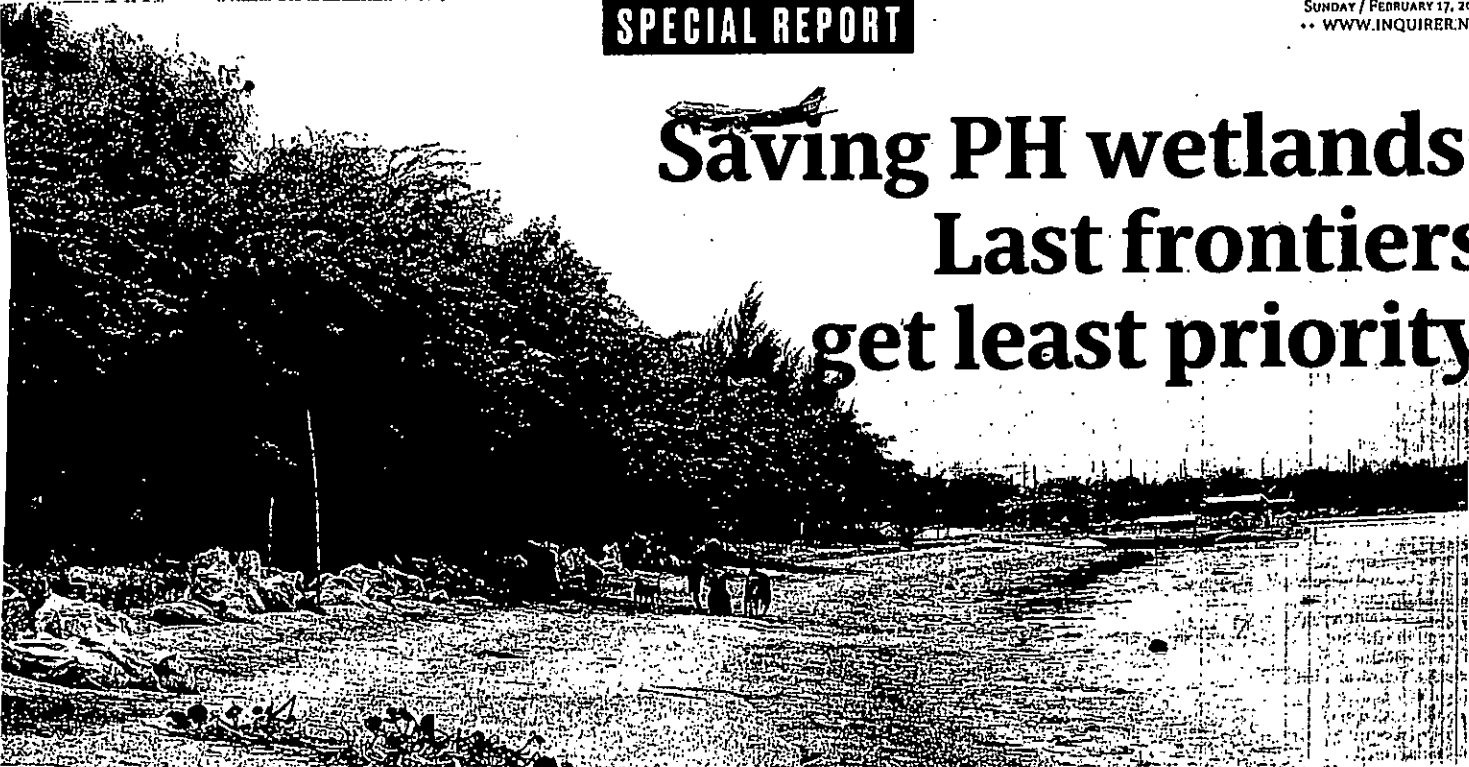


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SPECIAL REPORT

SUNDAY / FEBRUARY 17, 2019
WWW.INQUIRER.NET

Saving PH wetlands Last frontiers get least priority



HARDLY A BORACAY, BUT ... Thanks to the efforts of farmworkers and volunteers, this sandy southern coastline of Manila Bay has become a welcome sight in recent years. —PHOTOS BY JHESSET



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Saving PH wetlands: Last frontiers get least priority

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

(First of two parts)

In the southern part of Manila Bay, just off the busy Coastal Road, two islands marked by lush canopies and flocks of birds provide a breather from the metro's urban blight.

This nature reserve has been Nestor Mabini's second home for over a decade. He is, along with four other men, a "farm-worker" tasked to look after the rich biodiversity in the area. With more than 36 hectares of mangrove forest between them, Freedom Island and Long Island stand as Metro Manila's last coastal frontier against rough waves and storm surges.

The two islands created by reclamation projects in the bay form the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area. Stretching more than 175 ha, this wetland ecosystem is made up of mangroves, salt marshes, mudflats, lagoons, ponds and mixed beach forests.

Over 80 species of resident and migratory birds, including the endemic and highly threatened Philippine duck and the vulnerable Chinese egret, have been recorded here.

But Mabini's longtime challenge is dealing with household garbage. Discarded objects, from car tires to soiled diapers, make their way from households down to the rivers and estuaries flowing toward Manila Bay, and end up on the sandy coast of the ecotourism area.

"Sometimes, the trash can even cover the entire shore," Mabini said. Along with the "Bakawan Warriors" and other volunteers, most of his days are spent cleaning up the area, hauling sacks and sacks of garbage at the end of the day.

1st critical habitat

In 2007, the ecotourism area was declared the Philippines' first critical habitat, having been found to host threatened species including birds that use the East Asian-Australasian Migratory Flyway. Just last year, it was cited as a protected area, one of the 94 new sites under the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act.

But even with the recognition of its valuable status, the area remains under threat of being laid waste—by human waste.

Its story is not unique. Nationwide, wetlands are being degraded and converted—a reality that alarms environment officials and conservation groups.

As habitats of various bird and marine life species, wetlands are among the world's most productive environments. From inland bodies such as lakes, rivers, marshes, peatlands and swamps to coastal areas and coral reefs, wetlands also act as effective carbon sinks, flood regulators, even natural water filters.

But for all that, the extent of



According to the Global Wetland Outlook, available data show that some 35 percent of wetlands have been lost from the 1970s to 2015. This rate is thrice faster than forest loss

the damage worldwide was recently revealed in the Global Wetland Outlook, published in 2018 by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, an international treaty for wetland conservation to which the Philippines is a signatory.

According to the study, available data show that some 35 percent of wetlands have been lost from the 1970s to 2015. This rate is thrice faster than forest loss, researchers say.

Factors contributing to the wetlands' decline include drainage, conversion, pollution and extraction activities. Indirect drivers, including climate change and global megatrends such as urbanization, also play a part.



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Saving PH Wetlands: Last frontiers get least priority

Alarming degradation

Unfortunately, the local situation mirrors this global trend, said Amy Lecciones, vice president of the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands.

"There is an alarming degradation, particularly for inland wetlands and freshwater ecosystems," she said. "They are often seen as wastelands, since swamps and marshes may not seem as charismatic as coastal areas or coral reefs, where intervention measures are already in place."

Encroachment also poses a serious threat, Lecciones added. Some wetlands are either drained out or reclaimed and converted into commercial or residential areas.

But just how fast the Philippines is losing these ecosystems is unclear due to insufficient data.

Joy Navarro, senior ecosystems management specialist at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said it was only when the Philippines signed the Ramsar Convention in 1994 that it began to formally collect information on its vast wetlands, particularly those inland.

"Our inventory right now is still incomplete, as updates are still ongoing," she said.

In 2016, the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau published the first edition of its atlas on inland wetlands, accounting for 244 such ecosystems, as

well as over 2,400 river systems nationwide. The latest records now show an additional 22 identified sites, adding up to 266 inland wetlands, Navarro said.

Lakes account for over 70 percent of inland wetlands. More than half are in Luzon, followed by Mindanao.

Works in progress

But individual assessments on each wetland—including its status, resources, threats and services—are still works in progress. Data collection can be tricky, however, due to low manpower and low awareness among communities and even environment personnel.

Navarro echoed Lecciones' concern on inland wetlands: Compared to coastal areas, inland bodies of water are not prioritized. Often, they are ignored—until seen as a possible area for conversion and development.

The 2016 atlas provides an initial look at certain inland wetlands, but more information is needed to craft management plans. These plans have to be specially designed for each ecosystem to ensure its conservation and protection.

Initial records from the DENR show management plans for only 10-12 percent of inland wetlands, Navarro said. She did not specify the areas, but noted that most of these plans were for ecotourism purposes. "Wetlands that are not seen as a potential source of income and livelihood are not even managed," she said.

But even the data on whether these are coastal or inland wetlands are hazy. The law requires a specific management plan for wetlands classified as protected areas, like the Las Piñas-Parañaque wetlands, complicat-

ing the process of keeping track of the conservation plans for these ecosystems.

"The challenge with wetland management planning starts with identification and assessment, including determining the extent of the management area," Navarro said.

But the capacities on the ground do not meet the need for such a huge volume of information.

"When it comes to concerns in field offices, there is no particular focus on wetlands," Navarro said. Most offices have only a few personnel doing several tasks on different ecosystems, she said, adding:

"Although the DENR has the mandate for conservation, it also needs the help of many other agencies for a harmonized and concerted effort to conserve wetlands." INQ



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Saving PII wetlands: Last frontiers get least priority



BEACHED BEAR Among the garbage that wash up on the beach are toys like this soiled Winnie the Pooh.



WALKING THE TALK A farmworker takes a stroll amid a lush mangrove forest in the Las Piñas-Parañaque wetlands.

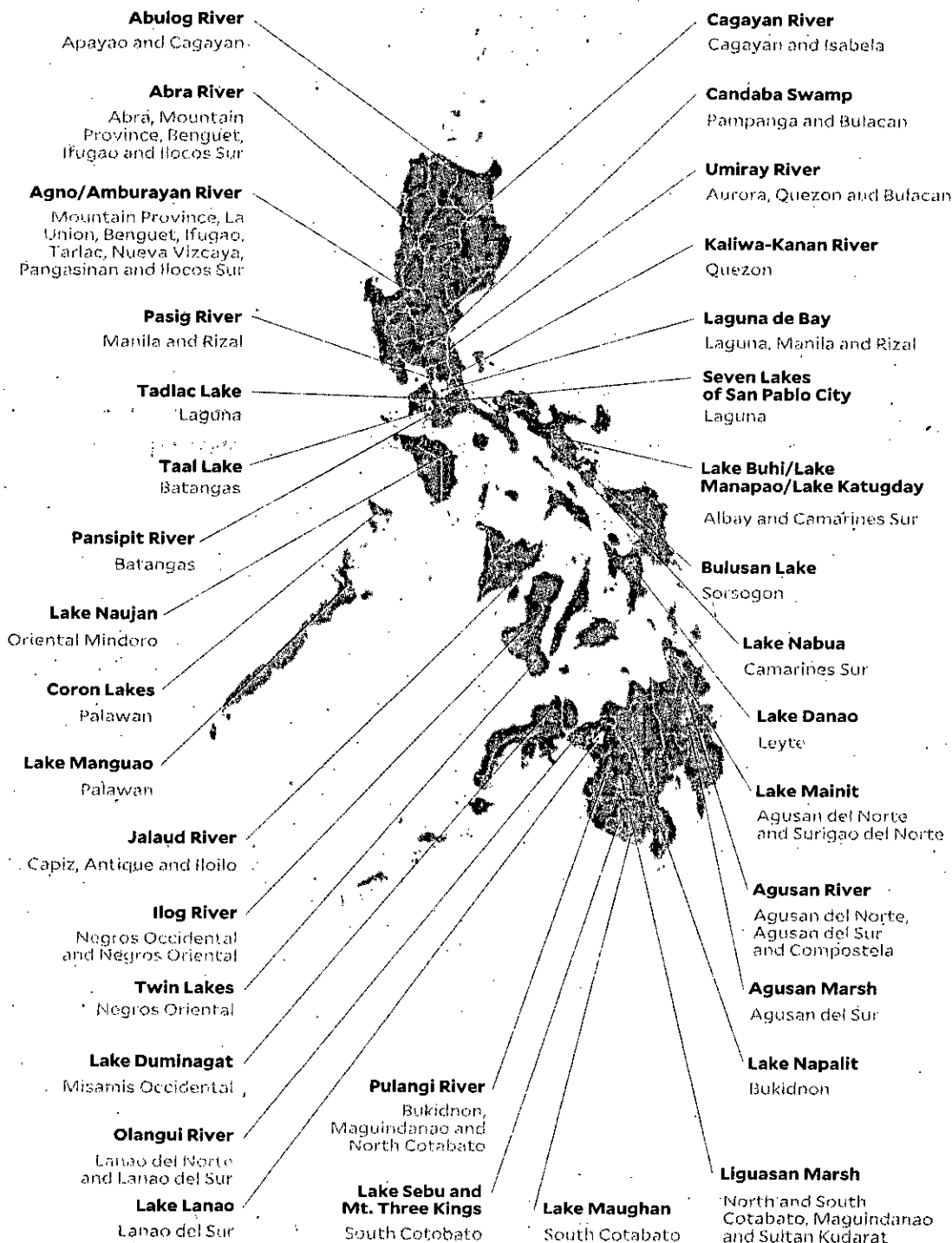


PS

Saving PH wetlands: frontiers get least priority

TOP CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH AREAS FOR INLAND WATERS

Environment officials and conservation groups agree that inland wetlands in the Philippines, such as rivers, lakes, marshes and swamps, are among the most threatened ecosystems due to lack of awareness and the low importance given to their preservation.





THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1898

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P. 1

Albayalde leads 2019 PMA Cavalier awardees

By **MARTIN A. SADONGDONG**

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Oscar Albayalde led 11 awardees who were recognized during the annual Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Alumni Homecoming held at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City on Saturday.

A product of PMA Sinagtala Class of 1986, Albayalde was hailed the Cavalier Awardee for Command and Administration. His accomplishments as a seasoned police official were highlighted by the PMA Alumni Association, Inc.

Albayalde was the recipient of a total of 58 awards and decorations which "bore witness to his outstanding performance in his assignments including a Gold Cross Medal, a PNP Outstanding Achievement Award and three PNP Heroism Medals among others."

As the director of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) in 2016, Albayalde implemented "practical" programs for crime prevention and suppression, an intensified campaign against criminality and illegal drugs, and a sustained internal cleansing of Metro Manila police's ranks.

As a result, 81 percent of respondents in Metro Manila in a survey conducted by the Pulse Asia agreed they felt safer because of the campaign against criminality.

He eventually took over the reign of PNP in April, 2018, focusing on a program anchored in instilling to the cops discipline and respect for themselves and the public.

"Itong Cavalier Award ay ang pinakamataas na award na makakamtan ng isang PMA alumni. This is actually the most coveted award dahil hindi lahat ng graduate ng PMA ay nagkakaroon nito," Albayalde told reporters.

"Kapag ikaw ay nabigyan nito, ang pride sa sarili mo at sa organization is there," he added.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu, who is a former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and a member of PMA Class of 1970, graced this year's alumni homecoming as guest of honor and speaker.

Cimatu, also a Cavalier awardee, thanked the Cavalier awardees for their courage, integrity and loyalty which are the founding principles of every PMAers.

As a PMA alumni, he cited the learning he gained as a military man in effecting changes in the DENR, especially in leading the rehabilitation of Boracay Island.

He then asked the Cavaliers and members of the PMA Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAD) to help him in the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay.

He also emphasized how "political will," which also mirrors President Duterte's campaign slogan in the 2016 national elections, led him to where he is right now past the life of being a military man.

"The character building of every cadet is ingrained in the values of the academy which has not changed over the years," Cimatu said.

Recognized

Aside from Albayalde, 10 other PMA alumni were cited as Cavalier awardees by the PMAAAI.

They were Cavalier for Coast Guard Operations Ronnie Gil Gavan, of PMA Maalab Class of 1993; Cavalier for Special Operations Harold Nemeño, of PMA Masikhay Class of 1999; Cavalier for Naval Operations Gilbert Villareal Jr., of PMA Masingal Class of 1998; Cavalier for Police Operations Guillermo Eleazar, of PMA Hinirang Class of 1987; Cavalier for Army Operations Ramon Flores, of PMA Bantay Laya Class of 1994;

Cavalier for Air Operations Rolando Conrad Peña III, of PMA Kalasag Lahi Class of 1997; Cavalier for Alumni Affairs Leo Angelo Diel Leuterio, of PMA Maringal Class of 1988; Cavalier for Special Field Jesus Lomeda Jr., of PMA Mapitagan Class of 1980; Cavalier for Public Administration Fernando Mesa, of PMA Makabayan Class of 1975; and Cavalier for Private Enterprise Louie Ticman, of PMA Magilas Class of 1976.

Among the notable awardees was Cavalier Flores of Class 1984.

Flores has the distinction of being the only battalion commander who was given the responsibility of leading two commanding battalions in two major military operations in a span of two years.

He was assigned as the commanding officer of the Philippine Army's 32nd Infantry (DAREDEVIL) Battalion, 11th Infantry Division (63IB, 11ID) tasked to operate against the Abu Sayyaf Group in Sulu; and the 63rd Infantry (INNOVATOR) Battalion, 8ID in the liberation of Marawi City against Maute terror group.



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Albayalde leads 2019 PMA Cavalier Awardees

During the battle of Marawi in 2017, Flores was critically wounded while leading his unit in a fierce firefight while extricating troops in the last enemy stronghold.

For this feat, he was awarded the Order of Lapu-Lapu (Kampilan) by President Duterte.

Another distinct awardee was Eleazar, the Cavalier for Police Operations, whose career as a policeman turned a major eleva-

tion when he was appointed the director of the PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group (ACG) in January 2016.

In July, 2016, Eleazar was appointed as the district director of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) where he pushed a relentless campaign against illegal drugs and criminality.

By late 2017, a National Police Commission (Napolcom) survey showed QCPD was chosen as the Most Trusted Police District.

Eleazar then became the regional director of the Calabarzon Police Regional Office (PRO-4A) in April, 2018.

Two months later, he was promoted

as the regional director of the NCRPO, replacing Albayalde, who then became the PNP chief with the retirement of Ronald dela Rosa.

Since leading the NCRPO, the region experienced a 54 percent decrease in the index crime volume.

"Nagpapasalamat ako sa bumubuo ng PMA Alumni Association, Inc. for bestowing me this prestigious award. Alam mo; itong Cavalier Award eh pinapangarap ng lahat ng graduate ng PMA so ito ay magsisilbi sa aking inspirasyon na on my remaining years in the service ay lalo ko pang papaigtingin at papagandahin 'yong serbisyo," Eleazar said.



MANILA BAY CLEANUP - Volunteers from various schools join the clean-up of Manila Bay, particularly the portion near the Baseco Compound in Tondo, as part of its rehabilitation. (Mark Balmores)



Albayalde leads PMA Cavalier 2019 awardees

Philippine National Police chief, Director General Oscar Albayalde, was hailed as the Cavalier Awardee for Command and Administration, leading the 11 awardees who were recognized during the annual Philippine Military Academy Alumni Homecoming in Fort del Pilar in Baguio City yesterday.

A product of the PMA "Sinagtala" Class of 1986, Albayalde's accomplishments as a seasoned police officer was highlighted by the PMA Alumni Association Inc.

Albayalde was the recipient of a total of 58 awards and decorations which "bore witness to his outstanding performance in his assignments, including a Gold Cross Medal, a PNP Outstanding Achievement Award, and three PNP Heroism Medals, among others."

As the director of the National Capital Region Police Office in 2016, Albayalde implemented "practical" programs for crime prevention and suppression, an intensified campaign against criminality and illegal drugs, and a sustained internal cleansing of the Metro Manila police ranks.

As a result, 81 percent of re-

spondents in Metro Manila in a survey conducted by the Pulse Asia agreed they felt safer because of the campaign against criminality.

He eventually took over the reins of the 190,000-strong PNP in April 2018, focusing on a program anchored in instilling to the cops discipline and respect for themselves and the public.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu, who is a former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and a member of the PMA Class of 1970, graced this year's alumni homecoming as guest of honor and speaker.

Cimatu, also a Cavalier awardee, thanked the Cavalier awardees for their courage, integrity, and loyalty which are the founding principles of every PMAer.

As a PMA alumni, he cited the learnings he gained as a military man in effecting changes in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, especially in leading the rehabilitation of Boracay Island. **(Martin Sadongdong)**



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PMA HOMECOMING DINALUHAN NG ILANG KANDIDATO

BENGUET – TAGUMPAY ang Philippine Military Academy (PMA) sa kanilang panawagan sa mga politikong dumalo sa alumni homecoming na huwag samantalain ang event para mamulitika.

Kahapon ay takaw pansin ang mga miyembro ng PMA na kandidato para sa May 13 midterm elections. Gayunpaman ay sumunod ang mga ito sa paulit-ulit na panawagan ng institusyon na huwag mamulitika.

Sinabi ni Lt. Col. Harry Baliaga, spokesman ng PMA, bagaman nakakuha ng pansin ang mga tatakbo sa halalan, miyembro o adopted

member ay umiral naman ang military discipline sa loob ng PMA ground dahil walang sumama o nagpakalat ng kanilang campaign materials sa loob at paligid malapit sa PMA.

Una nang pinaalalahanan ng pamunuan ng PMA at Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association ang lahat ng politiko at kanilang Alumni na sasabak sa 2019 Mid-Term Elections.

Ayon sa PMA ang Alumni Homecoming sa PMA grounds ay isang sagradong lugar para lang sa mga lehitimong graduate premier military school.

Ilan sa mga PMA Alumni na sasabak sa ha-

lalan na nakita kahapon ay sina Gary Alejano, Ronald Bato dela Rosa, Art Lumibao, Leopoldo Bataoil at adopted na si Sen. JV Ejercito.

Sinabi naman ng guest speaker na si Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu, mahalaga ang natutunan niyang disiplina sa PMA dahil naintinidhan niya ang political will ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na resulta kung bakit naisaliba ang Boracay Island gayundin ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay.

Samantala, binigyan ng Outstanding Award si AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Madrigal bilang bagong Hepe ng Sandatahang Lakas ng Pilipinas.

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Mga pine tree sa Baguio namamatay na

inatasan ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ang DENR personnel sa Baguio City na tugunan ang magsisimatay na mga pine tree sa Baguio City.

Ang kautusan ay ginawa ni Cimatu matapos mapansin nang dumalo ito sa

Philippine Military Academy (PMA) alumni

homecoming na may pine tree na ang natuyo.

"I counted the number of dying pine trees. I counted more than 100. We might be losing the pine trees in Baguio," pahayag ni Cimatu kung saan ang nabilang umano niyang nangangamatay nang pine tree ay sa lugar lamang kung saan sila naglalaro ng golf.

Ani Cimatu magsasagawa ng pag-aaral ang DENR sa mga pine tree sa Baguio City at gagawa ng aksyon para matugunan ito.

"Kung wala ang pine tree sa Baguio City ay paano nang maging City of Pines ito, we have to do something about it" dagdag pa ni Cimatu. **(Tina Mendoza)**



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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Mining fiscal regime being pushed at Senate to hurt miners

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR**

A potential new fiscal regime on mining is now being deliberated in Senate, which would pave the way for the lifting of the ban on new mining projects. But the miners are not too enthusiastic about it.

Rocky Dimaculangan, vice president

for corporate communications at Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP), an organization of some of the country's largest mining operations, said the mining sector will find it "extremely difficult" to live with either of the fiscal regimes that are now being pushed for at the senate.

The Senate committee on ways and means has issued a Notice of Public Hear-

ing on January 29 to take into consideration the proposed legislative measures on Fiscal Regime and Revenue Sharing Arrangement for the Mining Industry, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said.

Among those deliberated in the said hearing were House Bill (HB) 8400, which was approved by the House of Representatives in November last year, and Senate Bill

(SB) 225, 927, and 1979.

SB 225 and 927 both propose a fiscal regime and revenue sharing arrangement between the government and the mining companies wherein the latter's share shall be 10 percent of the operation's gross revenue or 55 percent of the Adjusted Net Mining Revenue (ANMR), whichever is higher.

In the event that the ANMR margin exceeds 50 percent due to increase in metal prices or other factors, the government, as owner of the minerals, shall get 55 percent of the threshold ANMR plus 60 percent on the excess ANMR.

SB 1979, on the other hand, proposes to retain the royalty rate of 5 percent for all mining

► **B-3**

operations within Mineral Reservations, while for mining operations located outside Mineral Reservations, a phased-in rate is prescribed.

This version is akin to the original HB 8400, which was originally opposed by the miners and was eventually amended in a way that mining companies find more tolerable.

Dimaculangan said the Senate must adopt a law that will implement a mining tax structure similar to HB 8400.

From the original proposal of the Department of Finance (DOF), which imposes a 5 percent royalty on all mining firms in and out of mineral reservations, HB 8400 would now only mandate miners outside of mineral reservations to pay to the government a margin-based royalty on income from mining operations.

"The Chamber stands by its position that a structure based on a profits-based royalty and a windfall profits tax as passed by the House of Representatives, with the rates thereon tied to operating margins, is the most equitable manner in achieving this," Dimaculangan said.

According to him, a profits-based royalty is the same structure used in other mineral-rich countries such as Canada, Peru, Chile and South Africa.

"By adopting this, the structure will help sustain existing mining operations and hopefully encourage quality investments in the hugely untapped Philippine minerals sector," he further said.

A fiscal regime far from this would be detrimental to the mining industry, the COMP official added.

A new fiscal regime is needed before the government can lift the ban on new mining projects, which was put in place

during the Aquino administration.

Under EO 79, no new mineral agreements should be approved "until a legislation rationalizing existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms shall have taken effect."

In December, miners were left in lobbying for the lifting of EO 79.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the government agency tasked to regulate the mining industry through MGB, particularly said it is now up to the Department of Finance (DOF) what ideal tax structure to slap against mining companies as well as to push for the lifting of ban on new mining projects.

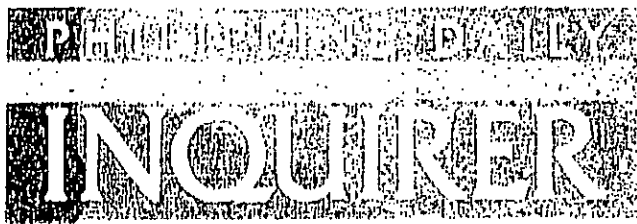
When the excise tax hike on mineral products from 2 percent to 4 percent under The Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law was implemented, the DENR argued that it should already be considered as a new tax regime.

But the DOF clarified that TRAIN only increased the excise taxes and did not cover the implementation of a new fiscal regime for mining.

As of November last year, the mining sector continues to suffer from a decline in output but continued to net higher on the back of improved metal prices, which MGB described as "saving grace" for the industry.

During the first nine months of 2018, the country's metallic production value grew by 11.25 percent year on year during the first nine months of the year from P83.26 billion to P92.62 billion.

However, mine production of gold, silver, nickel direct shipping ore (DSO) and mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide (MNCS) remained sluggish during the period.



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Science for climate's sake

Durban, South Africa—What does a closed-door meeting of some of the world's top climate scientists held in this city on Jan. 21-25 have to do with the future of the Philippines, indeed of the entire planet?

More than 250 climate scientists from over 60 countries descended on this coastal city last month to start working on the climate impacts and adaptation aspects of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). The IPCC is the United Nations' body tasked to assess the scientific findings related to climate change.

Because of the extreme complexity surrounding the causes of and solutions to climate change, sound science is essential in arriving at a consensus on how to slow it and how we can adapt to it. The main responsibility of the IPCC is to periodically assess and synthesize the findings of scientific literature so that they become useful to policymakers around the world. IPCC authors, mostly active scientists, are mandated to make sense of what the most up-to-date science is saying about the effect of climate change, and how we can respond better.

The partnership of the IPCC and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is one of the most successful collaborations between scientists

and decision-makers in the international arena. Among its notable achievements, the IPCC's first assessment report led to the formation of the UNFCCC in 1992, while its second assessment report became the basis of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997.

Its most recent report was instrumental in the crafting of the Paris Agreement in 2015. In recognition of its global impact, the IPCC was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007, together with former US vice president Al Gore.

The painstaking process that began in Durban will culminate in 2022 with the release of the IPCC AR6 adaptation report, which is typically accompanied by wall-to-wall coverage by the world's media. By then, we will know better how the planet is being affected by climate change and how we can respond better. The report will be a crucial reference for the first global stocktake in 2023 under the Paris Agreement.

As one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, the Philippines must have the capability to make sense of how we can be affected by a warming planet.

Such knowledge should guide the development of sound adaptation policies and options. Sadly, our science community lags far behind those of advanced economies, and even those of our Asean neighbors.

The Department of Science and Technology is correctly aiming to have at least 380 researchers, scientists and engineers per million Filipinos just to meet Unesco standards. This aspiration deserves the support of all sectors of our society, not least the executive and legislative branches of our government.

The Durban meeting has set in motion a process that will pave the way for a more nuanced understanding of what's wrong with our climate. More importantly, the IPCC report will provide a clearer roadmap of how we can better adapt to global warming.

However, if the science community and policymakers in the Philippines do not get its act together, such global recommendations will have little effect on the most vulnerable Filipinos.

Rodel D. Lasco, PhD, is an author of several IPCC reports, including the forthcoming sixth assessment report. He is the executive director of The OML Center, a foundation devoted to discovering climate change adaptation solutions (<http://www.omlopezcenter.org/>).



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Our slow, uncertain response to the looming climate change catastrophe

A SPECIAL report titled "Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius" released late last year by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) proposes drastic, rapid and widespread changes in society to avert unprecedented adverse impacts around the world. Its major takeaway is that nations have 12 years to bring global warming down to pre-industrial levels or face devastating consequences such as destructive typhoons and rising sea levels starting year 2030.

To radically reduce global warming, the report recommends that greenhouse gas pollution must be reduced by 45



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percent from 2010 levels by 2030. Use of coal in power generation must also drop from 40 percent today to less than 7 percent by year 2050. The share of renewable energy in the mix of electricity sources should increase from the present 20 percent to 60 percent.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) ranks climate risks at the top of its list of environmental threats for 2019. WEF's "Global Risks Report" warns that extreme

weather intensified by climate change will see the world "sleep-walking into catastrophe" over the next decade.

It fits in with findings that the Philippines ranks third among four countries considered to be the most vulnerable to climate change in the world. The vulnerability arises from inability to respond to extreme weather events such as typhoons and flooding.

Early last year, the biggest news in the global environmental movement was the investigation conducted by the Commission on Human Rights to probe into the responsibility of carbon producers for human rights violations resulting from climate change. The

landmark international initiative seeks to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for the carbon emissions that drive global warming. Hearings have already been held in London and New York.

Recent press releases from the Climate Change Commission website feature the Commission joining other nations in celebrating World Wetlands Day and the Cabinet cluster lauding NEDA's commitment to green its systems and practices while tracking its carbon footprint. There's also an extensive folder of messages and remarks delivered here and abroad by the head of the agency.

Is it lethargy, procrastination or distress the face of the seemingly

insurmountable challenges that lie ahead? It's easy to fall into stupor when one realizes the enormity of the grave responsibility for the future not only of the country but also of the entire world. At the same time, the available solutions at present hardly scale in comparison.

Reforestation or massive planting of trees to capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere will make just a dent on emission reduction targets, researches show. Huge tracts of land that may include plantations currently devoted to food production or as natural habitat will have to be converted to carbon sinks to have an appreciable positive impact. In reality, carbon sequestration technology is

still the most effective approach in curbing CO2 emissions.

Unfortunately, the development of carbon capture mechanisms is typically described as viable but difficult. The existing prototypes created by enterprising start-ups are expensive, specializing mostly in the removal of carbon from power plants. Drawing carbon from air requires a different methodology and it's the one needed to cut down pervasive CO2 in the atmosphere. (Now, here's an aspect of relevant R&D that Filipino inventors can look into.)

2030 or bust! The next two years will likely set the tone and pace of how we will surmount killer hazards of our own making.



CIMATU: "ISANG IMPORTANTENG TUNGKULIN NG BAWAT ISA NA MAILIGTAS ANG SUSUNOD NA HENERASYON MULA SA EPEKTO NG CLIMATE CHANGE"

NANAWAGAN si Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa mga gobernador ng mga probinsiyang climate vulnerable o iyong madalas tamaan ng bagyo na ganap na magpatupad ng programa na makatutulong upang ilayo ang mga komunidad mula sa kalamidad at iligtas ang mga susunod na henerasyon mula sa malubhang epekto ng climate change.

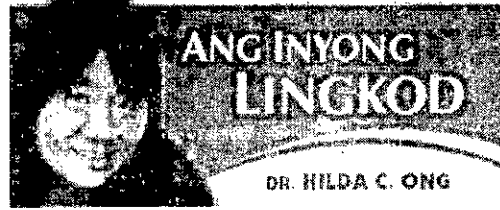
Kabilang dito ang probinsiya ng Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Samar, Sarangani, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte at Dinagat Islands.

Ang mga nabanggit na probinsiya ay madalas tamaan ng mga kalamidad katulad ng pagbaha, pagguho ng lupa dulot ng pag-ulan, daluyong ng bagyo o storm surge at tagtuyot.

Sinabi ni Cimatu sa mga punong panlalawigan na may pangmatagalang bunga para sa mga susunod na henerasyon ang kanilang maging desisyon ngayon.

Si Cimatu ang tagapangulo ng Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR).

"Kinakailangan pa nating magsumikap upang maging mas matatag, patuloy na makipagtulungan at makiisa



sa mga pangunahing sangay ng gobyerno sa ating mga probinsiya. Sama-sama tayo sa trabahong ito at sama-sama rin sa paglutas ng problemang ating kinakaharap," banggit ni Cimatu na ipinaalalang ang pagpapatampok sa issue ng climate change at disaster resilience ay "isang importanteng tungkulin ng bawat isa."

Inilahad ng mga gobernador sa nasabing pagpupulong ang kasalukuyang kalagayan ng climate vulnerabilities sa kani-kaniyang mga nasasakupang probinsiya.

Layunin ng pagtitipon na mapag-usapan ang climate vulnerabilities sa mga nabanggit na probinsiya, at mas patibayin ang tunguhin ng gobyerno na maging mas masinop sa paggamit ng pondo sa pamamagitan ng pakikipagtulungan sa iba't ibang sangay ng gobyerno sa pag-

paplano, pagbabadyet at pagsasakatuparan ng priority resilience program at projects sa kanilang mga probinsiya.

Tinalakay rin sa nasabing pagpupulong ang Cabinet Cluster CCAM-DRR Roadmap para sa taong 2018 hanggang 2022, na magsisilbing "mahalagang gabay sa mga ahensiyang magpapatupad ng mga programa at proyekto upang maitampok ang climate change at disaster risk reduction tungo sa mga komunidad na matatag at may kakayahang umangkop."

Ang Roadmap ay naglalayon ding magtatag ng climate-resilient na mga komunidad at mapatibay ang 17 mga probinsiya na madalas tamaan ng kalamidad kabilang na ang pangunahing sentrong kalunsuran katulad ng Metro Manila, Cebu, Iloilo at Davao.



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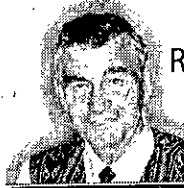
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

The end of the earth as we know it

HUMAN society, of which we are all a part, is facing an environmental catastrophe unprecedented in history. The planet is in dire condition and ecosystems that keep all species of plant, animal and insects in harmonious co-existence ensuring the survival of all are moving quickly toward collapse.

This is due to the nonstop man-made industrialization driven by coal-fired power plants, billions of vehicles, destruction of the forests, clearing of the land and chemical farming to feed millions of cows. All these contribute to global warming, climate change and environmental degradation. This, in turn, is increasing the rate of extinction of the many species of insects that help to pollinate the fruits and plants we rely on for food. We are exterminating ourselves.

The insects are food for hundreds of birds, reptiles and mammals. If the insects, grubs and worms disappear, so do the birds and many more beautiful creatures, and eventually plant life itself will deteriorate beyond recovery. The entire ecosystem relies on insects to keep it going, and we are entering another age of mass extinction,



REFLECTIONS

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CULLEN, SSC

this time, the fastest in the history of the planet. And it's man-made.

The world's insects are threatened with rapid extinction and this will introduce a "catastrophic collapse of nature's ecosystems," says an important scientific report, which is the first such review of the threat to hundreds of thousands of species of insects and the crops that rely on them.

The study found that more than 40 percent of the world's insects are in serious decline and a third of them are endangered. The entire mass of the world's insects is falling at a rate of 2.5 percent per year, which means they could all be gone within a century. This is a shocking discovery. That would be hundreds of millions of years of exquisite evolution wiped out in a hundred years.

The magnificent hovering four-winged dragonfly would be no more flirting over our streams

and ponds. Insects are heading for total extinction eight times faster than that of the reptiles and mammals and birds. They, too, are in grave danger of extinction. The Black West African Rhino is gone forever, never to roam the African plains again.

The shocking findings on the decline of the insect world was published in the journal, *Biological Conservation*. Francisco Sánchez-Bayo at the University of Sydney, Australia, who wrote the findings, told *The Guardian* newspaper: "It is very rapid. In 10 years you will have a quarter less, in 50 years only half left, and in 100 years you will have none."

Soon you will be lucky to see bats and birds. The bird song in the morning is rare, indeed, and there are fewer swallows and swifts flying around. They depend on insects to live. In a period of 35 years, as much as 98 percent of ground insects in Puerto Rico have already vanished. Wildlife is disappearing, too. In England, the butterfly population has fallen by 58 percent on farmland in a nine-year period. We may have heard of the massive decline in the honeybee



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population. There were 6 million honeybee colonies in the United States in 1947 but by 2017, more than half had been wiped out.

The modern methods of commercial farming are largely responsible, although climate change is also a contributing factor. The cutting of forests, destroying hedgerows, leaving open flat fields sprayed with ever more toxic pesticides and chemical fertilizers are also responsible.

The chemicals are blown by the wind across the lands, even into protected forest areas, as the Germans discovered. There was a massive loss of insects in the protected forests. As much as a 75-percent loss of the insect population has been recorded, which shocked researchers and sparked government research into the dangers of pesticides in the environment.

The worst of all kinds of insect killers are neonicotinoids and fipronil. They are at the roots of the problem. "When you consider 80 percent of biomass of insects has disappeared in 25 to 30 years, it is a big concern," the scientist said.

The industrial scale of sprayed poisons is the problem. These

deadly chemicals enter the food chain and humans ingest them and they accumulate in the fatty tissue. One day they reach critical mass and trigger cancer tumors and other diseases.

This form of farming is driven by corporate farming and market demand to provide cheap food for an overconsuming and exploding population. The massive consumption of beef, pigs and chicken produced on an industrial scale is causing the ever-present climate change. The rising temperatures are killing the insects that can't adapt. The methane gas produced by the billions of farm animals and the melting of the Siberian permafrost is mixing with CO2 and forming a blanket around the globe, cooking us at one time and freezing us at another.

There is an ever increasing rising of annual temperatures around the world that is harming crops, contributing to the melting ice cap, raising the level of oceans and inundating estuaries and coastal areas. Islands in the South Pacific are disappearing.

The only answer is to change our lifestyles and use our power as

consumers, shoppers and customers to demand organic food that is pesticide- and chemical-free. If consumers buy only those, the farmers will adapt and supply to meet that demand.

Then we can go one better and demand plastic-free seafood. The oceans are filling up with microplastic that is being swallowed by the fish in every ocean and sea. Humans are consuming the fish with the micro-plastic pellets and its harmful effects are still unknown. We can also eat less meat and more organic vegetables and fruits.

There is more that we can do. Support and vote for political candidates committed to an environmentally clean world.

Unless we take seriously this ongoing deadly decline in the insect species, our entire ecosystem will be damaged forever. Once they are gone, they are gone forever. With the bees and butterflies gone, we will be left with the flies and cockroaches. That will be a miserable and dangerous world.

www.preda.org

Read Ricky and Julie, [click here](http://amzn.com/B07DXKX4SV)
<http://amzn.com/B07DXKX4SV>



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DENR-7 spearheads massive river clean-up in C. Visayas

By MINERVA BC NEWMAN

CEBU CITY — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Visayas (DENR-7) will initiate local river clean-up on February 22, urging all local government units and private institutions to do the same in their respective river systems to be a part of the government's region-wide river rehabilitation campaign.

"We have identified 10 priority rivers in the region that need to be closely handled by the DENR along with our partners but we do not discount the need to clean up all other river systems especially those situated in the downstream areas," DENR-7 regional executive director Gilbert Gonzales said.

The series of simultaneous river clean-ups will be on February 22, March 22 and April 19 in Central Visayas. DENR has identified Category B classified rivers in Cebu, Bohol, Negros and Siquijor for this.

Category B rivers are those which have been identified with a certain degree of pollution where the coliform level is below the 100 most probable

number (MPN) as determined by laboratory tests, according to DENR-Bohol PENRO Charlie Fabre.

Fabre said these include Bantanon River in Mandaue, Bulacao River in Bulacao and Luyang River in Luyang Carmen, in Cebu; Abatan River in Cortes, Wahig River in Inabanga and Manaba River in Garcia Hernandez in Bohol; Banica River in Valencia, Panamangan River in Bais and Sicopong River in Santa Catalina in Negros Oriental as well as Señora River in Siquijor.

Gonzales encouraged other government agencies, private sectors and other stakeholders to extend necessary support in cleaning up rivers and waterways particularly in urban centers.

"We urge our local government units, organizations and industries to join our campaign towards promoting environmental sustainability, public health and safety," he added.

Gonzales also appealed to the communities living along the riverbanks including the business establishments to share a collective effort by not throwing their garbage directly to these waterways.

He asked them instead to join in

clean-up drives and strictly comply with environmental regulations given that most of these rivers and creeks are tributaries of lakes, seas and oceans.

While most river clean-up events are initiated by government agencies, the DENR intends to gather as much volunteers and mobilize communities for the Visayas-wide events this time.

According to Gonzales the activity has a Presidential directive and a department order to strictly enforce Republic Act 9272 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.

Gonzales said they are discouraging volunteer participants to use single-use surgical gloves, black garbage bags and other clean-up materials that turn to be additional trash after each event.

He, however, suggests that volunteers wear appropriate personal protection: Boots or shoes, gloves, hats, caps or headgear for sun protection and, tongs and used sacks as trash container.

Local and barangay officials where these rivers snake through are urged to help coordinate volunteers in areas of assignment and future rehabilitation activities which they can implement, Gonzales added.



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19 nabbed for illegal quarrying

By **JEFFREY DAMICOG**

Nineteen persons including two Koreans were arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) at illegal quarrying operations in Pampanga.

NBI Director Dante Gierran said the operation was conducted on Feb. 7 by agents of the NBI's Environmental Crime Division (EnCD) against the operations of Sammi Vibro and the BM Marimla Plant.

Gierran noted that the two firms have been engaged in the extraction of lahar in Barangays Dolores and Calsadang Bayu, respectively.

However, Gierran said the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has complained that the two firms were not listed among those issued with Industrial Sand and Gravel (ISAG) permits.

Because of this, those arrested have been charged with theft of minerals under Republic Act 7942, the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

Two of the Sammi Vibro employees were Koreans and were identified as Gi Man Lee and Jeong Sunmi.

The others arrested were Sammi Vibro employees are John Paul Sumat, Jory Sabacan, Alberto Lingad, Joseph de Leon,

Sandy Vosotros, Alex Basilio, Fernando Tomas, Tyron Manalo, Mark Glen Reyes, Rudy Libunao, Joey Madrona, Marcelino Bundoc, and Lamix Abogan.

The BM Manila employees, on the other hand, were identified as Alfer Nueva, Rodolfo Pineda, Higinio Javate, and Ener dela Cruz.

"Subjects in both operations failed to present valid documents or permits that will justify their mining operations," Gierran also indicated.

The NBI also seized from the quarrying sites trucks, pay loaders, conveyors, and backhoes.



Balita



17 FEB 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANGA

19 arestado sa illegal quarrying

Dalawang Korean at 17 pa ang dinakip ng mga tauhan ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) dahil sa umano'y pagkakasangkot sa illegal quarrying operations sa Pampanga, kamakailan.

Paliwanag ni NBI Director Dante Gierran, isinagawa ng mga tauhan nito ang pagsalakay sa Sammi Vibro at BM Marimla Plant dahil sa patuloy na operasyon ng mga ito sa Barangay Dolores at Calsadang Bayu.

Ang dalawang kumpanya aniya ay responsable sa iligal na paghahakot ng lahar sa dalawang lugar sa nasabing mga lugar, ayon na rin sa ipinalabas na ulat ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) hindi wala silang hawak na Industrial Sand and Gravel (ISAG) permit.

Nakilala ang mga inaresto na sina Gi Man Lee at Jeong Sunmi, pawang Korean at empleyado ng Sammi Vibro.

Arestado naman sina John Paul Sumat, Jory Sabacan, Alberto Lingad, Joseph De Leon, Sandy Vosotros, Alex Basilio, Fernando Tomas, Tyron Manalo, Mark Glen Reyes, Rudy Libunao, Joey

Madrona, Marcelino Bundoc, at Lamix Abogan, pawang kawani ng Sammi Vibro.

Nakilala naman ang mga empleyado ng BM Manila na sina Alfer Nueva, Rodolfo Pineda, Higinio Javate, at Ener Dela Cruz.

Sinamsam din sa quarrying area ang ilang truck, pay loader, conveyor at backhoe.

Ang mga ito ay kakasuhan ng paglabag sa Republic Act 7942 (Philippine Mining Act of 1995).

Jeffrey G. Damicog