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**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**



# 2-STRIKE POLICY SA BASURA IPATUTUPAD

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**MALUGOD** na tinanggap si DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda (gitna) bilang panauhing pandangal sa lingguhang Meet the Press Forum ng National Press Club na dinaluhan ng mga opisyal ng NPC na sina (mula kaliwa) Director Benedict Abaygar, Jr.; Sec. Lydia Bueno; Treas. Mina Navarro; Pres. Rolando Gonzalo; VP Paul Gutierrez, Dir. Aya Yupangco; Dir. Alvin Murcia, Dir. Jun Mendoza at Dir. Tina Maralit.

**NAGBABALA** ang pamunuan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa publiko partikular na ang mga residente sa Metro Manila na maharap sila sa karampatang parusa sakaling mapatunayan na nagtatapon sila ng basura sa kalsada.

Sa ginanap na "Meet the Press" forum sa National Press Club kahapon, sinabi ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda na

simula sa Agosto 5, 2019 ay ipatutupad ang "two strike policy" kaugnay sa maling pamamaraan ng pagtapon ng basura sa mga lansangan kung saan ang lungsod ng Maynila ang magiging "pilot area" nito.

Sa naturang polisiya, sa oras na nagtapon sa kalye at gumamit ng 5-square meter ng lupa ay bibigyan ng babala ang responsable sa pagtapon ng basura gayundin ang punong barangay na nakasasa-

kop dito.

Sakaling maulit at muling nagtapon sa mismong lugar kung saan binigyan na ng babala ang responsable sa pagtatapon ng basura, sasampahan na ng kaukulang kaso ang responsable rito gayundin ang punong barangay na nakasasakop sa lugar sa tulong ng Department of Interior and Local Government.

"Basta nagtapon ng basura sa kalye at gumamit ng

5-square meter ng lupa ay wawarningan ang nagtapon at kapag inulit ay kakasuhan na ito kasama na ang punong barangay na nakasasakop sa lugar," ani Antiporda.

Ayon pa kay Antiporda, tapos na ang pakikipag-usap ng gobyerno sa mamamayan at pagbibigay ng sapat na panahon para sumunod upang pangalagaan ang ating kapaligiran.

Kaugnay nito, iginiit din ni

Antiporda na ipasasara rin nila ang isang establisimyento sakaling mapatunayan na may paglabag ito lalo na sa kanilang "water at solid waste".

Ayon sa opisyal, kukuunan ng water sampling ang mga establisimyento at kapag bumagsak ay agad na aabisuhan ang local government para isuspinde ang kanilang mayor's permit.

**JAY REYES**



## 2-strike policy papatupad ng DENR

**MAGPAPATUPAD** na ng '2-strike policy' ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa mga nagtatapon at nag-iiwan ng basura sa mga kalye o kalsada.

Sa 'Meet the Press' forum ng National Press Club kahapon, inaanunsiyo ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda na sa Lunes, Agosto 5, ilalabas ang kautusan ng DENR na ang magiging pilot area ay ang Lungsod ng Maynila.

Ang pagbibigay ng warning sa mga barangay at mayor ng mga munisipalidad at syudad ang unang polisiya at pangalawa ang pagpataw ng kaso sa mga nagtatapon o nag-iiwan ng basura sa kalye sa tulong aniya ng Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Pinaliwanag ni Antiporda, basta nagtapon ng basura sa kalye at gumamit ng 5-square meter ng lupa, wawarningan ang nagtapon, at kakasuhan na kapag inulit pa kasama na ang punong barangay na nakasasakop sa lugar.

Sinabi rin ni Usec. Antiporda na kanila ring ipasasara ang mga establisyimento malapit sa ilog o dagat kapag napatunayang may mga paglabag.

Aniya, kukunan ng water sampling ang mga establisyimento at kapag bumagsak, agad na aabisuhan ang local government para isus-pindi ang kanilang mayors permit. (Jocelyn Domenden)



# TRASH BOOM SA MANILA BAY

**M**AGPAPALAGAY ng umaabot sa 2.5 kilometer na trash boom ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) bilang panlaban sa mga basurang umaabot sa Baywalk ng Manila Bay.

Sa lingguhang Report to the Nation ng National Press Club, sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na sa loob

ng taong ito ay kanilang ipalalagay ang naturang trash boom upang maipon at matanggal ang mga basura sa karagatan ng Maynila.

Nilinaw niya na tuloy-tuloy at hindi bumagal ang paglilinis ng binuong inter-agency na nakatutok sa Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program, subalit aminado si Antiporda na bahagyang naapektuhan ang panig ng enforcement dulot ng

nagdaang eleksiyon.

Ipinaliwanag niya na inuuna lamang nila ang original projects ng DENR na nakatuon sa paglilinis ng mga sapa at ilog upang hindi maabot ng polusyon ang tubig na patungo sa Manila Bay.

Napag-alamang may hinihintay pang P2.3 bilyong pondo na ilalaan sa Manila Bay rehabilitation para sa puspusang operasyon ng proyekto, kabilang

dito ang dredging, pagsasaayos ng communal septic tanks habang ang iba naman ay para sa relokasyon ng informal settlers.

“Sa ngayon ay tinotodo na namin ang trabaho para tuluyang maisaayos at malinis na ang buong Manila Bay dahil tatlong taon na lamang ang nalalabi sa termino ng administrasyong Duterte,” pahayag ni Antiporda.

Sa kasalukuyan,

nasa 52,000 na lamang ang coliform level ng Manila Bay mula sa dating 1.3 billion kung saan nagkakaroon pa rin ng pabago-bagong level kung kaya patuloy na nakatutok ang inter-agency.

Target ng DENR na maibalik sa dating anyo ang Manila Bay na malinis at swimmable o napaglalinguyan pa ng publiko ang naturang karagatan.

**BENEDICT  
ABAYGAR, JR.**



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## DENR: Rehab, not closure for El Nido

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

**THE El Nido in Palawan will not be closed for tourists but rehabilitation will continue in order not to suffer the same fate with that of world's famous island-resort, Boracay.**

This was disclosed by Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu in a press conference, saying that the non-closure of said tourist destination was the consensus reached during a meeting with the stakeholders.

He disclosed that after the six months rehabilitation of El Nido, there are still so much to be done that continuous rehabilitation is needed.

Although the whole is-

land-resort will not be closed, there are some areas, particularly the swimming areas will be closed for tourists in view of the high level of fecal coliform in said areas.

"It is a 'no swimming zone' in three barangays in Bacuit Bay, and Bgy. Corong-Corong to preserve the area and prevent the tourists and locals from contracting diseases," Cimatu said.

Cimatu explained that an inter-agency task force was directed to conduct an investigation and inspection on the establishments including the households near the El Nido resort to determine if there are violations of environmental and tourism laws.

"We gave the task force members 20 days (specifically from Aug. 5 to 25)

for them to submit their investigation and inspection report. In the report, they should highlight ang mga non-compliant, violators of environmental laws, yung walang business permits at walang accreditation from the Tourism department," Cimatu stressed.

The task force, Cimatu added, must also find those violators in Timberland who constructed resorts without the necessary permits from the government.

"The instruction is that, the task force will make recommendations after their investigation and inspection, if there should be a closure of individual establishments and not the whole El Nido," Cimatu added.



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### **Manila Bay maaari nang languyan bago matapos ang 2019 - DENR**

Maaari nang maligo sa Manila Bay bago matapos ang taon.

Ayon kay Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, lahat ng paraan ay ginagawa ng national at local government upang maibalik sa publiko ang lugar at makuha ang mga kalat na papunta sa Manila Bay.

Aniya, may mga bulk garbage na dapat ding kunin tulad ng sofa, aparador, troso at bisikleta na nasa ilalim ng ilog.

Nabatid kay Antiporda na magkakaroon pang muli ng massive clean up sa Manila Bay lalo pa't pansamantalang bumagal dahil na rin sa nagdaang halalan.

Minomonitor din nila ang mga establisimyento sa Malate upang malaman kung nagtatapon ang mga ito ng maruming tubig sa Manila Bay.

Anya, limang eco tourism park ang aayusin ng DENR, Department of Tourism at Department of Interior and Local Government upang maibalik sa dati.

Kabilang dito ang El Nido, Coron, Panglao, Puerto Galera at Siargao. *(Doris Franche)*



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## Barangay official crusades for marine protection

BY RANIE C. IBANEZ

IN his 10th year in service as a member of the *Sangguniang Bayan* (Municipal Council) in Carrascal, Surigao del Sur, Leovino Constantino continues to advocate for the protection and management of the coastal and marine ecosystems. Constantino has been working towards caring for the environment prior to being a council member.

For 44 years, he worked as a scaler officer for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) before deciding to retire in 2009. But his service to the people did not stop there. The 2010 election rolled around and Constantino decided to enter the world of politics, being confident enough to win with his years of experience, coupled by his outstanding qualifications.

Winning a seat in Carrascal's *Sangguniang Bayan*, the former scaler officer sponsored local legislation, ordinances and resolutions such as the imposition of environmental hazard fees for commercial vessels and barges transporting ores, and tree-plantation management programs. He also took part in the endorsement of a two-megawatt hydroelectric power project and in the implementation of the Sustainable Coral Reef Ecosystems Management Program of the DENR in the region.

Constantino also conducted information campaigns on the importance of marine protected area (MPA) management. His advocacy was further strengthened with the implementation of the Marine Protected Areas to Conserve Marine Key Biodiversity Areas in the Philippines (SmartSeas) project in Carrascal, which also accounted for the improved coastal resource management in the region.

Aside from raising awareness on the importance on MPAs, strengthening the SmartSeas project also increased the capacity of MPA management bodies and organizations on financial and organizational administration. It also helped in building the capacities of Carrascal's local government unit (LGU) on MPA management and technical assistance.

### Using science-based information

Constantino noted the importance of science-based information provided by SmartSeas, giving detailed management decisions at the *Sangguniang Bayan* level toward coastal and marine resources conservation. This information includes the connectivity studies and Capturing Coral Reef and Related Ecosystem Services tools such as

the Fisheries for Sustaining People's Access through Conservation and Equitable Systems.

Combining the connectivity studies with local knowledge on the broader benefits of MPAs, the Carrascal LGU was able to recognize the value of ecosystem services, which includes waste assimilation, coastal protection, flood management and provision of critical environmental requirements for fished species.

Moreover, conserving coastal and marine resources through MPAs helps foster healthy growth of mangrove forests and seagrass beds. Mangroves and seagrass beds assist shoreline protection, and produce ecosystem goods in the form of seafood products.

While it is possible to identify and value the current range of goods and services provided by a particular marine or coastal ecosystems, little is known of what the ocean might provide in the future in terms of new products, resources and opportunities to create wealth. Keeping samples of the ocean ecosystems in their natural form is a prudent investment in the future especially in Carrascal.

This is why information from SmartSeas and other new details are important in gaining clearer interactions between coastal and marine resources and humans. It is now understood that the physical structure of coastal and marine habitats can play a crucial role as the spawning and nursery grounds supporting many fisheries.

Similarly, an increased understanding of the defense mechanisms of marine plants and animals reveals an array of marine biochemical compounds. Some of which have been identified as having value as sunscreens, anti-viral, anti-inflammatory and related medicinal applications.

Coastal and marine ecosystems contribute to beach and shoreline stability, assimilate and process wastes, and contribute to the quality of life of coastal people. These ecosystems can also provide a wide range of goods and services, most of which represent potential uses and benefits in the future.

This is why, even in his tenth year as a Municipal Council member, Constantino continues in his advocacy for better protection and management of coastal and marine resources, as he campaigns for awareness on the importance of MPAs, participates in tree planting activities and conduct coastal cleanups.

The SmartSeas project is being implemented by the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the DENR with support from the United Nations Development Program and funded by the Global Environmental Facility.



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### Dumating na ang ulan ngunit 'di dapat kalimutan ang mga naplano na

**N**AGSIMULA na ang pagbagsak ng ulan sa Metro Manila ngunit kailangan pa ring magpatuloy ang pagkaantala ng serbisyo ng tubig hanggang Setyembre, ayon sa National Water Resources Board (NWRB), na hindi nagmumungkahi nang anumang pagbabago sa suplay sa mga panahong ito.

Ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) ang ilang araw na mga pag-ulan ay nagsimulang makatulong upang maragdagan ang tubig na nakaimbak sa Angat Dam, ang pangunahing pinagkukunan ng suplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila. Bumagsak ang tubig ng Angat ng mababa sa 160 metro sa mainit na panahon, na naging dahilan ng pagtapyas sa suplay ng tubig sa buong Metro Manila. Makalipas ang ilang araw ng tuloy-tuloy na mga pag-ulan nitong nakaraang linggo, umangat na ang lebel ng tubig sa 162.4 metro.

Malapit na nitong maabot ang critical low operating level na 180 metro, ngunit malayo pa ito sa 210 metro, ang normal na lebel. Ayon sa PAGASA, inaasahang Setyembre pa makakamit ang lebel na ito kung magpapatuloy ang mga pag-ulan na dala ng habagat mula sa timog kanluran at ng local thunderstorms, at nawa, dalawa o apat na bagyo mula sa Pasipiko ngayong Agosto. Hanggat hindi ito nakakamit, wala tayong maaasahan na pagbabago sa kasalukuyang schedule ng pagrasyon ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Umaasa tayo sa mga plano na naaprubahan noong nakararanas tayo ng kakapusan sa tubig, kaugnay sa paghahanap at pagpapaunlad ng bagong pagkukunan ng suplay ng tubig para sa rehiyong may mabilis na lumalagong populasyon. Plano ng Manila Water sa East Zone na gamitin ang Laguna de Bay at ang ilang mga balon. Inaprubahan na nito ang isang pagtutulungan upang magamit ang Wawa Dam sa pag-aambag ng 500 milyong litro kada araw sa suplay nito.

Ang Maynilad naman na para sa West Zone ay nagtatayo na ng bagong water treatment plant upang magamit ang tubig ng Laguna de Bay na makapagdaragdag ng 150 milyong litro kada araw sa suplay nito.

Kinausap na rin ng MWSS ang dalawang concessionaries upang magtulungan sa pagtatayo ng bagong conveyance tunnel mula sa La Mesa Dam na makapagdaragdag ng 2,400 milyong litro kada araw. Sa hinaharap, sinusubukan na ng MWSS ang pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam, na popondohan ng pinansyal na tulong mula sa China, na inaasahang magdaragdag ng 600 milyong litro kada araw sa suplay, ngunit inaasahan itong matatapos sa 2023.

Umaasa rin tayo na tulad ng maraming gusali at tahanan sa Metro Manila ay makapagkabit rin ng mga solar panel upang makapagdagdag ng solar power sa kanilang lokal na pagkukunan ng kuryente, magkaroon din sana ng mga gusali at tahanan na bubuo ng paraan upang makapag-imbak ng tubig-ulan na dumarating ngayong panahong ito ng taon.

Nagsimula na ang mga pag-ulan ngunit hindi dapat bumalik sa nakasanayan para sa mga ahensiya na ang tungkulin ay bumuo ng bagong pagkukunan ng suplay ng tubig upang hindi na natin muling sapitin ang taunan nating nararanasang kakulangan sa tubig at pagrasyon nito.





## Solutions stare gov't in face

Like a two-headed Hydra, the country is perennially afflicted with lack of water supply during the dry season and when rain comes, severe flooding is expected.

The situation yesterday was no exception as a heavy downpour that started Thursday night and continued until noon the following day resulted in Metro Manila again being inundated. **Turn to page A6**

The key is as simple as building catchments which is always part of anti-flood programs but were never fully implemented

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Schools were called off due to knee-deep water in most parts of the metropolis while businesses were affected as roads were clogged with vehicles avoiding submerged areas. Many employees came late for work.

Both problems are not without solutions and the key is as simple as building catchments which is always part of anti-flood programs but were never fully implemented.

Government data showed 2,400 millimeters (mm) of rain falls on the country each year which is one of the

world's highest. Such abundance of water can be stored to prevent the yearly supply problems.

Former agriculture secretary Dr. William Dar said rainwater harvesting benefits not only agriculture but also households.

### Water can be harvested

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) administrator Vicente Malano said while the country has excessive rainfall each year, most of the water just goes to the seas.

"We use less than 10 percent

of rainfall," he said.

During the recent World Water Day summit, Dar presented data showing agriculture alone accounts for some 80 percent of water use in the country and the projected 2025 water demand in agriculture may surge to a high 72,973 million cubic meters (MCM).

Despite having an abundant rainfall contrasted with the huge demand, Dar said the country's rainwater harvest rate is only about four percent of the yearly downpour.

India's harvest rate is around 60 percent of the annual rainfall of 700 mm.

Despite the recurring crisis on water supply and inundation, however, there's low investment in rainwater harvesting.

Former Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson had long advocated for both the government and huge private land owners to build water impounding

areas as a double-barrel solution to supply shortage and floods.

**Schools were called off due to knee-deep water in most parts of the metropolis while businesses were affected as roads were clogged with vehicles avoiding submerged areas.**

### Going to waste

Ex-environment chief Elisea Gozun, recommended the construction of small water impounding facilities. Rainfall need not always end up as flood since such facilities can store rain, she said.

She added mitigating flooding through massive rainwater harvesting will help reduce crop destruction and top soil erosion. Building impounding facilities in uplands will maximize agricultural production, Gozun said.

"There's more than 20 million

people living in uplands — they'll have water if we do that," she said.

Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez vowed to muster congressional support to programs that will harvest rainwater in local catchments or mini-dams that will also act as a source of drinking water for the country's cities and municipalities.

Romualdez said harvesting rainwater in mini-dams is a viable undertaking as the mean annual rainfall varies from 965 to 4,064 millimeters.

"It is ironic that Metro Manila is submerged in flood waters even at the slightest downpour yet households do not have a steady supply of water from their faucets," Romualdez said.

He cited the example of Singapore which collects rainwater through a network of drains, canals and rivers and channeled to reservoirs before being treated to become drinking water.

"I fully subscribe to the proposal

of Cong. Apol. Since the creation of Department of Water is a priority of President Rodrigo Duterte, I will ask other leaders of Congress to include the mini-dam concept in the legislative measure," Romualdez said.

### Trash also to blame

Another problem that greatly contributes to flooding is the mountain pile of garbage generated by the city every day. Some 9,212 tons of waste in Metro Manila ends up in rivers, estuaries, and other bodies of water including Manila Bay.

Data from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources showed Quezon City's garbage stockpile reaches 3,151,961 kilograms (kg) a day; Marikina City, 459,932 kg per day; San Juan City, 54,239 kg per day; Pasig City, 411,240 kg per day; Mandaluyong City, 279,000 kg per day; Pateros, 13,752 kg per day; and Taguig City, 80,575 kg per day. **Chito Lozada**



## Department of Disaster Resilience, sagot sa iba't ibang sakunang humahagupit sa 'Pinas tulad ng lindol at bagyo

NAPAPANAHON, higit na kailangan at hindi na dapat ipagpaliban — 'yan ang panukala nating pagtatatag ng Department of Disaster Resilience o DDR na nilalaman ng ating Senate Bill 331.

Matatandaang, nilindol noong Sabado, ika-27 ng Hulyo ang napakagandang lalawigan ng Batanes.

Napuruhan sa trahedyang bayan ng Itbayat na ikinamatay ng siyam katao at malubhang ikinasugat ng may 60 iba pa.

Habang isinusulat natin ang kolum na ito, umaabot na sa halos 300 milyong piso ang halaga ng pinsala sa naturang lugar.

Sa kanya namang pagbisita sa Batanes noong Linggo, nangako si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na agad magpapalabas ng inisyal na tulong-pinansiyal ang kanyang tanggapan sa halagang P40 milyon upang pansamantalang matugunan ang mga pangunahing pangangailangan ng mga apektado.

Sa departamentong ito, sakaling ma-isabatas, magkakaroon tayo ng disaster response ships para sa mga maaaring maging sakuna sa karagatan.

Alam nating tayo ay archipelagic at napapaligiran ng tubig.

Ilang trahedyang ito na ang naganap sa mga katubigan natin at kung mayroon lamang tayong natatanging departamen-

to para rito, tiyak na mas maaagapan at marami sana ang maililigtas.

Isa pa, kumpara sa mga eroplano at trak, mas maraming maikakargang relief goods sa barko at madalas, naga-gamit din itong floating clinics, rescue command centers o public kitchens.

Isinulong natin ang paglikha sa DDR upang magkaroon tayo ng pangunahing ahensiya na magpapatupad sa mga plano at programa sa disaster risk reduction.

Ito ang departamentong tututok sa mga sakuna at mangunguna sa pagsagot sa mga pangangailangan ng mga bik-tima.

Kapag tuluyang naging batas, bibig-yan ng malawak na kapangyarihan ang DDR tulad ng pansamantalang pag-take over sa private utilities and businesses kung nailalagay ang mga ito sa matinding panganib o kung maaaring maging dahilan sa pagkamatay ng marami at pagkasira ng iba't ibang negosyo.

May kapangyarihan din ito na magpatupad ng forced evacuations kung

hindi ito magagawa ng mga pinuno ng involved na local government units.

Ilang sakuna na ang inabot natin, libu-libong buhay ang kinitil ng mga trahedyang ito na kung may kaukulang ahensiya lamang at tauhan na tututok sa agarang pagtulong, rescue at pag-ayuda, hindi ito aabot sa mas matinding pinsala tulad nang dinaranas natin sa kasalukuyan.



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# Pag-asa island not for tourists - - official

By JAIME LAUDE

The plan to develop Pag-asa island in the Spratlys into a tourist spot would only bring more trouble to the island, a ranking security official said yesterday.

"Pag-asa island is a municipality. It's very good to put hotels there but probably not for tourists because that is a contested area and we do not want to compound the problem," Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año said.

Just last month, around a hundred Chinese fishing vessels, believed to be maritime militia ships under the direct control of the People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLAN), swarmed the waters close to Sandy Cay, a maritime feature that serves as buffer for Pag-asa island.

However, the latest maritime monitoring by the Western Command over the island town showed the huge number of Chinese fishing vessels near Sandy Cay has been drastically reduced to only three ships.

As former military chief, Año said he visited the troops in Pag-asa island, the biggest of the nine outposts within the country's Kalayaan Island Group (KIG) occupied and being continuously guarded by government troops.

While living conditions have significantly improved for soldiers in the island town with more or less 300 civilian population, it remains a major challenge for those who are deployed on eight other outposts, particularly those who are based at Panata Cay, Ayungin Shoal and Rizal Reef.

"We'd rather use that hotel (if ever it will be built) for our troops, our visiting government personalities and probably for our citizens who want to visit Pag-asa island," Año said, referring to the plans of building a hotel on the island.

During an inter-agency meeting with Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, also a former Armed Forces chief, and Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, Año said they tackled current tourism issues in Palawan.

When asked if the tourism plan of the Department of National Defense in Pag-asa island was also discussed in their agency meeting, Año said it was not taken up.

But Año agreed with the defense and military's plan to build facilities and other infrastructure to improve the living conditions

in Pag-asa and the other eight military outposts that are all located in the middle of the current maritime disputes between six Spratlys-claimant states.



# PH, Indonesia see overlapping EEZs as areas of cooperation

An agreement marking the boundary between the overlapping exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of the Philippines and Indonesia officially entered into force following the exchange by the two countries' foreign ministers of the instruments of ratification in a ceremony held on Thursday in Bangkok, Thailand.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. and Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi signed the protocols of exchange of the instruments of ratification concerning the delimitation of the EEZ between the two countries.

## Common interest

The signing ceremony took place on the sidelines of the Southwest Pacific Dialogue during the ongoing 52nd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Foreign Ministers Meeting.

In a statement titled "Treaty Setting PH, Indonesia EEZ, Boundary Enters into Force," the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said: "The agreement is expected to benefit both countries, economically and politically, by promoting more bilateral cooperation in the EEZ in order to advance the common interest of managing



MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Teodoro Locsin Jr.

and preserving the resources in the EEZ and further strengthening maritime security cooperation between the two countries."

## Sovereign rights

The statement further pointed out that "[t]he Philippines and Indonesia, the two largest archipelagic states in the world, are parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), and thus are entitled to EEZ of 200 nautical miles [370 kilometers]. Under the convention, states have sovereign rights to explore and exploit, and conserve and manage natural resources, among others, within their EEZ."

"Wide overlaps in the EEZ of the Philippines and Indonesia, which run across the Mindanao Sea and Celebes Sea, and in the southern section of the Philippine Sea in the Pacific Ocean, required the two countries to negotiate and agree on a shared boundary," the DFA said.

The Philippines, on its western side, has a continuing maritime dispute with China over the latter's occupation of the Philippines' EEZ. The dispute remains unresolved even after a 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Philippines' favor.

## First tackled in 1994

According to the DFA, the agreement was first discussed in 1994 and was formally signed by the two countries in Manila 20 years later, during the visit of then Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

The agreement was ratified by President Duterte on Feb. 15, 2017 and by the Indonesian Parliament on April 27 that year.

The Senate then concurred with the President's ratification through a resolution on June 3 this year. —JEROME ANING INQ



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# Mining firm keeps water safe, clean

BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

**T**HOSE who have not seen how a Melbourne-based mining company manages water in the Didipio Mine could not, perhaps, imagine how it uses clean water that was already used in its mining operations.

General Manager David Way of OceanaGold (Philippines) Inc. (OGPI) said this was possible through company innovations, as their operations, like in other extractive industries, require large volumes of water to process mineral products.

OGPI operates the national government-sanctioned Didipio Copper and Gold Project in the mineral-rich village of Didipio in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya.

The company has invested \$6.1 million (P268 million) in a water treatment plant (WTP) with a treatment capacity of 1,980 cubic meters per hour. It has an operating cost of \$128,000 (P6.38 million) per year.

Way explained that water from tailings storage facilities (TSF) goes through the WTP before

being discharged to the receiving water body.

"With this technology, OGPI is taking the lead in using clean and sophisticated technologies, making it one of the best in the world in terms of water management," Way said, adding that in 2016, the company recycled an average of 75 percent of the process plant's water requirements.

He added that abstraction of water from local catchments and overall operating costs had also been reduced with the technology.

"As of December 2018, our continuous efforts to improve the water recycling rate increased by 90 percent as a result" Way noted.

The company said the Didipio Mine was among the 10 percent of mining companies in the

world that process gold without using toxic chemicals like cyanide and mercury.

"Thus, tailings stored in our tailings dam is nontoxic and nonhazardous to the surroundings," Way said.

Maintaining a robust dam wall, the design of the mine's TSF is capable of containing the mill tailings in a mountainous terrain that experiences rainfall up to 3,000 millimeters per year.

"Our tailings dam foundation was stripped of all alluvial material down to base rock and keyed in to reduce seepage, also designed to meet international engineering standards," Way said.

In June 2018, the company conducted a bathymetric survey in its tailings dam, which showed that the actual volume impounded is 12.572 million cubic meters or 34.5 percent of the TSF's design volume capacity of 36.351 million cubic meters.

"One biological evidence of the water's nontoxicity in our TSF is the fishes that are thriving, including migratory birds and wild ducks that prey in the area," Way said.



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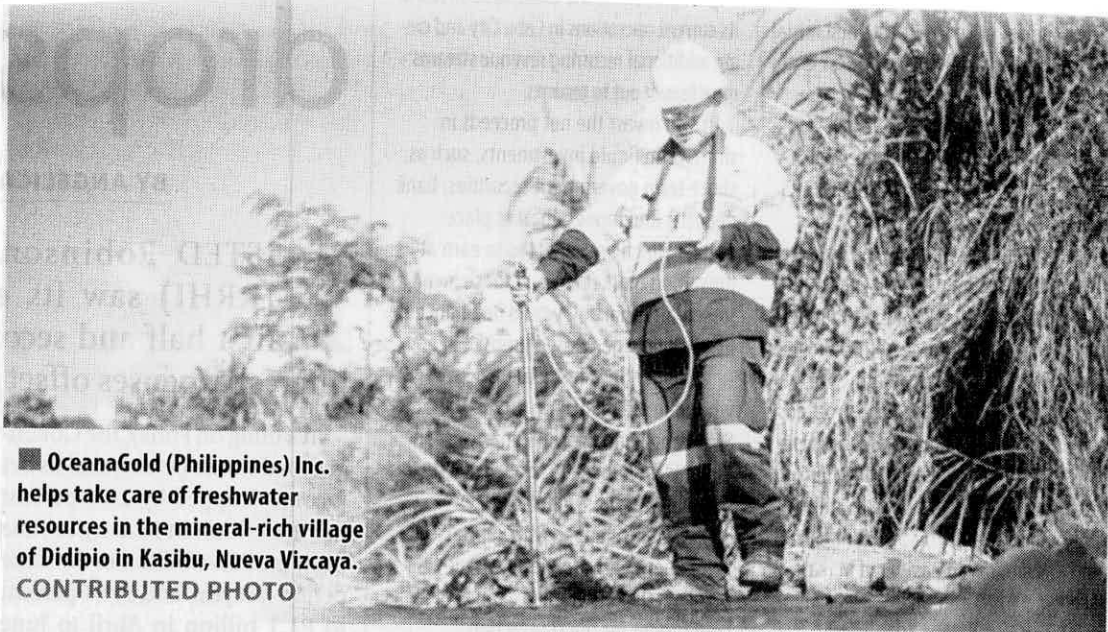
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Mining Firm Keeps water safe, clean



■ OceanaGold (Philippines) Inc. helps take care of freshwater resources in the mineral-rich village of Didipio in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### Collaboration and partners

Meanwhile, OGPI has also been collaborating with international groups and state universities in improving water quality in Didipio village and other communities surrounding the mine area.

"We have partnered with the International River Foundation to bring coaching and mentoring to community members, leaders and regulators to help improve water quality in Didipio," Way said.

The company has also collaborated with the Isabela State University and the Quirino State University to conduct a study on the integrated watershed management of the Addalam Basin and to establish a biodiversity reservation area.

One of the top priority projects of the company is the construction of the Didipio Water System Project with water storage, treatment and supply infrastructure.

"The water system project, which will have the capacity to provide water for up to 11,000 individu-

als, or about 2,400 households, will ensure potable water supply to each household and other institutions within the Didipio community," Way said.

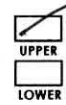
"OGPI is an environmentally and socially responsible community member. We only use world-class technologies to ensure the safety and efficiency of our operations. Rest assured, we will continue to operate with the highest levels of safety and cleanliness, and with the benefit of our community in mind," he added.



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## Gov't to accelerate distribution of lands

The Duterte administration will accelerate the distribution of lands, particularly properties owned by government, to qualified agrarian reform beneficiaries in the next three years.

President Duterte made the pledge in line with his resolve to protect the welfare of the country's poor and landless farmers.

"I shall continue to protect and uphold the rights of small and poor farmers who do not own the land that they till. I acknowledge that this historical distortion in the misallocation of land has caused the underperformance of the rural economy, especially in Mindanao," the President said in his midterm report to the nation.

"With this in mind, I will expedite the allocation of lands in the remaining three years of my term. I will give priority

to the distribution of properties owned by the government, and no one will be left behind in our quest for inclusive and sustainable development," he said.

Of the 613,327 hectares remained for distribution in 2016, Duterte said government has so far given 120,889 hectares to 77,275 agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Duterte said his administration has mustered "political will" to implement the agrarian reform program despite the "interests of the landed elite."

The government also faced challenges in distributing estates due to the communist rebels, according to the President. He said these communists would have been rendered insignificant if the lands were turned over to poor farmers. **(Genalyn Kabling)**



## Opus Energy wants waste-to-energy plant

OPUS Energy Solutions Inc. is planning to develop a waste-to-energy facility in Catanduanes in a bid to finally resolve waste and energy problems in the province.

The company said in a statement that it has partnered with Singapore Management Consultancy and the provincial government of Catanduanes to put up the facility that will adopt Singapore's technology for renewable energy.

The two entities will be bringing into the country an emissions standard of Singapore that maximizes the conversion of solid waste from landfill and other collection facilities into electricity. Its by-products can also be utilized as useful materials.

To commence the project, Opus Energy President and Chief Executive Officer Rafael Javier Eubra and Singapore Management Consultancy Managing Partner Ng Hua Chong signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Catanduanes Rep. Hector Sanchez and other local government officials of the province last month.

One of the designs from Opus Energy, held by the company's partner, in principle, is endorsed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and has a buyback agreement with the National Power Corp.

The process includes recovering solid wastes and transforming it into useful energy in the most efficient, safest and commercially viable way possible.

"We get endorsements from these government agencies. So, with the MoU, we are to build a power plant — a waste-to-energy power plant — in Catanduanes," Eubra said. "What we use in our power plant is solid waste and convert it to electricity."

The official also explained that the facility can produce distilled water through multi stage flash (MSF) by utilizing steam cycle condensation.

"We are also looking into the possibility of combining desalination with waste-to-energy power plant similar to Singapore project as combined power and desalination plant," Eubra said.

Singapore Management Consultancy is an entity that specializes in providing consultation to interested parties to share Singapore's wealth of experience in public or private sectors.

On the other hand, Opus Energy is a Makati-based energy solutions company founded by a group of entrepreneurs that develop solar farms, wind energy, wave energy and other sources of green sustainable energy.

**JORDEENE B. LAGARE**