

09 JAN 2019

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DAY : Wednesday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
ATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1800

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## Proactive measures to avoid risks of excessive rainfall set

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

Secretary Roy Cimatu has ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) field officials to take proactive and timely measures to avoid risks associated with excessive rainfall.

Cimatu issued a memorandum after heavy rains from tropical depression "Usman" triggered flash floods and landslides that killed at least 120 persons in Bicol Region.

Deadly rainfall-induced landslides also occurred last year in Itogon, Benguet; Naga City in Cebu; and Natonin, Mountain Province.

Cimatu said the increase in the frequency of landslide events triggered by heavy rainfall underscores

the urgent need to further protect communities from the devastating effects of climate change.

"It is therefore imperative for the DENR and its field offices to be prepared and responsive to the dangers and adverse effects of excessive rainfall," Cimatu said.

The memorandum was addressed to all DENR regional executive directors, regional directors of Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) and Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), and provincial and community environment and natural resources officers nationwide.

For them to become proactive, Cimatu directed DENR field officials to revisit and familiarize themselves with the MGB-prepared geohazard

maps indicating areas that are prone to floods and landslides.

"With the use and understanding of the geohazard map, the likelihood that we will be able to proactively respond to weather disturbances like typhoon and even mere low pressure incidences causing abnormally high rainfall will be greater," Cimatu said.

He also ordered all field offices to have a copy of the updated geohazard maps in their advisory bulletin board.

The DENR chief likewise asked field officials and employees to familiarize themselves with the location of landslide- and flood-prone sites in their respective areas of responsibility.

He said field officials should establish an open line of communication and strong coordination with concerned local government officials to properly brief them on the possible danger of landslide and flooding in their respective areas.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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## Cimatu orders DENR execs: Be proactive

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu on Tuesday ordered Department of Environment and Natural Resources field executives to take proactive response to heavy rains.

He also directed the environment officials to open their line of communication with the local government officials and to have a strong coordination with them.

"It is therefore imperative for the DENR and its field offices to be prepared and responsive to the dangers and adverse effects of excessive rainfall," Cimatu's memorandum read.

The memorandum was addressed to all DENR regional executive directors, regional directors of the Environmental Management Bureau and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, and provincial and community environment and natural resources officers nationwide.

To be proactive, field officials must revisit and familiarize themselves with the geohazard maps indicating flood- and landslide-prone areas, Cimatu said.

"With the use and understanding of the geohazard map, the likelihood that we will be able to proactively respond to weather disturbances like typhoon and even mere low pressure incidences causing abnormally high rainfall will be greater," he added. **Rio Araja**



## Field execs ng DENR pinakilos ni Cimatu

**INATASAN** ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang lahat ng field officials ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources na mas maging aktibo at handa lalo na sa tuwing magkakaroon ng malakas na pag-ulan.

Ang kautusan na ito ay inilabas ni Cimatu matapos ang pananalasa ng Tropical Depression Usman na nagresulta ng flashfloods at landslides na ikinatamtam ng tinalayang 120 katao sa Bicol region bago magbagong taon.

Dalawang magkasunod na malalakas na bagyo rin ang nanalasa noong 2018 sa Itogon, Benguet at Naga City; Cebu na nagresulta ng landslides habang noong October naman ay nagkaroon din ng parehas na sakuna sa Natonin, Mt. Province.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang pagkakaroon ng landslides dahil sa matinding pagbuhos ng ulan ay isa sa dahilan ng ma-

panirang epekto ng climate change kaya't nararapat lang na mabigyan ng proteksyon ang bawat komunidad sa bansa.

Ang naturang memo ay nakadirekta sa lahat ng DENR regional executive directors, regional directors ng Environment Management Bureau, Mines and Geosciences Bureau at sa mga provincial and community environment and natural resources officers sa buong bansa.

Sinabi pa ng kalihim na para mas maging aktibo at handa ang field officials ng DENR ay kinalailangan maging pamilyar ang mga ito sa geohazard maps na nagmula sa MGB kung saan ay nakalagay ang mga lugar na delikado sa pagbaha at landslides.

Ipinag-utos din ng kalihim sa lahat ng field offices ng DENR na maglagay ng kopya ng bagong labas na geohazard maps sa kanilang mga bulletin board habang gusto rin nitong masahay ang mga empleyado ng

kanyang pinamumunuang ahensiya kung saan ang mga lugar na maaaring magkaroon ng landslides at pagbaha sa kanilang mga nasasakupan.

Pinaalalahanan pa ni Cimatu ang field officials na panatilihin bukas ang kanilang mga linya ng komunikasyon para magkaroon ng koordinasyon sa mga local government officials nang sa gayon ay agad na malaman ng mga ito ang mga lugar na maaaring magkaroon ng landslides at pagbaha sa kanilang nasasakupan.

Nais din ni Cimatu na maging pamilyar ang field officials ng DENR sa color-coded danger signs sa geohazard maps at maging ang rainfall warning signals ng ipinalalabas ng Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

Ipinag-utos din ni Cimatu ang pagbubukas ng Operation Center sa bawat regional office, PENRO at CENRO na siyang tatanggap ng kautusan mula sa central office ng DENR at ito ay mamamduhan 24/7 ng mga maaasahang field officials.

**SANTI CELARIO**




# DENR to ride momentum

By Elmer N. Manuel

Claiming victory after the successful rehabilitation of Boracay last year, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is looking at 2019 with renewed vigor as it tries to enforce environmental laws to sustain the momentum of its goal to preserve the environment.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said they are keen on sending a strong message to the public that the agency is devoted to the protection and preservation of the environment as it doubles as tourism spots in the country.

 "This year, I hope to send a strong message to environmental offenders and to the public of our seriousness in implementing and enforcing environmental laws, rules and regulations," said Cimatu.

The Environment secretary recounted that the rehabilitation of Boracay, which was closed to the public for six months, serves as the agency's "centerpiece of 2018 accomplishments."

But they would not stop there, he added.

"In Boracay, our mettle was put to test. We not only passed that test, but also carried over the momentum to other prime ecotourism destinations like El Nido and Coron in Palawan, Panglao Island in Bohol and Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro," Cimatu said.

Now, Cimatu said that they are preparing for their next big target – the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, as President Rodrigo Duterte had already given the go signal for the agency's proposal.

The President, in a recent Cabinet meeting, green-lighted P47 billion in funds for the proposed rehabilitation of the Manila Bay in a span of seven years – which will be used for cleaning waterways leading to the bay.

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**The Environment secretary recounted that the rehabilitation of Boracay, which was closed to the public for six months, serves as the agency's centerpiece of 2018.**

"Boracay's success had spawned demands for replication, prompting the DENR to have the rehabilitation of Manila Bay as our next big target," Cimatu said.

The DENR's goals are in line with the guidelines pointed out in one of the 17 targets of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) of which the *Daily Tribune* is a media partner.

The SDG's Goal 15 tackles the prevention and significant reduction of marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

The Manila Bay rehabilitation calls for a change in approach considering that its water quality has not improved despite a Supreme Court mandamus for its cleanup issued a decade ago.

"We are putting up a Manila Bay command center, we will get the local government units more involved, and we will be more aggressive in enforcing environmental laws, particularly against the discharge of untreated wastewater into the bay," Cimatu said.



# Duterte eyes road tax for Manila Bay rehab

By EDITH REGALADO

President Duterte is considering using the Road Users' Tax to fund the cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay, which he wants to be completed by the end of his term, a Palace official said yesterday.

The President wants the cleanup to start immediately, presidential spokesman and chief legal adviser Salvador Panelo said.

The cleanup of Manila Bay would follow the rehabilitation of Boracay Island, which opened last October after being off-limits to visitors for six months.

The money would be taken from the P46-billion road users' tax. To make this happen, Panelo said the Road Board would have to be abolished and its collections returned to the National Treasury.

Congress will then enact another law appropriating the funds for specific purposes such as the bay's cleanup, Panelo said.

He said while no timeline was given for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, "hopefully at the end of (the President's) term, *tapos na iyan* (it is complete)."

## Funding

Panelo said the cleanup would start as soon as funds from the Road Users' Tax are made available. This

would be "sooner than expected" since the Senate and Lower House have agreed that the Road Board should be abolished, he said.

Panelo refused to say how much of Manila Bay will be cleaned up by next year since many establishments would be affected by the project. Businesses and persons dumping waste into the bay or its tributaries would be penalized.

The first to be cleaned up would be the *esteros* or canals and rivers going to Manila Bay, he said.

The Manila Bay cleanup would reportedly take as long as seven years and require P47 billion in funding.

Panelo said that just like what happened in Boracay, they expect resistance from stakeholders once

the cleanup starts but "along the way (they) would understand."

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the lead agency in the cleanup, said it would welcome any form of support from the government.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said with the available funding from the DENR and the government, "as well as financial help from the private sector, then we are hopeful for positive results in this endeavor."

DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said members of the inter-agency task force assigned to oversee the cleanup will meet on Jan. 15 to discuss the budget and specific commitments of each government agency.

- With Rhodina Villanueya



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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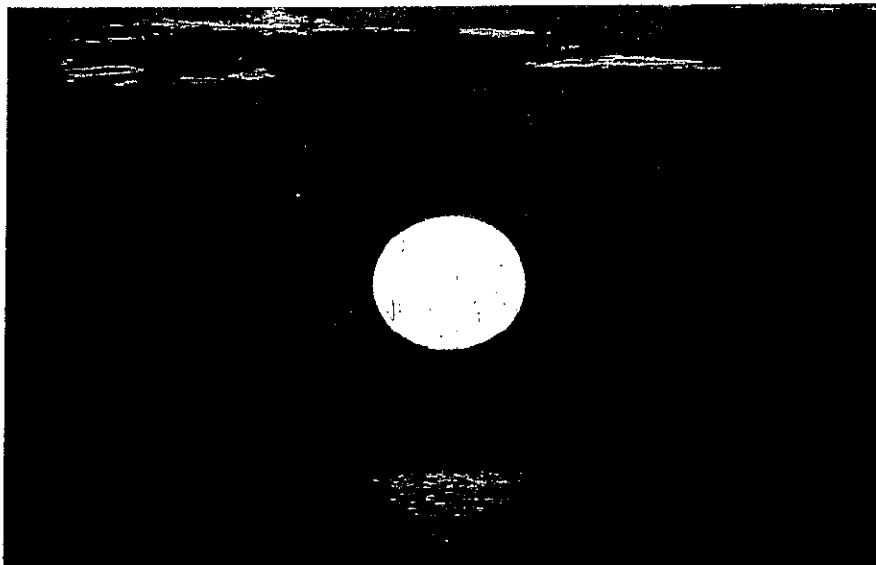
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

## PRRD's next project: Make Manila Bay as clean as Boracay

The government could close down establishments polluting Manila Bay as part of its planned rehabilitation effort, Malacañang said Tuesday.

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said President Duterte is prepared to show "political will" to enforce the cleanup of Manila Bay, that includes a crackdown on polluters.

"Of course, the policy of the government is if you violate certain regulations, then you have to pay for that," Panelo said during a Palace news conference when asked if establishments dumping waste into ►4



**RESTORING BAY'S BEAUTY** – Manila Bay, world-famous for its breathtaking sunset, will undergo a massive clean-up and establishments polluting its waters could face closure. (Czar Dancel)

Manila Bay will face closure.

"Kung ano ang ginawa natin sa Boracay, yun din ang gagawin natin sa lahat [We will replicate what we did in Boracay in other areas]," he added.

Panelo said the President is expected to issue an executive order on the massive cleanup of Manila Bay planned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The Palace earlier announced that it was planning to tap the special road fund to bankroll the rehabilitation of the popular bay along Roxas Boulevard.

In a radio interview, Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol disclosed that the President approved during Monday's Cabinet meeting ₱47B to fund the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

The Manila Bay cleanup project will reportedly be undertaken for seven years until it becomes as clean as Boracay in response to the ruling of the Supreme Court.

Piñol said the DA, Interior and

Local government, Dept of Social Welfare and Development and other agencies will work hand in hand for the effective cleaning up of Manila Bay.

Bataan DENR chief Raul Mamac, said that although cleaning up Manila Bay is far more difficult than in Boracay, "but we can do it if the public and all government agencies will work and support us."

Mamac, head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Bataan, was one of the DENR top officials who led the successful cleaning up of Boracay.

"Boracay has no industries dumping wastes into the sea, so it was easier to clean it up. But if the public will support us and the government agencies will be obliged and make it mandamus to work with the cleaning up of Manila Bay, then we can do it," pointed out Mamac. (Genalyn D. Kabiling and Mar T. Supnad)



## Road funds also eyed for Manila Bay cleanup

BY MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO

@akosistellaBM

Special to the BUSINESSMIRROR

THE funds for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay will likely be sourced from the Road Board Users Tax, according to a Malacañang official.

In a press briefing on Tuesday, Presidential Spokesman Salvador S. Panelo added that the bay cleanup will likely cost "P46 billion.... And that the primary purpose is to get those funds [from the Road Board] to defray expenses for these items: Storm Usman victims, hospitals and cleanup of Manila Bay."

He added Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu had expressed the hope that the rehabilitation would be completed "at the end of [President Duterte's] term.... What is important to the President is that we will clean up this Manila Bay." Due to the massive scale of the project, environment officials, however, have said the rehab could take longer. (See, "Saving Manila Bay," in the BUSINESSMIRROR, January 5, 2019.)

Panelo added that the rehabilitation of Boracay Island will be the template followed in the cleanup of Manila Bay in that "the policy of the government is if you violate certain regulations—then you have to pay for that. Whatever we did in Boracay, [i.e. closing resorts with environmental violations], we will do for all."

The bay's rehabilitation, he stressed, will start with the cleanup of esteros and rivers, "because that's the source of the pollution. Manila Bay is just where the garbage goes to. So they will clean at the source." He added, the President will likely sign an executive order directing the cleanup of Manila Bay.

The cost on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources's (DENR) end for the cleanup is estimated to reach P1.75 billion over a period of three years, or from 2019 to 2021, according to the agency's presentation during the Cabinet meeting in Malacañang on Monday. Major problems identified as causing the bay's pollution include liquid waste, solid waste, informal settlers, and soil erosion and siltation.

Part of its "quick-fix" strategy to rehabilitate the bay is the deployment of environmental infrastructure, such as the deployment of a silt curtain with sewerage treatment plant (STP), which will cost some P56 million for a three-year period, a temporary sewerage system for informal settlers areas (P36 million), and aquifer recharging (P30 million).

The silt curtain with STP, which will be established at the mouth of outfalls, costs about P18 million per unit, with the STP able to treat some 200,000 liters a day of sewage. These will be deployed at the Manila Yacht Club, the Libertad Channel (near the Seaside Dampa Market), and the Navotas Fishport.

The sewerage system for informal settlers will cost P12 million a unit,

and cover 400 households. The STP will be able to treat some 150,000 liters a day.

The aquifer recharge "involves the construction of deep wells to return water to the deeper confined aquifers," and will cost P12 million per unit.

The DENR is just one of 13 government agencies directed by the Supreme Court in its mandamus issued on December 18, 2008, to "clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay and restore and maintain its water to SB level (class B) sea waters per water classification under DENR Administrative Order 34 (1990) to make them fit for swimming, skin-diving, and other forms of contact recreation."

Other agencies included in the mandamus are the Departments of the Interior and Local Government, Education, Health, Agriculture, Public Works and Highways, Budget and Management, as well as the Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police Maritime Group, Philippine Ports Authority, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, and Local Water Utilities Administration.

The Supreme Court decision arose from the 1999 complaint filed by Concerned Residents of Manila Bay at the Regional Trial Court in Imus, Cavite, against government agencies cited above to push the cleanup of Manila Bay. The RTC, and subsequently, the Court of Appeals, sided with the petitioners, despite appeals made by the government agencies, until the case reached the SC. Said government agencies were supposed to submit quarterly progress reports of their cleanup activities.





# Manila Bay rehab all set

By Elmer N. Manuel and Kristina Maralit

After the successful rehabilitation of world-famous Boracay Island, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

(DENR) now wants Manila Bay to recover the natural harbor's once clean state.

The proposal quickly received a boost as President Rodrigo Duterte, according to **Turn to page 2**

## Manila Bay rehab all set

Because of the size of Manila Bay, the number of rivers and waterways that need cleaning – he told the President that hopefully it will be done by the end of his term

From page 1

Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Benjamin Diokno, earmarked a budget for the cleanup on Tuesday.

The President is allotting P47 billion for the project, with Diokno noting that the fund will be used to also unclog waterways that lead to Manila Bay and for the relocation of informal settlers living around these waterways.

Meanwhile, presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said the fund will be sourced from the Road

Users' Tax (RUT).

### Funded by RUT

Panelo said the utilization of the fund was discussed during the Cabinet meeting, adding the Manila Bay cleanup and the financing of the peoples' hospital needs may become priority expenses from the RUT.

"A portion of the fund can also be used to benefit those affected by TD (tropical depression) 'Usman,' especially those in the Bicol region," Panelo said.

The President is very much aware that it is agriculture that is dragging the economy.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu recently hinted at a crackdown on contributory pollutants to the historic bay, noting that the 2008 Supreme Court order to concerned government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay must be enforced.

relocated, Panelo bared.

These, however, will happen in the later stages of the cleanup.

What's more pressing, Panelo said, is the release of the funds so the cleanup can start. It can only happen once the Road Board, which has control over the RUT, is abolished.

"The abolition, that will come sooner than we expect because both Houses have agreed on it. It's for Congress to decide when to submit the enrolled bill for its abolition," he said.

### Steady growth

In a separate interview, Diokno also hailed the Philippine economy's steady growth, saying the 6.5 to 6.7 percent rate in 2018 is still one of the world's fastest growth rates, noting that he is optimistic that the country's economic growth will pick up to at least seven to eight percent in the years to come.

"You just trust your government. We are doing everything we can to make up

for past neglect," Diokno said.

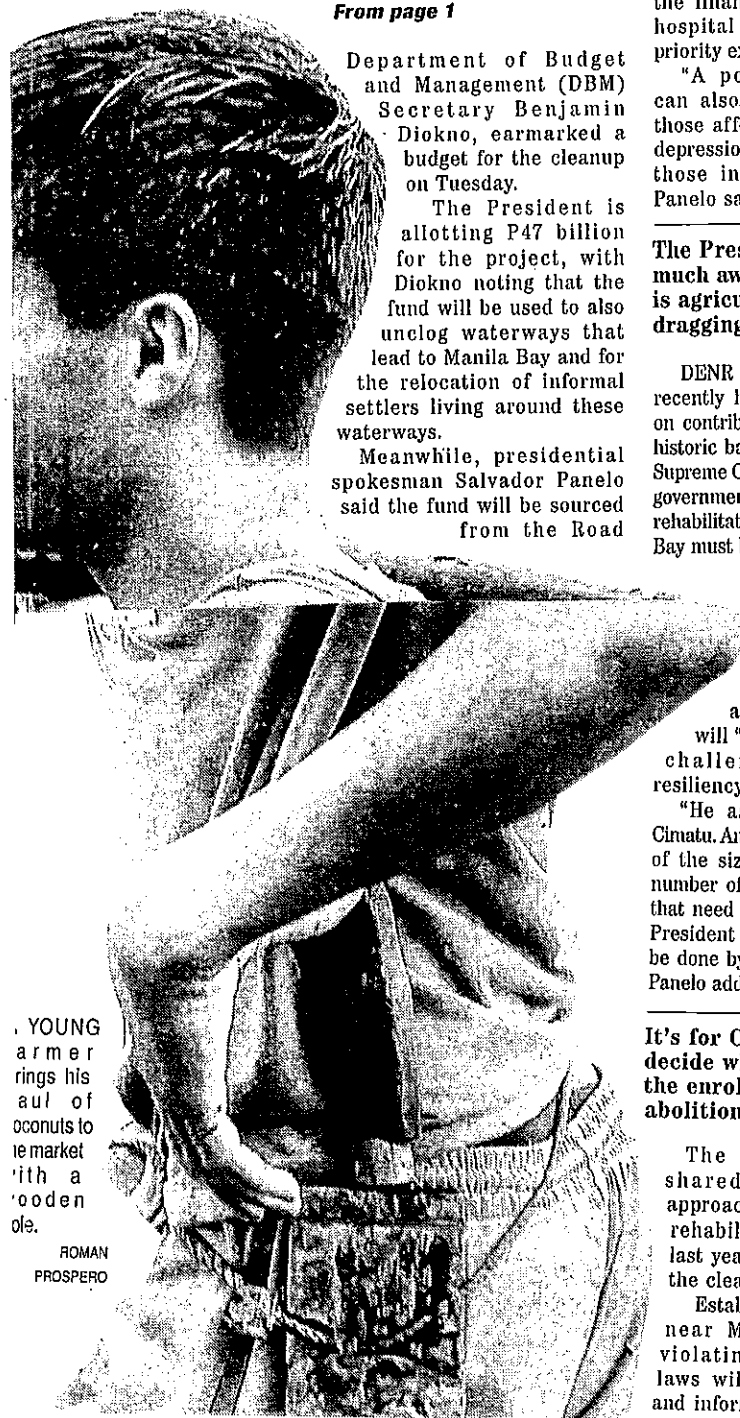
What's more pressing is the release of the funds so the cleanup can start.

Economic growth crawled to 6.1 percent in the period from July to September 2018, dragged by storm damage to crops. Official data for the succeeding quarter and the full year are due on 24 January.

"The President is very much aware that it is agriculture that is dragging the economy," Diokno said, adding Mr. Duterte had described agriculture as the "weakest link" in the economy.

Diokno recalled a recent meeting between the President and Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, noting that the President was "putting pressure" on Piñol to aid the farm sector.

"Some P5 billion for seeds and farm implements was recently released to the Department of Agriculture," Diokno said.



YOUNG farmer rings his haul of coconuts to the market with a wooden ole.

ROMAN PROSPERO



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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## Du30 orders rehab of Manila Bay

**P**RESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte will issue an executive order to start the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay, Malacañang said on Tuesday after the President reportedly plans to use the multi-billion-peso road user's tax to fund the cleanup.

Duterte warned establishments along Manila Bay that he will not hesitate to order their closure if they challenge his directive.

"Whether they like it or not, all of them, including the hotels, must put water treatment there for the waste discharge or else I will shut them down," the President said.

"Do not challenge me. If we do not have tourists, so be it. We are not going to die without them. You do something about your waste there, or we will have closed down. That's for sure," he added.

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said Duterte and his Cabinet planned to use the revenue of the special road funds to finance the hospital needs and the clean-up of the polluted waters of Manila Bay.

The Palace official said that portion of the road user's tax, as ordered by Duterte, will also be used to fund the flood control projects of areas in Bicol gravely hit by Tropical Depression "Usman."

"The reason why President Duterte wants the Road Board abolished is for the funds from road user's tax be placed to the national treasury. Con-

gress will then enact another law appropriating the funds there to the specific purposes I mentioned," Panelo said in a Palace press briefing.

Although the Cabinet did not lay out a specific timeline for the rehabilitation process of Boracay, Panelo said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu hoped to finish the cleanup of the Manila Bay, including the rivers and estuaries, by the end of Duterte's presidency.

"There is no specific. He [Cimatu] said it depends. What is important to the President is that we will cleanup this Manila Bay," he said.

Asked if the government will warn several stakeholders and establishments operating near Manila Bay, the Palace official said: "No, we don't have to warn them. They know the policy of the government."

"Well, in Boracay, there are a lot of stakeholders, but it required the political will of the President and he will do it. To my mind, what is very important is finally we are going to start cleaning Manila Bay. That's important there, we are starting it," Panelo said.

"The policy of the government is if you violate certain regulations, then you have to pay for that. Whatever we did in Boracay, we will apply it to all," Panelo added.

Last month, Cimatu described the cleanup of the polluted coastal waters as a "difficult challenge."

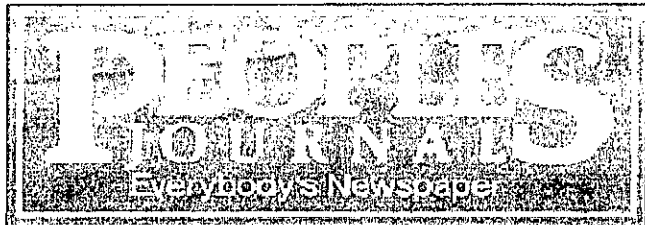
The DENR chief said they have divided the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay into four areas: Metro Manila and the provinces of Cavite, Bulacan, and Bataan.



## #nationataglance

### NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION: MANILA **Part of road funds eyed for Manila Bay rehabilitation**

MALACAÑANG on Tuesday said President Rodrigo R. Duterte wants a portion of the special road funds to be used for the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay. Presidential Spokesperson Salvador S. Panelo, in a press briefing, said the President and the Cabinet approved during their 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting held last Monday the utilization of the special road funds to finance the improvement of hospitals in the country, address the needs of recent typhoon victims in the Bicol region, and rehabilitate the capital's bay. "That's one of them [the Manila Bay clean-up]. The other one is the victims of Usman in Bicol. He wants to use part of that fund also to fund the medical... hospitals, we need hospitals in many parts of the country," he said. Mr. Panelo also said that Mr. Duterte will "most likely" issue an executive order for the coastal clean-up and has asked Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu to complete the rehabilitation by the end of his term in 2022. The spokesperson said the abolition of the Road Board, which is currently in charge of the road fund, is seen as a done deal with both chambers of Congress agreeing to the plan. -- Arjay L. Balinbin



## Palace eyes closure of Manila Bay polluters

THE government is eyeing road funds for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay and is determined to close down establishments polluting the popular body of water.

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said President Duterte is prepared to show "political will" to enforce the cleanup of Manila Bay that includes a crackdown on polluters.

"Of course, the policy

**By Efen  
Montano**

of the government is if you violate certain regulations, then you have to pay for that," Panelo said during a Palace news conference when asked if establishments dumping waste into Manila Bay will face closure.

"Kung ano ang ginawa natin sa Boracay, yun

din ang gagawin natin sa lahat," he added.

The President is expected to issue an executive order on the massive cleanup of Manila Bay planned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Earlier, Malacañang said it was planning to tap the special road fund to bankroll the rehabilitation of the popular bay on Roxas Boulevard.



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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**Road users' tax  
gagamitin  
sa Manila Bay  
rehab  
- Duterte**

**KINUMPIRMA** ni Budget Sec. Benjamin Diokno na iniutos narin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang paglilinis ng Manila Bay gaya ng rehabilitasyon sa Boracay Island kasabay nang pag-apruba ng malaking pondo para dito.

Sa ginanap na Cabinet meeting, nagprisinta si Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu kaugnay sa problema ng polusyon sa Manila Bay na tumatagal na ng dekada.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo, dahil dito ay napag-tanto ni Pangulong Duterte na kinakailangan ng pondo para masolusyunan ang problemang ito.

Ayon kay Sec. Diokno, pumayag si Pangulong Duterte na gagamitan ng P47 billion para sa pitong taong rehabilitasyon ang Manila Bay.

Gagamitin umano ang pondo para sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay, estero at paglilipat ng mga informal settlers.

Kukunin daw ang pondo sa road users' tax matapos mabu wag ang Road Board.

*(Mula sa Bombo Radyo)*



## Manila Bay rehab, gagastusan ng ₱47B

**Inaprubahan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte nitong Lunes ng gabi ang ₱47 bilyon budget para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.**

Inihayag ni Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol sa isang panayam sa radyo kahapon ng umaga na inaprubahan ng Pangulo ang pondo sa pagpupulong ng Cabinet kamakalawa ng gabi.

Ayon kay Piñol, magtutulong-tulong ang iba't ibang ahensiya tulad ng Agriculture, Interior and Local government, Social Welfare and Development, at iba pa para epektibong malinis ang Manila Bay sa loob ng pitong taon.

Ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay ay mandamus bilang tugon sa desisyon kamakailan ng Supreme Court, ani Piñol.

Klinase ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu ang Manila Bay at hinati sa apat na lugar – Bataan, Metro Manila, Cavite at Bulacan – sa panukalang massive cleanup.

Sinabi ni Bataan DENR chief Raul Mamac na kahit mas mahirap ang paglilinis ng Manila Bay kumpara sa Boracay, "but we can do it if the public and all government agencies will work and support us."

Isa si Mamac sa matataas na opisyal ng DENR na nanguna sa matagumpay na paglilinis ng Boracay.

Nais ni Cimatu na maibaba ang coliform level sa Manila Bay, matapos sabihin na umakyat na sa mahigit 300 million most probable number per 100 milliliters

(mpn/100 ml) ang antas nito.

Ang coliform bacteria ay karaniwang ginagamit bilang indicator ng water pollution.

Ang malaking bahagi ng dumi sa Manila Bay ay nagmumula sa mga kanal na umaagos sa Pasig River, at sa iba pang daluyan sa Metro Manila at mga karatig-lalawigan

Ayon kay Cimatu, bubuo ang DENR ng apat na Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) sa pampang ng Manila Bay – sa Maynila, Navotas-Malabon, Pasay-Parañaque, at Las Piñas – upang tutukan ang paglilinis sa look, na nakatakdang simulan sa susunod na taon.

**Mar T. Supnad at Beth Camia**



## Firms polluting Manila Bay face closure

The government could close down establishments polluting Manila Bay as part of its planned rehabilitation effort, Malacañang said Tuesday.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said President Duterte is prepared to show "political will" to enforce the cleanup of Manila Bay, that includes a crackdown on polluters.

"Of course, the policy of the government is if you violate certain regulations, then you have to pay for that," Panelo said during a Palace news conference when asked if establishments dumping waste into Manila Bay will face closure.

"Kung ano ang ginawa natin sa Boracay, yun din ang gagawin natin sa lahat," he added.

Panelo said the President is expected to issue an executive order on the massive cleanup of Manila Bay planned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The Palace earlier announced that it was planning to tap the special road fund to bankroll the rehabilitation of the popular bay along Roxas Boulevard.

Panelo said Duterte did not impose any timeline on the rehabilitation of Manila Bay but appreciated that such effort would finally begin.

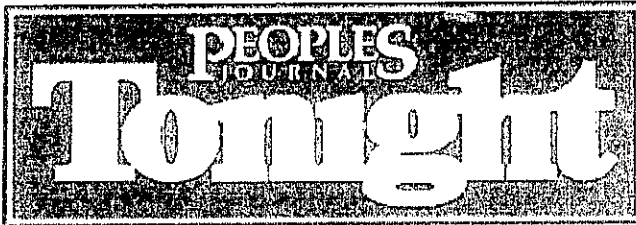
Panelo acknowledged that the cleanup drive would likely "take some time" given the huge bay and its tributaries. "What is important to the President is we will clean up this Manila Bay," he added.

He said some groups may initially resist the Manila Bay rehabilitation but "eventually they will have to toe the line."

The utilization of the road users' tax for government projects was discussed during the Cabinet meeting convened by President Duterte in Malacañang last Monday.

"The Cabinet also discussed that the special road funds can be used to finance hospital needs and the clean-up of the Manila Bay," Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said in a statement.

"A portion of the fund can also be used to benefit those affected by TD (tropical depression) Usman specially those in the Bicol Region," he added. **(Genalyn Kabiling)**



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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## Gov't to close Manila Bay polluters

**THE government is eyeing road funds and is set to close down establishments polluting Manila Bay as part of its planned rehabilitation effort, Malacañang said yesterday.**

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said President Duterte is prepared to show "political will" to enforce the cleanup of Manila Bay that includes a crackdown on polluters.

"Of course, the policy of the government is if you violate certain regulations, then you have to pay for that," Panelo said during a Palace news conference when asked if establishments dumping waste into Manila Bay will face closure.

"Kung ano ang ginawa natin sa Boracay, yun din ang gagawin natin sa lahat," he added.

Panelo said the President is expected to issue an executive order on the massive cleanup of Manila Bay

planned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Earlier, Malacanang announced that it was planning to tap the special road fund to bankroll the rehabilitation of the popular bay along Roxas Boulevard.

Panelo said Duterte did not impose any timeline on the rehabilitation of Manila Bay but appreciated that such effort would finally begin.

He admitted that the cleanup drive would likely "take some time" given the huge bay and its tributaries. "What is important to the President is we will clean up this Manila Bay," he added.

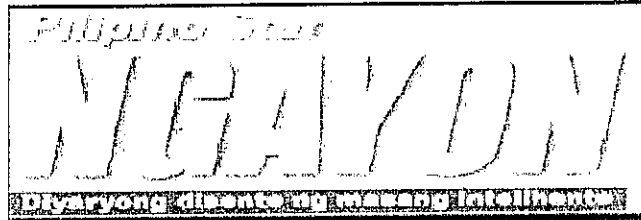
He said some groups may initially resist the Manila Bay rehabilitation but "eventually they will have to toe the line."

**Efren Montano**





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## **P47-B gagamitin sa Manila Bay rehab**

Inutos na ni Pangulong Duterte ang paglilinis ng Manila Bay at inaprubahan din ang malaking pondo para rito.

Sinabi ni Budget Sec. Benjamin Diokno nag-prisinta si DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu tungkol sa problema ng polusyon ng Manila Bay na tumatagal na ng dekada.

Ayon kay Diokno, pumayag ang Pangulo na gamitan ng P47 billion ang pitong taong rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay na gagamitin para sa paglilinis ng baybayin, estero at paglilipat ng mga informal settlers.

Kukunin ang pondo sa special road funds o road users tax sa sandaling mabuwag na ang Road Board. *(Rudy Andal)*

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

## Du30 ipasasara hotel sa Manila Bay

NAGBANTA si Pangulong Duterte sa mga hotel sa palibot ng Manila Bay na ipasasara niya ang mapapatunayang nagtatapon ng dumi sa karagatan.

"Kaya sabi ko kay Gen Cimatú pati kay Gen Año, you start cleaning the Manila Bay. And it will be, they will start to clean it. Whether you like it or not, lahat itong, itong mga hotel, iyung ma-

labas nila iyung tae ng mga turista. Kaya ko kung tae ng Pilipino pa iyan pero kung tae ng sino-sino diyan. Lagyan niyo ng water treatment iyang hotel niyo pag hindi sarahan ko iyan. Wag mo akong hamunin," sabi ni Duterte sa kanyang talumpati Pasay City.

Partikular na inatasan niya sina Environment Secretary Roy Cimatú at Interi-

or and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año na tiyakin na mapapanagot ang mga hotel na patuloy na nagdudulot ng polusyon sa Manila Bay.

"E kung wala tayong turista, e di wala. Di naman tayo mamamatay. You do something about your waste there otherwise I will close you. sigurado iyan," ayon pa kay Duterte. —*Bella Cariaso*



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# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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## DENR SCOURS MACTAN WATERS FOR WASTE FROM CEBU HOSPITAL

By **Morexette Marie Erram**  
and **Nestle Semilla**  
@inquirervisayas

CEBU CITY—A team from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Visayas has been scouring the seas around Mactan Island for medical waste from a private hospital in Cebu City.

William Cuñado, director of the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau in Central Visayas, said the team had zeroed in on the waters around Barangay Ibo in Lapu-Lapu City.

In a statement, officials of Chong Hua Hospital said they would coordinate with the DENR to shed light as to why medical waste from their hospital ended up in the sea at Barangay Ibo.

### Public safety

"Upon hearing the news, Chong Hua Hospital immediately initiated an investigation and would now work closely with the DENR and other concerned government agencies," they said.

"As a nonstock, nonprofit organization, our no. 1 priority is the health and safety of the public," they added.

They assured that the waste had been "properly handled and disposed of by a company specifically hired by the hospital to do the job."

"Nevertheless, we will review our solid waste management policies," they added.

### Outsourced

The hospital had been outsourcing the disposal of all its biohazard waste to Davao City Environmental Care Inc., which had been accredited by



REVIEW Officials of Chong Hua Hospital in Cebu City say they will review their solid waste management policies after the discovery of waste from their hospital on Mactan Island.—CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the DENR, the officials said.

"We intend to revisit our outsourcing processes and audit protocols to ensure the highest compliance to the DENR regulations and standards as well as protect the safety and welfare of the general public and our environment," they said.

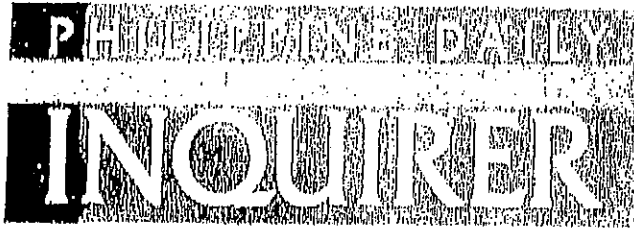
On Saturday, medical trash such as used syringes, kidney trays, chemical bottles, tubes containing blood samples and several gloves were photographed floating near the shores of Barangay Ibo.

The photos and video posted on Facebook immediately went viral.

Some of the chemical bottles seen on the photos still had stickers bearing the name of the hospital where these came from. INQ



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### House to conduct probe on South Korean trash

The consignee of the 5,100 tons of trash from South Korea and officials of government agencies involved should still be held accountable even if the South Korean government had agreed to take back the garbage, Misamis Oriental Rep. Juliette Uy said on Tuesday. In a statement, Uy said Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp. must face legal liabilities for facilitating the illegal importation of the garbage, which entered the country through the Mindanao International Container Terminal in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, in July last year. She said officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Bureau of Customs and local governments should explain why they allowed the entry of the 51 containers filled with solid waste. Uy and several other Mindanao lawmakers have filed a resolution seeking a congressional inquiry into the incident. —MARLON RAMOS



# Waste shipment returned to SoKor on Sunday

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

**At least 51 shipping containers of garbage will finally be returned to South Korea on Sunday.**

The EcoWaste Coalition said yesterday it received the confirmation through a text message sent by Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT) port collector John Simon.

"The arrival of the vessel (Maersk Shipping Lines) will be on the 12th of January and the loading of the cargo will begin immediately on the same day," Aileen Lucero, national coordinator of the

EcoWaste Coalition, quoting Simon, said.

Simon said the loading of the last shipping container is expected to be completed at around 9 a.m. on Sunday.

"The slight delay should not dampen our nation's jubilation over the looming departure of the... garbage shipment to Pyeongtaek City where it came from," Simon's text message added.

Lucero said concerned

parties should now focus on the rebagging and reexport of other waste shipments dumped in a government-managed industrial park in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

"We expect the... cooperation of the consignee, the Korean government and our national and local government agencies," Lucero said.

Aside from the shipping containers that arrived at the MICT in October 2018, more than 5,000 tons of garbage misdeclared as plastic synthetic flakes consigned to Verde Soko arrived at the MICT in July 2018. The shipments have

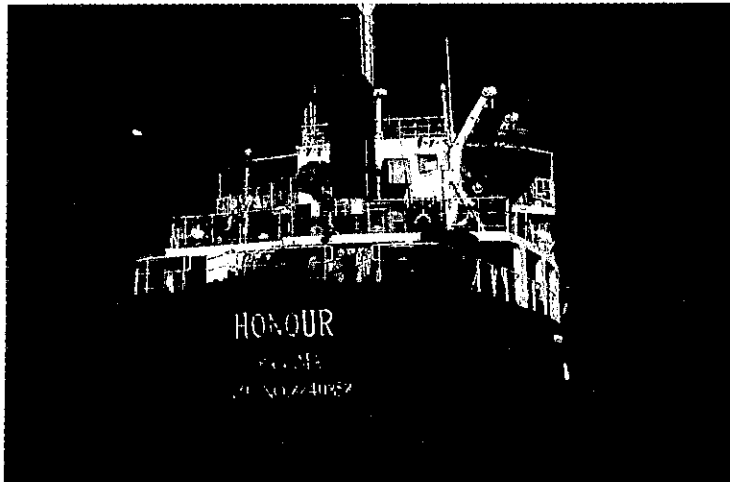
no import clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"The removal of all the 6,500 tons of mixed waste cargo from South Korea should send a clear signal to rich countries, including Canada, that have yet to take back their reeking trash from our land that the Philippines is not a dumping ground for their garbage," Lucero said.

"This should also prompt our policy makers into... banning the importation of plastic and other foreign wastes to protect public health and the environment," she added.



## Pumalyang barko ng 15 dayuhan, ininspeksiyon



**BOLINAO, Pangasinan** - Agad na nag-inspeksiyon kahapon si Mayor Arnold Celeste, kasama ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Maritime, Philippine National Police (PNP) at Bantay Dagat, nang mamataan ang isang foreign cargo vessel sa Barangay Dewey.

Pinangunahan ni Celeste ang pag-inspeksiyon sa PANAMA Honor vessel, na pag-aari ng isang Alex Chua, Chinese.

Sa imbestigasyon, lumilitaw na

ang vessel ay nasiraan ng makina at naglalaman ng 3,036 metric tons o 60,000 cavan ng bigas na dadalhin sa La Union at idi-deliver sa consignee na taga-San Quintin, Pangasinan.

Karamihan sa mga dayuhan ay mula sa China, Vietnam, Myanmar at Indonesia, na nakisama sa inspeksiyon.

Inalalayan din ng mga dayuhan ang mga awtoridad na bumaba sa nasabing vessel matapos ang inspeksiyon.

**Liezle Basa Iñigo**



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## Landslide survivors ask gov't not to stop retrieval of buried loved ones

By NINO N. LUCES

**TIWI, Albay**— The families who survived the landslide in Tiwi town, Albay, are appealing to authorities to continue the search for the missing.

**Bartolomea Climacosa-Clavecillas, 63,** told Manila Bulletin her sister **Marcelina Cutara Climacosa,** niece **Mary Rose Cutara, 15,** and grandchild **CJ Cutara,** are still unaccounted for.

"Sana yung ating gobyerno, sana mayor, huwag po ninyong itigil yung rescue (search and retrieval operations) doonsanawawala naming kapamilya (We appeal to the government, the mayor not to stop retrieval operations of our missing family members)," Clavecillas said.

She made the appeal after being told by the team leader at the town's evacuation center that search and retrieval operations have become too dangerous to continue and it would be impossible to locate the missing victims.

"Yung mga rescuers may dala silang K9, pero doon sa lugar na paniniwala namin ay nandoon yung mga kapamilya namin na natabunan, lumubog yung aso. Kaya sabi ng mga rescuers, aso nga lumubog, tao pa kaya? (The sniffing dogs rescuers were bringing in the retrieval operation sank in the place where our missing relatives are believed to be buried. That is why the rescuers said if the dog sank in that kind of mud how much more for people)," Clavecillas said.

"Aanhin namin yang mga relief goods nayan kung hindi namin makikita yung nawawala naming kapamilya. Sana mayor, sana sa gobyerno, wag nyonamang itigil ang rescue (What shall we do with the relief goods if our relatives are missing. We hope the mayor, the government will not stop the retrieval operations)," she added.

Annie Climacosa Clavecillas, 23, survived the landslide of Dec. 29, with her husband and youngest son, Leo. They were about to leave their place when they were pushed by mud and water towards the sea.

Leo reportedly swam towards the shore using as guide the light of the lightning that accompanied the storm. Somebody helped him to safety upon reaching the shore, Annie narrated.

Now staying at the Naga High School in Tiwi temporarily, Annie said they became complacent when the storm warning signal was lifted. She said they thought there was no more danger because no one from the local government told them to evacuate unlike previous times.

The only thing that made her leave her house were the text messages from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Merilda Competente appealed to the government to give them a house because they have nowhere to stay.

### Emergency shelter

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) will be providing emergency shelter assistance to families whose houses were partially or totally damaged during the onslaught of tropical depression "Usman."

Based on the latest report of the DSWD's Disaster Response Management Bureau, there are 11,312 damaged houses in Southern Luzon, Bicol, and Eastern Visayas that will be assessed by DSWD in coordination with their respective local government units (LGUs).

The provision of emergency shelter assistance is part of the relief efforts of the government to help survivors to return to their normal lives, said DSWD spokesperson Glenda Relova.

"Once the weather condition improves, personnel from the DSWD will go to the affected areas to hold a comprehensive assessment and determine if the damaged houses are partially or totally damaged. This will be the basis for the amount of emergency shelter assistance (ESA) that the affected families will receive," Relova explained.

Under the ESA, households with partially-damaged houses will receive P10,000, while those with totally-damaged houses will be given P30,000 cash assistance.

The Department is also continuously delivering food and non-food items to affected LGUs.

It also continues to conduct psychosocial interventions in evacuation centers, while processing of financial aid for medical and burial assistance is also ongoing in affected regions.

To date, assistance given by DSWD has reached P30,932,864.94. (With a report from Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz)



## Special Report

Erik Espina

# Baguio City next Boracay

**T**HE timely intervention of President Rodrigo Duterte in closing Boracay for rehabilitation is to be applauded given the political, and the moral will, to save the pristine beaches and bucolic lifestyle of the world-famous tourist (including domestic "go to place") destination for sun and sand. Finally, an adult is in the room to have our laws enforced, particularly those meant to protect the environment. Lessons learned in Boracay's hastened deterioration due to misguided business practices, and the greed of local officials should be cited as warning to all. For an ongoing concern to prosper e.g. tourism, trade, industry, urban expansion, etc. the operative word must be, "sustainable development". We must be aware of the "absorb-tive" capacity of a certain place or locality. Meaning what is the comfortable and livable ratio between, land area vis-a-vis people, tourists, informal settlers to live in? Open spaces, roads and Infrastructure vs. vehicles ratio? Location and proximity of business establishments which must provide standard intervals for recommended spacing and travel? Central to all the aforementioned is the problem

of trash, to include human waste, pollution levels in air and sea, and monitoring congestion per square kilometer, to include violations in environmental laws. Aside from the Department of Environment, the passage of land use and zoning is basic. The creation of the Presidential Office on Sustainable Urban and Land Development is a necessity for oversight functions. To include monitoring increased levels of urban migrations, to include the phenomenon of "chain migrations" by families and clans into urban economic centers.

Sorry to say, local officials are part of the problem in what is the absence of any clear and stable urban planning. Boracay must be the template in what must be a continuing crusade to resuscitate decrepit and deteriorating tourist and urban environments. Baguio City is one tourist destination that must be subjected to presidential supervision given the actual optics and experience of residents and travelers to the "Summer Capital" as a mirroring of Boracay. Mactan, Cordova, Talisay Beaches in Cebu, Palawan as well, etc.





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# The Manila Times

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## Postcard from America

I NEVER did leave my heart in San Francisco. In fact, I never did leave my heart anywhere in America. But San Francisco was the first American city that I visited in the spring of 1980. I was privileged to have been an awardee of the Group Study Exchange Program (GSE) of the Rotary International and spent several weeks in the 4-State Rotary District 6110 of Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. Since my first trip to America 39 years ago, I have been in and out of the country countless times. Although in terms of endearment, Cambridge and Boston are where I accumulated my baggage of nostalgia, having spent my sabbatical year for studies there. New York City should come next as my daughter and my grandchildren resided there.

But San Francisco has always filled me with dread as the San Andreas fault hangs as a Damocles sword over the place. It has triggered several earthquakes over the past century — from the 7.9 magnitude in 1857 that claimed one fatality, to the 1906, 1989 and 2004 quakes that destroyed great swathes of the city by fire and infrastructure collapse, reducing them to rubble, with thousands of deaths and billions of dollars in property damage.

I am a moviegoer and the flick "San Andreas," although a fictional depiction of the end of times for California, could be what scientists have been predicting all along; the splitting of the state from the mainland along the San Andreas Fault, the boundary between the Pacific and the North American tectonic plates. And there are perhaps a million *kababayan* residents, not to count my relatives living the American dream. That's why I feel a certain trepidation every time I visit San Francisco or Los Angeles.

We are now in Yosemite, at least farther away from this part of the earth's lithosphere; as if that were really a consolation if ever the "big one" comes. My seven-year-old grandson, Max, assured me that this catastrophe is at least 10,000 years in the future.

My grandkids miss the snow since they relocated to Manila and the closest to a snowman they can construct is the artificial snow at SM Megamall. Also, skiing is part of their DNA having been sired by an American father from St. Cloud, Minnesota, where snow cover during winter is abundant.

The park itself is generally open for tourists and visitors despite the President



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LITO MONICO  
C. LORENZANA

Trump-induced shutdown, which is now on its third week. With a reported close to 800,000 unfunded federal employees, certain sites are closed. Packed like sardines in a Chevy Suburban, we breezed through unstaffed but open entrance stations. The park service-provided information and orientation are somewhat available as there are a few and unpaid volunteers bravely manning the park, in effect keeping some visitor centers open, although the Yosemite museum was closed. Some campgrounds and hiking trails remain open and free public shuttle service around the valley is available. Thank God my son-in-law got a VRBO cabin at Redwood Parks on Wawona, about an hour from the Badger Pass ski area where a fresh powder of snow allows skiing lifts and runs open despite the shutdown.

And we did ski with the three kids, coached by Matt and Lara, down the "turtle run," the slope reserved for beginners ages 3 to the teens. As a skiing tyro for 30 years, I still must brave the "green and black" runs, earmarked for accomplished skiers, which I did not attempt this time. But I have bragging rights as "master of the kiddie slopes."

The National Park Service (NPS) that is responsible for managing all national parks is an agency under the US Department of the Interior. It is mandated "...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. Yosemite National Park covers an area of 747,956 acres and designated a World Heritage site; and famous for its granite cliffs, waterfalls, glaciers and biological diversity. Ninety-five percent of the park is designated wilderness." (Wikipedia)

I can't help comparing our national parks in the Philippines. The Mount Apo Natural Park (MANP) for one, was established as a protected area and acknowledged as an Asean Heritage Site, with an area of 54,974.87 hectares. Upon its designation as a protected area, 30 percent of the land area, or approximately 14,900 has., had forest cover. However, negligent government

policy allowed conversion of the areas into agricultural use and for human settlements, degrading the forest and wildlife habitat. Illegal tree cutting has been prevalent and charcoal making for household use resulted in forest cover loss of 1,400 has. yearly.

Popular as a mountain climbing and trekking site, being the highest mountain in the country, hundreds visit the park yearly and a few climb the summit. But policing of the area is minimal. Toilet facilities and half-way cottages are practically absent, with climbers and tourists littering the trails with garbage and human waste. These could be the reasons why the park was taken out of the Unesco list of heritage sites.

What President Duterte did in Boracay could be a template in saving national parks and resort areas for Filipino and foreign tourists, but more importantly, for the enjoyment of the present generation and future ones. The internationally famous beach resort had deteriorated since the early 1970s-1980s prompting the Deegong to declare the whole resort as a cesspool, an environmental blight. He used the full powers of government to close the resort to tourists for half a year and clean the area, putting in a sewage system connecting 200 hotels and establishments to the sewerage lines instead of these effluents being discharged directly to the sea. He has forcibly dismantled structures that illegally encroached upon the shoreline, and has directed the widening of the streets to ease traffic. More importantly, he has closed businesses that are non-compliant with Philippine laws and local ordinances. There are still flaws in the management of the area which are under several government departments that include tourism, environment and natural resources and local government. But things are beginning to improve, restoring the resort to world class status.

But the local population is supportive of PRRD and the success of the rehabilitation of Boracay could be the impetus for similar initiatives for other resorts and national parks and could even extend to the cleaning of esteros and slum area development in the inner cities. Palawan resorts outside of El Nido and Amanpulo may be targeted next. These drastic measures have never been attempted before by any of our political leaders since the birth of the Republic, except for this oft-vilified President Duterte. Love him or hate him, this is what political will is all about. And this is what the country needs.