

23 JAN 2010

DATE : _____

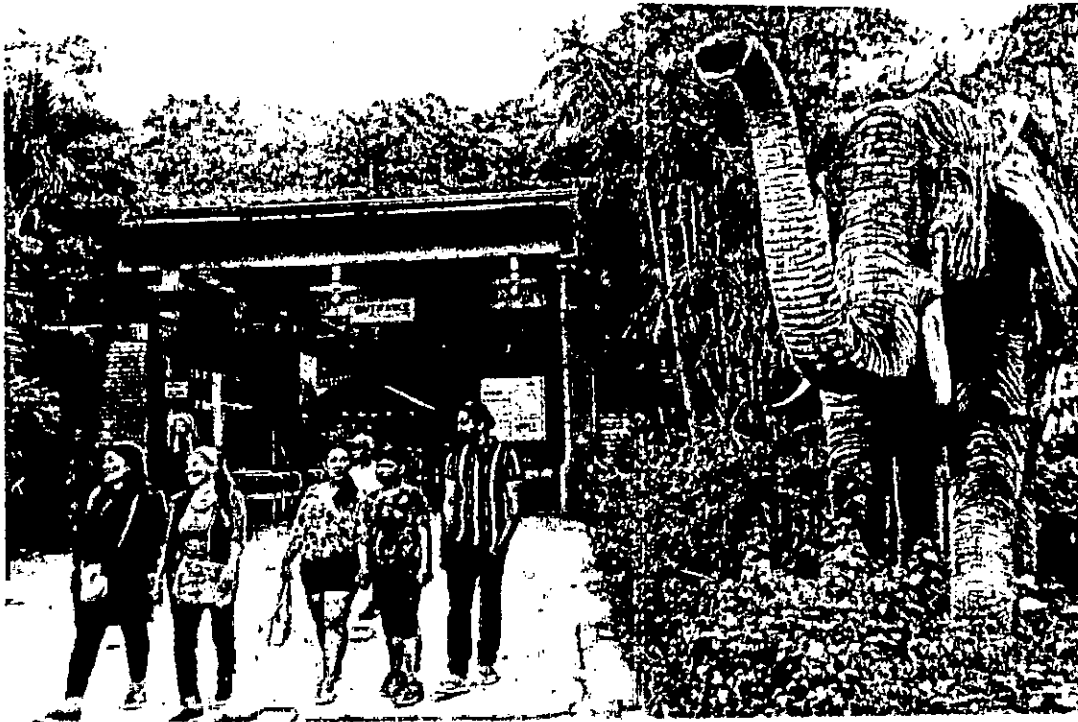
Wednesday

DAY : _____

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



TEMPORARY CLOSURE Manila Zoo, home to Mali, an elephant who has lived there for over 40 years, is closing its doors to visitors for now. —EDWIN BACASMAS

Manila Zoo closed indefinitely

'Major bay pollutant' to undergo rehabilitation

By Aie Balagtas See
@ABalagtasSeeINQ

Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada has ordered the indefinite closure of Manila Zoo starting today, weeks after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) tagged it as one of Manila Bay's major pollutants.

In a one-page memorandum issued on Jan. 21, Estrada ordered that "full support and cooperation be extended to the national government for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay."

He said the temporary closure would allow the city government to conduct a proper assessment and study of the zoo in preparation for its rehabilitation.

The recommendation to shut down the popular attraction was made by the Office of the City Administrator and Department of Engineering and Public Works (DEPW).

Estrada also ordered the DEPW and Department of Public Service to submit a program of work for the construction or installation of water treatment facilities or sewage plants in the zoo and other city facilities.

Water treatment plants eyed

City Administrator Jojo Alcovendaz earlier said that two water treatment plants might be installed in Manila Zoo within three to four months.

This was after Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu accused zoo officials of dumping un-

treated water into Manila Bay.

On Sunday, the DENR will officially launch the P42-billion rehabilitation program for the major waterway.

The multiphase project will involve the massive cleanup of estuaries that feed into the bay, the relocation of over 220,000 informal settler families, including the possible closure of establishments found to be major pollutants.

Militant group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya ng Pilipinas, however, also urged the DENR to work on restoring the marine life in Manila Bay to benefit small fishermen, instead of just removing people who rely on it for their livelihood. —WITH A REPORT FROM JHESSET O. ENANO INQ

Manila Zoo shut down indefinitely

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO and MARC JAYSON CAYABYAB

Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada has ordered the indefinite closure of Manila Zoo after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) identified it as a major pollutant of Manila Bay.

In an interview with The STAR yesterday, Estrada said he directed the city and zoo officials to address the problem.

"Manila Zoo will be closed until further notice. The department of engineering and public works and the depart-

ment of public services are ordered to submit a program of work for the construction or installation of water treatment facilities or sewerage treatment plants for Manila Zoo and other city facilities," Estrada said in a Jan. 21 memorandum released

yesterday.

He said DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu earlier said that Manila Zoo had been draining untreated sewage into one of the estuaries leading to Manila Bay.

The office of the city administrator, the department of engineering and public works have also recommended the closure of the zoo to allow the proper assessment and study of the problem.

Estrada said he fully supports the national govern-

ment's program to rehabilitate Manila Bay like what it did to Boracay.

He directed department of public services chief Lilybelle Borromeo, Task Force Manila Cleanup chief Rafael Borromeo, city engineering chief Rogelio Legaspi, Manila Zoo administrator Jaysyrr Garcia and city administrator Ericson Jojo Alcovendaz to "cooperate with the national government through the DENR."

President Duterte earlier

ordered the rehabilitation of Manila Bay. On Jan. 11, the DENR ordered facilities and establishments around the bay to put up their own sewage treatment plants.

Officials of Manila Zoo, which is run by the city government, earlier admitted the zoo does not have a sewage treatment plant.

Garcia told The STAR the zoo's closure is targeted to last three to four months.

She said the management did not know the zoo had

no sewage treatment plant because the zoo was established in 1959, when a treatment plant had not yet been required.

The zoo's employees will not lose their jobs because the zoo will only be closed to public but will remain in operation for them to take care of the animals, Garcia said.

The city hall will conduct an inspection today to locate the site for the treatment plant, which was promised funding by Estrada, she added.



Trusted Since 1898

The Manila Times

1/AS
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BATTER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

23 JAN 2013

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DIGITAL COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Manila Zoo shuts down

THE Manila Zoo will be closed indefinitely starting Jan. 23, 2019 to pave the way for the construction of a sewage treatment plant.

Manila City Hall Administrator Ericson Alcovendaz said the zoo would open to the public when the construction of the sewer lines is finished.

The putting up of the zoo's sewage treatment facility is part of the massive clean up of the Manila Bay.

Alcovendaz said Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada ordered the city government's engineering office two weeks ago to come up with a plan for the installation of the sewer lines in the five-hectare zoo.

He said the city government would

comply with the directives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The DENR gave the city government four months to construct a wastewater treatment facility.

Two weeks ago, the Laguna Lake Development Authority, one of the agencies around the bay had not complied with the 1997 concession agreement signed by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and two concessionaires, Manila Water Company Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. requiring all enterprises in Western and Eastern

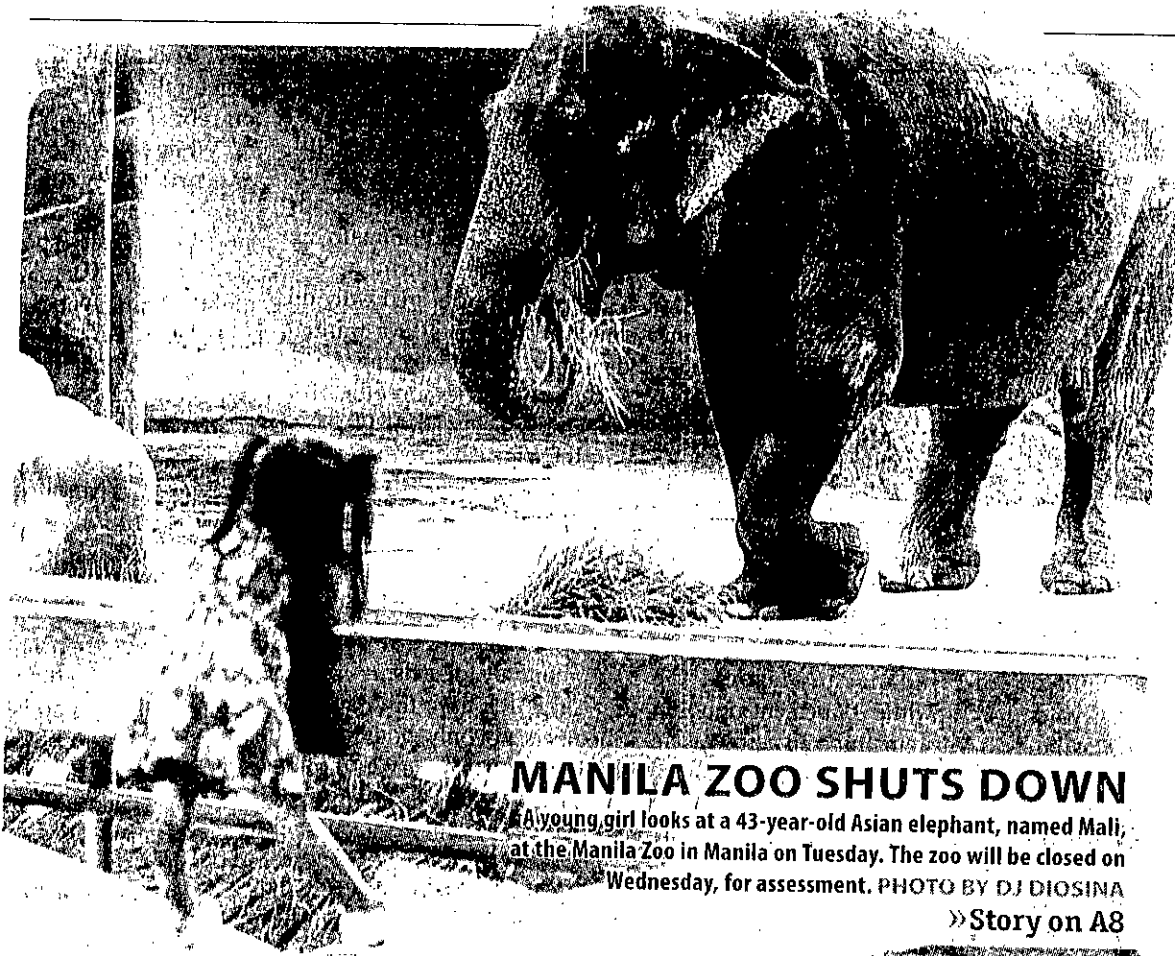
Metro Manila to put up a wastewater treatment facility.

Manila Zoo is connected to the Estero de San Antonio Abad which DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said had coliform level of 1.3 billion per 1,000 milliliters (ml) per most probable number (mpn), higher than the bay's 330 million.

The fecal coliform levels of both bodies of water were way above the standard of 100 ml per mpn.

Jas Garcia, officer in charge of the public operations bureau of the Manila Zoo, said the establishment only had septic tanks, which remove contaminants in wastewater.

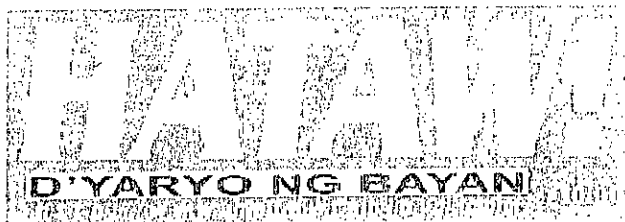
CATHERINE A. MODESTO



MANILA ZOO SHUTS DOWN

A young girl looks at a 43-year-old Asian elephant, named Mali, at the Manila Zoo in Manila on Tuesday. The zoo will be closed on Wednesday, for assessment. PHOTO BY DJ DIOSINA

» Story on A8



23 JAN 2010

DATE

Waste treatment facility ipagagawa **Manila Zoo, ipinasara ni Erap**

BILANG suporta sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, ipinasara pansamantala ni Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada ang Manila Zoo.

Una nang tinukoy ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu ang Manila Zoo na isa sa mga pangunahing nagtatapon ng maruming tubig sa Manila Bay.

Batay sa memorandum na inilabas ni Estrada, inatasan niya sina City Administrator Atty. Ericson Alcovendaz, Department of Engineering and Public Services City Engineer Rogelio Legaspi, Department of Public Services head Lilybelle Borromeo, Task Force Manila Clean chief Rafael Borromeo at Atty. Jasyrr Garcia administrator ng Maynila na agad isailalim sa rehabilitasyon

ang nasabing zoo.

Kasabay nito, sinabi ni Estrada na ipagagawa na rin nila ang waste treatment facility upang maiwasang makaapekto sa tubig sa Manila Bay at iba pang baybaying dagat.

Ayon kay Estrada, hindi na maaaring patagalin ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Zoo lalo pa't maraming depektibo at hindi na maayos ang pasilidad.

Nabatid na nagsumite na ng programa para sa rehabilitasyon sina Alcovendaz, Legaspi at Borromeo ang pagsasara matapos magsagawa ng inspeksiyon ang DENR.

Dagdag ni Estrada, pansamantala lamang ang closure upang mas maging maayos at maaliwalas ang pamamasyal sa loob ng Manila Zoo.



23 JAN 2019

DATE

3

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

KAALINSABAY SA REHABILITASYON NG MANILA BAY

Manila Zoo, ipinasara ni Erap

Bilang suporta sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, ipinasara na pansamantala ni Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada ang Manila Zoo.

Una nang tinukoy ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu ang

NI DORIS FRANCHE

Manila Zoo na isa sa mga pangunahing nagtatapon ng maruming tubig sa Manila Bay.

Batay sa memorandum na inilabas ni Estrada, inatasan nito sina City Ad-

ministrator Atty. Ericson Alcovendaz, Department of Engineering and Public Services City Engineer Rogelio Legaspi, Department of Public Services head Lilybelle Borromeo, Task

Force Manila Clean chief Rafael Borromeo at Atty. Jasyrr Garcia administrator ng Manila na agad na isailalim ang rehabilitasyon ng nasabing zoo.

Kasabay nito, sinabi ni Estrada na ipagagawa na rin nila ang waste treatment facility upang maiwasang makaapekto sa tubig sa Manila Bay at iba pang bay-baying dagat.

Ayon kay Estrada, hindi na maaaring patagalin ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Zoo lalo pa't marami na ring depektibo at hindi na maayos ang pasilidad.

Dagdag pa ni Estrada, pansamantala lamang ang closure upang mas maging maayos at maaliwalas ang pamamasyal sa loob ng Manila Zoo sa sandaling maisaayos ito.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
REGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



9
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
 STORY

BANNER
 STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

23 JAN 2010

DATE

Para sa Manila Bay rehab MANILA ZOO ISASARA

PANSAMANTALANG ipasasara ng lokal na pamahalaang Maynila ang Manila Zoo upang bigyang-daan ang pagsasaayos sa waste water treatment facility nito.

Mula sa pahina 1

Magugunitang tinukoy ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu ang Manila Zoo na isa sa mga pangunahing nagtatapon ng maruming tubig sa Manila Bay kaya agad itong inaksiyunan ng lungsod bilang suporta na rin sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Sa memorandum na kanyang ipinalabas, inatasan ni Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada sina City Administrator Atty. Ericson Alcovendaz,

Department of Engineering and Public Services City Engineer Rogelio Legaspi, Department of Public Services head Lilybelle Borromeo, Task Force Manila Clean chief Rafael Borromeo at Atty. Jasyrr Garcia, administrator ng Manila, na agad na isailalim sa rehabilitasyon ang nasabing zoo.

Kasabay nito, sinabi ni Estrada na ipagagawa rin nila ang waste treatment facility upang maiwasang makaapekto sa tubig sa Manila Bay at iba pang baybaying dagat.

Ayon kay Estrada, hindi na maaaring patagalin ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Zoo lalo pa't marami na ring depektibong pasilidad.

Nabatid na nagsumite na rin ng programa para sa rehabilitasyon sina Alcovendaz, Legaspi at Borromeo matapos na magsagawa ng inspeksiyon ang DENR.

Dagdag ng alkalde, pansamantala lamang ang closure upang mas maging maayos at maaliwalas ang pamamasyal sa loob ng Manila Zoo.

PAUL ROLDAN



Manila Zoo pansamantalang isasara

**NI FRANCIS
NAGUIT**

INIUTOS ni Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada ang pansamantalang pagsasara

ra ng Manila Zoo upang bigyang daan ang paglalagay ng waste water treatment facility bilang suporta sa DENR na magsasagawa ng rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay.

Magugunilang tinukoy ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu ang Manila Zoo na isa sa mga pangunahing nagtatapon ng maruming tubig sa Manila Bay kaya agad itong inaksiyunan ni Mayor Estrada.

Batay sa memorandum

na inilabas ni Estrada, inatasan nito sina City Administrator Atty Ericson Alcovendaz, Department of Engineering and Public Services City Engineer Rogelio Legaspi, Department of Public Services Head Lilybelle Borromeo, Task Force Manila Clean Chief Rafael Borromeo at Atty. Jasyer Garcia, administrator ng Manila Zoo na agad na isailalim ang rehabilitasyon ng nasabing zoo.

Kasabay nito, sinabi ni Estrada na ipagagawa na rin nila ang waste treat-

ment facility upang maiwasang makaapekto sa tubig sa Manila Bay at iba pang baybaying dagat.

Ayon kay Estrada, hindi na maaaring patagalin ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Zoo lalo pa't marami na ring depektibo at hindi na maayos ang pasilidad.

Nabatid na nagsumite na rin ng programa para sa rehabilitasyon sina Alcovendaz, Legaspi at Borromeo sa pagsasara matapos na magsagawa ng inspeksiyon ang DENR.



23 JAN 2010

DATE

MANILA ZOO, IPINASARA

IKINANDADO na ng Manila City Hall ang Manila Zoo, epektibo ngayong araw, Enero 23.

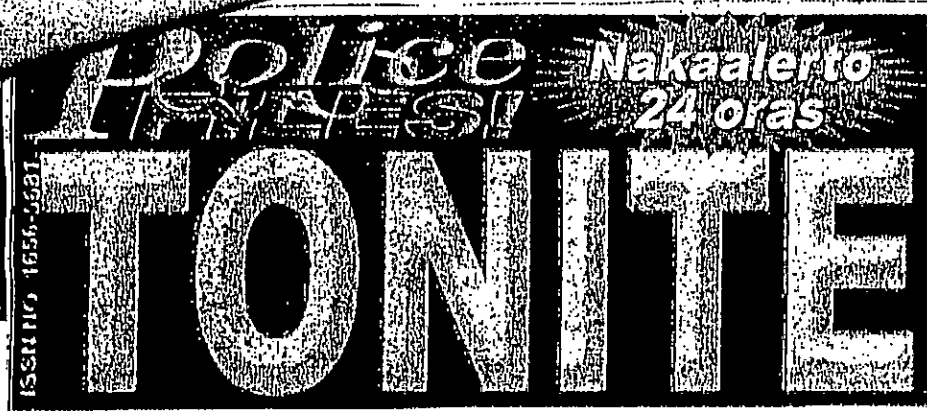
Ito'y para bigyang-daan ang gagawing rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay sa January 27.

Sa inilabas na memorandum na nilagdaan ni Mayor Joseph Ejercito Estrada, nakasaad na bilang pagtalima sa rekomendasyon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), ititigil muna pansamantala ang operasyon ng naturang zoo.

Samantala, sinabi na-

man ng Office of the City Administrator at Department of Engineering and Public Works na gagamitin ang panahon sa pagsasara ng Manila Zoo para pag-aralan pa kung paano magkakaroon ng sistema sa waste disposal.

Nabatid na ang pamunuan ng Manila Zoo ay may septic tank pero, walang sewage treatment plant. Ibig sabihin, untreated waste water o maruming tubig ang inilalabas nila sa Manila Bay. *(Jeff Tumbado/Mylene Alfonso)*



23 JAN 2019

CALL

3

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Manila Zoo, ipinasara ni Erap

BILANG suporta sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, ipinasara pansamantala ni Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada ang Manila Zoo.

Una nang tinukoy ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu ang Manila Zoo na isa sa mga pangunahing nagtatapon ng maruming tubig sa Manila Bay.

Batay sa memorandum na inilabas ni Estrada, inatasan nito sina City Administrator Atty. Ericson Alcovendaz, Department of Engineering and Public Services City Engineer Rogelio Legaspi, Department of Public Services head Lilybelle Borromeo, Task Force Manila Clean chief Rafael Borromeo at Atty. Jasyrr Garcia administrator ng Manila na agad na isailalim ang rehabilitasyon ng nasa-bing zoo.

Kasabay nito, sinabi ni Estrada na ipagagawa na rin nila ang waste treatment facility upang maiwasang makaapekto sa tubig sa Manila Bay at iba pang baybaying dagat.

Ayon kay Estrada, hindi na maaring patagalin ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Zoo lalo pa't marami na ring depektibo at hindi na maayos ang pasilidad.

Nabatid na nagsumite na rin ng programa para sa rehabilitasyon sina Alcovendaz, Legaspi at Borromeo ang pagsasara matapos na magsagawa ng inspeksiyon ang DENR.

Dagdag pa ni Estrada, pansamantala lamang ang closure upang mas maging maayos at maaliwalas ang pamamasyal sa loob ng Manila Zoo.
(Jocelyn Domenden)



23 JAN 2010

DATE

Manila Zoo ipinasara ni Erap

PANSAMANTALANG ipinasara ni Manila Mayor Joseph 'Erap' Estrada ang Manila Zoo bilang suporta sa kautusan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na isailalim sa rehabilitasyon ang Manila Bay.

Una nang tinukoy ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu ang Manila Zoo na isa sa mga pangunahing nagtatapon ng maruming tubig sa Manila Bay.

Batay sa memorandum na inilabas ni Estrada, inatasan nito sina City Administrator Atty. Ericson Alcovendaz, Department of Engineering and Public Services City Engineer Rogelio Legaspi, Department of Public Services head Lilybelle Borromeo, Task Force Manila Clean chief Rafael Borromeo at Atty. Jasyrr Garcia administrator ng Maynila na agad na isailalim sa rehabilitasyon ang nasabing zoo.

Sinabi ni Estrada na ipagagawa na rin nila ang waste treatment facility upang maiwasang makaapekto sa tubig sa Manila Bay at jba pang baybaying-dagat.

Ayon kay Estrada, hindi na maaaring patagalin ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Zoo lalo pa't marami na rin itong sira at hindi maayos na pasilidad.

Dagdag pa ni Estrada, pansamantala lamang ang pagsasara nito upang mas maging maayos at maa-liwalas ang pamamasyal sa loob ng Manila Zoo.
(Mia Billones)



Manila Zoo ipasasara ni Erap

PANSAMANTALANG ipasasara ni Manila Mayor Joseph "Erap" Estrada ang Manila Zoo bilang suporta sa isasagawang rehabilitasyon ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Manila Bay.

Batay sa memorandum na ipinalabas ni Estrada, inatasan nito sina City Administrator Atty. Ericson Alcovendaz, Department of Engineering and Public Services City Engineer Rogelio Legaspi, Department of Public Services head Lilybelle Borromeo, Task Force Manila Clean chief Rafael Borromeo at Atty. Jasyrr Garcia administrator ng Manila na agad na isailalim sa rehabilitasyon ang nasabing zoo.

Nag-ugat ang pagpapalabas ng kautusan ni Estrada makaraang tukuyin ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu ang Manila Zoo na isa sa mga pangunahing nagtatapon ng maruming tubig sa Manila Bay.

Tiniyak naman ng alkaide na ipagagawa agad nila ang waste treatment facility ng nasabing zoo upang maiwasang makaapekto sa tubig sa Manila Bay at iba pang baybaying dagat.

Ayon kay Estrada, hindi na maaaring patagalin ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Zoo lalo pa't marami na ring depektibo at hindi na maayos ang pasilidad nito.

Napag-alaman na nakapagsumite na ng mga programa para sa rehabilitasyon ng naturang zoo sina Alcovendaz, Legaspi at Borromeo matapos na magsagawa ng inspeksyon ang DENR.

Paliwanag ni Estrada, pansamantala lang ang isasagawang pagsasara ng nasabing pasyalan para mas maging maayos at maahwalas ang loob ng Manila Zoo.

JAY REYES



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
 SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

B 3
 PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
 STORY

DANNFR
 STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

23 JAN 2010

DATE



Who will save Manila?

I have not visited Escolta, Rizal Avenue and Quiapo for 18 long years. And so I thought that a perfect way to spend my birthday was to walk down memory lane. My three angels, Chingkel, Minie, and Annie volunteered to spend the day with me. Dressed for the occasion in jeans and rubber shoes, we relived history. I served as the story teller.

We had mixed feelings of nostalgia and sadness when we passed by traces and remnants of what used to be greatness. The sidewalks of Escolta used to be made of cobblestone. Now, they are dirty with splatters of rubbish. The Lyric theater where we used to see movies while cutting classes is no longer there. And so is Oceanic which had the finest crystal and watches on display. Once upon a city, there was Villar Records where Beatles' fanatics can wear headphones inside a booth and listen to their records. Soriente Santos was the uppity store which housed the finest shirts for men. I used to stand in front of the glass shelves of Yalco's dreaming when I would be able to wear their elegant bracelets. Armed with my savings, I spent Saturday afternoons browsing over the books at Bookmark. Years ago, we went window shopping at Bergs and Assandas, bought shirts from Crispa, and passed by the stately PNB building. All that is left now is Mang Luis' pen store where fountain pens can be repaired. In their stead are small stores which look cheap, seedy and shady.

Sta. Cruz, Ayenida Rizal and Carriedo have now become a Divisoria of all sorts. There are no sidewalks, and instead, a phalanx of vendors and hawkers has taken over. Name it, you have it there: fruits, vegetables, cheap copies of DVDs, blaring videoes, T-shirts, jammies and roasted chestnuts. The scent of fake perfume blends with the stench of garbage and human sweat. The building which housed Good Earth Emporium where we had our first escalator ride still stands, but it looks just

ready to crumble. The old landmarks like Corona Bazaar, Otis and Madison Department stores are no more. And so is Ever theater where we queued up to watch "The Sound of Music" and "Cleopatra."

The streets have been made narrow by people who are sleeping, cooking, and going about their business in their own tents. They have converted the avenues into their homes. You have to fend for yourself all the time, lest you be run over by jeepneys and motorcycles. No traffic enforcer or policeman is in sight, and, one wonders how disorder has taken over.

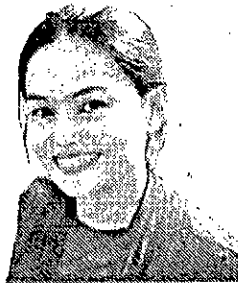
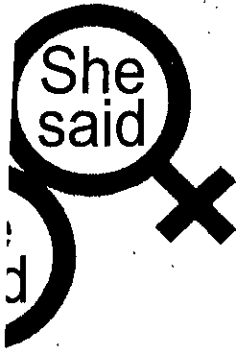
Amidst all the chaos, the beautiful and historical facade of buildings, as well as fountains that are as elegant as those in Rome, stand silent witnesses of the premier city that once Manila was. I am afraid though that they would be demolished one day without any effort to restore them to their former grandeur. The character which Manila used to have would give way to commercialism and greed. This is the surest way to erode our values and sense of identity.

Manila needs a renaissance, a rebirth. It has to recapture the pride, the vigor and the discipline which our people used to have. And we have shining examples of how it can be done. The political will of President FVR and a group of concerned citizens headed by Mr. Ramon Del Rosario converted dilapidated buildings into the National Museum that has become our National Treasure. Senator Sherwin Gatchalian with the support of residents transformed Valenzuela from a sleeping city into a bustling and disciplined metropolis. And so did Mayor Bayani Fernando in the case of Marikina. The story of Riverwalk and Esplanade in Iloilo city demonstrates how urban renewal can spur economic growth and cultural development.

The transformation of Manila can take a number of years. But it can happen with political will, community engagement, and policy changes. The change process can be powered by small steps, and small wins. What is important is to begin. mguevara@synergiea.org.ph



Bay of dreams



Dinah S. Ventura

While Philippine sunsets are generally appreciated for their vivid colors and stark beauty, the ones at Manila Bay are world-famous.

Even just sitting on the top floors, bayside, of any of the hotels or condominiums along Roxas Boulevard will give viewers a few moments with this glorious wonder — so rare nowadays when our line of sight usually comes across garbage piles along roads in Manila, dust-covered streets with haphazardly arranged blocks to separate seemingly abandoned projects or the harried faces of commuters on their way to somewhere, steadfastly ignoring the trash right at their feet.

The sunsets over its waters may border on magical, but, in truth, Manila Bay is worse than the cesspool that President Rodrigo Duterte once called Boracay.

It is in a terrible state.

If there's polluted, this bay is possibly poisonous.

And the saddest part?

Not the fact that it has come to such unthinkable levels of abuse and neglect — “an average 330 million most probable number (mpn) of fecal coliform for every liter, 3.3 million times above the standard 100 mpn that is ideal for swimming,” to be very specific.

Not the usual recriminatory statements blaming everyone else but themselves.

Not even the lack of action, or lack of trying, though this is primary.

The saddest part is that this body of water, “considered one of the world's great harbors,” according to Encyclopedia Britannica, represents all that is rotten and stinky about us as a culture.

Consider this: the Supreme Court is said to have “ended a long-running dispute” as to who should rehabilitate the Manila Bay. A writ of *mandamus* issued in 2008 basically ordered 13 concerned government agencies, led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), to clean up the highly polluted water.

Apparently, the agencies thought the Environment Code meant they are only responsible for the cleaning up of “specific pollution incidents” and not “cleaning

up in general.”

An article published on another online site on 19 December 2008 says, “In the light of the ongoing environmental degradation, the court wishes to emphasize the extreme necessity for all concerned Executive departments and agencies to immediately act and discharge their respective official duties and obligations, the full Court said in its 36-page decision penned by Associate Justice Presbitero J. Velasco Jr.”

The issue, it added, “stemmed from the case filed by the Concerned Residents of Manila Bay before the Cavite Regional Trial Court in 1999. The group noted the government's continued neglect in cleaning up the bay.”

So, on one hand, there was already public pressure in 1999, but the court decision came almost 10 years later. Now, 10 years later, hallelujah, we have the Duterte administration, through the DENR headed by Secretary Roy Cimatu, presenting a P43 billion Manila Bay rehabilitation plan, scheduled to be unveiled on 27 January 2010.

We sure like to take our time!

On the other hand, if the attitude of the agencies is to be believed, then it must be possible that many of our problems stem from the fact that we do not practice concern for our environment — and I don't mean mother nature, but the spaces we occupy. We only seem to care for our immediate surroundings, cleaning up our homes, but not caring if the streets right outside our doors are piling up with uncollected garbage or unfinished construction projects.

We can't seem to process what it truly means to be responsible citizens of the earth. And big businesses are most guilty.

Just like the clean-up of Boracay Island, DENR will also show a list of establishments that have initially been found to be “non-compliant with the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.”

“
If the attitude of the agencies is to be believed, then it must be possible that many of our problems stem from the fact that we do not practice concern for our environment.

An online news report, for example, quotes Environment Undersecretary Sherwin Rigor: “Of the 12 outfalls in the Manila Bay, the most polluted is near the Manila Yacht Club where the coliform level is at 1.3 billion mpn.”

Rigor added, “Among the institutions connected to that particular drainage are the

Ospital ng Maynila, Manila Zoo, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, hotels near Roxas Boulevard and the De La Salle University on Taft Avenue.”

The problem is deeper and wider than the Manila Bay itself, as the rehabilitation plan, even now, is beset by challenges: the reclamation issue, the return of old habits and the refusal to heed laws and that typical head-scratching reaction when asked why, why, why did it all come to this?



'Pozo negro'

President Rodrigo Duterte played it classy when he described Boracay Island as a cesspool before he ordered its closure for six months to allow its rehabilitation.

Before its closure, Boracay's polluted state was hardly noticeable, though. Even decades before the President's emergency declaration, the Department of Natural Resources (DENR) and various agencies concerned with cleaning up Boracay have warned about the quality of the Boracay waters due to high fecal contamination.

It was a pozo negro – a cesspool in the words of Duterte.

The lack of planning amid the influx of new businesses that housed and fed the swarm of tourists who suddenly found Boracay affordable and easily accessible was the primary contributor to the island's deterioration.

Its population also ballooned heavily when workers transplanted from other provinces and cities. They refused to leave Boracay after the hotel and resort projects they worked in have been completed. They found livelihood opportunities in the island by providing services to tourists, but they also contributed to the local government's problem with illegal settlers and the various issues that come with their presence, including provision (or non-provision) of health and sanitary facilities, like toilets that made them equal contributors to Boracay's pollution as the hotels and resorts they have built.

Conservatively, government has succeeded in the Boracay rehab – at least 80 percent. The innards of the islands have yet to be completely rehabilitated and government needs to ensure it will not leave the island until its full completion. But residents and tourists can now enjoy the island's clean waters, yet it depends on how they will be able to keep them pristine.

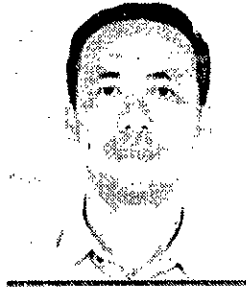
Boracay's rehabilitation inspired government to go for bigger projects.

As we now know, Palawan's islands and waters are up next.

But the biggest declaration to come from Malacañang and the DENR is the rehabilitation of Manila Bay. It is ambitious, but it is not impossible to do.

Manila Bay is literally a *pozo negro*. There is nothing to describe its waters but that.

We have seen big declarations like that before. Remember Pasig River? It is gaining ground, but



Aldrin Cardona



rather slowly as it remains continuously fed with murky waters from the *esteros* of Metro Manila.

The DENR says it will be part of the Manila Bay rehab program. If it was done successfully in, say, Korea and Singapore, then the Philippines can do it, too.

Initial budget for the Manila Bay clean-up is P42.9 billion. The amount is paltry compared with what Singapore had spent to revive the 10-kilometer stretch of the Kallang River (\$300 million or P15,811,500,000). But Manila Bay is three times the size of Singapore. So, we can try to estimate the figures that will make Manila Bay breathe life once more.

But the Manila Bay project is off to a good start. Government had proven it has the political will to push projects like this when it rehabilitated Boracay Island.

The DENR had said it will order the closure of establishments contributing to the pollution of Manila Bay. Multi-star hotels along the Roxas Boulevard are owned by the big names of Philippine business. The agency's political resolve will be tested for sure.

Many of these establishments have offered cooperation, though. The local government units surrounding the City of Manila have also been told to shape up. Prosecution of pollutants was assured.

One of the biggest obstacles to the Manila Bay project, however, will be the relocation of the informal settlers along the *esteros* of Metro Manila.

It will cost the government much for sure to relocate communities and build new, living ones for them. Relocating communities will need assurances of houses, jobs, health care, education and sanitation to make the program work.

If government will be successful with these, in a couple of decades the waters of Manila Bay will surely be showing renewed signs of life.

But rehabilitating the waters should also come with the full rehabilitation and opening up of opportunities to the people to be affected by the clean-up.

Police Nakaalerto
LIPAYAN 24 oras

ISSN No. 1556-5881

TONITE

PAGE

4
PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Manila Bay clean up, napapanahon na!

SA Enero 27 sisimulan na ang paglilinis ng Manila Bay at ang sabi ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, kanyang ihahayag ang mga pangalan ng mga establisimiyento na katapit nito na siyang pinagnumulan ng mga ikinadumi ng Manila Bay.

Bukod dito may mga 200,000 pamilya ng mga informal settler na palagiang ginagawang "kubeta" o "CR" ang Manila Bay. Tsk. Tsk. Tsk.

Ang paglilinis at paglilipat ng mga naninirahan sa tabi ng Manila Bay ay isang bangungot ng maituturing, ngunit mas nakakadiri dito ang tinatawag na fecal bacteria na noong 1999 ay tinatayang nasa 1 million unit kada cubic meter. At matapos ang dalawang dekada alam niyo bang 330 MILLION UNITS na ito. Yak! Kadiri!

Sa ibang parte pa nga ng Bay ang fecal bacteria ay 1 BILLION. Naku poh!

Dalawang dekada lamang ang sinample ko dahil sa aking



HAGUPIT

Ni Egco

pagkaka-alala, dalawang dekada na rin ang kasong isinampa para parusahan ang mga humalay at nag-alipusta sa Manila Bay.

Isang maambisyosong kaso ang inyong masasabi, nang isampa ang demanda ng isang abogado na ang tinaguriang kliyente o kanyang mga petitioner para sa kanyang demanda laban sa mga humalay ng Manila Bay ay ang mga tahong at talabang dati ng namumuhay dito.

Huwag kayong magtaka, totoo ito, at pagtapos ng sampung taon matapos isampa ni Atty. Antonio Oposa Jr. (isang award winning na environmentalist lawyer) sa Regional Trial Court hanggang umabot sa Court of Appeals at natapos sa Supreme Court (SC), ang final decision



Gov't offices sa paligid ng Manila Bay kinalampag

BILANG panimulang hakbang ng isasagawang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay nanawagan si Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa lahat ng tanggapan ng gobyerno na nakapaligid sa Manila Bay na maging modelo sa pamamagitan ng pagsunod sa clean water and solid waste management laws upang maging matagumpay ang paglilinis sa napakaruming tubig ng naturang karagatan.

Ayon kay Cimatu, nararapat lang na tumutupad ang mga tanggapan ng gobyerno na nakapaligid sa Manila Bay at mga ilog na nakasangga rito sa Clean Water Act of 2004 at sa Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 upang gawin silang modelo ng mga commercial at residential establishment.

Ang pahayag ni Cimatu ay patungkol sa gagawing rehabilitasyon ng DENR at ng iba pang ahensya ng gobyerno sa Manila Bay na sisimulan sa Enero 27 ng kasalukuyang taon.

Aniya, importante sa mga tanggapan ng gobyerno, partikular na ang mga nasa paligid ng Manila Bay na tiyaking konektado sila sa "sewer lines" o kaya raman ay may sarili silang sewage treatment plans para sa tamang wastewater disposal.

Pinaalalahanan din ng kalihim ang mga ito na ayusin ang kanilang mga basura upang hindi mapunta at maging basurahan ang mga ilog at karagatan.

Ayon pa kay Cimatu, malaking problema ng bansa ang basura dahil na rin sa hindi tamang segregasyon, walang humapay na paggamit ng "single-use plastic products at hindi tamang pagtatapon ng basura.

Sa daraling na Enero 27, ihahayag na ng DENR ang mga establisimiyentong direktang nagtatapon ng kanilang wastewater sa Manila Bay, esteros at ilog na nakakonekta sa naturang dagat.

Ang mga establisimiyentong mapatunayang tumalabag at bumabalewala sa environmental laws ay maaaring mapasara o kaya naman ay pagmultahin ng hanggang P200,000 kada araw.

Kinakailangan ding sumusunod ang mga establisimiyentong ito sa "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle para sa tamang solid waste management.

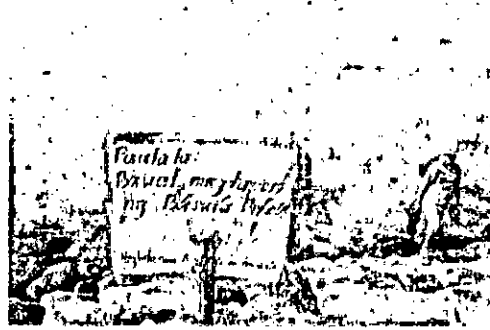
SANTI CELARIO



DATE
9
PAGE

UPPER HALF
✓
LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Nagkalat na sa paligid ng Manila Bay sa Roxas Boulevard ang mga karatula na nagsasabing bawal magtapon ng basura bilang paghahanda sa gagawing rehabilitasyon dito na magsisimula sa Enero 27. (Jonas Sullit)



MWSS assures full compliance with SC mandamus on Manila Bay rehat

THE Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) fully supports the plan to rehabilitate Manila Bay and is working to ensure full compliance with the Supreme Court's continuing mandamus among its private water concessionaires.

MWSS Administrator Reynaldo V. Velasco met separately with officials of Manila Water Corp. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. to discuss ways to fast-track the two concessionaires' compliance with a 10-year-old Supreme Court order.

Velasco is asking the two private water concessionaires to adjust their targets for the years 2022-2037.

MWSS is among 13 government agencies named in the SC continuing mandamus to report once every three months on the progress of the government cleanup of Manila Bay to make it swimmable.

Aside from the SC's continuing mandamus, the rehabilitation of Manila Bay is in accordance with the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, or Republic Act 9275, whose coverage includes water quality management in all bodies of water, including the "abatement and control of pollution from land-based sources."

"This is a welcome move by all parties concerned led by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu. As I have always emphasized in various

forums, cleaning up Manila Bay is everybody's concern to include ordinary Filipinos who must embrace self-discipline as a way of life," Velasco said in a statement.

He added: "The two concessionaires have agreed to fast-track their road map [in] full compliance [with] the SC mandamus."

Velasco admitted that at present, only 1.5 percent of water consumers are connected to sewer lines and as provided in the concession agreement, full sewer and sanitation coverage should be 100 percent by 2037.

"There was much focus on securing delivery of efficient potable water system over the last 22 years from only 53-percent coverage to 97-percent coverage in Metro Manila and adjoining provinces, such as Rizal and Cavite," Velasco said. On sewer coverage alone, Manila Water started only with 3 percent in 1997, when it took over the East Zone, he said.

"Now it has 20-percent coverage for facilities, which is [a] seven times increase. Maynilad is now operating its P1.7-billion sewage-treatment plant in San Dionisio, Parañaque, as part of its stepped-up support for the Manila Bay cleanup," Velasco said.

To implement its wastewater management program, Manila Water, the East Zone concessionaire, has its Used Water Master Plan. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXHIBENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1898

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

B-3
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

23 JAN 2010
DATE

MWSS requires full compliance from 2 concessionaires

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR**

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) said it will ensure full compliance to a Supreme Court continuing mandamus among its concessionaires, Maynilad Water Services, Inc. and Manila Water Company, Inc.

MWSS was referring to 2008 writ of continuing mandamus issued by the Supreme Court, which ordered some government agencies to "clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay and restore and maintain its water to level fit for swimming, skin diving and other forms of contact recreation"

As MWSS' concessionaires, Maynilad and Manila Water are required to improve and expand their respective sewerage services to make sure that all the waste water that is being released to Manila Bay has been treated properly.

A statement showed that MWSS Administrator Reynaldo V. Velasco has recently met with officials of Maynilad and Manila Water to discuss their compliance of the SC order.

He also asked them to adjust their targets in terms of sewerage coverage

for the years 2022 to 2037.

As of now, only 15 percent of water consumers are connected to sewer lines. As provided in MWSS' concession agreements with two companies, full sewer and sanitation coverage should be 100 percent by 2037.

The concerted efforts by MWSS and its concessionaires as well as other agencies come in the wake of a massive effort to rehabilitate Manila Bay to be spearheaded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The massive clean-up will affect all the cities surrounding the bay, namely, Manila, Quezon City, Pasay, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Pasig, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, Makati, Parañaque, Taguig, Muntinglupa, Las Piñas, and Pateros as well as local government units in eight provinces in Region 3, and 4-A and establishments along its 194-kilometer coastline.

The rehabilitation aims to reduce the coliform level to 100 most probable numbers per 100 milliliters (MPN/100ml) or low enough for the bay to be safe for swimming from its current level of 333 million MPN/100ml.



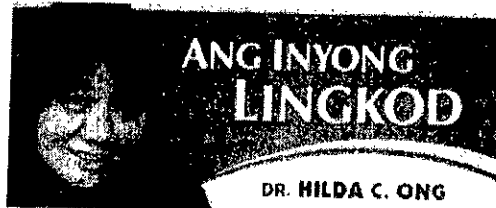
MANILA WATER, 99.8% PASADO SA 'EFFLUENT QUALITY STANDARDS' RATING NG DENR

PATULOY ang pagpapaigting ng Manila Water sa kanilang kampanya tungo sa tama at sapat na 'wastewater management' sa kabuuan ng East Zone ng Metro Manila sa pamamagitan ng Used Water Master Plan ng kompanya.

Nilalayon ng kompanya na mabigyan ng serbisyong pang-sanilasyon at alkantariya ang buong kunsesyunaryo nito hanggang 2037. Hanggang nitong Nobyembre 31, 2018, nakapagkabit na ng may kabuuang bilang ng 140,245 'sewer connection' sa kabuuan ng East Zone ng Metro Manila ang Manila Water, at nakikinatibang na ang 191,784 na kabahayan sa serbisyong pang-alkantariya. Mula Enero hanggang Nobyembre 2018, may karagdagang 5,849 na kabahayan ang nakinatibang sa 5,135 na bagong 'sewer connection' ang naipakabit, habang kabuuan ng 855 kilometro ng 'sewer pipes' ang nalinis nu'ng nakaraang taon.

Pinakahuling nadagdag sa listahan ng mga pasilidad ng wastewater ng kompanya ang dalawa sa pinakamalaki nitong sewage treatment plant:

ang Taguig North Sewage Treatment Plant at ang Marikina North Sewage Treatment Plant. Ang Taguig North STP ay may kakayanang makapaglinis ng hanggang 75 milyon liters per day (MLD) ng nagamit nang tubig na mula sa mga barangay sa Taguig at mula sa Makati CBD. Ang planta ang tumatakbo sa ilalim ng Liwasan ng Kagitingan at Kalikasan, isang liwasang-bayan na nagtatampok ng pitong 'mural' na nilikha ng iskultor na si Jose Giroy. Ipinapakita sa mga mural na ito ang ilang mahahalagang bahagi ng kasaysayan ng Pilipinas. Ang Marikina North STP naman ay may kakayanan na maglinis ng hanggang 100 MLD ng nagamit nang tubig at itinatag upang makayanan ang matinding pagbaha na maaaring magmula sa pag-apat ng Marikina River. Gumagamit ang parehong STP ng 'Sequence Batch Reactor' (SBR) para sa 'biological treatment', kaya't mas mahusay na nakapaglinis ng maramihang nagamit na tubig kahit limitado



DR. HILDA C. ONG

lamang ang sukat ng lupang kinatatayuan ng planta.

Sa kasalukuyan, mayroong 38 sewage treatment plant (STP) at 2 septage treatment plant (SpTP), kung saan dinadala ang mga nasipsip mula sa mga poso negro, ang pinapatakbo ng Manila Water upang tiyakin na ang maraming tubig na nakokolektamula sa mga customer ay nalilinis nang mabuti bago maibalik sa mga ilog dito sa Metro Manila. Patuloy pa ring pumapasa sa 'effluent quality standards' ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang nalinis nang tubig na mula sa mga STP. Karaniwan itong nakakukuha ng 99.8% na grado sa 'compliance', kumpara sa 95% na atas ng DENR. Marami pang planta ang itatayo at higit pang mga linya ng alkantariya ang ilalatag upang mabuo ang serbisyo sa kunsesyunaryo. Kasalukuyang itinatag ang Ilog Sewage Treatment Plant sa Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City, na bahagi ng North

and South Pasig Sewer System Project. Itong tatlong pinakabagong STP ay may pinagsamang kakayanang maglinis ng hanggang 275 milyon liters per day (MLD) ng nagamit na tubig, at tinatayang pakinatibangan ng halos 1.6 milyong populasyon.

Patuloy pa ring itinataguyod ng kompanya ang pagpapasipsip ng poso negro ng mga customer nang walang dagdag na bayad kung nakaiskedyul ang barangay. Sa kabuuan ng 2018, nakapaglinis ang Manila Water ng 107,338 na poso negro para sa kabuuang 875,000 na populasyon sa buong East Zone.



Aboitiz water debuts at 2019 IWA Conference

Aboitiz InfraCapital Inc., the fifth leg and newest business venture of the Aboitiz Group, is optimistic on the opportunities the water space has to offer.

Aboitiz InfraCapital Water Business Head and Apo Agua president Roman Azanza III said the company is ramping up its water portfolio in the next few years and will continue to provide innovative infrastructure solutions that will help sustain the country's economic growth.

The business unit made its debut at the recently-concluded 10th Specialist Conference on Efficient Urban Water Management held at the Marriott Hotel in

Pasay City. Dubbed "Efficient 2019," the conference organized by the International Water Association was attended by global water experts, thought leaders, and practitioners from 27 countries. Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu was one of its keynote speakers.

Aboitiz InfraCapital's subsidiaries include Apo Agua Infraestructura, Inc. (Apo Agua), which is expected to be one of the largest bulk water projects in the country with a sustainable water source. It is envisioned to provide more than 300 million liters of water per day to over a

million Davao residents.

"Our Apo Agua project is unique in the Philippines. It's basically the conjunction of water and power. It's called the water-energy nexus. So, we're actually using the water we tapped from the Tamugan River to power a 2-megawatt hydroelectric plant which is sufficient to supply all the power

needs of our water treatment plant," Azanza said.

Also included in the company's water portfolio is Lima Water Corp. (LWC), which provides end-to-end bulk water service from production to wastewater treatment. It provides industrial and potable water with 8,700 cu.m. supply capacity to 600

hectares of industrial land.

"We have a minority investment with the Balibago Waterworks of [Pampanga]. They're actually one of the top five water players in the country," Azanza noted, adding the company serves 150,000 households in 50 water distribution franchises in the Philippines.

page 1: Aboitiz water...



ABOITIZ InfraCapital delegation led by Business Water head and Apo Agua president Roman Azanza III (fifth from right) with Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu at the "Efficiency 2019" conference. To Cimatu's right are Aboitiz InfraCapital's VP Jimbo Reverente and AVPs-Business Development Jay Hernandez and Jay Gatmaitan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



APO Agua Tamugan River, surface water source of bulk water supply. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

page 2: Abotiz water...



Senate adopts House bill on Road Board abolition

By Camille A. Aguinaldo

Reporter

THE SENATE on Tuesday adopted the House of Representatives' revised version of the bill abolishing the Road Board.

With the chamber's adoption, the bicameral conference committee is no longer required, so the measure will be directly sent to the President for signature.

Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel F. Zubiri told reporters in a mobile phone message that House Bill No. 7436 may be transmitted to the President next week or the first week of February.

The Road Board abolition bill has been the center of disagreement between the Senate and the House of Representatives during its Christmas-New Year break. Last September, the Senate adopted the House version of the bill, which the lower chamber rescinded later on the same day.

The issue was finally resolved after then House Majority Leader Rolando G. Andaya, Jr met with Mr. Zubiri and Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph G. Recto last

week to discuss the amendments to the proposed measure.

The revised bill, which the House of Representatives approved on third on final reading last Monday, abolishes the Road Board, which was created by Republic Act No. 8794.

The proposed measure removes the provision in the law which separates the road user's tax collection from the government's general appropriations.

The road user's tax collection will now be remitted to the national treasury under a special account in the general fund. The funds will then be used for the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and road drainage, which will be included in the General Appropriations Act.

The bill also directs the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to absorb the employees of the abolished Road Board. All the assets, liabilities, records, property and equipment of the Road Board will be transferred over to the DPWH as well.

A congressional oversight committee is also created under the bill to monitor the use and the collection of the road user's tax.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

TIMBER EXPORT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

P3
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

23 JAN 2010

DATE

Hot logs seized in Northeastern Mindanao

CAMP COL. RAFAEL C. RODRIGUEZ, Butuan City – The Caraga region police seized ₱192,650.00 worth of illegally-cut logs and lumbers during their intensified campaign on anti-illegal logging operations in the different provinces of Northeastern Mindanao on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The all-out anti-illegal logging drive, in support of the government's environment preservation and forest protection, the Caraga region policemen also arrested seven timber poachers and traders.

Financiers of these timber poachers and traders are closely being investigated.

PRO 13 Regional Director Chief Supt. Gilberto DC Cruz said opera-

tives of Pilar Municipal Police Station (MPS), Surigao del Norte conducted anti-illegal logging operation that resulted in the seizure of lauan lumber with estimated volume of 3,169 board feet and worth of ₱110,000 and one Dump Truck

In a separate operation on anti-illegal logging by the personnel of Surigao del Norte Provincial Mobile Force Company, 10 sets of dining table, three sets of wooden coffee glass, one set of wooden wine glass, one dozen of wooden plate, three pieces of mirror stand and two pieces of fish tray with estimated market value of ₱78,000 loaded in KIA Bongo Frontier, were also seized after no cut and transport documents were presented by the traders. (Mike U. Crismundo)



23 JAN 2013

DATE

₱193k troso, produkto, kumpiskado

BUTUAN CITY - Nakumpiska ng Police Region Office (PRO)-13 ang P192,650 halaga ng mga illegal logs sa pinaigting nitong kampanya laban sa illegal na pagtotroso sa iba't ibang lalawigan sa Northeastern Mindanao nitong Biyernes, Sabado at Linggo.

Sa nasabing serye ng mga operasyon, inaresto rin ng mga pulisya ang nasa pitong timber poacher at nagbebenta ng troso.

Masusi na ring iniimbestigahan ang mga financier ng mga naaresto para madakip din ang mga ito.

Sinabi ni PRO-13 Director Chief Supt. Gilberto Cruz na nasa 3,169 board feet ng lauan lumber, na nagkakahalaga ng P110,000 at isang dump truck ang nasamsam sa Pilar, Surigao del Norte.

Aabot naman sa P78,000 halaga ng iba't ibang gamit na gawa sa kahoy, gaya ng mga dining table at mirror stand, ang nakumpiska ng Surigao del Norte Provincial Mobile Force Company.

Sa Cagwait, Surigao del Sur, nasa 1.86 board feet ng lauan lumber, na nagkakahalaga ng P4,650, ang nasamsam din ng mga awtoridad.

Mike U. Crismundo



Negros' first waste-free coffee bar opens

BY MARK L. GARCIA

BACOLOD CITY—Negrenses can now sip a cup of coffee without producing any trash in a store whose name literally means "no wastage."

A group of environmentalists in Negros Occidental has formed the first nonprofit waste-free store called "Wala Usik", as part of their advocacy to create a model for a sustainable and environment friendly social enterprise.

Wala Usik, the first coffee shop of its kind in Negros Island, opened last Saturday on Lacson St. in Barangay Mandalagan.

The project led by nonprofit organization Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc. (PRRCFI) aims to reduce trash from consumer goods packaging and be a model for other shops, restaurants, and hotels in terms of reducing solid waste, Executive Director Dave Albao said.

PRRCFI is the same Negros-based nonprofit behind the Danjugan Island Marine and Wildlife Camps, and Sea Waste Education to Eradicate Plastic (SWEEP).

"To be 'zero-waste' means we practice not to waste anything that is produced," Albao said. "Wala Usik is a study of circular economy where all materials are valued through recycling, upcycling, and avoiding unnecessary or unsustainable packaging."

Apart from coffee and pastries, Wala Usik also offers household and personal care products like liquid

shampoo, shampoo bars, body wash, liquid hand soap, dishwashing liquid, all-purpose cleaner, and detergent made of organic materials.

The pastries were made by Bacolod-based foundations, Welcome Home Foundation and Give A Child A Future Foundation.

There are also stations for cooking oil, soy sauce, vinegar, rice, and coffee, reusables like cloth pads, straws and tumblers, as well as bamboo and upcycled items.

Albao said the store could also host workshops demonstrations, and events for social enterprises linked to conservation and community development.

A coffee bar where guests can make their own coffee by slow drip or either French- or aero- pressed, and some pastries or snacks from other consigning social enterprises is also a feature in this enterprise, where all its income will go to the PRRCFI's community projects.

A recycling depot where guests can endorse cleaned and recovered materials like PET and glass bottles, tin and aluminum cans, for forwarding to a processing facility are also planned in the store, Albao said.

PRRCFI plans to open at least eight sari-sari stores in its partner communities in Negros Island this year.

Albao said it also eyeing a partnership with the Provincial Economic Development and Investment Center to tap communities in Negros Occidental in sourcing out raw materials for the store.



WORLD EFFORTS TO PREVENT CLIMATE CHANGE MAY BE TOO LATE, SAYS STUDY

The world is on course to miss its "best chance" of preventing runaway climate change by ensuring global greenhouse gas emissions peak in 2020, the World Resources Institute (WRI) warned on Tuesday.

WRI's analysis came as a new study, according to CNN, found that climate change is causing Greenland's massive ice sheets to melt much faster than previously thought and it may be "too late" to do anything about it.

The findings could have dire implications for the planet's low-lying islands and coastal cities.

Eight of Earth's 10 largest cities are near coasts, and 40 percent to 50 percent of the planet's population lives in areas vulnerable to rising seas.

Point of no return

Michael Bevis, a professor of geodynamics at Ohio State University and the lead author of the study, says the research found that humanity may have passed the point of no return when it comes to combating climate change.

"The only thing we can do is adapt and mitigate further global warming—it's too late for there to be no effect," Bevis said.

"This is going to cause additional sea level rise. We are watching the ice sheet hit a tipping point," he added.

Even as Earth is buffeted by superstorms, droughts and flooding made worse by rising seas, and as greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise globally, an analysis by WRI showed that efforts to limit temperature increases are falling well short.

In 2017, experts identified six key milestones that mankind must hit by 2020 if the Paris climate goal of limiting global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius is to have a fighting chance of being met.

They include radical changes to how we get our electricity, and to how goods and services are distributed worldwide.

Fossil fuel phaseout

Chief among these are an immediate phasing out of fossil fuels, including a total halt to new coal power plant construction within two years, as well as an end to dirty energy subsidies.

WRI on Tuesday said that achieving the 2020 goals was Earth's "best chance" of honoring the Paris deal goals.

Some progress has been made in renewable energy and green finance, it said, but headway was deemed "insufficient" across a host of sectors.

Off course

Renewables, such as wind and solar, now account for roughly 25 percent of global electricity production, not 20 percent from the 2020 goal of 30 percent.

But the world remains seriously off course when it comes to the phasing out of greenhouse gas-producing fossil fuels.

The Mission 2020 campaign says no new coal-fired power plants should be constructed after the end of next year, and advises that all existing coal power stations should be retired by then.

While the pace of expansion has slowed, the world is still seeing a net gain in coal capacity.

More than 28 gigawatts of coal power was retired from the global grid last year but 65 gigawatts was added.

Subsidies sticking point

Scientific consensus is hardening that for Earth to avoid the direst consequences of climate change, emissions must peak by 2020 and drastically reduce thereafter.

WRI said this was the "best chance" for the global economy to be carbon neutral by mid-century and to stay beneath the 1.5 C threshold.

Fossil fuel subsidies must also be entirely eliminated by 2020 to stay on track to the Paris goals, it said.

"Subsidies for coal, oil and gas essentially act as a negative carbon price, reducing the costs for these polluting substances and taking up funding that could instead be used for other expenditures, including investment in sustainable development," WRI said.

It also called for better transparency and reporting by governments and the private sector to allow for more targeted green action to take place.

Melting glaciers

CNN reported that a study published last month in Nature found that Greenland's ice sheets had been melting at an "unprecedented" rate, 50 percent higher than preindustrial levels and 33 percent above 20th-century levels.

Greenland's ice sheets contain enough water to raise global sea levels by 7 meters (23 feet).

The study Bevis led, published on Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found that Greenland shed approximately 280 gigatons of ice per year, causing global sea level to rise by 0.8 millimeters (0.03 inches).

Bevis and his coauthors found that by 2012, the rate of ice loss had accelerated to nearly four times what it was in 2003. They also found this acceleration largely took place in Greenland's southwest.

Greenland's ice has historically melted in cycles due to natural weather phenomena, but rising temperatures have exacerbated the trend. —REPORTS



PH faces health and environmental risks

THE Philippines is expected to move further towards urbanization as it grows and develops. Unfortunately, its solid waste infrastructure is unable to keep pace with the economic and population growth. Inadequate, over-filled dumpsites and landfills are causing various health and environmental problems.

Some of the serious environmental risks caused by waste overflow landfills are ground and surface water contamination, flooding, greenhouse gas production, air pollution, exposure to toxins and spread of disease. Many disposal sites across the country contain infectious material, threatening sanitation workers and waste pickers and, eventually the general public.

Tests of liquid runoff or leachate from Rodriguez and Payatas dump sites were found to contain high levels of contaminants. Most of the leachate seeps untreated into groundwater sources of drinking water and flows to the Marikina and Pasig River systems and Manila Bay. Landfills and dump sites, despite government's efforts to situate them in areas far from population centers, still pose a threat to the health and the environment.

A lot of wastes, about one-third of solid waste generated in the cities, are often dumped indiscriminately and often end up clogging the drains, causing flooding and increase in the populations of rodents and other pests. The urban poor suffer most from life-threatening conditions resulting from uncollected garbage.

In this age of digitalization and technology, one of the innovative solutions for solid waste management is decentralization using pyrolysis technology.

Most importantly, people should realize that they play a huge role in solving the massive garbage problem in the Philippines. It should be the country's goal to create an environment free of garbage, minimizing of waste disposal to landfill, educating the community and make them aware of their roles and responsibilities, and to involve the business community in solid waste management.





ANAK ng tokwa, biglang pinagbawalan ng bansa ni US President Donald Trump ang mga Pinoy na magtrabaho sa kanila.

Nasa 40 porsyento kasi umano ang gumagawa ng overstaying at may human trafficking pa.

Kahit pa kapwa Pinoy o mga Kano ang nangangailangan ng mga obrerong Pinoy, bawal pa rin.

Kasama ang Pinas ng mga bansang Ethiopia at Dominican Republic sa mga pinagbawalang magpadala ng mga obrero sa bansa ni Trump.

H-2A AT H-2B VISAS

Ang mga bagong aplikanteng obrero na may hawak na H-2A at H-2B visas ang bawal pumasok sa Amerika mula sa Enero 19, 2019 hanggang sa Enero 18, 2010.

Nagtatrabaho sa mga pansakahan ang mga may hawak ng H-2A visa.

Kabilang sa mga ito ang apple picker, taga-gatas ng baka at iba pang nauugnay sa agrikultura.

Para naman sa mga hindi agrikultural ang H-2B visa gaya ng mga boy sa skiing area, park attendant, janitor o tagalinis ng bahay at iba pa.

Pati ang T-derivative visas kung tawagin, bawal din.

Sa T-derivative visa, kamag-anak mismo ang nagpapasok ng obrero.

Panay mga seasonal o por tiyempo o temporary ang mga obrero rito at pinapayagan lang silang pumasok sa Amerika kung kinakailangan.

MGA PROBLEMA

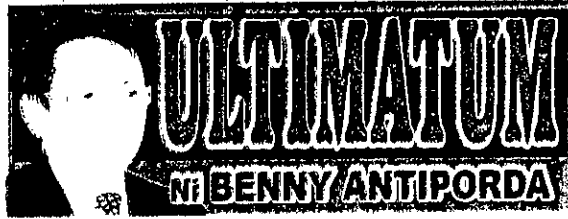
Sumasakit ang ulo ng Department of Homeland Security at Department of State ni Trump dahil umano sa mga malawakang paglabag ng mga Pinoy sa pribilehiyo nila bilang obrero roon.

Hindi pa malinaw kung gaano karami ang mga obrerong may hawak ng mga nasabing working visa.

Pero tiyak na libo-libo sila taon-taon na nakapapasok sa Amerika.

Kasi naman, mga Ingli-sero ang mga Pinoy kahit may dilang Bisaya, Ilokano, Bikol, Tsinoy at iba pa ang mga ito.

Beri isi ang komunikasyon ng mga Pinoy sa ka-



PINOY BAWAL NA SA US SA OVERSTAYING, TRAFFICKING

paborito silang obrero.

Pero umaabuso na nga umano ang mga Pinoy sa paggawa ng overstaying at may halo pang human trafficking.

Sa human trafficking, mga Bro, pupunta ang Pinoy sa Amerika para lang maging obrero na may mababang sahod o kita o kaya'y para maging sex worker.

Sakop ng human trafficking ang pagpapatrabaho sa mga menor-de-edad at dumaraan sa illegal recruitment.

PINAKAMALAKI SA AMERIKA

Sa Amerika matatagpuan ang pinakamaraming bilang ng mga overseas Filipino worker.

Hindi nakapagtata kang galing kina Angkol Sam ang pinakamalaking kontribusyon sa kabuuang remittance ng mga OFW na nakakalat sa buong mundo.

Dahil sa Pinoy ban, bababa na ang halaga ng remittance ng mga OFW, liliit pa ang bilang ng mga nag-aabroad.

Talaga namang pinakapaborit ng mga Pinoy ang Amerika na destinasyon para magtrabaho dahil sa laki ng kita rito, lalo na kung doble o triple ang trabaho.

Pero may ending na nga ang lahat.

SISILIPIN

Ngayon nga ay sisilipin ng ating mga awtoridad kung bakit sa dinami-rami ng mga dayuhang nagtatrabaho sa Amerika, tayo pa, kasama ang Ethiopia at Dominican Republic ang pinahintong magtrabaho kina Mang Donald.

May iba bang mga dahilan kaysa sa mga sinasabi nila na pang-aabuso ng mga Pinoy sa mga pribilehiyong ibinibigay ng mga Kano sa kanila?

O baka naman, talagang gumagana na talaga ang ninanais ni Trump na mga Kano at hindi mga dayuhan ang dapat na mabuhay sa grasya sa loob ng Amerika?

Hindi naman bago na pangyayari ito dahil ang ibang mga bansa, gaya ng Saudi Arabia ay may programang Saudization.

Ang Japan mismo, hindi basta tumatanggap ng mga

dayuhan dahil ang gusto nilang obrero ay mga Hapon din.

Eh mismong Pinas ay may ganito ring patakaran.

Hindi pupwedeng bigyan ang dayuhan ng working visa kung may Pinoy namang may kakayahang gumawa ng kayang gawin ng mga dayuhan.

HUWAG NANG MAG-ABROAD

Kung itipin, marami na ang nalilikhang trabaho sa Pinas.

Sa rami ng mga ginawang imprastraktura sa ita-ling ng programang Build, Build, Build, may kalalagyan ang mga obrero natin na pupwedeng mababa o mataas ang pinag-aralan.

Kulang na kulang na nga tayo ng mga may mataas na pinag-aralan gaya ng mga engineer, doktor, licensed welder at steel man, karpintero, tubero at iba pa.

Sobra-sobra naman tayo ng mga nasa information technology at computer science bagama't halatadong atrasado pa rin ang nakaraming Pinoy kumpara sa mga dayuhan.

Akalain mong mga Grade 6 at high school ang bumubuo ng mga computer sa Korea at Japan pero ang isang computer engineer natin, eh, hindi makabuo ng kahit isang computer.

Pero 'di bale na.

Ang mahalaga, marami na ang nalilikhang trabaho sa Pinas na nagbubunga ng iba pang mga negosyo o pagkakitaan.

Dito dapat mag-isip at mag-aplay sa trabaho ang mga nire-reject ngayon ni Angkol Sam na obrerong Pinoy.

Ang totoo, pagsisikap, pagsisipag, pagtitiyaga at wais na paggastos tayo uunlad at magbago sa buhay at hindi ang pag-aabroad lagi.

oOo

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo ay maaaring iparating sa 09228403333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com