

DATE : 27 JAN 2013

DAY : Sunday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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SHOVELS, SCALES WEAPONS OF CHOICE

'BATTLE OF MANILA BAY' WAGED KILO BY KILO

It's an unusual order that requires strict compliance every week: Keep weighing scales handy and make sure to count and measure well.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año has directed local government officials to organize teams of volunteers to clean up coastal areas of Manila Bay and its inland tributaries on Sunday and every Saturday thereafter.

In a memorandum circular issued on Thursday, Año said he expected all the cities and towns as well as the 5,714 barangays in Metro Manila, Calabarzon and Central Luzon to participate in the rehabilitation of the polluted bay.

He said all local government units (LGUs) should submit separate postactivity reports to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Department of Environ-

ment and Natural Resources after every cleanup session.

The reports, he said, should include, among others, the volume of collected waste in kilograms, barangays covered, the length of the cleared areas in meters, a list of participants, photo documentation and the means for disposal of the collected garbage.

Two reports

A report must be submitted to the environment and natural resources office of each LGU every Tuesday and another to the DILG office every Thursday, the circular said in part.

"The collective effort and commitment of [local governments] and barangays within the Manila Bay Watershed Area would spell the difference in the rebirth and preservation of our Manila Bay," Año said in

a statement on Saturday.

The massive Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project, to be launched at Quirino Grandstand in Manila's Rizal Park at 6 a.m. on Sunday, will be led by around 1,000 Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) volunteers armed with rakes, shovels and garbage containers.

Rallying the volunteers on Saturday, MMDA Chair Danilo Lim said the participants would hold a solidarity walk an hour later to the baywalk area between the Manila Yacht Club and the US Embassy.

Roxas Boulevard southbound from TM Kalaw to Quirino Avenue would be closed to traffic from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Sunday, MMDA Assistant Secretary Celine Pialago said. —REPORTS FROM JAYMEE GAMIL AND JODEE A. AGONCILLO INQ



DENR: All systems go for Manila Bay rehab

By **ELIZABETH MARCELO**

It's all systems go for the start of the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay today, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said yesterday.

The launch of the project dubbed "Battle for Manila Bay" is expected to bring together more than 5,000 participants, mostly personnel from the DENR and 12 other government agencies tasked by the Supreme Court to clean up Manila Bay.

"This is a battle that will be won not with force or arms but with the firm resolve to bring Manila Bay back to life," Environment Secretary

Roy Cimatu said in a statement.

The launch will begin with the "Solidarity Walk" at 7 a.m. from the Quirino Grandstand to the Baywalk area in front of the Rajah Sulayman Park in Malate.

Simultaneous cleanup activities will follow along the Baywalk, at the Las Piñas-Parañaque critical habitat and ecotourism area, in the Marine Tree Park in Navotas and in Talaba Dos in Bacoor, Cavite.

In Central Luzon, rehabilitation projects will be launched in the towns of Obando in Bulacan, Mariveles in Bataan and Guagua in Pampanga.

Cimatu said the Manila Bay rehabilitation program would not only involve cleanup activities, but also relocation of illegal settlers as well as apprehension of establishments that violate the Philippine Clean Water Act and other environmental laws.

Cimatu is expected to identify establishments found violating the Clean Water Act.

"We will serve notices of violation to these establishments that discharge untreated water to esteros, rivers and other tributaries that flow into Manila Bay," Cimatu said.

The DENR aims to reduce the coliform level in Manila

Bay and in all estuaries and creeks.

Earlier this month, President Duterte approved the Manila Bay rehabilitation plan proposed by the DENR. He allocated P42.95 billion for the implementation of the project within three years.

Aside from the DENR, other departments tasked in the Manila Bay cleanup are tourism, interior and local government, social welfare and development, trade and industry, defense, and science and technology.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, National Housing Authority,

Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, Manila Water Co. Inc., Maynilad Water Services Inc. as well as various local government units, non-government organizations and other stakeholders will participate in the cleanup.

Meanwhile, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año directed local government units (LGUs) and barangays around Manila Bay to conduct weekly cleanup activities.

Año signed Memorandum Circular No. 2019-09, directing the 178 LGUs and 5,714 barangays to take part in activities that would contribute to the rehabilitation of the bay.

"Manila Bay is polluted

and partly, we have ourselves to blame. But it's not too late, we can still make amends," Año said in a statement.

Volunteers, non-government organizations and civic society organizations could also be tapped in the cleanup drive to help support the rehabilitation project.

Barangay officials and their constituents were also urged to participate in today's launch.

Village leaders were ordered to ensure that all barangay officials and employees would participate in the cleanup activities, including raising public awareness or the project. — **With Jun Elias Romina Cabrera**



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ALL HANDS ON DECK TO SAVE THE MANILA BAY!

ANGEL THOUGHTS

"The only things you can take with you when you go on your final journey are the things packed in your heart. So start packing!"

The US side of the majestic Niagara Falls has frozen over, thanks to a snow-storm. Climate change is the culprit. And after Niagara Falls, what else? The glaciers melting?

Here, there is a dry spell affecting a big area in Davao. The temperature has dropped in

NCR and in Cavite, the flu bug is running wild. Climate change, too? Take care, dear readers.

Take a lot of vitamin C and citrus fruits, and stay clear of crowded places.

Today is the formal launch of Save Manila Bay or the Manila Bay Clean Up project of the DENR (*Saludo kami kay Sec. Roy Cimatu*) and the government agencies mandated to protect the bay, together with the local government units in the NCR. Most importantly, it has the full support of the private sector, led by the elite Manila Yacht Club and the rotary clubs.

Members of the Manila Yacht Club and Rotary Club are gung'ho about this and full of praise for the quick action of Sec. Cimatu once the problems were brought to him. They expressed their full support to the DENR boss for the Manila Bay cleanup project, which covers Metro Manila, Laguna, Pasig, Cavite, and Batangas.

Commodore Robert "Bobby" Joseph Jr. extolled Sec. Cimatu for taking on this "gargantuan mission" to rehabilitate the bay.

"You have to admire Sec. Cimatu

for taking up the cudgels for the mess that is Manila Bay. The bay is one of the top tourist attractions of Manila and it's about time we show the tourists and the Filipinos abroad that we are capable of taking good care of it," said the Commodore.



DEEDEE M.
SIYTANGCO

Joseph praised the DENR for having completed the rehabilitation of Boracay despite opposition and criticism from certain sectors. He expressed confidence that the Manila Bay project will succeed for as long as the DENR has a determined leader like Sec. Cimatu. After inspecting the Manila Bay area

to learn the extent of the problem, he lost no time in galvanizing the forces of the DENR, meeting with all the sectors after getting a firm grip on the problem.

Our good friend, tourism advocate, Bobby Joseph was elected Commodore of MYC last Nov. 17. Upon taking over the position, he announced an initiative for the club to do its part in revitalizing the bay with the help of Rotarian Tony Oposa who filed and won the case, together with young UP law students in the Supreme Court over two decades ago. Bob explained how the waste originating from factories, informal settlers, hotels, and hospitals have been piling into the bay through various tributaries. Consequently, the waters reek of a very unpleasant stench.

I was there on his takeover as commodore and the stench was so terribly bad—and it was early in the morning! I had to stay inside the air-conditioned dining room to avoid the foul smell coming from the bay. And then the once beautiful walk along the wall of the bay under the sway-

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CONT... ALL HANDS ON DECK TO SAVE MANILA BAY



MANILA BAY WATCH Clockwise from top left: DILG secretary Eduardo Año; Parañaque mayor Eedwin Olivarez, Corregidor Foundation chair Cynthia Carrion Norton, Bobby Joseph, and RCM Jack Rodriguez, who is also vice-chair of the Save Manila Bay of the Manila Yacht Club; and DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu

ing palm trees was full of the homeless, their makeshift houses, food stalls, and other unpleasant riff-raff. (Where's my mayor all this time?)

It is Bob's prime focus as commodore of the Manila Yacht Club and he has poured his usual passion into the project.

The other agency very concerned and supportive of the project is the Department and Tourism. Sec. Berna Romulo-Puyat has given her all-out support, too.

"Picking up the trash in the waters or along the coastline is not enough. The overall objective is to prevent the people of Metro Manila from destroying our ecology and to make Manila Bay a place where marine life can thrive," Bobby stressed.

Despite a Supreme Court ruling some 27 years ago that Manila Bay should be cleaned up by the local government units, commercial establishments, and the private sector, the pollution in Manila Bay is even worse now!

Bob told us that Manila Water Services Inc. and Maynilad will be playing a pivotal role as they will be tasked to construct sewage treat-

ment plants in the tributaries that carry the wastes from the various cities in Metro Manila to the bay. They have been remiss in this area, despite our payments to them every month, disguised as sewerage fees.

"These STPs will process the wastes and prevent the bad elements from entering Manila Bay by processing the wastes. Maynilad will also be on hand to flush out the septic tanks of private residences and business establishments to prevent their wastes from flowing into the tributaries," he said.

The first important step in finally saving the bay happened from the veranda of the Yacht Club, when Sec. Cimatu came to visit one morning. He immediately ordered a closer inspection that same day, and the very next day he brought his technical teams to see where the untreated sewage waters were seeping to the bay. He and Bob boarded the yachts of the club and the Coast Guard around the bay. No, I missed that sail as I was still retching from the foul odor emanating from the nearby waters.

That day the first visual proofs were unfortunately the Manila Zoo

and the Ospital ng Maynila. The cities that did not have proper STP were Manila, Pasay, and Pasig. Shame, shame! DILG Sec. Eduardo Año, *kayo na ho bahala sa mga mayors nila!*

The Manila Zoo, which services all of Metro Manila and its environs, unfortunately has been ordered closed until further notice. I really hope that the zoo management and the city hall bring the facility up to par with environmental standards. That zoo is a place of recreation and, yes, information for many, many citizens especially those in the marginalized sectors. Unfortunately, it has been badly neglected. I used to bring my young children there when it was still clean.

Cleaning up the bay is both real and symbolic. There might come a time when we can no longer enjoy the beauty of the Manila Bay sunset because the stench and floating garbage will be too much to bear.

Let's make sure this campaign becomes a lifestyle of change not a "ningas cogon" show. This is one area where President Duterte can gain even his jaded critics' approval!

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MANILA BAY – Members of the Manila City Hall Department of Public Service prepare for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay Saturday by positioning the wheel borrows where they will be most needed. Over 5,000 participants including national and local government officials will join the cleanup at the Manila Bay which Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu calls the 'Battle for Manila Bay' today, January 27. (Jansen Romero)



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LGUs told to clean Manila Bay

BY ROY D.R. NARRA

THE Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) ordered local government units (LGUs) and *barangay* (villages) along Manila Bay to conduct weekly clean-up drives for the rehabilitation of the heavily-polluted bay.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año issued Memorandum Circular 2010-09, directing 178 LGUs and 5,714 villages to conduct weekly clean-up drives starting on January 27, Sunday, to "fulfill their roles and responsibilities pursuant to environmental laws that contribute to the rehabilitation of Manila Bay."

This is part of President Rodrigo Duterte's order to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

"The collective efforts and commitment of the LGUs and barangays within the Manila Bay Watershed Area would spell the difference in the rebirth and preservation of our Manila Bay," Año said.

"As we all know, Manila Bay is polluted and partly, we have ourselves to blame. But it's not too late, we can still make amends," he added.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu previously said rehabilitating Manila Bay would be a "difficult challenge," as the project does not only include Metro Manila but also the provinces of Cavite, Bulacan and Bataan.

The DENR is set to check nearby establishments, factories and creeks to determine if some of them are violating environmental laws.

Cimatu also estimated that they would need P47 billion to fully rehabilitate Manila Bay.



A DAY EARLY. Volunteers participate in the cleanup drive on a portion of Manila Bay along Roxas Boulevard in Manila, a day ahead of the government's formal kickoff of the rehabilitation of the bay with its famous sunset. **Norman Cruz**

BAY CLEANUP KICKS OFF TODAY

By Joel E. Zurbano

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority kick off what is expected to be a five-year program to rehabilitate Manila Bay starting today, with thousands of government workers and volunteers leading a multi-sectoral effort.

Around 1,000 MMDA employees are set to join Sunday's activity to revive the highly polluted waterway, which the DENR said will also be carried out simultaneously in the Central Luzon and Calabarzon provinces bordering the bay.

The MMDA will also close the south-bound lane of Roxas Boulevard in Manila, from Kalaw Street to President Quirino Avenue, to vehicular traffic from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m., in connection with the launching of the Duterte administration's latest environmental rescue.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda had announced in a radio interview on Saturday that

cleanup efforts will happen simultaneously in Pampanga, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, and Bataan in Region III, and in Cavite in Region IV-A.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has also expressed its support for the cleanup, Antiporda said.

The work, he said, would be divided into sections along Manila's waterways and tributaries of the bay, which would be addressed by the Inter-agency task force to ensure their cleanliness and prevent others from adding to the bay's pollution.

MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim urged residents of Metro Manila and nearby areas to take part in the effort of

clearing garbage from the shores of Manila Bay along Baywalk and Roxas Boulevard, which will be the first phase of the rehabilitation.

"This is a kick-off activity of our long term and massive rehabilitation to restore the beauty of the historic Manila Bay," Lim said in a statement Saturday.

The activity likewise aims to create awareness on proper waste disposal in order to avoid these reaching the waters of Manila Bay.

MMDA personnel with various tools, garbage receptacles and equipment will join in the coastal cleanup from the Manila Yacht Club to the United States Embassy.

Its Solid Waste Management Office personnel will distribute flyers and discuss with residents on waste segregation to minimize solid waste ending up at the Manila Bay.

The MMDA's Flood Control and Sewerage Management Office personnel will conduct dredging works, desilting of some drainage mains, and de-clogging of drainage laterals.

Antiporda said the task force will first address the "billionaire's areas," so-called due to its billions of bacteria or high number of coliform level.

Condominiums, hotels, restaurants and shopping centers found to be discharging their wastewater into Manila Bay will be issued notices of violations, the Environment undersecretary added.

Antiporda cited a study by the Laguna Lake Development Authority citing about four to five establishments found to be major contributors of pollution in Manila Bay.

Participants will assemble at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park at 6 a.m. for a solidarity walk to the Baywalk area at 7 a.m.

Volunteers will be asked to write on a commitment wall to signify their willingness for volunteerism during the activity.

First-aid teams will also be positioned along the baywalk area to administer medical assistance in case anyone gets injured. Four rubber boats, ambulance, fire truck, rescue van and support vehicle will also be dispatched. **With PNA**



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Angaming pananaw...

MANILA BAY REHAB, SERYOSOHIN NG LGUs PNP AT DENR

BAGO pa simulan ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay sa Linggo, inihayag ni Philippine National Police-National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Chief Supt. Guillermo Eleazar na aarestuhin ang sinumang tao o establisimiyento na mahuhuli sa akto o mapatutunayang nagtatapon ng basura sa lawa.

Sinabi ni Eleazar na inilalatag na nila ang mga panuntunan sa pagpatupad ng mga umiiral nang ordinansa laban sa pagtatapon ng basura sa Manila Bay, kabilang na ang pag-aresto sa mga maaaktuhang dinudumihan ang lawa.

"Huhulihin natin sila. Nandiyan na ang mga batas, we only have to implement that," sinabi ni Eleazar nang bumisita siya sa Quezon City Police District (QCPD) kamakailan.

Noong Disyembre 2008 pa iniutos ng Korte Suprema sa kinaauukulang mga ahensiya ng gobyerno, kabilang ang PNP-Maritime Group, na linisin at pangalagaan ang Manila Bay.

Kinailangan pa ang paglipas ng 10 taon at ang political will ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte bago kumilos ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ipatupad ang utos ng SC na napakahalaga para pangalagaan ang Manila Bay.

Maging leksiyon sana ito sa local government units (LGUs) sa Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan at Cavite na nagbubulag-bulagan sa utos ng SC kaya hinayaang dumumi nang husto ang Manila Bay. At sana, maging seryoso ang DENR, LGUs at PNP na ipatupad ang tamang patakaran pangkapaligiran para masagip pa ang Manila Bay na dating pangunahing sentro para sa turismo sa Metro Manila.



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WEEKLY CLEAN UP SA MANILA BAY

INATASAN ng Local government units (LGUs) ang mga barangay sa lugar ng Manila Bay Watershed Area na magsagawa ng weekly clean-up upang mas mapabilis ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay mula Enero 27, 2019 hanggang sa matapos ang Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program kick-off activities.

Batay ito sa kautusang ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

"The order and resolve of President Rodrigo Duterte is crystal clear regarding the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay and the weekly clean-up will ensure that this directive is enforced," ayon kay DILG Secretary

Eduardo M. Año "The collective efforts and commitment of the LGUs and barangays within the Manila Bay Watershed Area would spell the difference in the birth and preservation of our Manila Bay,"

dagdag pa ni Año. Isinisi rin ng kalihim sa lahat kung bakit mataas ang populasyon sa baybayin dahil nagiging pabaya aniya ang ilan gayunman, iginiit nito na hindi pa huli ang lahat at maaaring isalba ang

Manila Bay. "As we all know, Manila Bay is polluted and partly, we have ourselves to blame. But it's not too late, we can still make amends. Sabay-sabay at sasama po nating buhayin ang ating Ma-

nila Bay," dagdag pa ng kalihim. Inatasan ni Año ang may 178 na LGUs at 5,714 barangays sa loob ng Manila Bay Watershed Area sa ilalim ng kautusan ng DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2019-

09 na inilabas noong Enero 24, 2019 na nakasaad ang "fulfill their roles and responsibilities pursuant to environmental laws that contribute to the rehabilitation of Manila Bay."

PAULA ANTOLIN



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BIG TASK Volunteers gather trash at the Manila Bay on Saturday, an undertaking that will be repeated today as the Department of the Interior and Local Government has ordered local government unit to hold weekly clean-up drives.
PHOTO BY RUSSELL PALMA



Daily Tribune

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Eco champs Children show there's no age too young to take part in preserving the environment during a clean-up campaign at the Manila Bay. BOB DUNGO JR.



Manila Bay clean-up kicks off

By Edd Reyes

THE Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is calling for volunteers as it joins today the launching of the Manila Bay rehabilitation, which aims to heighten environmental awareness and volunteerism.

The Manila Bay rehabilitation launch, spearheaded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), will bring together agencies, stakeholders, local government units, environmentalists and volunteers.

MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim is rallying residents of Metro Manila and nearby areas to participate in the multi-sectoral effort of clearing garbage from the shores of Manila Bay along Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard, the phase one of rehabil-

itation.

"This is a kick-off activity of our long term and massive rehabilitation to restore the beauty of the historic Manila Bay," said Lim.

At least 1,000 MMDA employees, with various tools, garbage receptacles and equipment, will join in the coastal clean-up along the bay area, from Manila Yacht Club to the US Embassy.

Participants will assemble at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park around 6 a.m. for a solidarity walk to the Baywalk area at 7 a.m.

Apart from actually cleaning the foreshore areas of Manila, the activity seeks to educate the public on the need to properly manage their garbage and keep these from reaching Manila Bay.

Lim believes that there is a need to change the

habit of people, particularly informal settlers living near esteros, of disposing their waste improperly which contributes to Manila Bay's pollution.

Solid Waste Management Office personnel will conduct house-to-house flyer distribution and short discussion with residents on waste segregation to minimize solid waste ending up in Manila Bay.

"Simple segregation of garbage, when done habitually, can help get rid of solid waste that goes to the estero and drainage system," said Lim.

Simultaneously, Flood Control and Sewerage Management Office personnel will conduct dredging works, desilting of some drainage mains and declogging of drainage laterals.

During the activity, volunteers will be given a chance to strengthen and express their commitment to volunteering by writing on a commitment wall.

First aid teams will also be positioned along the baywalk area to assist anyone who gets injured. Four rubber boats, an ambulance, fire truck, rescue van and support vehicle will also be deployed.

WEEKLY CLEAN-UP

Local government units (LGUs) and barangays along the Manila Bay Watershed Area are now expected to conduct weekly clean-up drives to hasten the rehabilitation of Manila Bay starting today to coincide with the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program kick-off activities.

According to Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo M. Año, the order and resolve of President Rodrigo Duterte is crystal clear regarding the rehabilitation of the bay and the weekly clean-up will ensure that this directive is enforced.

"The collective efforts and commitment of the LGUs and barangays

within the Manila Bay Watershed Area would spell the difference in the rebirth and preservation of our Manila Bay," said Año.

"As we all know, Manila Bay is polluted and partly, we have ourselves to blame. But it's not too late, we can still make amends. Sabay-sabay at sasama po nating buhayin ang ating Manila Bay," he added.

Año directs 178 LGUs and 5,714 barangays inside the Manila Bay Watershed Area through DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2019-09 released on January 24, 2019 to "fulfill their roles and responsibilities pursuant to environmental laws that contribute to the rehabilitation of Manila Bay."

"Sa pamamagitan po nito ay matiyaga naming ipinapaalala sa LGUs at barangays na sa ilalim ng ating batas, mayroon silang responsibilidad at pananagutan sa pagpanatili ng malinis na Manila Bay," he said.

With Jun I. Legaspi



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DENR, MMDA lead Manila Bay rehab launching today

By EDD REYES

THE Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is calling for volunteers as it joins the launching of the Manila Bay rehabilitation today, Sunday, which aims to heighten environmental awareness and volunteerism.

The Manila Bay rehabilitation launch, spearheaded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), will bring together agencies, stakeholders, local government units, environmentalists and volunteers.

MMDA Chairman Da-

nilo Lim is rallying residents of Metro Manila and nearby areas to participate in the multi-sectoral effort of clearing garbage from the shores of Manila Bay along Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard, the phase one of rehabilitation.

"This is a kick-off activity of our long term and massive rehabilitation to restore the beauty of the historic Manila Bay," said Lim.

At least 1,000 MMDA employees, with various tools, garbage receptacles and equipment, will join in the coastal clean-up along the bay area, from Manila Yacht Club to the

US Embassy.

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Apart from actually cleaning the foreshore areas of Manila, the activity seeks to educate the public on the need to properly manage their garbage and avoid these from reaching Manila Bay.

Lim believes that there is a need to change the habit of people, particularly informal settlers living near esteros, of disposing their waste properly that contribute to Manila Bay's pollution.

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Duterte tinupad ang pangako

**BAYANIHAN
SA MANILA BAY
UMPISA NA!**

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Duterte tinupad ang pangako

BAYANIHAN SA MANILA BAY UMPISA NA!

Katulad ng ipinangako ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, ngayong Linggo na pormal na sisimulan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang rehabilitation program para buhayin ang kagandahan ng Manila Bay.

Una nang ipinahayag ng Pangulo ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay sa idinaos na Barangay Summit on Peace and Order sa Cune-ta Astrodome, Pasay City noong Enero 8.

Matatandaan na sa kanyang talumpati sa naturang okasyon ay binakbakan ng Pangulo ang mga hotel at iba pang

establisimyento na nagtatapon ng dumi sa Manila Bay at sinabing kanya nang inatasan sina DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu at Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año para simulan ang Manila Bay clean-up.

"They will start to clean it, whether they like it or not, lahat itong... Itong mga hotel," sabi ng Pangulo sa kanyang talumpati sa harap ng mga lokal na opisyal.

"Lagyan ninyo ng water treatment 'yang hotel niyo, 'pag hindi, sirahan ko 'yan. Huwag mo

akong hamunin. Eh kung wala tayong turista, eh 'di wala. Hindi naman tayo mamamatay. You do something about your waste there or otherwise I will close it. Sigurado 'yan," babala pa ni Pangulong Duterte.

Ngayong Linggo ang kick-off activity ng Manila Bay rehabilitation program sa pamamagitan ng pagtitipon-tipon sa Quirino Grandstand ng mga lalahok sa pagsisimula ng paglilinis na sabay-sabay ding maglalakad patungong Baywalk sa kahabaan ng Roxas Boulevard.

Kaugnay nito, ina-

atasan ng DILG ang mga lokal na pamahalaan at barangay na nakakaskop sa Manila Bay na tumulong sa rehabilitasyon nito.

Sa pamamagitan ng isang memorandum circular, inatasan ni Año ang mga local government unit na magsagawa ng lingguhang paglilinis sa Manila Bay sa nasasakupan nilang lugar.

Hinikayat din ang paglahok ng mga volunteer, non-government organization, civil society, mga estudyante at iba pang grupo para malinis na ang Manila Bay. (Armida Rico/Dolly Cabreza)



MANILA BAY REHAB ILULUNSA NGAYON

NANAWAGAN ang Metropolitan Manila Development Authority sa mga gustong mag-volunteer para sa paglulunsad ng Manila Bay rehabilitation project ngayong araw na layuning palakasin ang bolunterismo at kamalayan sa kapaligiran.

Sa pangunguna ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources, magsasama-sama ang iba't ibang ahensya, lokal na pamahalaan, stakeholders, environmentalists at volunteers sa paglulunsad ng Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

Umapela naman si MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim sa mga residente ng Metro Manila at mga karatig-lugar na makisa sa paglilinis sa Manila Bay.

"Ito ay kick-off activity ng mas mahaba at malawakang rehabilitasyon para mapanumbalik ang garida ng Manila Bay," ani Lim.

Nasa 1,000 empleyado ng MMDA ang makikisa sa coastal clean-up na sisimulan sa

Manila Yacht Club hanggang sa US Embassy.

Magtitipon-tipon ang lahat ng kalahok sa Quirino Grandstand sa Rizal Park sa ganap na ika-6 ng umaga para isang solidarity walk patungong Baywalk sa ganap namang ika-7 ng umaga.

Maliban sa paglilinis ng dalampasigan, layunin din ng aktibidad na turuan ang publiko sa tamang paglalapong ng basura para hindi na ito umabot pa sa

Manila Bay.

Naniniwala si Lim na kinakailangang mabago ang nakagawian partikular ng mga informal settlers na nakatira malapit sa estero pagdating sa paglalapong ng kanilang mga basura na isa sa nagiging sanhi ng polusyon sa Manila Bay.

Magsasagawa naman ng house-to-house flyer distribution at mga maikling lecture patungkol sa waste segregation ang mga tauhan ng Solid Waste

Management Office.

"Ang simpleng garbage segregation, na lung regular na gagawin, ay makakatulong para mabawasan ang mga basurang dumadaan sa mga estero at drainage systems," pahayag ni Lim.

Magsasagawa rin ng dredging works, desilting at declogging ng mga kanal ang mga tauhan ng Flood Control and Sewerage Management Office. Bibigyan din ng tsansa

ang volunteers na ihayag ang kanilang commitment sa pamamagitan ng pagsusulat sa commitment wall.

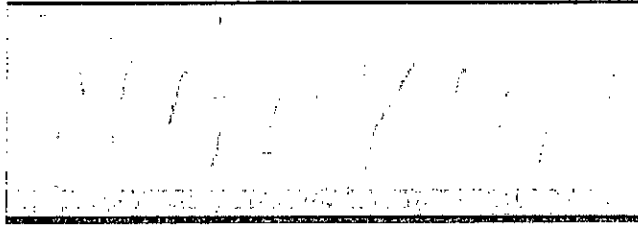
Ipoposyong naman ang mga first aid team sa Baywalk para magbigay ng tulung-medikal kung kinakailangan.

Magdi-dispatch din ng apat na rubber boats, ambulansya, fire truck, rescue van at support vehicle.

JAY REYES



NAKIISA ang mga estudyante sa paglilinis ng baybayin sa bahagi ng Manila Bay sa Roxas Boulevard, Maynila bago ang pormal na paglulunsad. sa araw na ito ng malawakang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay. **JHUN MABANAG**



27 JAN 2019

DATE

Manila Bay clean-up, sisimulan ngayon

Sisimulan na ngayong araw ng Linggo, Enero 27 ng iba't-ibang government organization ang paglilinis, pagbabalik sa ningning at ganda ng Manila Bay.

Inatasan na ng pamunuan ng Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) ang mga lokal na pamahalaan at mga barangay official sa bansa na tumulong sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

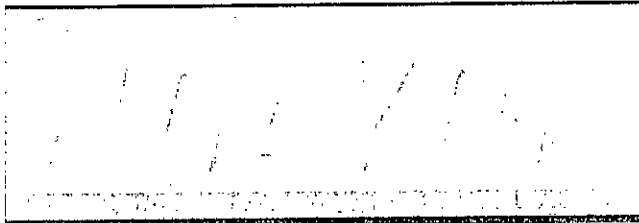
Ayon kay Interior Secretary Eduardo Año ang 178 local government units (LGUs) at 5,714 barangays kailangan na magsagawa ng lingguhang paglilinis alinsunod sa DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2019-09 na inilabas noong Enero 24.

Sinabi ni Año na magiging mabilis ang Manila Bay clean-up kung magtutulongan ang mga LGU at barangay.

Inihayag ng kalihim na mamamayan din ang dapat sisihin sa polusyon at pagdumi ng Manila Bay pero pwede pa anya itong maisalba kung magtutulongan ang lahat.

Ani Año, pwede ring magpatulong ang mga lokal na pamahalaan at barangay sa mga volunteers, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, academe para mahikayat ang partisipasyon ng iba't ibang grupo sa paglilinis.

Sa ilalim ng Local Government Code, ang mga barangay ay obligadong magsagawa ng basic services kabilang ang paglilinis ng kapaligiran. *(Mer Layson at Joy Cantos)*



27 JAN 2013

DATE

1,000 tauhan ng MMDA, aayuda sa Manila Bay rehab

Nasa 1,000 tauhan ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) ang aayuda ngayong araw (Enero 27) para sa coastal clean-up kaugnay sa pagsisimula ng gagawing rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Kasabay nito umapela na rin ang MMDA sa publiko sa nais maging volunteer para sa paglulunsad ng Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

Pangungunahan ito ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), iba't-ibang ahensya ng gobyerno, lokal na pamahalaan, stakeholders, environmentalists at mga volunteer.

Nanawagan si MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim sa mga residente ng Metro Manila at mga karatig-lugar na makiisa

sa paglilinis sa Manila Bay.

Magtitipun-tipon ngayon ang lahat ng lalahok sa Quirino Grandstand sa Rizal Park sa ganap na ika-6:00 ng umaga para isang solidarity walk patungong Baywalk sa ganap na alas-7:00 ng umaga.

Naniniwala si Lim na kinakailangang mabago ang nakagawian partikular ng mga informal settlers na nakatira malapit sa estero pagdating sa pagtatapon ng kanilang mga basura na isa sa nagiging sanhi ng polusyon sa Manila Bay.

Magsasagawa naman ng house-to-house flyer distribution at mga maikling lecture patungkol sa waste segregation ang mga tauhan ng Solid Waste Management Office. (Lordeth B. Bonilla)



Manila Bay cleanup on today

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority yesterday appealed to the public for help as the cleanup of Manila Bay gets under way today.

"This is a kick-off activity of our long term and massive rehabilitation to restore the beauty of the historic Manila Bay," MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim said.

At 6 a.m., participants will assemble at the Quirino Grandstand at the Rizal Park in Manila for the solidarity walk to the Baywalk area.

Around 1,000 MMDA employees will join in the coastal cleanup on the bay area from the Manila Yacht Club to the US Embassy.

The activity also intends educate the public on the need to properly manage their garbage and avoid these from reaching Manila Bay.

According to Lim, there is a need to change the habit of people, espe-

cially informal settlers, who usually dispose of their garbage at waterways which contribute to the pollution of Manila Bay.

Solid Waste Management Office personnel will conduct house-to-house flyer distribution and short discussion with residents on waste segregation to minimize solid waste ending up at the Manila Bay.

"Simple segregation of garbage, when done habitually, can help rid of solid waste that goes to the estero and drainage system," the MMDA chairman said.

The Department of Interior and Local Government compelled the local government units and barangays on the Manila Bay watershed area to conduct weekly cleanup drives to hasten the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año

directed the concerned 178 LGUs and 5,714 barangays inside the Manila Bay watershed area to adhere to the instruction based on DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2019-09 stating them to "fulfill their roles and responsibilities pursuant to environmental laws that contribute to the rehabilitation of Manila Bay."

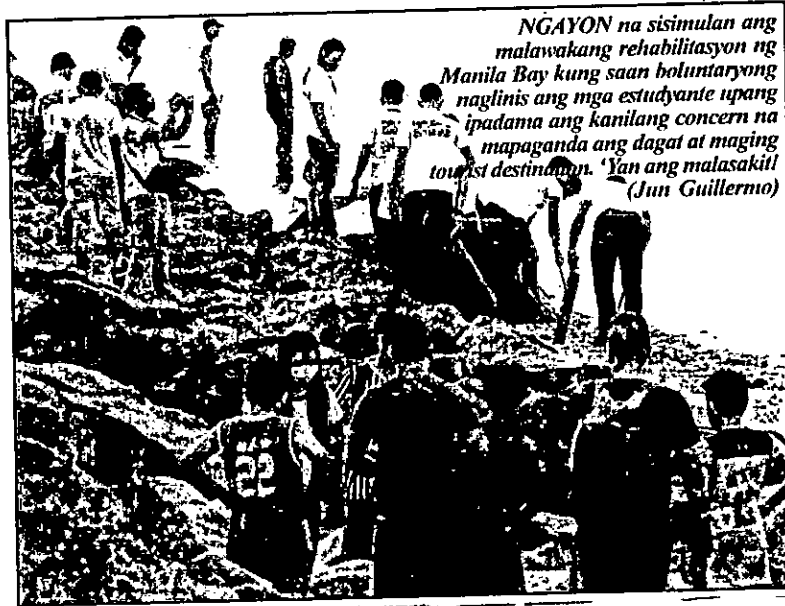
He stressed the "order and resolve of President Rodrigo Duterte is crystal clear regarding the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay and the weekly cleanup will ensure that this directive is enforced."

"The collective efforts and commitment of the LGUs and barangays within the Manila Bay watershed area would spell the difference in the rebirth and preservation of our Manila Bay," Año said. **(Jel Santos with reports from Chito A. Chavez)**



27 JAN 2013

DATE



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Nakaisa ang mga voluntee sa clean-up drive sa bahagi ng Manila Bay kahapon. Ngayong araw sisimulan ang rehabilitasyon ng pamosong sunset bay. (Edd Gumban)



27 JAN 2019

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Paglilinis sa Manila Bay, simula ngayon

Sinimulan ngayong araw ang paglilinis, pagbabalik sa ningning at ganda ng Manila Bay ng iba't-ibang government organization.

Inatasan na ng pamunuan ng Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) ang mga lokal na pamahalaan at mga barangay official sa bansa na tumulong sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Ayon kay Interior Secretary Eduardo Año ang 178 local government

units (LGUs) at 5,714 barangays ay kailangan na magsagawa ng lingguhang paglilinis alinsunod sa DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2019-09 na inilabas noong Enero 24.

Sinabi ni Año na magiging mabilis ang Manila Bay clean-up kung magtutulongan ang mga LGU at barangay.

Inihayag ng kalihim na mamamayan din ang dapat sisihin sa polusyon at pagdumi ng Manila Bay pero puwede pa anyang itong maisalba kung mag-

tutulungan ang lahat.

Ani Año, puwede ring magpatulong ang mga lokal na pamahalaan at barangay sa mga volunteers, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, academy para mahikayat ang partisipasyon ng iba't ibang grupo sa paglilinis.

Sa ilalim ng Local Government Code, ang mga barangay ay obligadong magsagawa ng basic services kabilang ang paglilinis ng kapaligiran.

-Mer Layson-



Wanted: Volunteers para sa Manila Bay rehab

Nanawagan ang Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) sa mga gustong mag-volunteer para sa paglulunsad ngayong Linggo, Enero 27, ng Manila Bay rehabilitation project, na layuning isulong ang volunteerism at kanulatan sa malasakit sa kalikasan.

Sa paingunguna ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), magsasama-sama ang iba't ibang ahensiya ng gobyerno, lokal na pamahalaan, stakeholders, environmentalists, at volunteers sa paglulunsad ng Manila Bay rehab.

Umapela namansì MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim sa mga taga-Metro Manila at mga karatig-lugar na makiisa sa paglilinis sa Manila Bay.

"Ito ay kick-off activity ng mas mahaba at malawakang rehabilitasyon para mapanumbalik ang ganda ng Manila Bay," ani Lim.

Nasa 1,000 kawani ng MMDA ang makiisa sa coastal clean-up, na sisimulan sa Manila Yacht

Club hanggang sa US Embassy.

Magtitipon ang lahat ng kalahok sa Quirino Grandstand sa Rizal Park sa ganap na 6:00 ng umaga para isang solidarity walk patungong Baywalk, bandang 7:00 ng umaga.

Bukod sa paglilinis sa dalampasigan, layunin din ng aktibidad na turuan ang publiko, partikular ang mga nakatira sa paligid ng lawa, sa tamang pagtatapon ng basura, para hindi na ito umabot pa sa Manila Bay.

Bella Gamotea



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Balita

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANGA

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27 JAN 2019

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PAGLILINIS, SIMULA NA Pinasan ng bata ang nakababata niyang kapatid habang pababa sila sa dalampasigan ng Manila Bay, kahapon. Sisimulan na ngayong Linggo, Enero 27, ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.
JANSEN ROMERO



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



27 JAN 2019

DATE



BOLUNTARYONG nakiisa ang mga estudyante sa paglilinis ng baybayin sa bahagi ng Manila Bay sa Roxas Boulevard sa Maynila bilang paghahanda sa pagsisimula ng malawakang rehabilitasyon ngayon, Enero 27. Kuha ni **NORMAN ARAGA**



EDITORIAL

'Swimmable' by December?

Today marks the start of one of the most gargantuan, audacious and—if done right—consequential projects to be undertaken by the Duterte administration. It has nothing to do with politics per se, but with something just as filthy, literally in this case: the cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), headed by Secretary Roy Cimatu, announced in December 2018 its intent to rehabilitate Manila's historic body of water at a cost of P43 billion. Even more boldly, it gave itself 11 months, or until December this year, to make the harbor "swimmable" again. The rehabilitation is projected to be completed by the end of President Duterte's term in 2022.

The template is obviously the recent rehabilitation of Boracay, but the difficulty level is way more formidable. Manila Bay has a total area of 1,994 kilometers and a coastline extending 190 km—the equivalent of 1,700 Boracays. The bay area extends across three regions: National Capital Region, Central Luzon and Calabarzon. Rehabilitating and reviving its ecosystem would entail extensive and consistent cooperation among national agencies and local and provincial governments, as well as from the affected communities and private sector entities whose activities have contributed to the dismal state of the bay. The rehabilitation, experts say, should have been done as early as 70 years ago to save the bay from environmental devastation.

In 1999, a group of concerned citizens led by lawyer and environmental activist Antonio Oposa Jr. filed a lawsuit at a regional trial court asking 13 government agencies to clean up Manila Bay. The legal battle went all the way to the Supreme Court, which, in December 2008, issued a continuing mandamus that required government agencies named in the lawsuit to report to the high court every three months on the progress of the bay's rehabilitation until its completion.

That order appears to have been for naught, as the bay's condition only got worse. In September 2017, Greenpeace recovered 54,200 pieces of plastic waste from the bay, prompting the environmental group to dub the Philippines the "world's third largest plastic polluter of oceans."

Other than plastic, waste thrown into water tributaries that connect to Manila Bay—from livestock farms and households that lack septic tanks—also makes up a big chunk of the pollutants.

When the landmark lawsuit was filed in 1999, the fecal bacteria in Manila Bay amounted to 1 million most probable number (MPN) per 100 milliliters. Today, it is 330 million MPN, with some parts of the bay at 1 billion MPN. (The level required for a body of water to be safe for swimming is at least 100 MPN per 100 ml.) In comparison, the coliform level in Boracay used to be at 1 million MPN per 100 ml before the island's closure. "As you can see, the required effort (for Manila Bay) will be about 330 times more," Cimatu said last week. "... This will not be an easy task for all of us."

Indeed, the work is cut out for the DENR and other agencies involved. One of the project's most delicate tasks started last week: the resettlement of some 40,000 informal settlers living around the bay. It behooves the government, first of all, to implement the relocation in a humane and sensitive way that takes into utmost consideration the rights and welfare of the settlers.

In addition, the DENR is expected to issue closure orders against at least four hotels and establishments along Manila Bay that are violating environmental laws. It has also ordered the suspension of the grant of environmental compliance certificates to livestock and poultry farms in Laguna, Batangas and Rizal.

On top of these, the government needs to implement strict environmental regulations on other water bodies such as the Pasig River, Laguna Lake and Marikina River, which all flow into the bay. This requires working together with authorities outside the purview of Manila Bay.

Experts have pointed to long-term benefits once the waterfront is restored, navigable and healthy. For one, Manila Bay can help ease traffic and cut travel time for commuters by serving as an alternative water transportation system, linking neighboring regions. A vibrant waterfront will also attract businesses and tourists who can enjoy again Manila Bay's famed sunset without garbage blocking their view and foul smell ruining their experience.

The task at hand is daunting, but Cimatu's declaration that "nothing is impossible" deserves, at this point, all the best wishes and support it can get from an expectant public.



DENR suspends piggeries, poultry farms

Findings of the quality testing and monitoring conducted by the Laguna PENRO showed waters of the San Cristobal River contain 20 million coliform bacteria per 100 ml

As part of its on-going move to rehabilitate the famous Manila Bay and its tributaries, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources ordered the suspension of operations of piggeries and poultry farms suspected of polluting Laguna Lake in violation of Republic Act 9003 or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000."

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu directed the Laguna Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) to implement his orders at the sidelines of the inauguration of the agency's new regional office building in Calabarzon.

"I want to know where the wastes are coming from, especially the discharge from the piggeries and to cancel all their Environment Compliance Certificates (ECC)," Cimatu said.

The DENR chief said he was surprised with PENRO's disclosure that around 20 towns and five component cities located along the shorelines of the lake have poultry farms and piggeries that have no water treatment facilities and were found to be dumping animal wastes into its waters.

"We have to be assertive in our fight. Let us not pollute our rivers and Laguna Lake," Cimatu said in Filipino.

He was also informed that San Cristobal River in this city, one of the 14 major rivers and tributaries that flow into the lake, was found to have wastes and pollutants which allegedly come from its upstream San Juan River in the adjacent towns of Sto. Tomas and Tanauan City.

He ordered the Laguna and Batangas PENRO to take water samples to test the level of coliform contaminants from each river.

Findings of the quality testing and monitoring conducted by the Laguna PENRO showed waters of the San Cristobal River contain 20 million coliform bacteria per 100 milliliter.

"I am very particular about the out-falls to make sure that all the out-falls in Laguna are your

responsibility," Cimatu said.

He ordered the Laguna and Batangas PENRO to take water samples to test the level of coliform contaminants from each river.

He also tasked the Environment Management Bureau Region 4A to take samples from the out-falls from Laguna Lake and both Laguna and Batangas PENRO to clean the two rivers, including the esteros and canals which flow into these rivers.

He also urged PENRO and CENRO officials to coordinate with the local government units and volunteers in the clean-up drive.

In a media interview, Undersecretary for Strategic Communications Benny Antiporda clarified that the DENR cannot just issue a cease and desist order (CDO) to establishments polluting bodies of water.

"If these have not been confirmed,

we do not indiscriminately issue the CDO. What we do is to check it well *kung ma-mitigate nila yung problema, gagawan natin ng paraan. Pero doon naman sa talagang nagbibigay ng sobrang pollution*, (if they would be able to mitigate the problem and we have to find the solution. But for those that are really discharging extreme pollutants), we will act on it," Antiporda said.

He also clarified that those piggeries and poultry farms polluting the rivers would be suspended, not cancelled, pending investigation and for them to come up with waste management measures.

He also assured the DENR's move to suspend the operations of these erring poultry farms and piggeries will not affect the supply of pork and chicken in the market.

"But we need to take care of our environment and businessmen should shape up or else, they will be shut down," he warned.

KM



AFTER PAGASA WARNING

DA braces for El Niño

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The Department of Agriculture is preparing anew for the El Niño phenomenon expected to take place in the first quarter to ensure less impact and immediate recovery of the farm sector.

DA has drafted its mitigation and adaptation plan that aims to lessen the impact of El Niño as projected by state weather bureau PAGASA.

The plan also aims to restore agricultural productive

capacity for the next cropping season in areas that may be affected by the drought.

PAGASA said hotter days could begin this quarter, affecting 47 provinces in the country.

With an 80 percent chance of occurring, El Niño is expected to incur damage to the agriculture sector particularly on certain crops like rice and corn, which account for nearly half of the total farm production in the country.

"A National El Niño Task Force has been created to monitor and coordinate various El Niño programs with regional offices, bureaus and the National Disaster Risk

Reduction and Management Council to ensure that proper actions will be taken in response to El Niño," the DA said.

The DA has so far not received any damage and losses report from any province.

However, it has put in place the necessary safeguards to protect the interest of farmers as well as agricultural crops.

These include the provision of high quality drought-tolerant varieties of rice, corn and high value crop seeds and intensified pest surveillance and monitoring to avoid the occurrence of pests and diseases.

DA has also advised farmers to plant early maturing or short gestation crops while insurance premium for crops has been readied.

For livestock, buffer feed stocks, veterinary drugs and biologics are in place while dispersal of fingerlings to replenish projected production loss has been readied for the fisheries sector.

As for water management, DA plans to improve irrigation canals, repair diversion dams, replace non-serviceable pump and engine sets and conduct cloud seeding operation for affected areas.





DENR, BFAR move to protect *tawilis*'s

By LOUISE
MAUREEN SIMEON

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) may have failed to fully implement the closed fishing season in Taal Lake that placed *tawilis* on the list of endangered species.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) had claimed there have been conservation efforts to preserve *tawilis* as early as 2013, particularly the implementation of a closed fishing season in the area.

"BFAR recommended that before but I think they (DENR) did not fully implement it. We are now reiterating that they study and really implement the closed fishing season," BFAR director Eduardo Congona said.

"I think we are also somewhat at fault because we failed to repeat and remind them that they should implement it. But now, we really need the closed fishing season to improve production and pre-

serve the habitat and its productivity," he added.

Taal Lake, part of the Taal Volcano Protective Landscape, is primarily under supervision of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), a multi-sectoral body chaired by the DENR. BFAR is also a member of the PAMB.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) just placed *tawilis* on the list of endangered species. Data showed *tawilis* has recorded a 49 percent decline over the last 10 years.

"We do not have enough patrols, we only have three boats and we just relied on the groups of fishermen who committed that they are ready to comply for the conservation," DENR Region 4 officer-in-charge executive director Maria Paz Luna told **The STAR** in a separate interview.

"But I don't think it was a lapse on the part of the PAMB. BFAR itself has their own enforcement and they monitor the catch so if there is anyone who will know if there is a violation on the closed fishing,

it will be BFAR," she added.

For the past seven to eight years, Luna said only two weeks are being allotted for closed fishing season but new research showed that two months, or from March to April, should have been implemented.

"It was only later on that we found out that it was not the right period because spawning of *tawilis* changes. So now, starting March, the new research will take effect," Luna said.

"We should also take into consideration the health of the habitat, the water quality and other illegal fishing methods. So instead of pointing fingers at one another, we should just help each other," she added.

The regional officers of DENR and BFAR are set to meet next week to discuss other management measures to address the issue.

The BFAR is also looking at reports that the decline was caused by the increasing number of fish pens and cages in the area.

"As of December 2018,

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CONT. ... "DENR, BFAR MOVE TO PROTECT TAWILIS

PAMB records showed that there are 6,277 units fish cages in the area and the number should be just 10 percent of the total water area. We are looking into that," Gongona said.

The fisherfolk group Pamabansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said the overpopulation of Taal Lake by large fish pens was the main factor for the decline of *tawilis*.

Pamalakaya said the aquaculture operations of large fish pens in Taal Lake are causing "ecological imbalance" that led to the decline of the local fish species.

The group said the tilapia fish, one of the major aquaculture operations in Taal Lake, prey on the eggs of *tawilis* and other native fish species in the lake.

"The intensification of culture leads to a bio-invasive fish taking over the population of native fish species in Taal Lake. We are not pinning the blame on tilapia, but to the incessant drive to increase and expand fishpen structures as well as unsustainable aquacul-

ture practices in Taal Lake by big fish-firms who monopolize the inland water," Pamalakaya chairman Fernando Hicap said.

Hicap pointed out that under the Fisheries Code, "only ten percent of the surface area of the lakes and rivers may be allotted for aquaculture purposes."

Pamalakaya said that with its total area of 23,420 hectares, Taal Lake has only a carrying capacity of 2,342 hectares for aquaculture.

The group said more than 5,000 aquaculture structures are currently operating in Taal Lake, which means that it has probably already exceeded its maximum carrying capacity.

Sardinella tawilis is endemic to a single location in the Philippines - Taal Lake in Batangas.

Tawilis, also known by its common name Bombon sardine, is one of a few marine species trapped within the lake that has evolved into a purely freshwater species. It is also the sole freshwater species of *Sardinella*.

The IUCN already said there are major threats to the survival of *tawilis* due to "overexploitation, pollution and competition and/or predation with introduced fishes, resulting in continuing declines in habitat quality and number of mature individuals."

The IUCN also noted that "catches of this species have declined significantly since at least 1998, and it is estimated that harvest has declined by about 49 percent over the past 10 years."

"Fishing effort using illegal gear which target this species in the lake is increasing, but at this time the rate of increase has not been quantified specifically," the group added.

Assessment made by IUCN added "this species, and Taal Lake, are considered high priorities for conservation by the Philippine government."

The IUCN is an international organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

- With Elizabeth Marcelo



Tawilis fishing seasonal ban eyed

PAMB has already passed a resolution recommending a closed season for 'tawilis'

By Kuhlín Ceslie Gacula

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will declare a preservation area for the endemic "tawilis" fish species at the Taal Lake Protected Landscape and seasonal closure of fishing grounds, an agency official said Friday.

In a media interview, DENR Undersecretary for Strategic Communications Benny Antiporda said the department is bent on protecting "tawilis" from extinction after the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) based in Gland, Switzerland recently listed the "Sardinella tawilis" an endangered species.

Aside from imposing a closed season to give the fish time to breed, the DENR will coordinate with other agencies, such as the departments of social welfare and labor, to help fisher folk find alternative livelihood when "tawilis" fishing is prohibited.

Even as this developed, local food processing firm CDO Foodsphere, Inc. announced that it would stop the use of endangered fish species "tawilis" in its



Delicious treat A plate of crispy, crunchy 'tawilis' is among the must-try food of visitors in Tagaytay. However overfishing and pollution are threatening the existence of the fresh water fish endemic in Lake Taal that authorities are bent on imposing seasonal fishing ban as part of the measures to save 'tawilis' from extinction. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO.

production, vowing to support preservation efforts.

Earlier reports had quoted Batangas Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) Chief Elmer Bascos as saying even before the IUCN findings, the agency and the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) have drawn up steps to preserve "tawilis."

He said DENR 4-A (Calabarzon) and DENR-Batangas have set a meeting with the Bureau of Fisheries

and Aquatic Resources 4-A on 29 January to discuss the issue and come up with policy recommendations.

"The meeting will identify 'tawilis' conservation areas in the fishing grounds off the towns of Cuenca, Nicolas and Baleta," Bascos said.

He added PAMB has already passed a resolution recommending a closed season for the "tawilis" harvest in March and April this year.

Bascos said the interagency meeting and the PAMB will also

spearhead the seeding of the carp and other fish varieties in the lake to augment the livelihood of the fisherfolk.

"Tawilis can only be found in Taal Lake and it thrives on sulfuric waters. But the threat now is overfishing using active fishing gear, pollution and the (introduction of) invasive species into the lake," he added.

He said DENR 4-A has committed to conduct intensive monitoring of the "tawilis" population as well as the water quality of the lake.



27 JAN 2013

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Dagat ng Cavite papatayin sa reclamation project ng mga Revilla

Naghayag ng pangamba ang isang grupo ng mga mangingisda sa Bacoor City, Cavite kaugnay sa isinusulong di-umano na reclamation project ng mga Revilla na papatay sa kabuhayan nila sakaling magtagumpay ito.

Dalawang reclamation project umano na sasakop ng 420 hektarya ang isinusulong ng mga Revilla.

Ayon sa Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya (Pamalakaya), 700 hektarya lamang ang municipal waters ng Bacoor kung saan marami ang nangingisda at nag-aani ng talaba at tahong at marami ang mawawalan ng ikabubuhay sakaling matuloy ito.

Sabi ni Myna Candinato, presidente ng Alyansa ng mga Magdara-gat sa Bacoor, pinapatay ng mga Revilla ang industriya ng tahong sa Ba-

coor at pinaplano na nilang tanggalin ang lugar kung saan pinapalaki ang mga tahong at itapon ang mga mag-tatahong sa malayong lugar.

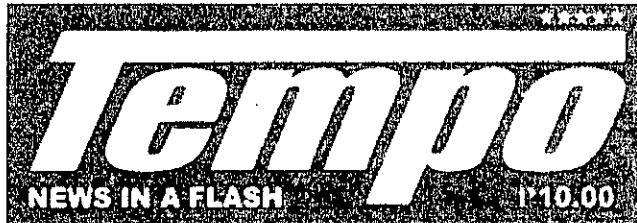
Isasailalim sa rehabilitasyon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang Manila Bay pero matagal nang nagpahayag ng pangamba ang Pamalakaya na gimik lang ito para paalisin ang mga mangingisda at tabunan ng lupa ang karagatan.

Una nang namatay umano ang kabuhayan ng mga mangingisda sa Parañaque at Las Piñas nang itinayo ang Coastal Road na ngayon ay kilala na bilang Cavite.

Namatay din ang mga asinan sa Las Piñas dahil hindi na dumadaloy sa loob ang tubig-dagat. (Eileen Mencias)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



27 JAN 2010

DATE

DENR mulls closed season to save 'tawilis' from extinction

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources will declare a preservation area for the endemic "tawilis" fish species at the Taal Lake Protected Landscape and seasonal closure of fishing grounds, an official said.

DENR Undersecretary for Strategic Communications Benny Antiporda said the department is bent on protecting the tawilis from extinction after the International Union for Conservation of Nature based in Gland, Switzerland listed the *Sardinella tawilis* as an endangered species.

Aside from imposing a closed

season to give the tawilis time to breed, the DENR will coordinate with other agencies, such as the Departments of Social Welfare and Development and Labor, to help fisher folk find an alternative livelihood.

Batangas Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office chief Elmer Bascos disclosed that even before the IUCN findings, the agency and the Protected Area Management Board have drawn up steps to preserve the tawilis.

He said DENR Region 4-A and DENR Batangas have set a meeting with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region

4-A on Jan. 29 to discuss the issue and come up with policy recommendations.

"The meeting will identify tawilis conservation areas in the fishing grounds off the towns of Cuenca, Nicolas, and Balete," Bascos said.

He added that PAMB has passed a resolution recommending a closed season for the tawilis harvest in March and April this year.

Bascos said the interagency meeting and the PAMB will also spearhead the seeding of the carp and other fish varieties in the lake to augment the livelihood of the fisherfolk. (PNA)



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Globe says no to plastic

GLOBE Telecom joins several organizations that have taken a stance against the proliferation of plastics by instituting a ban on single-use plastics within its headquarters at The Globe Tower. The company also embarked on an employee education campaign entitled WASSUP (Wag Sa Single Use Plastic) tackling the impacts of plastics on the environment.

The campaign was launched in time for the celebration of Zero-Waste Month, a government advocacy that promotes the managing of products and processes to avoid and eliminate

the volume and toxicity of waste materials."

"Globe is committed to having sustainable programs that will benefit our country and every Filipino. We are definitely looking at innovative ways to address our country's plastic problem, starting with ourselves, our employees, and partners, and in the future, with the help of our customers and other stakeholders. Unfortunately, not all types of plastics are recyclable. We need to improve our recycling infrastructure and reduce or altogether stop the use of non-recyclable plastics. It is a grave environmental concern and the solution

requires changes in how we use and produce plastic," said Yoly Crisanto, Globe Chief Sustainability Officer and SVP for Corporate Communications.

Globe is a strong advocate of environmental protection and conservation and supports 10 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Programs. Given its wide business footprint, Globe recognizes the environmental impact of its operations, prompting the company to institute measures to lessen carbon emissions, reduce paper consumption, restore primary rainforests, and recycle e-waste, among other environmental initiatives.

For instance, Globe was able to save 58 tons of paper in 2017 from customers who enrolled in paperless billing while its Project 1 Phone was able to recycle over 500,000 kilograms of electronic waste since its launch in 2013.

Likewise, in partnership with Save Philippine Seas (SPS), an independent non-government, non-profit organization that aims to protect the country's rich marine resources through citizen-led initiatives, Globe rolled out marine biodiversity programs in Boracay and Siargao to equip the community and business stakeholders with modules on best practices on sustainability and biodiversity.

Meanwhile, the Philippines ranks third in

terms of total contribution to ocean plastic pollution based on a report released by the Ocean Conservancy and McKinsey Center for Business and Environment. This dire situation Ocean Conservancy and McKinsey Center for Business and Environment. This dire situation caught the people's attention last year when massive piles of garbage crashed into the Manila Bay breakwater during heavy rains.

A recent audit conducted by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives and Mother Earth Foundation in select areas, likewise, showed that about 79% of branded plastic residual wastes come from food packaging, followed by household products with 12%, and personal care products with



No to single-use plastics-Globe

SINAMAHAN ng Globe Telecom ang ilang organisasyon na nanindigan taban sa paglaganap ng plastics sa pagbabawal sa single-use plastics sa loob ng headquarters nito sa Globe Tower.

Naglunsad din ang kompanya ng isang employee education campaign na may titulong WASSUP (Wag Sa Single Use Plastic) na tumatalakay sa mga epekto ng plastics sa kapaligiran.

Ang kampanya ay inilunsad tamang-tama sa selebrasyon ng Zero-Waste Month, isang adbokasiya ng gobyerno na nagsusulong sa pangangasiwa sa mga produkto at proseso para matwasan at maalis ang dami at lason ng waste materials.

"Globe is committed to having sustainable programs that will benefit our country and every Filipino. We are definitely looking at innovative ways to address our country's plastic problem, starting with ourselves, our employees, and partners, and in the future, with the help of our customers and other stakeholders. Unfortunately, not all types of plastics are recyclable. We

need to improve our recycling infrastructure and reduce or altogether stop the use of non-recyclable plastics. It is a grave environmental concern and the solution requires changes in how we use and produce plastic," wika ni Yoly Crisanto, Globe Chief Sustainability Officer and SVP for Corporate Communications.

Ang Globe ay isang masigasig na tagapagsulong ng environmental protection at conservation at sumusuporta sa 10 sa 17 UN Sustainable Development Programs. Sa malawak na business footprint nito, kinikilala ng Globe ang environmental impact ng operasyon nito, na nag-udyok sa kompanya na magpatupad ng mga hakbang upang mabawasan ang carbon emissions at paper consumption, maibalik ang primary rainforests, at ma-recycle ang e-waste.

Halimbawa nito ay naganawang maisalba ng Globe ang may 58 tonelada ng papel noong 2017 mula sa mga customer na nag-enroll sa paperless billing, habang sa Project 1 Phone nito ay nasa mahigit 500,000 kilograms ng electronic waste ang

na-recycle buhat nang simulan ito noong 2013.

Gayundin, sa pakikipag-partner sa Save Philippine Seas (SPS), isang independent non-government, non-profit organization na naglalayong protektahan ang mayamang marine resources ng bansa sa pamamagitan ng citizen-led initiatives, ang Globe ay naglatag ng marine biodiversity programs sa Boracay at Siargao upang mapagkalooban ang community at business stakeholders ng modules sa best practices on sustainability and biodiversity.

Samantala, ang Pilipinas ay pangatlo pagdating sa kabuuang kontribusyon sa ocean plastic pollution base sa report na ipinalabas ng Ocean Conservancy and McKinsey Center for Business and Environment.

Sa audit na isinagawa kamakailan ng Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives and Mother Earth Foundation sa mga piling lugar ay lumitaw rin na may 79% ng branded plastic residual wastes ay nagmula sa food packaging, 12% sa household products at 8% sa personal care products.

RNT