

DATE : 25 JUN 2019

DAY : Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



1/2

ANGAT WATER DROP

NO IMMEDIATE RELIEF FROM WATER SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS

By **Ronnel W. Domingo**
and **Jhesset O. Enano**
@Team_Inquirer

Metro Manilans can expect longer water service interruptions in the coming weeks as the reserve in Angat Dam may not rise to normal levels until early July.

Angat Dam, in Bulacan province, supplies 97 percent of Metro Manila's water needs.

Sevillo David, executive director of the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), told a news briefing on Monday that reduced water allocation from Angat to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) would be maintained up to at least the end of June.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) on Monday said the Angat reserve could hit its lowest level, 157.57 meters above

FROM A1

sea level (masl), this week if lack of rain persisted.

Pagasa said at least one to two storms bringing heavy rain would be needed to lift the water level in the dam.

The weather bureau said the heavy rain during the weekend was not enough to replenish the reserve, the elevation of which was recorded at 158.92 masl on Monday afternoon, marking a decrease of 0.53 meters from the previous day.

Danilo Flores, a hydrologist with Pagasa, said the recent rains were due to localized thunderstorms, not heavy or consistent enough to refill the dam.

To raise Angat's elevation back to its minimum operating level of 180 masl, at least 400 millimeters of rain would be needed, falling right on the dam's watershed, he said.

Low pressure watched

"Based on our records, we need at least one to two storms to bring it back to the minimum operating level and at least three to four storms to refill it

to 210 masl, which is its normal high water level," Flores said.

Pagasa was watching a low-pressure zone located 610 kilometers east of Casiguran, Aurora province, on Monday afternoon.

But while it may become a tropical depression in the next 48 hours, Flores said it was expected to recurve and not hit land, and would therefore not have a significant impact on Angat.

The low pressure, however, could induce the southwest monsoon, which may bring rains over the Angat watershed, Flores said.

"Based on our records, we expect the watershed to begin its recovery by mid-July," he said.

That agrees with the NWRB's calculation, necessitating shorter water service in Metro Manila.

The board first reduced supply to the MWSS from the normal flow of 48 cubic meters per second to 46 cms on June 1.

Supply cuts

On June 20, the supply was further reduced to 40 cms as Angat prepared for low-water-level operations.

On June 22, the MWSS supply was cut yet again as the reserve fell below 160 masl.

Concessionaires Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. started implementing longer hours of low pressure to no water in their service zones during the weekend.

"We are monitoring the water level at Angat as well as the weather as we want to avoid making decisions on further reduction of allocation," David told Monday's news conference.

MWSS Chair Reynaldo Velasco said the limited supply needed to be managed so that all customers would have water even for only several hours a day.

"What is important is that people get the water at their homes, without the need to wait for tanker trucks on the street," Velasco said.

"We ask the concessionaires to follow the schedules they announced," he said.

"For consumers, we ask them to store the amount of water that they actually need [and not hoard]," he added.

Metro daily supply

In Bulacan, Patrick James Dizon, MWSS division manager, said water supply for Metro Manila would be reduced to 3.1 billion liters until June 30.

A4



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

 PAGE

 UPPER
 LOWER

 PAGE 1
STORY

 BANNER
STORY

 EDITORIAL

 CARTOON

25 JUN 2019

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____

2/2

Rain during the last 24 hours raised the stock at Ipo Dam by 1 cm to 99.81 masl as of Monday morning, closer to its minimum maintaining level of 101 masl.

At Bustos Dam, also in Bulacan, the reserve dropped from 13.69 masl on Sunday to 13.50 masl on Monday, way below its spilling level of 17.50 masl.

Ipo and Bustos dams catch water released by Angat for irrigation.

The reserve at La Mesa Dam in Quezon City also rose by 1 cm to 68.66 masl, nearer to its critical level of 69 masl.

The House of Representatives is looking into the water shortage in the metropolis, with officials of Manila Water and Maynilad invited to the opening hearing on Tuesday.

Public utilities

On Monday, Bagong Henerasyon Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy called for making the two concessionaires public utilities to make them subject to the rules of public service and to the auditing authority of the Commission on Audit.

Dy said the "second round" of water service cutoffs in Metro Manila, following a

shortage in March, merited a harsher rebuke and a deeper congressional inquiry.

"We have given [the] MWSS enough time to solve the persistent problems with their public utility services," she said.

"Since the regulators have either been slow or inept or both at doing their job, we shall file a bill that [would] prescribe details of their regulatory powers," Dy said. "Public utility declaration for water concessionaires has long been overdue."

In a protest action in Quezon City, Bayan Muna chair Neri Colmenares and Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate decried the failure of privatization and called for "renationalization" of the water service.

"There is no water security under privatization and this will get worse unless the government acts now. We have always asserted that privatization is wrong," Zarate said.

"We must abandon privatization and [the] government should take over these water [concessionaires] to ensure not just water security but also transparency and accountability," he added.

—WITH REPORTS FROM DJ YAP AND CARMELA REYES-ESTROPE INQ

Angat recovery to take 3 months

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

Despite recent heavy rains, the public must continue coping with unstable water supply as the recovery of Angat Dam, Metro Manila's main source of water, will take three more months.

In a joint briefing yesterday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said the water level in Angat Dam would normalize at 180 meters by September or October, given the rain situation over the past days.

"For it to return to normal, it would not take only one month; maybe three months or more. One factor is that Angat was really low the past months and it did not receive any rain during that period," PAGASA weather specialist Junie Ruiz said.

"Even if there will be rains for consecutive days, it would just wet the soil in the Angat watershed. After saturating the soil, that's the only time it would go down to the water table and eventually recharge

Turn to Page 4

the dam," he added.

As of early yesterday morning, the dam's water level further dipped to 159.09 meters, below the critical level of 160 meters.

"If there will soon be significant rainfall in a period of one or two weeks, then slowly, Angat will recharge. But the 180 meters will only be reached probably by September or October when typhoons start land crossing in Central Luzon," Ruiz said.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) also warned that Angat might possibly breach the lowest water level of 157.57 meters within the week if current situation continues without significant rainfall.

It was in July 2010 when Angat Dam registered its lowest level of 157.57 meters. It was among the worst El Niño episodes in the country.

"As of now, we cannot assure when we can return supply to normal, considering the low water level in Angat.

That's why we are also trying to maintain and prepare our system so as not to have additional reduction," NWRB executive director Sevilla David Jr. said.

Water allocation for concessionaires Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. has been slashed to 36 cubic meters per second (CMS) from 40 CMS.

This is a huge cut from the average allocation of 48 CMS on normal days.

"We will look at it once Angat starts recovering and see if we can start reviewing to slowly increase the allocation again. But for now, we maintain the 36 CMS until the end of June," David said.

"We also have to consider the future requirement for the rest of the year. The succeeding requirement this year and even for next year will rely on what level the dam will recover," he added.

Further, allocation for the agriculture sector will resume only when Angat returns to 180 meters.

The NWRB started reducing allocation for farms in April and eventually removed it earlier this month.

"We just want to ensure that once we release for agriculture again, we will be able to sustain their requirements," David said.

The further cut in water allocation for Metro Manila and nearby provinces has caused longer hours of interruption for more than 12 million combined consumers for the two concessionaires.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System warned concessionaires to strictly follow their advisories and warned consumers to save up just enough supply.

"Consumers should just save enough for what they need because once they start getting more, the reservoirs might be the ones to be affected," MWSS administrator Reynaldo Velasco said.

"We really need to manage our available resources in order to stretch the water in

Angat," he added.

Velasco said the heavy downpour over the weekend did little to help in improving water level in the dam.

Water crisis hearing

The House of Representatives oversight committee will resume today its hearing on the water crisis in Metro Manila brought about by the breaching of the critical water level of Angat Dam in Bulacan.

Outgoing Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo initiated the hearing due to the prolonged water shortage, as the creation of a Department of Water will also be included in the agenda as the committee tries to evaluate the issues for the next Congress to act upon.

She said Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) acting administrator Jeci Lopus was seeking government help and solution for the Angat Dam water problem as well as requesting measures to prevent a long-drawn out water crisis from happening.

Invited to the hearing are officials from the MWSS, NWRB, LWUA, National Irrigation Authority, Departments of Agriculture, Budget and Management, Environment and Natural Resources and Public Works and Highways.

Officials from the National Economic and Development Authority and water concessionaires Ayala-owned Manila Water and the Manny V. Pangilinan-owned Maynilad Water, among others, are also invited.

House Minority Leader Danilo Suarez has suggested that the stalled construction of the Sumag River Diversion project in Quezon province be resumed to help solve the water crisis in Metro Manila.

Suarez, the incoming Quezon governor, said the recurring and extended water crisis would be solved in the long term if the government pushes through with the completion of the project, whose water flows through Angat Dam in Bulacan.

Suarez said this would provide not only a remedy but give Metro Manila residents relief from the ongoing water interruptions since the start of the year.

The construction of the Sumag Diversion project, which is "70 percent complete," was stopped in 2016 after an accident took place that claimed the lives of six workers at the construction site.

Senate President Vicente Sotto III has vowed to increase funding for long-term water security projects and proposed to the Duterte administration to support public-private partnership programs for the same, such as desalination plants.

He said the country should not suffer from dry spells if there are desalination plants, which are common in the Middle East and nearby countries like Singapore.

Sen. Grace Poe, who led the inquiry into the recent water shortage in Metro Manila as chair of the public services committee, lamented the water crisis appeared to have worsened despite assurances from the MWSS and concessionaires that they have learned their lesson from the previous supply interruptions.

— With Delon Porcalla, Rhodina Villanueva, Paolo Romero

DESPITE DECLINING ANGAT LEVEL

New water cuts ruled out

BY JORDEENE B. LAGARE

THE National Water Resources Board (NWRB) will not reduce further the water releases from Angat Dam, the primary source of water for Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

In a briefing on Monday, NWRB Executive Director Sevillo David Jr. said the water allocation for the Metropolitan Waterworks and

Sewerage System (MWSS) will be maintained at 36 cubic meters per second (cms) "for now."

"We are preparing the system

within the Angat reservoir and of course our weather projections as much as possible to avoid further reducing water supply," he added.

Sevillo said the agency was monitoring the weather and Angat's water level before making any decisions next month.

The dam's normal operating level is between 180 meters and 210 meters. However, as of Monday, its water level has declined

to 159.09 meters, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

On Saturday, the NWRB reduced its water allocation to the MWSS, which divides this between Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc., to 36 cms from 40 cms.

Last week, the agency cut water releases from Angat Dam to 40 cms from 46 cms.

Manila Water and Maynilad have been implementing rotational service disruptions lasting for several hours in order to maximize the limited supply.

This supply crunch has affected about 1.1 million service connections or 7.59 million people within Maynilad's concession area and more than 6 million customers within Manila Water's coverage area.

Both Maynilad and Manila Wa-

ter have said their customers would continue to experience little to no water supply until their allocation from Angat Dam is increased.

During the briefing, MWSS Administrator Reynaldo Velasco asked the two companies to strictly adhere to their schedule of water interruptions in their areas.

Velasco also reminded customers to store enough water for times when no water would come out from their taps.



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

MWSS option: Pump out water from Angat Dam

By Rio N. Araja
and Macon Ramos-Araneta

WATER managers have no other option but to reduce the water allocation for Metro Manila beyond should there be no improvement in the water level in Angat Dam in Bulacan, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said Monday.

Danilo Flores, hydrologist at the weather bureau, said PAGASA, the National Water Resources Board, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and its two water concessionaires—Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc.—tackled the dam's low water supply at Monday's meeting of the technical working group and came up with a recommendation to adjust the allocation for domestic use to lower than the current 36 cubic meters.

Next page

MWSS...

From A1

"It is better to have a reduction to enable [us] to stretch the number of days of our water use," Flores told the **Manila Standard**.

Not reducing the allocation now would hurt consumers and lead to more and prolonged water service interruptions, he said.

"It is better that we have something to share among ourselves [than to have no water at all]," he said.

In an interview with GMA-7, MWSS Administrator Reynaldo Velasco said the agency would have no option but to pump out water from Angat Dam should the elevation fall to 150 meters.

"We cannot fight nature," he said.

"We will be forced to pump out water. That is why I have advised the [two water] concessionaires to really look for pumps [as early as possible]. We cannot just buy them if we are already in that situation," he added.

As of 6 a.m. Monday, the dam's water elevation went down to 159.09 meters, well below the 160-meter critical level.



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Water, power woes far from over

BY JED MACAPAGAL

CONSUMERS will continue to experience limited supply of power and water as the expected full effects of the rainy season has yet to fill up dams and to lower temperatures.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) warned that Angat dam may again reach its lowest elevation of 157 meters by weekend if weather patterns do not change.

NWRB said it will continue to limit to 36 cubic meters per second (cms) the allocation of water to concessionaires Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) until next month as it awaits weather developments in the coming days.

As of 8 a.m. yesterday, June 24, Angat dam's elevation was at 159.04 meters, or a meter below the 160-meter critical level. The last time the dam's level hit its

historical low of 157 meters was in 2010.

"We are trying to maintain the current allocation so we are preparing all systems and projections especially on the weather to avoid additional reductions. We are monitoring closely our current capacity... 36 cms will be maintained until end of the month. Then we will check the developments on the weather before we decide what to do in July," said Seville David Jr.,

NWRB executive director.

Reynaldo Velasco, MWSS administrator, said the agency met with the Metropolitan Development Authority and other local government units for the possible regulation of use of water in swimming pools, car wash services as well as golf courses.

Velasco appealed to consumers to save water enough for a day's use as overstocking may also have negative effects on reservoirs.

"We need to practice such measures until such time we develop sufficient water source with enough buffer. Definitely, Angat is crying already. It cannot anymore support the requirement of Metro Manila," he said.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said rains are expected to hit the area of Angat dam by next month.

But it said it may take until

September or October before the dam is replenished back to its minimum normal operating level of 180 meters.

Meanwhile, the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), again placed the Luzon Grid yesterday under yellow alert due to insufficiency in the amount of available power reserves as peak power demand hit 11,093

See WATER ► Page A2

WATER

megawatts (MW) against an available supply of 11,964 MW.

The Department of Energy said the power supply deficiency yesterday was caused by the planned and unplanned outages of power plants with a total capacity of 1,310 MW, mostly due to non-operation of hydro

plants caused by low water level in dams.

NGCP earlier said it expects the power situation to normalize by September as hydro power plants are expected to be back on operations during the rainy season even if some coal power plants will have their maintenance shutdowns.



Maynilad, Manila Water likely to evolve from concessionaires to public utilities, lawmaker says

BY JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ
@joveemarie

A PARTY-LIST lawmaker on Monday said the 18th Congress would work for the passage of a measure declaring water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad as "public utilities."

Recalling on how the water crisis in the early 1990s led to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System's privatization and the subsequent entry of the two water concessionaires in Metro Manila, Bagong Henerasyon partylist Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy said it is again time to amend the MWSS charter, and this time, explicitly define water concessionaires as public utilities.

Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, meanwhile, has called for an oversight hearing on Tuesday (today) at 10 a.m. on the prevailing water shortage in Metro Manila.

Invited to the hearing are officials from the MWSS, National Water Resources Bureau (NWRB), Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), National Irrigation Authority (NIA), Departments of Agriculture, Budget and Management, Environment and Natural Resources and Public Works and Highways, Neda and water concessionaires Manila Water Co. Inc., and the Maynilad Water Services Inc., among others.

Moreover, Herrera-Dy said, a public utility status for the water concessionaires will limit their prerogative to adjust rates they collect to their customers.

In the 17th Congress, the House of Representatives has approved House Bill 5828, or an act providing for the definition of public utility, amending for the purpose Commonwealth Act of 146. However, the Senate failed to approve the measure.

The bill provides a clear definition of public utility that covers three sectors: distribution of electricity system, transmission of electricity system and water pipeline distribution system or sewerage pipeline system.

Also, Herrera-Dy, secretary-general of the Party-list Coalition said, making Metro Manila residents suffer through a second round of water service cut offs merits tougher rebuke and deeper probe by Congress.

"We have given MWSS and the electricity sector enough time to solve the persistent problems with their public-utility services," said Herrera-Dy.

"It is now time to clean up the mess and among the areas we shall focus on is declaring the water concessionaires as public utilities," she added.

After the 18th Congress convenes on July 22, the lawmaker said the lower chamber would resume investigations on the water services as well as electricity services in Metro Manila

and other parts of the country.

Herrera-Dy also said that "since the regulators have either been slow or inept, or both, at doing their job, we shall file a bill that will prescribe details of their regulatory powers."

"Public utility declaration for water concessionaires has long been overdue," she said.

"Brownouts in many provinces is an almost daily burden. Mindoro, Panay Island, the Bicol Region and other parts of the country suffer long brownouts and high electricity costs," Herrera-Dy added.

Failure

MEANWHILE, Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao said, a "government, that could not even secure the basic water needs of its people, is an epic failure."

He said the Duterte administration should carry out a thorough evaluation of the private concessionaires' infrastructure, amid the firms's habitual justification of low water levels of its sources for the shortages.

"This should also serve as basis for a possible amendment on their respective concession agreements," he said.

"It is a highest feat of immorality that these concessionaires rake up super profits amid its clients's distress. The quality of their service should be proportionate of their profits," he added.



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Emergency powers will not solve Metro water-supply shortage, says MWSS's Velasco

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System Administrator Reynaldo V. Velasco said giving the President, or the MWSS, emergency powers will not help address the current water-supply shortage problem that currently besets Metro Manila residents.

At a news conference jointly held with National Water Resources Board (NWRB) Executive Director Seville D. David Jr., Velasco said without rain that will boost the volume of water at the Angat Dam, no amount of emergency powers will help.

"Even with emergency powers, without rain, there will still be supply shortage," Velasco, a retired police general, said.

The MWSS chief said that, if ever, emergency powers will be needed to fast-track the procurement of equipment for future water-supply projects.

"[Assuming that's the] case, the emergency power is for the future," he said.

Velasco cited the need to fast-track the development of new water source like the Centennial New Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project.

"It takes five years to build a dam. In the case of Kaliwa, it took us 52 years. And yet there is still opposition," he said.

Velasco said the procurement of equipment is a "slow process" under the current procurement law, a reason President Duterte wants it set aside. He said the government's hand is tied when it comes to procurement without emergency powers.

David said the NWRB is currently studying various scenarios before deciding on changing the current water-supply allocation for Metro Manila.

"Right now, we are looking at what is still available. What is our scenario, our rainfall projections in a couple of days or weeks, and

the operational capacity of the dam, including the low-level outlet," he said.

David said, for now, until the end of the month, the current water-supply allocation for Metro Manila will remain at 36 cubic meters per second. The reduced water allocation has compelled the MWSS's two private water concessionaires — Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. — to implement rotational water service interruptions to distribute the water it receives from Angat.

Manila Water's current supply gap is 170 MLD.

David underscored the need to manage whatever is left of the water at Angat until such time that rainfall is experienced at the Angat watershed to augment supply.

For now, the MWSS is appealing to Metro Manila residents to harvest rainwater and use it for nonessential uses, like washing cars, flushing toilets or watering plants.

Meanwhile, Velasco said he had already asked the MWSS and Manila Water to strictly follow their own water service interruption schedules, while urging consumers to conserve just enough water for their day-to-day needs so as not to further deplete the water reserve at Angat.

As for business establishments that continue to "waste" water like carwash and golf courses, Velasco said they had already requested the concerned local government units which have the power to issue executive orders or ordinances to look into the situation in their respective localities and come up with ways to conserve water.

He maintained that there's a need to develop new water source to address the perennial water-supply shortage.

"Angat is already crying. It cannot support the water requirement of Metro Manila, we have to get outside of Angat Dam," Velasco said.



House looks into Metro water shortage

BY WENDELL VIGILIA

THE House of Representatives will conduct an oversight hearing today to look into the water shortage in Metro Manila as Angat Dam in Bulacan reaches critical level.

Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo made the call just a few days before the term of all members of the 18th Congress end on June 30.

Arroyo said the issue was brought to her attention by Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) acting administrator Jeci Lapus as he sought for solutions for the Angat water problem as well as long-term measures to avert a water crisis.

Angat Dam, which supplies water to Metro Manila and Central Luzon, has already hit the critical 160-meter level which could further reduce Metro Manila's water supply.

As of 6 a.m. yesterday, the water level was down to 159.09 meters from 159.43 meters on Sunday morning.

Invited to today's hearing at the House of Representatives are officials from the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Systems

See HOUSE ► Page B2

HOUSE

(MWSS), National Water Resources Bureau (NWRB), LWUA, National Irrigation Authority (NIA), Departments of Agriculture, Budget and Management, Environment and Natural Resources and Public Works and Highways, NEDA and water concessionaires Manila Water Company, Inc. (MWCI), and Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI), among others.

Also included

in the agenda is the proposed creation of a Department of Water which will be evaluated by the committee for the next Congress to act upon.

At the height of the water crisis in the east side of Metro Manila last March, Arroyo also conducted an oversight hearing that prompted Maynilad to agree to open five of its surplus valves with Manila Water to supply 50 million of water to ease the burden of the estimated 1.2 million households in the area.

Two House resolutions, both princi-

pally authored by Speaker Arroyo, were also adopted that tackled the water crisis in Metro Manila.

House Resolution No. 2547 urged the MWSS, together with other concerned agencies and companies, to be proactive whenever an impending crisis is detected and immediately form a technical working group (TWG) to enhance and execute mitigation strategies to avert the occurrence of water shortage in Metro Manila and provide sustainable supply of clean and safe water for its citizens now and

in the future.

House Resolution No. 2548 urged the MWSS, MWSS-Regulatory Office (MWSS-RO) NWRB, LWUA, BSWM, MWCI, and the MWSI to immediately formulate a water security master plan to secure and sustain the supply of water for household, commercial, and industrial uses in Metro Manila that may be duplicated in other parts of the country.

The resolution stated that the recent water shortage in Metro Manila serves as an "eye-opener" that warned government regulators to be proactive particularly in the dry season to avert water service problems.

MWSS Administrator Reynaldo Velasco said the dam's water level will continue to drop if there will be no rain showers.

PAGASA hydrologist Elmer Caringal said two strong typhoons are needed so that Angat Dam's water level would be restored to its minimum operating level of 180 meters.

National Water Resources Board chief Seville David Jr. said Angat Dam may record its lowest water level this week if no rains will come. —
With Victor Reyes



LPA seen to develop into cyclone this week

By HELEN FLORES

More rains are expected in many parts of the country, including Metro Manila, in the next two days due to a low-pressure area off Casiguran, Aurora that was forecast to develop into a tropical cyclone.

State weathermen and water administrators are hop-

ing the rains will fall on Angat Dam in Bulacan, which breached the 160-meter critical level over the weekend.

As of 3 p.m. yesterday, the weather system was located 610 kilometers east of Casiguran, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

The low-pressure area was expected to intensify into a tropical depression and will be named Dodong.

The southwest monsoon, which was enhanced by the weather disturbance, will continue to bring cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms over Metro Manila, the Visayas, Mimaropa (Min-

doro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan), Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), Bicol region, Zamboanga peninsula, Zambales, Bataan and Aurora.

The heavy rains, which flooded several parts of Metro Manila on Sunday night, were not enough to increase the water level in Angat, one of

the main sources of water of the region.

Weather forecasters said at least two cyclones are needed to reach the normal operating level of Angat at 180 meters.

PAGASA hydrologist Elmer Caringal said light rains were experienced at the Angat watershed on Sunday.

Caringal said more than 600 millimeters of rainfall are needed to bring back Angat's water level to its normal operating level.

On June 22, the National Water Resources Board reduced allocation from 40 cubic meters per second to 36 CMS for Metro Manila and nearby areas.



FIRST PERSON

ALEX MAGNO

Crisis

It is time to call this a crisis.

Even as we near the end of June, the rains have not come. Angat Dam has fallen below critical level. The other dams in the Sierra Madre system we rely on for fresh water are following suit.

We were hopeful when a low-pressure area entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility over the last weekend. But it turned out to be too weak and too far to help mitigate the water shortage now gripping the metropolitan area.

There is a disturbing realization here: our teeming cities are actually reliant on rain-fed (not to mention creaky) water impoundment systems. As climate change becomes more profound, we can expect more severe weather to befall us. That includes longer and hotter El Niño months. If our fresh water supply is rain-fed, we are in deep trouble.

I recall we were talking about the Kaliwa and Kanan rivers back to when Fidel Ramos was president. Nothing happened in the intervening period. Now we are ready to build the Kaliwa Dam. But it will take years before we can divert precious fresh water from flowing uselessly to the sea.

We also talked a lot building hundreds of small water impoundment structures to capture rainwater, help relieve the flooding and have fresh water supplies available for communities. Nothing happened, except for a few bulk water enterprises serving rural communities.

Once, anticipating a rather severe bout with El Niño, I recall Congress setting aside a pretty large fund for mitigating its effects. The fund was equally divided among the congressmen although common sense says some areas need the funding more than others.

That money, I suppose, was largely squandered as additional pork barrel. In a few districts, deep-water wells were drilled. The wells were later banned after we realized that they brought down the aquifer water levels and dried up the mountains. They also caused subsidence, where the ground sinks when aquifers dried up, in some parts of Metro Manila. Therefore, that entire El Niño fund went to waste.

In the community where I live, the water pumps disappeared. Someone must have sold them for scrap. We remember them now because the faucets are dry 20 hours of the day.

If no rains come over the next two weeks, the whole National Capital Region will be in deep trouble.

By declaring a water crisis, government should appoint a water czar or something. He will be the central contact person for orchestrating water conservation and rationing. He should also chair a panel to look into the possible criminal negligence of the water concessionaires. They are, under the terms of their contracts, responsible for assuring water sufficiency.

Some leftist group recently proposed we renationalize the water concessions. That will make things even worse.

Those of a certain age remember the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority. When bureaucrats controlled water distribution, we had no water all year round.





25 JUN 2019

DATE

Ulan kulang pa rin **Water level sa Angat Dam lalong bumababa**

NANANATILING mas mababa sa 160-metro critical mark nitong Lunes, 24 Hunyo, at inaasahang bababa pa ang water level sa Angat Dam kung hindi pa rin sapat ang bubuhos na ulan, ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Naitala kahapon 6:00 am, ang water level ng Angat Dam sa 159.09 metro—mas mababa sa 159.43 metro na naitala noong Linggo ng umaga.

Dagdag ng Pagasa, bumababa din ang water level sa ibang mga dam sa bansa tulad ng San Roque Dam (-0.41 metro), Pantabangan Dam (-0.18 metro), at Magat Dam (-0.18 metro).
Samantala, bahagyang

tumaas ang water level sa Ipo Dam, La Mesa Dam, Ambuklao Dam, Binga Dam, at Caliraya Dam mula noong Linggo ng umaga.

Naging sanhi ng patuloy na pagbaba ng lebel ng tubig ang pagkawala ng tulo sa Kamaynilaan at mga kalapit na lalawigan dahil binabaan ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ang suplay ng tubig na ibinibigay sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), na ibinibigay nila sa Manila Water at Maynilad.

Ayon kay Patrick James Dizon, division manager ng MWSS, ang pagbagsak ng water level sa Angat Dam ay sanhi ng kakulangan ng ulan dahil sa dinaranas na El Niño sa bansa.



TITLE:

25 JUN 2019

DATE

SA palagay ba ninyo ga-
wa ng kalikasan ang kris-
sis sa tubig sa Mega Ma-
nila?

Para sa ating Uzi, ba-
hagi lang ang kalikasan
sa problema.

Ang malaking dahilan
na nakikita ng ating Uzi
ay ang sobrang lawak ng
operasyon ng Maynilad
at Manila Water.

Hindi ba noong una,
eh, ang Metro Manila
lang ang dapat suplayan
ng dalawang konsesyo-
naryo?

Sa huli, isinama na
nila ang mga lalawigan
ng Rizal, Cavite at Bula-
can.

Hinati ng dalawang
konsesyonaryo ang Me-
ga Manila.

Sa laki ng populasyon
na sinusuplayan ng da-
lawa, madali nang ma-
ubos ang tubig na galing
sa Angat Dam, Ipo Dam
at La Mesa Dam.

Bukod pa rito ang pag-
papakawala ng Angat
Dam ng maraming tubig
para sa irigasyon ng mga
magsasaka sa Bulacan.

KASUWAPANGAN?
Sabi ng ating Uzi, ma-
ituturing na suwapang
ang mga konsesyonar-
yo.

Para buo nilang ma-
pagkakitaan ang suplay
ng tubig sa lahat ng sa-
kop nila, pinagbabawa-
lan na nila nang tuluyan
ang anomang source ng
tubig gaya ng poso o
deepwell.

Katwiran ng dalawa,
hindi mamamayang
maubos ang mga pun-
dasyon ng lupa sa pali-
gid ng poso o deepwell
at pagmumulan ito ng
pagguho ng lupa sa pa-
ligid ng mga tubo ng
poso o deepwell.

Totoo naman.
Pero sa tagal ng pana-
hon na gumagamit ang
mga mamamayan ng
poso o deepwell, wala
pang naitatalang paggu-
ho ng lupa.

Maaaring totoo ito sa
mga komersyal na deep-
well gaya ng mga gamit
ng mga pabrika pero hin-
di sa gamit ng mga ordi-
naryong mamamayan.

Pero ang totoong nasa
likod ng pagbabawal ay
para masolo nila ang la-
hat ng source ng tubig at
mawalan ng libreng tu-
big ang mga mamama-
yan.

**MAYNILA - P35
MANILA
WATER - P25**

Alam ba ninyo ang kata-
mtamang halaga o aver-



MONOPOLYO ANG DAHILAN NG KRISIS SA TUBIG

age basic charge na bina-
bayaran ng mga kostumer
ng dalawa bawat buwan?

P35 kada buwan para
sa Maynilad habang P25
naman ang sa Manila Wa-
ter.

May tubig o wala na tutu-
lo sa faucet ng mga kos-
tumer, naniningil ang dal-
awa ng nasabing halaga
bawat metro ng tubig.

Gaano kalaki ang kita ng
bawat isa sa kanila bu-
wan-buwan sa nasabing
average basic charge?

Anak ng tokwa, malaki,
malaking-malaki.

Isipin na lang ninyo, mga
Bro, ang Maynilad ay may
_____ milyong kostumer
samantalang may _____
milyon naman ang Manila
Water.

Pwera pa ang singil ng
mga ito sa mga reconnection
charge kung pinutulan
ka ng kuryente, kung pala-
ki nang palaki ang iyong
babayaran sa paglaki ng
konsumo mo.

MGA APEKTADO

Nitong krisis sa tubig,
ang daming perwisyong
idinulot nito sa mga ma-
mamayan.

May mga hindi nakapa-
sok sa trabaho, may mga
nagsara ng negosyong tu-
big gaya ng mga refilling
station at restoran.

May mga lumala ang
sakit sa kawalan o labis na
kakulangan ng suplay ng
tubig.

Bumaling sa nakaplas-
tik na mallilit na tubig ang
maraming tao at napaka-
mamahal ang mga ito.

Akalain nating katumbas
ng 500 milliliter na
plastic o bottled water ang
isang average basic charge
ng Maynilad at Manila
Water.

'Yun bang === may P35
o P25 na bottled water at
katumbas nito ang nasa-
bing average basic charge
na karaniwa'y konsumo sa
loob ng isang buwan ng
isang pamilya.

POSO NEGRO

Kakambal ng negosyo
ng dalawang monopoli-
stang ito ang negosyo sa
poso negro.

Sa imbestigasyon ng
mga awtoridad, anak ng

pitong putakte, kakapurit
lang pala ang naitatag ng
dalawang konsesyonar-
yo na purifying o recycling
station para sa dumi ga-
ling sa mga poso.

Heto ang nakapaninin-
dig-balahibo.

Dapat libre ang pasip-
sip ng mga poso negro.

Pero alam ba ninyong
iiskedyul ka sa susunod
na dalawa o tatlong bu-
wan bago ka masipsi-
pan?

Eh umaapaw na ang
iyong poso negro.

Pero kung magbayad
ka ng kung ilang libo para
rito, andyan na agad ang
mga pangsipsip ng May-
nilad at Manila Water.

Hindi ba may malaking
pandaraya rito?

Gaano karami ang
nagbabayad ng pasipsip
dahil sa pagkabigo ng
mga konsesyonaryo na
umaksyon kaagad sa
oras ng pangangaila-
ngan dito?

MONOPOLYO BUWAGIN

Dapat na titingin ang
pamahalaan, lalo na
ang Metro Waterworks
and Sewerage System,
ng paraan na mabuwag
ang monopoly sa tubig.

Kung may mag-aplay
bilang suplayer ng tubig,
dapat na pagbigyan ito.

Gaya na lamang ng gi-
nawang pagpahintulot
sa isang telephone com-
pany na pangatlong kom-
panya na magbigay-
serbisyo sa telepono at
internet.

Kung magagawa ng
pamahalaang Duterte
ang pagbuwag sa mo-
nopolyo, malaking ginha-
wa ang matatamo ng
mga mamamayan sa
pagganda ng serbisyo
sa kantidad at kalidad,
kasama na ang pagba-
ba ng presyo ng tubig.

Dito natin naalaala ang
alok ni Ramon Ang na
pupwede siyang mag-
suplay ng tubig na P5
para sa average basic
charge.

Anomang reaksyon o
reklamo ay maaaring
iparating sa 0922840-
3333 o i-email sa banti-
porda@yahoo.com.



ALOKASYON NG TUBIG SA METRO MANILA, BINAWASAN MULI NG NWRB

BINAWASANG muli ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ang alokasyon ng tubig para sa MWSS at mga konsesyunaryo nito ng 4 cubic meters per second (CMS), mula 40 CMS pababa hanggang 36 CMS. Ito ay bunsod ng patuloy na pagbaba ng antas ng tubig sa Angat Dam na mas mababa na sa kritikal na lebel na 160 meters noong Sabado, Hunyo 22, 2019. Ang 4 CMS na ibabawas ay katumbas ng konsumo ng halos 700,000 na katao kada araw.

Ayon kay Dr. Seville David, Jr. Executive Director ng NWRB, ang lebel ng tubig as of June 24, 6am (Lunes ng umaga) ay nasa 159.09, below 160 kritikal lebel. Kahapon ipinatupad ang karagdagang pagbabawas sa alokasyon sa MWSS, mula sa 40 metro kubiko bawat segundo, ibaba na sa 36 cms.

Kaugnay nito, kinakailangang magpatupad muli ng Manila Water ng panibagong iskedyul ng 'rotational water

service interruptions' sa buong East Zone na tatagal mula 12 hanggang 17 oras bawat araw.

Ang mga 'service interruptions' na ito ay ginagawa para maipamahagi ang limitadong suplay ng tubig sa lahat ng mga kostumer, upang mabigyan ang lahat ng pagkakataon na makapag-apon ng tubig araw-araw.

Bagama't ang bagong iskedyul ng mga interruption ay nagsimula noong ika-22 ng Hunyo, kinakailangan ng pagbabawas ng alokasyon bago tuluyang maisaayos ang operasyon. Ito ay upang makamit ang tamang iskedyul dahil sa 'pagtitimpla' o pagbabalanse ng distribusyon ng limitadong supply ng tubig sa kabuuan ng East Zone. Ang 'rotational water service interruption' ay mananatili hanggang makabawi ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam.

Ang Manila Water ay patuloy na magbibigay ng mga update hinggil sa anumang

pagbabago sa iskedyul ng 'rotational water service interruptions'.

-ooOoo- DOST-PAGASA MAY BAGONG WARNING SYSTEM KONTRA STORM SURGE

Isa sa mga natutunan natin kay Super Typhoon Yolanda na nanalasa sa Samar - Leyte Islands noong November 8, 2013 ay ang paghandaan ang Storm Surge o Daluyong.

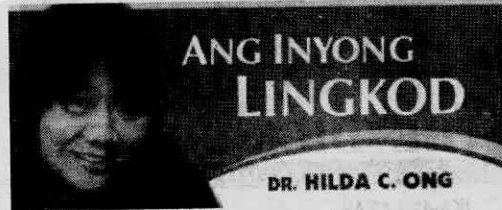
Sinasabi ng mga eksperto na karamihan sa higit kumulang six thousand three hundred (6,300) na nasawi ay dahil sa storm surge, kaya naman masusi itong pinag-aralan ng Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration o DOST PAGASA upang makapagbigay ng babala.

Matapos ang anim na taong pananalasa ng Super Ty-

phoon Yolanda, may bagong Storm Surge Forecast and Warning System na ito na magbibigay ng 'possible impact of the weather system to the community'.

Batay sa paliwanag ni Undersecretary for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change, Dr. Renato Solidum, ang bagong sistema ay isang community-based preparedness na may dalawang kategorya - Storm Surge Watch na ilalabas kung mayroong moderate to hioastal and risk storm surge sa loob ng susunod na forty-eight (48) hours; at Storm Surge Warning kapag mayroong high risk of storm surge na darating sa susunod na twenty-four (24) hours sa mga low-lying coastal areas.

Kaya upang makaligtas sa panganib sa panahon ng bagyo at Habagat, kapag sinabi ng awtoridad sa inyong kailangan na ang paglikas, sumunod at huwag nang hintayin pa ang panganib



ANG INYONG LINGKOD

DR. HILDA C. ONG



Water crisis fails to dampen 'basaan'

San Juan City holds biggest ever Wattah Wattah Festival

By Matthew Reysio-Cruz
and Maxine Sta. Cruz
@InqMetro

As the water level in Angat Dam tumbled on Monday to an alarming 159.43 meters—a harbinger of a possibly more severe water shortage in Metro Manila—there was little sense of an impending crisis in San Juan City, which went ahead with its annual Wattah Wattah Festival.

A procession of fire trucks rained a torrent of water on boisterous festival-goers, many of whom were grappling with dry taps at home. Still, it seemed little could dampen the city's affinity for its traditional "basaan."

"I think it's the best celebration we've had," Mayor Guia Gomez told reporters. The local government had limited the number of fire trucks to 16 from the usual 50 due to the water shortage.

12,000 participants

Councilor Vincent Pacheco, the festival committee chair, estimated the crowd at around 12,000, making it the biggest Wattah Wattah yet despite the ironic backdrop of a worsening water crisis.

The chiefly religious festi-

val is observed on the birthday of the city's patron saint, John the Baptist. The fire trucks were blessed by a priest before these made their way through the small city, accompanied by several floats depicting the life of Saint John.

Encapsulating the view of other residents, Helen Cordial spurned the idea that the festival was a waste of resources. The dousing of water was akin to being showered with blessings, said the 49-year-old Cordial, who has lived in San Juan since the 1970s.

Dexter Cabreza, 24, said it was a family tradition to head to church before the *basaan*. According to Parks Garcia, who has celebrated the festival since its beginning in 2004, it was the city's way of giving thanks to Saint John.

"It wouldn't be right to destroy the tradition," Garcia said.

Christy Ponclara, 35, said she could not abandon what was essentially a "celebration of our city."

"I don't [think] they're wasting water because it's once a year, and not even for a whole day," she said. "We can't get rid of this because

it's the only day for us to celebrate a simple fiesta of our city."

Still, some residents were concerned about the appropriateness of pushing through with the festival although they agreed with the city government's conservation measures this year.

Christine Sy, who has lived in San Juan for five years, said they were satisfied with the limit on the number of participating fire trucks.

Cancellation not an option

"I think it's amenable, instead of not holding the event at all," Sy added.

David Llaneta, who has joined the *basaan* for eight years, conceded that he "didn't know" whether it was right to move ahead with the celebration this year. "But I guess [city hall] is finding a way to conserve water," he said.

According to Pacheco, the city government has "turned the crisis into a positive instrument" by launching an awareness campaign on water conservation.

"We are thankful, not because there's no water, but because the event was used to remind people that water is very important," he said. INQ



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



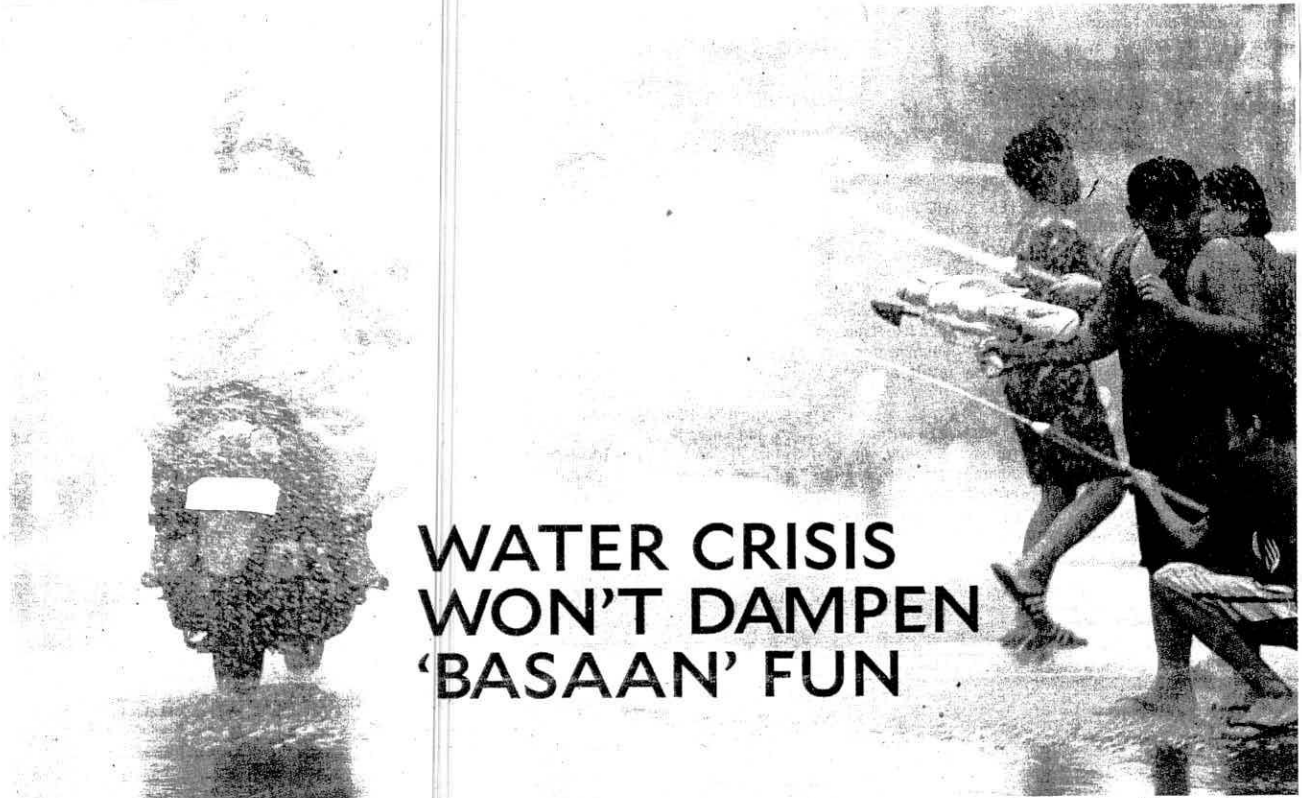
CARTOON

25 JUN 2019

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/

DATE



**WATER CRISIS
WON'T DAMPEN
'BASAAN' FUN**

WET HOLIDAY These youngsters are out on the streets of San Juan City early Monday morning, firing their water guns at will on motorists, all in the spirit of fun while celebrating the feast of their patron, St. John the Baptist. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA



WHAT WATER SHORTAGE? This year's Wattah Wattah Festival is believed to be the biggest yet, in terms of participants, since its launching in 2004. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA



EDITORIAL

The human right to water

The UN General Assembly declared in a July 2010 resolution that “safe and clean drinking water and sanitation [is] a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.” The UN Human Rights Council also adopted a resolution in 2011 stating that access to safe drinking water and sanitation is “a human right: a right to life and to human dignity.” These declarations

affirm everyone’s right to “sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses,” such as for drinking, washing of clothes, food preparation and household and personal sanitation.

A person needs between 50 and 100 liters of water a day, according to World Health Organization estimates, to ensure that his or her most basic personal and health needs are met. For these needs to be met, the United Nations said water supply and sanitation facilities for everyone “must be continuous and sufficient for personal and domestic uses.” The United Nations puts the responsibility of providing water and sanitation on governments, given that access to water and sanitation is a “legal entitlement, rather than a commodity or service provided on a charitable basis.”

However, this fundamental human right to water appears to be of little consequence in Metro Manila, where millions of residents in many communities are once again enduring long hours without it.

Without so much a say-so from the two giant water concessionaires, taps ran dry last week. Nothing could be done except to grin and bear the announcement by Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. that, henceforth, until the heavens decide to send rains over the dams servicing the Metro’s water needs, Metro Manila must contend with water service interruptions lasting from 12 to 17, and even 20 hours a day.

Just in March, Metro Manila already felt like a battle zone, with people spending sleepless nights and wasting whole days to queue for water rationing from fire trucks. In Mandaluyong, some condominium residents were forced to draw water from the swimming pool. A report in this paper also described how a community rushed out in a frenzy to meet a fire truck, as if it was a fight for survival. “I had to stop working because all my time is spent waiting here,” Nersia Aranas, resident of Barangay Barangka Drive in Mandaluyong, said in the same report. Another resident, Edna Elamparo, rued that fire trucks that came to their area, often at odd hours, could not even provide potable water. “In my 66 years, there had been times when water pressure was weak, but it was never completely gone. Unlike now—we are like beggars. We would consider using even dirty water.”

Lack of vision and long-term planning and systemic neglect have plagued the national agencies responsible for securing the water needs of Metro Manila’s 12 million or so and ever expanding population. It is not exactly a secret that Ipo, Angat and La Mesa dams supplying the Metro’s water requirements are limited, dependent on rain and affected by weather-related and manmade calamities. It is not a secret that El Niño and climate change have wreaked havoc on water resources, farming and the safety of communities in vulnerable countries like the Philippines. There has always been science to guide policy-making and the allocation of public expenditures—if only the government paid more heed to it.

Yet the problem persists, with the water concessionaires, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, the National Water Resources Board, etc. all blaming the crisis on dam water going below critical levels. Such neglect and indifference are compounded by the lack of transparency and accountability in discussing with the public not only the extent of the water crisis, but how the precious resource is allocated across the various communities in the metro.

These past days, consumers have taken to venting that while the concessionaires have issued advisories on water service interruptions, the warnings were not timely enough (before the taps ran dry) or turned out to be inaccurate (the flow didn’t return on the announced schedule).

What people in Metro Manila and the affected provinces need is simple: that all these well-funded government agencies and the private water concessionaires reaping billions of pesos in profit get their act together and deliver on their responsibility to provide citizens with water. That is their job—and, for the people, their basic human right.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALAN O NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS
INQUIRER

A8
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____





Davide hails stakeholders on protection of Manila Bay

EX-CHIEF Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr. called on the Filipinos to join hands and take a dynamic, collective and holistic move to save the country's maritime environment while there is still time as the sea and river predators have continued their destructive ways on God-given natural and maritime environment.

As guest and speaker at the launching of 'Manila Bay-ani Awards' at the Manila Yacht Club last June 5 in celebration of World Environment Day, the former Chief Magistrate hailed the maritime environment protection stakeholders, including the common citizen or member of the community of the lowest bracket who is given a role to share in contributing, no matter how small it is, in the clean-up and protection of historic Manila Bay.

The launch is a one-year search for good news, success stories, and exemplary efforts to help clean the Manila Bay, according to lead

organizer lawyer Antonio Oposa.

The government through the DENR is undertaking a five to seven-year P42-billion rehabilitation work of the iconic and historic Philippine bay, and hopes to turn some areas with murky waters to a swimmable beach within this year. Several business establishments are facing closure because of insufficient infrastructure to ensure proper waste disposal. No less than DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu had led the inspection of some 200 establishments and 38 hotels.

Majority of the hotels were found to lack of proper sewage treatment plants, it was reported.

Reports, have at presstime that some hotels and restaurants along Roxas boulevard stretch have already been closed.

Oposa explained the criteria of participants, stressing they must be in line and in consonance with : "Using good examples and success stories to inspire the movement for real and lasting change; Change the story from



EX-CHIEF JUSTICE DAVIDE BEFORE STAKEHOLDERS TO SAVE MANILA BAY— Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide. Jr. (standing in blue polo barong) explaining before stakeholders the importance and significance of protecting the historic Manila Bay, during the launching of 'Manila Bay-ani Awards' on June 5, 2019 in celebration of World Environment Day- at the Manila Yacht Club, Roxas Boulevard.

highlighting bad news to spotlighting the good news; Move from the harsh energy of enforcement to the happy energy of positive reinforcement".

The awards categories includes: 1. Proper solid waste management (sorting, composing, recycling and the like); 2. Waste-water treatment and water recycling; 3. Clearing and restoring of rivers, waterways, and water bodies (e.g. wetlands); 4. Rainwater catchment, rainwater collectors, and edible rain gardens; 5. Edible landscaping, community gardens, and or-

ganic gardening; 6. Clearing and greening of easement zones; Arts for the Earth (and Manila Bay) (e.g. music, paintings, poetry, etc).

Maritime journalist-analyst and legal researcher Eulogio Malicse said, the launch is a realistic approach to protecting Manila Bay. Nomination forms may be secured from, and filled-forms sent to manilabayani6519@gmail.com. Msrs. Paulo Burro, Ken Cogue and Tony Oposa.

For information send e-mail to manilabayani6519@gmail.com.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

TYPE EXHIBIT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

25 JUN 2019

DATE



HOW BIG IS THE HOLE. – The size of the big hole that formed after a 14-wheeler truck carrying sand sank in this portion of the street at the intersection of Remedios Street and Roxas Boulevard in Manila Sunday is being measured through Real Time Kinematics (RTK) by Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Engineer Jojo Barrios. (All Vicoy)



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



PAGE



UPPER



LOWER



PAGE 1

STORY



BANNER

STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

25 JUN 2019

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____



NEWS

Metro green spaces continue to shrink

Green spaces in Metro Manila are shrinking as more buildings rise and the population balloons, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Only about a fifth of its land area of 55,922.22 hectares has green space, barely enough for 12.8 million people. More green spaces are needed, like La Mesa Eco Park and the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area. —STORY BY JHESSET O. ENANO

AG



Metro green spaces continue to shrink

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

Metro Manila's green spaces would continue to shrink in the face of unabated development and a ballooning population, if not dealt with swiftly by the government and citizens alike, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said on Monday.

The challenge, however, lies in finding every pocket of available space for foliage in the densely populated National Capital Region (NCR).

Data from the DENR showed that of its land area of 55,922.22 hectares, only 12,152.79 ha of green space—or only 21 percent—exist in the NCR.

Using the 2015 population data, these spaces serve a whooping 12.8 million people living in the metropolis.

"If we look at the development here in the National Capital Region, especially under the 'Build, Build, Build' program, we really need to work double time to compensate for the loss [of green spaces]," said Jacqueline Caanca, DENR-NCR re-



FOLIAGE LOSS To compensate for the growing loss of foliage in Metro Manila due to rapid development, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is working to cover every bit of available space, even the traffic medians. —INQUIRER PHOTO

gional director.

Some of the major green spaces in Metro Manila include La Mesa Eco Park in Quezon City and the protected Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habi-

tat and Ecotourism Area.

Biggest deficits

Out of 16 cities and one town in Metro Manila, the capital Manila suffers one of the

biggest deficits, with only 140.4 ha green space in a total area of over 3,800 hectares.

Concerned citizens were recently up in arms after the 2-ha Arroceros Forest Park in

Ermita, dubbed as the city's "last lung," was threatened with the proposed building of a gymnasium.

But advocates were afforded a sigh of relief—and now hold on to a promise—after incoming Mayor Isko Moreno said he would not allow development inside the riverside park.

Other cities that badly need breathing space based on their populations are Caloocan, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Navotas, Pasay, Pasig, Pateros and San Juan, said Arturo Calderon, chief of the DENR-NCR's Production Forest Management Section.

To compensate for the growing loss of plants due to rapid development, the DENR-NCR said it was working to cover every bit of available space, including the traffic medians.

Minigardens, pocket parks

It is looking at the development of more minigardens and pocket parks, where trees and ornamental plants can provide a breathing space for the choking city.

Since the beginning of their

office's greening projects in the metropolis in 2011, at least 1,110 ha of land have been planted in, with a total of 787 sites across Metro Manila.

On Tuesday, in celebration of the Philippine Arbor Day, simultaneous tree-plantings will be held at the Baseco compound in Tondo, Manila, and on the campuses of Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Metro Manila.

Institutions, such as schools and churches, are also considered lungs for the Metro, where old trees are also often found.

Amid rapid development, the challenge lies in the delicate balance between development and sustainability, Caanca said.

The conscious efforts from government agencies and citizens alike would have to be swift and consistent, before concrete and steel threaten to engulf the metropolis.

"When we park our cars, we always want it under a tree's shade," she said. "But the irony is: Who wants to plant a tree?" INQ



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

 PAGE

 UPPER
 LOWER

 PAGE 1
STORY

 BANNER
STORY

 EDITORIAL

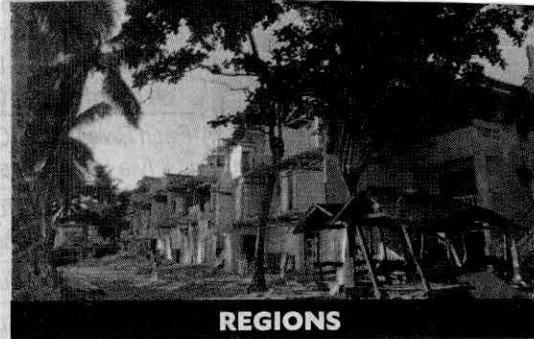
 CARTOON

25 JUN 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/



REGIONS

20 Boracay firms get closure notices

ILOILO CITY—The Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group has issued notices of violation and closure to at least 20 establishments along the resort island's 20-kilometer main road for violating the easement rule and having no permits. The local government of Malay, Aklan province, has given violators a month to demolish illegal structures.

—STORY BY NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.

A10

20 cited for violations in Boracay road rehab

Building owners issued notices of closure for encroachment, lack of permits

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
@nestorburgosINQ

ILOILO CITY—Owners of at least 20 buildings and their lessees in Boracay had been issued closure orders for violating the road easement rule and for lack of permits as the government continues the rehabilitation of the resort island in Aklan province.

The Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG) issued the notices starting June 17, covering establishments along the island's main road.

Mayor Abram Sualog of Malay town said the closure order was issued to establishments with remaining overhang structures and those lacking mayor's permit.

The protruding structures, he said, are connected to the roof or the upper levels of these buildings.

Road improvement

Structures that encroached on road easement, including those found in the upper floors, needed to be removed to ensure that the placement of electrical and other utility posts would not be impeded, local officials said.

But a building owner, who



DEMOLISHED Sections of a beachfront hotel in Boracay are demolished over violation of easement rules as the government continues the environmental rehabilitation of the resort island in Malay, Aklan province. —ROBERT JAWORSKI L. ABAÑO

received a notice of closure, said the establishment had already been issued a notice of compliance following an inspection and measurement during the island's closure to tourists last year. The owner, who asked not to be identified to avoid antagonizing local officials, said the BIARMG had insisted that the overhang still vi-

olated the road easement.

Structures along the main road of Boracay have been required to comply with the 12-meter easement when the island was closed to tourists on April 26, 2018, for a six-month environmental rehabilitation.

The upgrading and widening of the 20-kilometer road network on the island is one of

the components of the rehabilitation, which President Duterte had ordered after he noted in a speech that Boracay had turned into a "cesspool" due to uncontrolled development and congestion.

The road is designed to be 6 meters wide with a two-lane carriageway and 2-meter wide sidewalks. It will also feature loading and unloading bays, pavers, streetlights and vegetation.

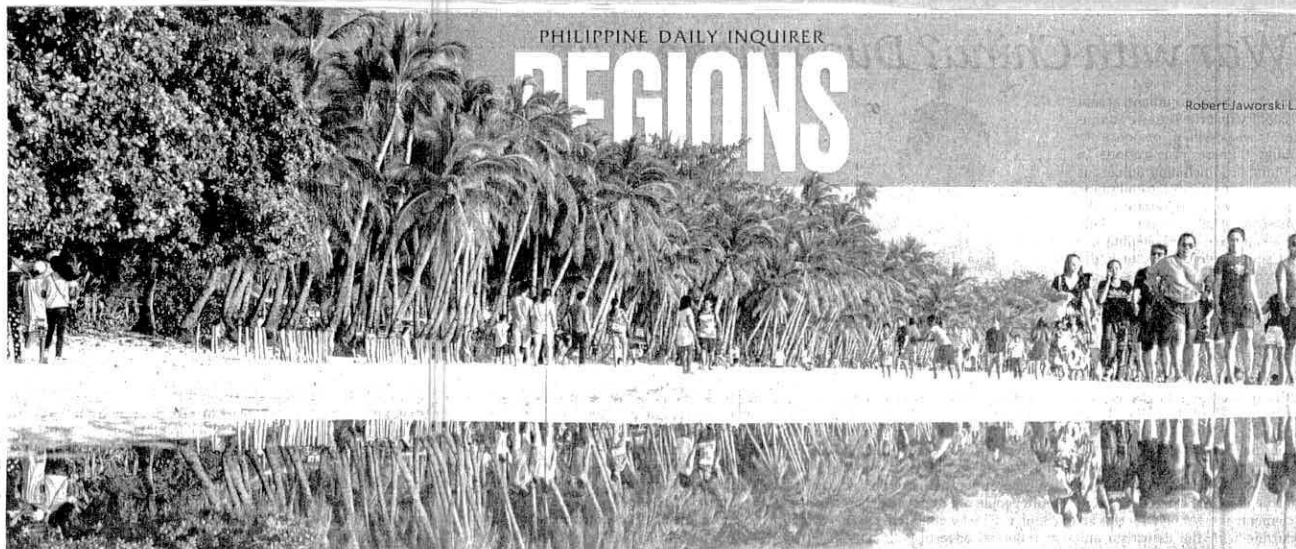
Deadline

Most building owners had demolished their structures encroaching on the easement but the remaining overhang structures needed to be removed, according to the BIARMG.

Sualog said building owners had been given 30 days to remove the protruding structure or face closure.

Others with pending applications for mayor's permit were ordered to stop operation until they complied with requirements.

The local government in May closed 10 establishments, either ran by or were catering to Chinese and Koreans, for operating without business permits and clearances. INQ



BEACH STROLL Tourists enjoy strolling along the beach as Boracay Island welcomes visitors following a six-month rehabilitation from April to October last year. —MARIANNE BERNARDEZ



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

25 JUN 2019
DATE

Illegal aliens now sidewalk vending in Boracay

By JUN RAMIREZ

KALIBO, Aklan – After a government task force padlocked foreign-owned and unregistered restaurants and lodging houses in Boracay, many aliens are now into sidewalk vending business.

Barangay officials in the island-resort and in this town made the disclosure and requested the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to stop the proliferation of these ambulant vendors by arresting and deporting them.

They cited the case of a group of foreigners, mostly women, posting themselves right at the single arrival-exit point of the island selling swimsuits and other ready-to-wear dresses to local and foreign tourists.

The same sources reported that foreign nationals, who are reportedly undocumented, are also employed as construction workers.

The sources also reported that a group of laborers who are all aliens, had recently completed the construction of a commercial building in this capital town depriving local workers of job opportunities.

However, locals admitted that the foreign laborers are more skilled and experienced in installing floor tiles, electrical wires, water pipes and other finishing jobs.

Barangay officials said BI Commissioner Jaime Morente should also order immigration officers stationed there to go after the foreign nationals like what their counterparts in Metro Manila have been doing.

BI agents arrested 35 Chinese laborers in a construction site in Parañaque last week, and 34 in Pasay City last year.

Morente vowed to conduct a no letup drive against the undesirable foreign visitors.

Barangay officials agreed with Morente's pronouncement that the presence of foreign laborers are "robbing our Filipino workers job opportunities."



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Abante
TONITE
MABILIS SA BALITA



PAGE



UPPER

LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

25 JUN 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

DENR Region 1, BJMP Balaoan partner sa pagtatanim ng puno sa Arbor day

Sanib-pwersa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 1 at Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) Balaoan District Jail, katuwang ang ilang ahensya ng gobyerno, pribadong sektor, eskuwelahan, civil society group at mga residente para tumulong sa pagtatanim ng mga puno kaalinsabay ng pagdiriwang sa Arbor Day sa Brgy. Basca, Aringay, La Union ngayong araw, Hunyo 25, 2019.

Ang Arbor Day sa Pilipinas ay ginugunita tuwing ika-Hunyo 25 sa buong bansa sa pamamagitan ng pagtatanim ng mga puno, mga ornamental plant at iba pang aktibidad na may kaugnayan sa nasabing selebrasyon.

Ang kahalagahan ng promosyon sa mas masiglang ecosystem sa mga

tao sa pamamagitan ng rehabilitasyon at re-greening sa kapaligiran ay nakasaad sa Proclamation No. 396, s. 2003.

Alinsunod sa section 8 of Republic Act No. 10176 o mas kilala bilang Arbor Day Act of 2012, "All able bodied citizens of the Philippines, who are at least twelve (12 years of age, shall be required to plant one (1) tree every year.

"This is an important venue to foster our indisposed mother nature", pahayag ni Director Tuballa.

"More hands will yield to greater number of trees to be planted. That is why We (BJMP) are here," ayon naman kay Warden Lapon.

Inaasahang daan-daang namumungang puno ang itatanim sa mga bulubunduking bahagi ng lugar.



PROVINCIAL BOARD RESOLUTION

VIZCAYA SAYS NO TO CONTRACT EXTENSION OF MINING FIRM

Arguing that lands acquired by the mining firm OceanaGold Philippines Inc. at Kasibu town were designated for agriculture and not mining, the Nueva Vizcaya provincial board said in a resolution that it would no longer entertain appeals to extend its financial and technical assistance agreement (FTAA) that lapsed on June 20.

The resolution was transmitted on June 17 to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu by Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Carlos Padilla.

On June 20, groups opposed to OceanaGold's mining operations staged a rally at the provincial capitol to support the provincial government's anti-timber stance.

The FTAA is a 25-year agreement that allowed OceanaGold to develop and exploit gold reserves in its 975-hectare mine area. The agreement is renewable for another 25 years.

Citing a 2017 position paper on environmental justice drawn up by the provincial government, the board said OceanaGold acquired agricul-

tural lands but had not converted these for industrial and mining use.

The board also said OceanaGold had been audited along with 27 other big mines, which were suspended or closed by Cimatu's predecessor, Gina Lopez.

The provincial government said it was enforcing a Malacañang order issued in 2012 that instituted reforms in the mining sector.

Under the order, no new mineral agreements would be entered into until legislation rationalizing existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms would have taken effect.

But the order said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources might "continue to grant and issue exploration permits under existing laws, rules and guidelines ... and also review existing mining contracts and agreements for possible renegotiation" but this must be "mutually acceptable to the government and the mining contractor." —VINCENT

CABREZA INQ



OceanaGold allowed to operate with expired FTAA

By **LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON**

The government has allowed the local unit of Australian mining firm OceanaGold to continue operating in Nueva Vizcaya even with an expired financial and technical assistance agreement (FTAA) and a restraining order from the province itself.

Based on documents obtained by **The STAR**, Mines and Geosciences Bureau director Wilfredo Moncano has allowed OceanaGold Philippines to continue operating, arguing that the company filed its application for re-

newal prior to the expiration of its FTAA on June 20.

"The application for renewal was already endorsed by the DENR secretary to the Office of the President," Moncano said.

Moncano cited a provision in the Administrative Code which states that the existing license shall not expire until the application shall have been finally determined by the agency.

On June 13, OceanaGold requested for a written confirmation that it be allowed to continue its mining operations beyond the expiry

of its FTAA and pending the confirmation of its renewal.

The renewal of the FTAA will allow the company to continue operating the Didipio gold and copper mine for another 25 years.

Environmental advocates are questioning the decision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources amid a subsequent advisory issued by the provincial government to restrain the operations of the mine in Kasibu town.

Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment claimed that OceanaGold

violated various environmental, socio-economic, and human rights regulations which should warrant the mine's stoppage and not its perpetuation.

"In the first place, the MGB and the DENR were remiss in its endorsement of OceanaGold's FTAA renewal application to the OP (Office of the President) instead of cancelling it outright," Kalikasan national coordinator Leon Dulce said.

The Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Philippine National Police

Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Office, the Municipal Government of Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya, and the Barangay Didipio Council called for the stoppage of OceanaGold's operations upon the termination of the FTAA" citing the Environment Code of Nueva Vizcaya and the Local Government Code.

The group is urging the MGB and the DENR to withdraw their endorsement of OceanaGold's FTAA.

"It would be hypocritical of the Duterte government to claim that it wants to stop mining for creating a monster

in our country, but then allowing a foreign corporation like OceanaGold to operate with impunity," Dulce said.

An FTAA is entered into between a contractor and the government for the large-scale exploration, development and utilization of gold, copper, nickel, chromite, lead, zinc and other minerals. It is granted to foreign-owned corporations seeking to operate in the Philippines.

The President has the final decision on the grant and renewal of an FTAA upon the endorsement of the MGB and DENR.

DENR gives OceanaGold mining operation permit

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya: The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has allowed OceanaGold to continue its mining operation in Barangay Didipio pending confirmation of its Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) renewal.

In a June 20 letter to Jose Leviste Jr., OceanaGold Philippines Inc. (OGPI) board chairman, MGB acting director Wilfredo Moncano said that OGPI was allowed to continue its mining operation despite the expiration of its FTAA.

"Please be informed that [through] the Memorandum of the same date to the DENR Secretary, this office has taken its position that OGPI is permitted to continue its mining operation pending the approval of the renewal of FTAA No. 001," Moncano said in his letter.

An FTAA is a permit issued to a multinational company that will share technology and resources to explore and extract minerals in the Philippines.

OceanaGold's FTAA 1, issued 25 years ago, now only covers 10,266 hectares, including the currently operating mine in a 925-hectare area in Barangay Didipio in the mineral-rich upland town of Kasibu.

OGPI, in a letter dated June 13, 2019, a copy of which was furnished to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, requested the MGB central office in Quezon City for a "written confirmation that OGPI will be permitted to continue its mining operations beyond June 20, 2019 pending the confirmation of the renewal."

Moncano said allowing OGPI to continue its mining operation is because prior to the expiration of its FTAA on June 20, 2019, the application for renewal was filed on Oct. 1, 2018.

He added that the DENR secretary already endorsed the application for renewal to the Office of the President.

Moncano in his letter to OGPI also cited Section 18, Chapter 3, Book VII of Executive Order 272 which supports OGPI's continuous operation.

"Where the licensee has made timely and sufficient application for the renewal of a license with reference to any activity of a continuing nature, the existing license shall not expire until the application shall have been finally determined by the agency," Moncano said.

Meanwhile, Mario Ancheta, MGB Region 2 director, said that with this confirmation coming from the higher MGB authority allowing OGPI to continue with its mining operation, "what we have to do is to abide by it and continue with our stringent monitoring of the company's mining activity in Didipio."

"It's now up to President Rodrigo Duterte as regards OGPI's application for their FTAA's renewal for another 25 years," Ancheta said.

In the province, OGPI's application for FTAA renewal was met by a protest rally by anti mining advocates and supporters on June 20. The protest rally was organized by the Alyansa ng mga Nagkakaisang Vizcayano para sa Kalikasan (ANVIK) and was attended by some Didipio villagers.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Nueva Vizcaya also passed a resolution opposing the renewal of OceanaGold's FTAA. A petition at www.bataris.org also seeks the non-renewal of the permit of the Didipio mine.

However, this was rebutted by pro-mining residents of Nueva Vizcaya in an online petition currently hosted at www.change.org, which calls for President Duterte to renew OceanaGold's FTAA covering the Didipio operations.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO



'Business as usual' at OceanaGold's Didipio mine pending FTAA renewal

ENVIRONMENTAL groups are criticizing the continued operation of the Didipio mine of OceanaGold in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya, despite the expiration of the company's financial and/or technical assistance agreement (FTAA).

Environmental activists under the Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan-PNE) led by national coordinator Leon Dulce said even with the provincial government's "advisory" restraining the operations of the mine, OceanaGold continues to operate.

BUSINESSMIRROR sources confirmed the continued operations at the mine site, saying the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has authorized the company to continue its activities while awaiting the renewal of its FTAA. The President of the Philippines has the power to renew the FTAA at the recommendation of the environment secretary.

"We condemn the continuing mining operations of OceanaGold despite its FTAA contract expiration. OceanaGold clearly violates the recent legal directives of the Vizcaya provincial government to restrain its mine operations. There are plenty of pending reports, complaints, government resolutions, and other documented evidence that OceanaGold violated various environmental, socioeconomic, and human-rights regulations which should warrant the mine's stoppage and not its perpetuation," Dulce said.

In an advisory released by Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Carlos Padilla on June 20, 2019, the provincial government cited Section 19.1 of OceanaGold's FTAA, stating that the agreement "shall be terminated and the parties shall be relieved of their respective obligations" upon the expiration of the contract.

It further enjoined the Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Philippine National Police Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Office, the Municipal Government of Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya, and the Barangay Didipio Council to "restrain any operations of OceanaGold upon the termination of the FTAA" citing the Environment Code of Nueva Vizcaya and the Local Government Code.

A day after, however, OceanaGold General Manager David Way sent a letter to the Barangay Didipio Council citing a June 20 letter from MGB, which in turn cites Section 18 of Executive Order 292, or the Administrative Code, which states that existing licenses "shall not expire" until the application for renewal has been finally determined.

Dulce said, however, "in the first place, the MGB and DENR were remiss in its endorsement of OceanaGold's FTAA renewal application to the Office of the President instead of canceling it outright."

"In the dialogues we conducted with the MGB and the DENR, these agencies admitted they failed to put into consideration the body of evidence submitted to them over the past year. With concerns

such as the full withdrawal of social acceptability and a lack of environmental and human rights due diligence, there is no way a legitimate regulatory body would have let OceanaGold's license renewal application go any further," Dulce said.

Kalikasan PNE urged the MGB and DENR to withdraw their endorsement of OceanaGold's FTAA to the Office of the President. The green group asserted that the MGB's legal opinion allowing OceanaGold to resume operations amid the absence of a mining agreement and the clear opposition of LGUs is "patently wrong and irresponsible."

"It would be hypocritical of the Duterte government to claim that it wants to stop mining for creating a monster in our country, but then allowing a foreign corporation like OceanaGold to operate with impunity. MGB is even lawyering for this foreign mining corporation instead of defending our national patrimony from it. The people of Nueva Vizcaya will definitely take action to halt OceanaGold's operations and demand indemnification and other just compensations for its various crimes against the people and the environment," Dulce said.

Last month, anti-mining groups that include Kalikasan-PNE called on President Duterte to deny the company's application for FTAA renewal on account for the alleged environmental destruction and human-rights violations.

Jonathan Mayuga and Cesar Perante



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS
INQUIRER

A 11
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

25 JUN 2019

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE

DID YOU KNOW

Proclamation No. 643 signed in 2004 institutionalized the observance of Philippine Arbor Day every June 25. The proclamation highlighted the need to declare one day each year for the conduct of tree planting activities to promote a healthier ecosystem for people. Arbor Day is observed nationwide through the planting of trees and ornamental plants, and other relevant activities. —**MARIELLE MEDINA, INQUIRER RESEARCH**



USING ANCESTRAL LAND

NIA ASKED TO SECURE IP CONSENT FOR IFUGAO IRRIGATION PROJECT

BAGUIO CITY—A nearly completed irrigation project that would draw water discharged by Magat Dam in Isabela province to farms in Alfonso Lista town, Ifugao province, must be suspended until its proponents secure a certification that they had acquired the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of the residents, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) said last week.

The government-funded Alfonso Lista pump irrigation project was designed to irrigate 2,300 hectares of farmlands in the villages of Santo Domingo, Namnama, Namillangan and Calupaan.

It was supposed to have been commissioned in 2017 but was delayed due to funding problems. Its budget ballooned from P850 million to P1.31 billion in 2018 due to the increase in prices of construction materials.

'Procedural breach'

As of May 15 this year, the project was 87 percent complete, according to National Irrigation Administration (NIA) records.

"Considering the extent of the development already implemented by NIA, our office deemed it necessary to inform them of the procedural breach and request them to hold the

project in abeyance pending the issuance of the certification precondition (CP)," said Rocky Ngalob, NCIP Cordillera focal person on matters involving FPIC.

The CP would signify that the project proponent had completed the FPIC process and had been permitted by the ancestral land owners to proceed.

On June 11, NCIP Cordillera Director Roland Calde wrote NIA Administrator Ricardo Visaya, asking him "to suspend or limit its construction activities if possible," until the FPIC process was completed.

Chico project

The NIA started work on the project in 2012, but it undertook the FPIC process only in March 2017.

The NCIP took the same action against the China-financed Chico River pump irrigation project in the provinces of Kalinga and Cagayan on May 3, for the absence of an FPIC document.

Weeks after the NIA slowed down work in Kalinga, the NCIP en banc approved the CP for the Chico pump project.

The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (Republic Act No. 8371) requires developers using ancestral lands to secure IP consent before they can proceed with construction. —KIMBERLIE QUITASOL INQ

The Manila Times

25 JUN 2019

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Baliwag imposes strict garbage collection policy

THE local government of Baliwag, Bulacan launched a "no segregation, no collection of garbage" policy that will be strictly implemented in the next few days.

This was the directive of Mayor Ferdie Estrella in line with the garbage collection problems the province faced almost a month ago.

Municipal administrator Enrique Tagle said starting on Friday, they would strictly implement the new municipal

ordinance regarding segregation of waste and the collection schedule.

The policy will be implemented to ensure that the local government can also save on the high cost of waste disposal, Tagle said.

It was learned that operations of Wacuman Landfill stopped for almost a month, affecting 18 municipalities in Bulacan, as a part of the road leading to the

landfill collapsed.

A massive information campaign has been conducted from June 6 to 27 to inform people of the scheduled time and days of collection in the streets and *barangay* (villages), Estrella said.

Tagle said residents should separate the biodegradable from non-biodegradable and recyclable and residual and hazardous wastes.

Establishments, schools and

institutions are required to implement the zero waste program, put up a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and have a private hauler for very large volume of waste.

The use of styro and single-use plastics is also prohibited.

Municipal personnel will monitor whether garbage is properly segregated for it to be picked and will be returned and be subject to tickets and fines if not segregated.

FREDERICK SILVERIO



Trash, dried leaves clog drains on EDSA

By GHIO ONG

The rise of water level in a nearby river, trash and leaves clogging the road inlets could be blamed for the massive floods in some parts of EDSA following a heavy downpour on Sunday night, an official of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said.

The water level in San Juan River was above normal at the time, which hindered the floodwaters from flowing into the drainage system toward the river, according to Edison Nebrija, MMDA's EDSA traffic and discipline zone manager.

"Garbage and leaves from trees mostly at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City were carried by the flood into the inlets, blocking the flow of water," Nebrija said yesterday.

These instances could have caused the five-hour flood, snarling traffic along EDSA.

The MMDA reported that parts of EDSA, particularly the P. Tuazon and Aurora Boulevard tunnels, White Plains and Santolan, as well as the C-5 area, were submerged in knee-deep floodwaters at past 11 p.m.

"It was very unusual that the flood took five hours to subside even if the downpour was about to stop," Nebrija said, noting floods in these areas usually recede in an hour.

The agency deployed its enforcers to

remove the trash and leaves from the inlets, but they had a hard time completing the job as it was dark and the floodwaters deep.

Nebrija gave assurance the agency's pumping stations are operating and have been upgraded.

Meanwhile, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said they have not missed cleaning and clearing the drainage system, but the heavy rains that flooded Metro Manila on Sunday night were excessive.

DPWH-National Capital Region (NCR) director Ador Canlas said the heavy downpour submerged some parts of the metropolis, such as the tunnels along EDSA and Lagusnilad in Manila.

"There are really sections, such as the tunnels, that get flooded because they are the lowest point and so the rainwater would flow into these tunnels," Canlas said.

He said the floodwaters quickly subsided after the rain stopped and the pumps immediately activated to flush the water out of the tunnel.

"The drainage system was cleaned regularly, but it could not accommodate the large volume of water and this created floods. But if you notice, right after the rain the floodwaters receded in a matter of minutes," he added.

Canlas said there had been no report of flooding on España Avenue, one of the flood-prone areas in Metro Manila.



EDITORIAL

BAHA, BASURA AT TRAPIK ULI

GRABENG trapik ang tinamo ng mga manlalakbay sa EDSA nitong Linggo ng gabi at madaling araw ng Lunes makaraang umulan nang kaunti.

Masasabing kaunti ang ulan dahil hindi naman siyam-siyam iyon.

Subalit, kahit gaano man kakonti ang ulan, hinarang ng baha sa iba't ibang parte ng EDSA ang libo-libong manlalakbay at natengga ang marami ng hanggang limang oras.

Ayon sa mga awtoridad, nagbara ang ilang drainage sa EDSA at natagpuang mga basura, kasama ang mga dahon, ang nagsara sa mga ito.

Kinamay na lang ng ilang traffic enforcer o tauhan ng Metro Manila Development Authority ang paglilinis sa mga drainage at nakatulong ito nang malaki upang dumaloy ang mga tubig-baha.

Doon na lamang nakakalas ang mga sasakyang patungo sa kani-kanilang destinasyon.

Ayon mismo sa mga taga-MMDA, malaking usapin ang partisipasyon ng mga mamamayan laban sa pagbabara ng mga daluyan ng tubig at hindi sapat na may tagalinis ang ahensya.

Kung hindi magbabago ang ugaling pagtatapon ng kung saan-saan ng basura, malit man o malaki, at kakambalan ito ng basura mula sa kalikasan gaya ng mga dahon ng mga puno, maging paulit-ulit lang ang mga pagbaha dahil sa pagbabara ng mga drainage, sapa at ilog.

Nangangahulugan nga ito ng partisipasyon ng mga mamamayan na dapat magsagawa ng tamang pagtatapon ng basura at, marahil, pagpapairal ng gaya ng napakagandang kaugalian na "tapat ko, linis ko."

Kung walang tulungan laban sa basura, walang sisihin kundi tayong lahat dahil sa kawalan ng disiplina sa pagtatapon ng basura, kawalan ng pakialam sa kapaligiran at kawalan ng pagtutulungan sa pagitan ng mga mamamayan at pamahalaan.

Nestlé Philippines joins World Oceans Day clean-ups

Several hundred Nestlé Philippines employees from different work sites joined their colleagues in over 30 countries, participating in the clean-up of coastlines and waterways, in celebration of World Oceans Day under the auspices of Nestlé Cares, a global employee volunteering program.

In Metro Manila, Nestlé Philippines employees led by Chairman and CEO Kais Marzouki conducted a clean-up and audit of collected wastes on Freedom Island or the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area, with the assistance of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and WFF Philippines.

"This activity is one of the many ways in which we work together to help shape a waste-free future," according to Mr. Marzouki. In April 2018, Nestlé announced a global commitment that 100% of its packaging will be designed for recycling or reusable by 2025. The company's vision, that none of its waste ends up in landfill or as litter, is being pursued in three focus areas: developing the packaging of



Nestlé Philippines volunteers from the Makati Administrative Office with Chairman and CEO Kais Marzouki (standing center left), Director of Finance and Control Mandeep Chhatwal (standing 2nd from right), and SVP for Corporate Affairs Ernesto Mascenon (standing second from left) during a clean-up and audit of wastes on the shoreline of Freedom Island.

the future; helping shape a waste-free future through collection and recycling; and addressing consumer beliefs and behaviors.

"We at Nestlé Philippines are accelerating efforts to find solutions to the plastics prob-

lem. It is imperative that while we look for innovative packaging solutions among our initiatives, we also take immediate action to stop leakage into waterways and oceans, and find ways to recycle our packaging," Mr. Marzouki said.



Nestlé Cares volunteers from the Tanauan factory during a shoreline clean-up in Batangas on World Oceans Day.

PIM

Pang-Masa

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

25 JUN 2019

DATE 4

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

MGA PANGYAYARING KAGILA-GILALAS

NI Arnel Medina

SSALAMAT sa 633 divers na lumahok sa sinasabing pinakamalaking underwater cleanup sa mundo sapagkat 1 toneladang basura ang kanilang napulot na malaking kabawasan sa karagatan.

Upang mapabilang sa record, kailangang manatili ng 15 minuto ang bawat diver.

Kaya naman nakaabang ang Guinness adjudicator na si Michael Empric upang bilangin ang bawat diver na palusong at paahon mula sa ilalim ng karagatan.

Ngunit ayon kay Empric, hindi naman daw ang pagtatala ng world record ang tanging hangad ng pagtitipon dahil ang pangunahing layunin ng lahat ay ang makatulong sa pagpa-

633 DIVERS, NAKAPULOT NG 1 TONE- LADANG BASURA SA PINAKAMALAKING UNDERWATER CLEANUP SA MUNDO



palinis ng karagatan.

Tagumpay naman sila pareho dahil bukod sa nahigitan nila ang dating world record ay nagawa rin nilang linisin mula sa ilalim ng karagatan ang tinatayang 3200 pounds ng basura. Sixty pounds ng nasabing bigat ay dahil sa mga sinulid na nylon na ginagamit na pamingwit.

Ang divers na lumahok sa pinakamalaking underwater cleanup sa mundo.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

31
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

25 JUN 2019

DATE

DOE readies circular Pollution control mulled on coal-fed plants

By MYRNA M. VELASCO

The Department of Energy (DOE) is enforcing measures for pollution control as well as proper handling of coal from the mines to the time that they are brought to power stations to fuel electricity generation.

For power plant owners and operators, one of the main requirements being pushed by the department is "the roofing or covered stockpiling" of coal being stored at their yards or project sites.

A draft DOE circular has recently been routed to the industry players and stakeholders setting forth guidelines on coal handling, transport, storage and distribution of coal – which is currently the dominant fuel for power generation in the country.

"This Circular shall apply to all coal traders, coal logistics service providers, coal end-users, holders of

coal operating contracts (COCs); and small-scale coal mining permits and all other persons engaged in coal operations," the DOE has stipulated.

On environmental regulation and pollution control, the energy department specified that dust control systems, such as water spray, sprinkler, misting machine, dust arrester or cover "to prevent emission of fugitive coal dust" be provided and installed.

The department further emphasized that "truck's cargo box shall be properly secured to prevent escape of fugitive coal dust and/or coal spillages along the road."

Another policy to be administered is the installation of "tire bath" in front or near the exit gate "to rinse truck tires to prevent dust/mud from being carried and scattered along access roads and other areas of operations."

The DOE likewise averred that

"coal stockpile be properly maintained," thus it is mandating that "any hazardous condition in or around such area shall be immediately reported, and appropriate corrective and control measures shall be implemented."

Moreover, entities involved in coal-underpinned ventures will also need to "construct and maintain settling pond with appropriate drainage system to capture run-off coal and other operational spoils."

Project operators and facility owners are similarly directed to "ensure that appropriate measures are implemented to prevent emission of foul order – as nuisance – from coal stockpile."

In the transport of coal – either by trucks or via shipping vessels at sea, the DOE circular is also enforcing measures on efficient and secure handling of the commodity.

And in the discharge or unloading of coal at port areas, the de-

partment further prescribed that "only authorized personnel shall be allowed to perform coal unloading" and coal spillages must primarily be prevented.

Specifically on coal handling and storage, the DOE edict propounds that coal facility operators shall "construct and maintain covered warehouse to appropriately store coal;" and that the storage shall be in a distinct area "that has controls to prevent washout and contamination."

Facility operators are likewise required to "install concrete perimeter fence to prevent propagation of dust and other operational spoils to its neighboring establishments."

The DOE pointed out these set of regulations are in line with its mandate as a supervising agency to the industry and based on the prescriptions of Presidential Decree 972 or the prevailing "Coal Development Act" of the country.

Abdicating, again, on climate

The New York Times editorial

The contrast could not have been more pronounced. On Tuesday, New York's governor and legislative leaders agreed on an aggressive program to eliminate by mid-century emissions of most of the greenhouse gases responsible for global warming. The very next day, the Trump administration repudiated yet another of former President Barack Obama's initiatives aimed at reducing those same emissions. One day, Albany seizes a commanding role in the fight against climate change. The next, Washington scuttles from the field of battle, abandoning any pretense of taking seriously this most pressing of global issues.

In 2017, at a campaign stop in Huntsville, Alabama, President Donald Trump pledged to make Obama's Clean Power Plan "boom, gone." And so it was on Wednesday, when Andrew Wheeler, the former coal lobbyist who now runs the Environmental Protection Agency, unveiled a lily-livered replacement plan called the Affordable Clean Energy rule. The Obama rule, which contained strict emissions limits, would have forced the closing of many of America's old coal-fired power plants; made new ones impossible without advanced technology; and significantly reduced emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas.

The Trump rule, by contrast, asks little of the coal industry, will keep some plants in business and will save jobs. But not for much longer. The industry is already on

life support, battered by market forces — cheaper natural gas, the rapid growth in renewable fuels — and by intense public pressure from the likes of Michael Bloomberg, who recently pledged \$500 million of his fortune to moving the electric power industry away from all fossil fuels, not just coal but natural gas.

Left to his own devices, Trump would simply have killed the Obama plan and been done with it. But he couldn't. As a result of a Supreme Court decision in 2007, *Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency*, and a later administrative action known as the endangerment finding, the EPA is obliged to regulate carbon dioxide emissions under the Clean Air Act. What the new rule does is redefine how tough the agency will be in carrying out that duty.

The Obama administration interpreted its authority under the act ambitiously. Its Clean Power Plan set state-by-state emissions limits and authorized states and utilities to engage in a range of strategies to meet those targets — capturing carbon emissions and storing them underground, emissions trading, fuel switching (replacing coal with cleaner natural gas and with renewables like wind and solar) — anything to wean their economies off coal and diversify the energy supply. The Trump plan jettisons the state limits and asks only for modest retrofits at individual plants.

To put it simply: The Obama plan would

have encouraged imaginative thinking and new approaches. The Trump plan plugs leaks. (Perversely, it could also in some cases increase emissions by making power plants more efficient and therefore able to run longer.)

Wheeler says that Obama engaged in statutory overreach and that Wheeler's narrow reading of his authority under the Clean Air Act is the only legally defensible one. The act, he says, gives the EPA power to fix individual plants, not upgrade the grid as a whole. Many others beg to differ, and attorneys general in New York, California and other states, plus a host of environmental groups, plan to sue on the grounds that the Trump rule artificially narrows what they believe is the agency's authority to adopt a systemwide approach to emissions control.

It is entirely possible, indeed likely, that the question of what the EPA can and cannot do will eventually come before the Supreme Court in what Jody Freeman, a professor and environmental expert at Harvard University, has predicted will be "a blockbuster" case. Brett Kavanaugh, whose appointment has strengthened the court's conservative wing, once described the Clean Air Act as a "thin statute," not designed with greenhouse gases and climate change in mind. The great fear among climate activists is that by upholding Wheeler's cramped view of the agency's authority, the court could effectively foreclose more aggressive

action by the EPA in the future.

The demolition job on the Obama climate legacy continues: the rules limiting methane emissions from oil and gas wells, the climate agreement in Paris, now the clean energy plan. Next on the hit list? Probably Obama's fuel economy standards. A rule now in the making would essentially freeze those standards at about 37 mpg, well short of the 54.5 mpg Obama ordained near the end of his administration.

In this case, however, the intended beneficiary of the rollback, the automobile industry, is far from enthusiastic. A new rule would invite a legal challenge from California and 13 other states that can now set their own mileage standards and that would insist on keeping those standards in place. That, in turn, raises the real possibility of a bifurcated auto market, a nightmare for manufacturers that would have to make different vehicles for two markets. Will Trump persist in a strategy that even the affected industry has said it doesn't want? Our money is on litigation. This president has shown little appetite for negotiation.