

DATE : 30 JUN 2019

DAY : Sunday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

30 JUN 2010

# Close Irisan open dumpsite

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has ordered the closure of the Irisan open dumpsite in Baguio City.

According to the agency, Undersecretary Benny Antiporda has ordered the Environmental Management Bureau in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) to immediately issue a Cease and Desist Order to the local government of Baguio City for its continued operation of the 5.2 hectare dumpsite despite a closure order issued by the National Solid Waste Management Commission in 2012.

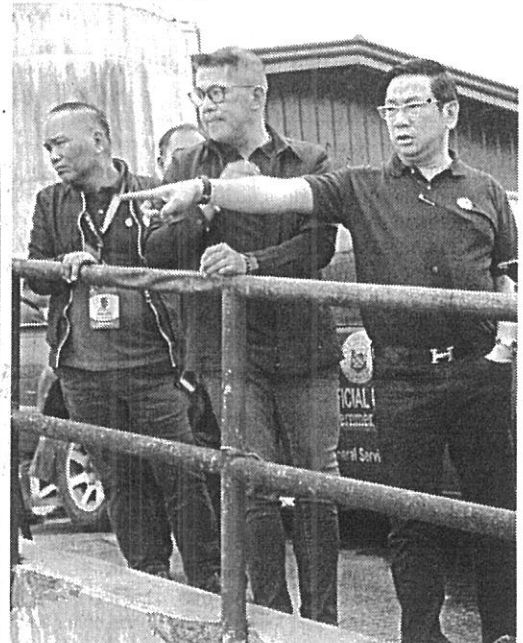
Open dumpsites are prohibited under Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Antiporda said the closure order will be issued pending

explanation of the non-compliance and the submission of a Safe Closure and Rehabilitation Plan as required under the law.

The order of the DENR came after Antiporda and the other officials of the agency conducted an inspection of the Irisan dumpsite.

Joining Antiporda in the inspection are DENR Assistant Secretary for Field Operations-Northern Luzon Joselin Marcus Fragada and DENR-CAR Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo.



**Open dumpsite** Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, together with DENR Assistant Secretary for Field Operations-Northern Luzon Joselin Marcus Fragada (center) and DENR-CAR Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo (3rd from right), inspects the 5.2 hectare Irisan open dumpsite in Baguio City.



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

# DENR orders closure of Baguio open dumpsite



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda (right photo) points to the 5.2-hectare Irisan open dumpsite in Baguio City which continues to operate despite a closure order issued by the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) in 2012. Antiporda ordered the Environmental Management Bureau in the Cordillera Administrative Region to immediately issue a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) to the local government of Baguio City for the continued operation of the dumpsite and its non-compliance to the demands of the writ of kalikasan. With him are DENR Assistant Secretary for Field Operations-Northern Luzon Joselin Marcus Fragada (center) and DENR-CAR Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo (3rd from right).

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

**AN open dumpsite in Baguio City has been ordered temporarily closed for violation of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ordered the closure of the Irisan dumpsite after it found violating the environmental law.

DENR officials led by Undersecretary for Solid Waste and LGU Concerns Benny D. Antiporda made a surprise inspection of the Irisan dumpsite on June 26 and found out that its manner of operations was in violation of Republic Act 9003.

After Boracay and Manila Bay, Baguio is next on the government's list of tourist destinations

to undergo rehabilitation. Antiporda said the Irisan dumpsite has been ordered closed in 2012 by the National Solid Waste Management Commission pursuant to a writ of kalikasan issued by the Supreme Court but it remains as open dumpsite.

Under RA 9003, the establishment and maintenance of an open dumpsite is strictly prohibited.

The Irisan dumpsite continued to process 30 tons of biodegradable waste out of the city's 190 tons of average daily trash, despite the High Court directive for the city government to turn the area into an eco-park and the DENR—through its Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)—to monitor the rehabilitation.

Antiporda and other DENR officials from the central office in Quezon City were in Baguio City to inspect problematic

areas in the mountain metropolis in line with its impending rehabilitation.

Immediately after the surprise inspection, Antiporda ordered the EMB regional office in the Cordillera Administrative Region to issue a cease and desist order to the Baguio City government pending its explanation on its failure to comply with the writ of kalikasan and presentation of a sound rehabilitation plan.

Antiporda, however, clarified the closure of Irisan dumpsite would just be temporary "so as not to create chaos and a garbage crisis in the city."

He also suggested that the Baguio City government find other locations to dump their garbage, such as the garbage facilities in Dagupan City or Metro Clark.

Antiporda expressed confidence that the garbage problem in the nation's summer capital can

be resolved with the collaborative effort of the community, the local government units and the DENR

He also assured the public that the DENR is always willing to provide technical assistance to the city government should it seek help on solving its garbage woes.

Aside from the Irisan dumpsite, Antiporda's team also conducted an ocular inspection at the Dontogan Transfer Station and Bued River.

Antiporda was joined in Baguio City by Undersecretary for Field Operations and Supervising Undersecretary for the EMB Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cuna, Assistant Secretary for Field Operations-Northern Luzon Joselin Marcus E. Fragada, Forest Management Bureau Director Nonito M. Tamayo, and Administrative Service OIC-Director Rabindranath P. Quilala.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Strategic Communication Initiatives Service



13-  
PAGE  
UPPER  
LOWER  
PAGE 1  
STORY  
BANNER  
STORY  
EDITORIAL  
CARTOON

30 JUN 2019

DATE

# DENR orders temporary closure of Baguio dumpsite

By Joel dela Torre

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has ordered the temporary closure of an open dumpsite in Baguio City which was ordered closed in 2012 but remains open up to now.

Baguio City is next in the government's list of tourist destinations to undergo rehabilitation after Boracay and Manila Bay.

The temporary closure order came after DENR officials led by Undersec-

retary for Solid Waste and LGU Concerns Benny Antiporda made a surprise inspection of Irisan dumpsite recently and found out that its manner of operations was in violation of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"It was an open dumpsite before. It remains an open dumpsite up to now," Antiporda said.

According to Antiporda, the Irisan dumpsite

was already ordered closed in 2012 by the National Solid Waste Management Commission pursuant to a Writ of Kalikasan issued by the Supreme Court.

Establishment and maintenance of an open dumpsite is strictly prohibited under RA 9003.

The Irisan dumpsite continued to process 30 tons of biodegradable waste out of the city's 190 tons of average daily trash despite a High Court di-

rective for the city government to turn the area into an eco-park and for the DENR, through its Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), to monitor the rehabilitation.

Antiporda and other DENR officials motored to the country's summer capital in line with its impending rehabilitation plans.

Immediately after the surprise inspection, Antiporda ordered the EMB

regional office in the Cordillera Administrative Region to issue a cease and desist order to the Baguio City government pending its explanation on its failure to comply with the Writ of Kalikasan and presentation of a sound rehabilitation plan.

Antiporda, however, clarified that the closure of the Irisan dumpsite would just be temporary "so as not to create chaos and garbage crisis in the city."



# OPEN DUMPSITE SA BAGUIO IPINASARA

**INATASAN ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang Environmental Management Bureau sa Cordillera Administrative Region na maglabas ng cease and desist order sa local go-**

**vernment ng Baguio City sa patuloy na operasyon ng dumpsite sa naturang lugar.**

Ginawa ni Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D.

Antiporda ang kautusan bundod ng patuloy na operasyon ng 5.2 ektaryang Irisan open dumpsite at hindi nito pagtugon sa mga kahilingan ng Writ of Kalikasan.

Ayon kay Antiporda, ilalabas ang cease and desist order hangga't hindi naipaliliwanag ang hindi nito pagtugon at pagsumite ng isang safe closure and rehabilitation plan na hinihingi sa ilalim ng Republic Act No. 9003 o Ecological Solid Waste Manage-

ment Act of 2000.

Nilinaw ni Antiporda na ang closure ng dumpsite ay pansamantala lang upang hindi makalikha ng kaguluhan at garbage crisis sa lungsod.

iminungkahi nito sa Baguio City government na maghanap ng ibang lugar na pagtatapunan ng basura kabilang ang garbage facilities sa Dagupan City Metro Clark.

Nabatid na patuloy ang

operasyon ng naturang dumpsite sa kabila ng closure order na inilabas ng National Solid Waste Management Commission noong taong 2012.

Kasama ni Antiporda sa isinagawang ocular inspection sa naturang dumpsite sina DENR Assistant Secretary for Field Operations-Northern Luzon Joselin Marcus Fragada at DENR-CAR Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo. **S CELARIO**



**OPEN DUMPSITE SA BAGUIO IPINASARA**-Itinuturo ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda (kanang larawan) ang 5.2 ektaryang Irisan open dumpsite sa Baguio City na patuloy na nag-o-operate sa kabila ng closure order ng National Solid Waste Management Commission noon pang 2012. Kasama sa ocular inspection sina DENR Assistant Secretary for Field Operations-Northern Luzon Joselin Marcus Fragada (gitna) at DENR-CAR Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



PAGE



30 JUN 2019

DATE

-P-1

## Thriving corals boost hope for Manila Bay

**C**ORALS are still thriving in a few areas of Manila Bay – in Maragondon and Ternate, Cavite, and in Corregidor and Carballo islands at the mouth of the bay, the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said last week. It had conducted the study to help the DENR in its gargantuan task of cleaning up Manila Bay.

The discovery of the thriving coral systems has buoyed hopes that the bay can still be restored to its pristine condition, said DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu who had been handed the enormous problem after the DENR succeeded in cleaning up Boracay in six months in 2018. The Manila Bay problem, however, is a hundred times bigger than Boracay and it may take more than the seven years initially estimated to clean it up.

The discovery of corals was a welcome development, for where corals thrive, other marine life also thrive. Coral reefs are home to thousands of species of fish, help control carbon dioxide levels in seas by converting it to limestone shell, and protect the land from ocean waves. Healthy coral reefs contribute to local economies through tourism. Plants living in coral reefs have been a source of much of modern medicine.

The discovery of corals in Manila Bay was one major piece of news amid so much bad news in the DENR's pursuit of this major mission to clean up Manila Bay. Since the job was handed to it some months ago, the DENR has discovered

so much pollution pouring into the bay from all the rivers and esteros in Metro Manila and all the towns facing the bay in Pampanga, Bulacan, and Cavite.

Tons of garbage have been trucked away from the bay's shores but they continue to pile up as the towns, cities, and people living around the bay seem to have made it the country's biggest garbage dump. Even worse than garbage is the pollution from millions of homes and piggeries and factories pouring out their untreated wastes in rivers flowing into the bay, turning it into a giant "pozo negro" – septic tank – in the words of former Manila Mayor and DENR Secretary Lito Atienza.

The DENR has moved to mobilize all the local governments around the bay to put a stop to the many decades of garbage dumping and pollution. The discovery of corals was a sign that parts of the bay are still clean and healthy enough to support sea life. Secretary Cimatu said the still thriving ecosystems must now be supported with reforestation and the propagation and protection of mangrove stands.

But the bigger part of any rehabilitation plan for Manila Bay is stopping the pollution that continues to flow into the bay, pollution which has made bay waters unfit for swimming and other water-contact sports. The DENR has an enormous job in front of it and we look to its taking the first steps to carry it out and to the next administration to continue it until every part of Manila Bay is clean once again for people to swim in and for corals to thrive.



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

8  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

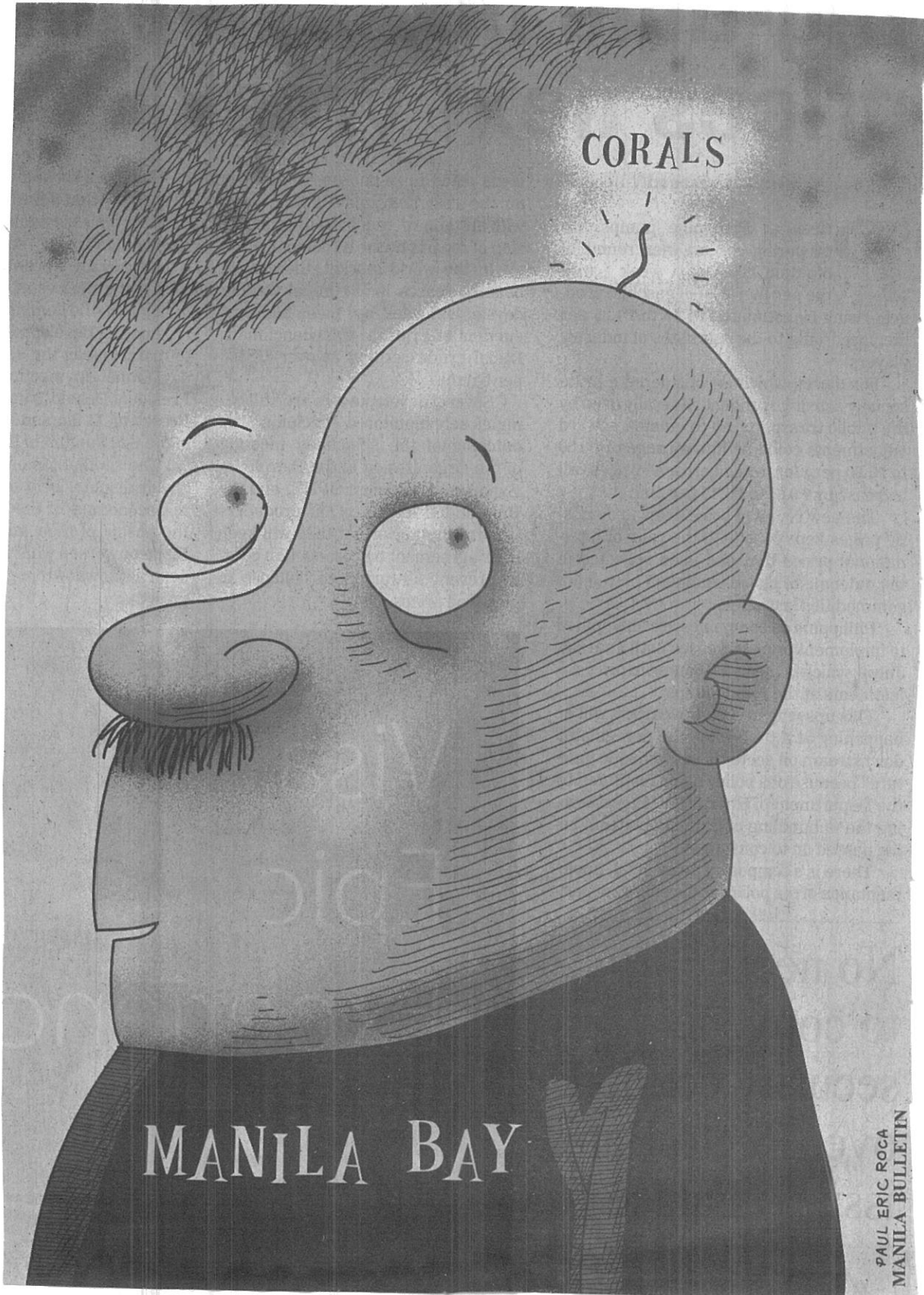
EDITORIAL

CARTOON

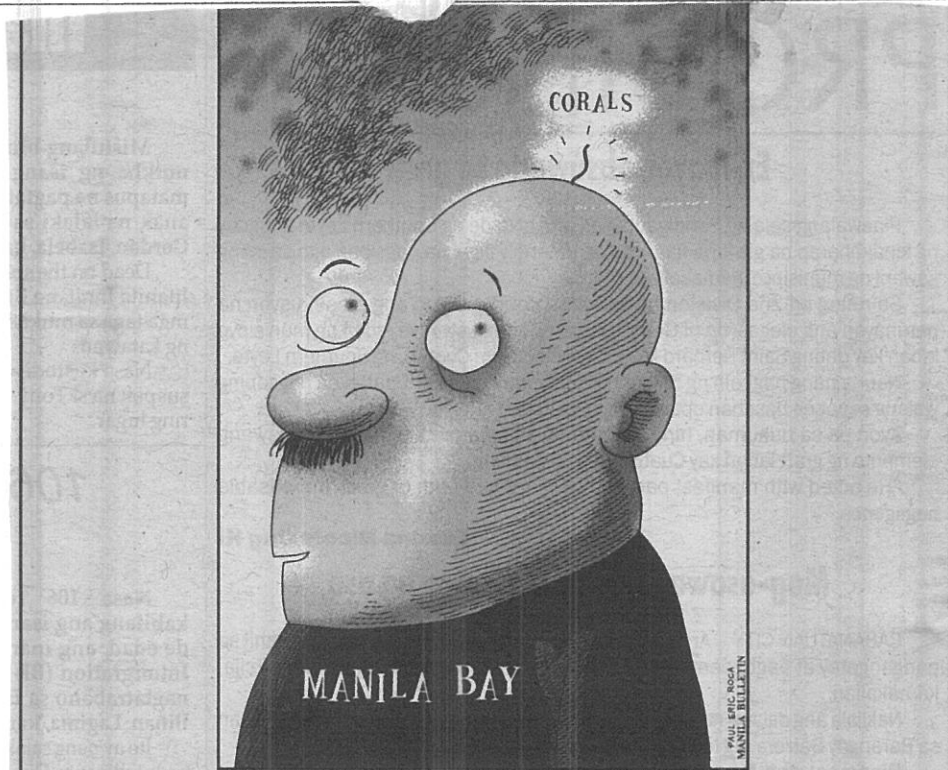
30 JUN 2019

DATE

P-2



PAUL ERIC ROCA  
MANILA BULLETIN



## EDITORIAL

### Mga buhay na corals ang nagpapataas ng pag-asa para sa Manila Bay

**M**AY mga nabubuhay pa ring coral sa ilang bahagi ng Manila Bay – sa Maragondon at Ternate, Cavite at sa Corregidor at Carballo island sa bunganga ng look, pagbabahagi ng Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau ng Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR) nitong nakaraang linggo. Nagsagawa ang opisina ng isang pag-aaral upang makatulong sa DENR na namamahala sa paglilinis sa Manila Bay.

Ang pagkakatuklas ng mga nabubuhay na corals ang nagpanatili sa pag-asa na maaari pa ring mabalik ang Manila Bay sa dati nitong ganda, sinabi ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na inatasan sa pamamahala ng malaking problema matapos ang matagumpay na paglilinis ng DENR sa Boracay sa loob ng anim na buwan noong 2018. Gayunman, ang problema ng Manila Bay ay daang beses na mas malala kumpara sa Boracay at maaaring abutin ng hanggang pitong taon bago ito malinis.

Isang magandang balita ang pagkakatuklas sa mga corals, lalo't ang buhay na mga corals ay nangangahulugan ng mga nabubuhay na iba pang lamang-dagat. Ang mga coral reefs ay tahanan para sa libu-libong uri ng mga isda, na kumokontrol sa antas ng carbon dioxide sa mga dagat sa pamamagitan ng pagko-convert sa limestone shell, gayundin ang pagprotekta sa kalupaan mula sa alon ng karagatan. Malaki ang naitutulong ng malusog na mga coral reefs sa lokal na ekonomiya sa pamamagitan ng turismo. Habang ang mga halaman na nabubuhay sa mga coral reefs ay pinagkukunan ng karamihan sa modernong medisina.

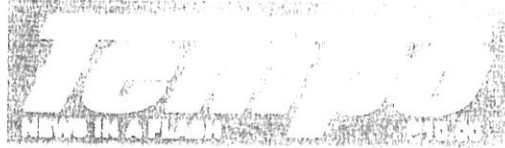
Malaking balita ang pagkakatuklas ng mga corals sa Manila Bay sa gitna ng maraming hindi magandang balita sa nagpapatuloy na misyon ng DENR na malinis ang Manila Bay. Mula ng ibigay ang trabaho ilang buwan na ang nakalilipas, natuklasan ng DENR ang napakaraming polusyon na bumubuhos sa look mula sa mga ilog at estero sa Metro Manila at sa lahat ng bayan na nakaharap sa look sa Pampanga, Bulacan at Cavite.

Tone-tonelada nang basura ang nahakot mula sa baybayin ng Manila Bay ngunit patuloy itong nadadagdagan dahil tila ginawa nang pinakamalaking tambakan ng basura ng bansa, ng mga bayan, siyudad at ng mga residenteng naninirahan sa palibot, ang Manila Bay. Higit na malala sa basura ang polusyon na nililikha ng milyong-milyong kabahayan, babuyan at mga pabrika na naglalabas ng kanilang mga dumi sa ilog na dumadaloy patungo sa look, dahilan upang maging isang dambuhalang "pozo negro" -septic tank- ito tulad ng naging paglalarawan ni dating Manila Mayor at DENR Secretary Lito Atienza.

Umaksiyon na ang DENR upang pakilusin ang mga lokal na pamahalaan na nasa paligid ng Manila Bay para wakasan ang maraming dekada ng pagtatambak ng basura at polusyon sa lugar. Ang pagkakatuklas ng mga corals ay isang senyales na may ilang bahagi ng Manila Bay na nanatiling malinis at malusog, sapat upang suportahan ang buhay ng mga lamang-dagat. Ayon kay Secretary Cimatu ang nabubuhay na ecosystem ay kailangang suportahan ng reforestation at ang pagpapalaganap at pagprotekta sa mga bakawan.

Gayunman, ang mas malaking bahagi ng anumang planong rehabilitasyon para sa Manila Bay ay ang paghinto ng polusyon na patuloy na dumadaloy sa look, polusyon na naging dahilan upang hindi na maging ligtas ang look para paglangyan at pagdausan ng anumang aktibidad. Malaki ang tungkulin ng DENR dito at inaasahan natin na nasa unang hakbang na ito para maisakatuparan ang plano at para sa susunod na administrasyon upang ipagpatuloy ito hanggang sa malinis ang bawat bahagi ng Manila Bay at maging ligtas na paglangyan at para patuloy na nabuhay ang mga corals sa lugar.





30 JUN 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

## EDITORIAL

### Thriving corals boost hope for Manila Bay

**CORALS** are still thriving in a few areas of Manila Bay – in Maragondon and Ternate, Cavite, and in Corregidor and Carballo islands at the mouth of the bay, the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said last week. It had conducted the study to help the DENR in its gargantuan task of cleaning up Manila Bay.

The discovery of the thriving coral systems has buoyed hopes that the bay can still be restored to its pristine condition, said DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu who had been handed the enormous problem after the DENR succeeded in cleaning up Boracay in six months in 2018. The Manila Bay problem, however, is a hundred times bigger than Boracay and it may take more than the seven years initially estimated to clean it up.

The discovery of corals was a welcome development, for where corals thrive, other marine life also thrive. Coral reefs are home to thousands of species of fish, help control carbon dioxide levels in seas by converting it to limestone shell, and protect the land from ocean waves. Healthy coral reefs contribute to local economies through tourism. Plants living in coral reefs have been a source of much of modern medicine.

The discovery of corals in Manila Bay was one major piece of news amid so much bad news in the DENR's pursuit of this major mission to clean up Manila Bay. Since the job was handed to it some months ago, the DENR has discovered so much pollution pouring into the bay from all the rivers and esteros in Metro Manila and all the towns facing the bay in Pampanga, Bulacan, and Cavite.

Tons of garbage have been trucked away from the bay's shores but they continue to pile up as the towns, cities, and people living around the bay seem to have made it the country's biggest garbage dump. Even worse than garbage is the pollution from millions of homes and piggeries and factories pouring out their untreated wastes in rivers flowing into the bay, turning it into a giant "pozo negro" – septic tank – in the words of former Manila Mayor and DENR Secretary Lito Atienza.

The DENR has moved to mobilize all the local governments around the bay to put a stop to the many decades of garbage dumping and pollution. The discovery of corals was a sign that parts of the bay are still clean and healthy enough to support sea life. Secretary Cimatu said the still thriving ecosystems must now be supported with reforestation and the propagation and protection of mangrove stands.

But the bigger part of any rehabilitation plan for Manila Bay is stopping the pollution that continues to flow into the bay, pollution which has made bay waters unfit for swimming and other water-contact sports. The DENR has an enormous job in front of it and we look to its taking the first steps to carry it out and to the next administration to continue it until every part of Manila Bay is clean once again for people to swim in and for corals to thrive.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1800

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 JUN 2019

DATE

## Southwest monsoon rains help slow down declining Angat Dam water level

By **ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ**

With the southwest monsoon or habagat prevailing over a large portion of Luzon and Visayas in the past few days, the decrease in the water level at Angat Dam slightly slowed down Saturday.

Based on the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services

Administration's (PAGASA) monitoring as of Saturday, Angat Dam's water level was at 157.96 meters or just 0.06 meters lower than the 158.02 meters last Friday.

National Water Resources Board (NWRB) Executive Director Sevillo David Jr. said Angat Dam's water level has been steady since

12

11 a.m. Friday.

"We think the monsoon rains is affecting the Angat watershed area. We are hoping the situation to continue and further improve the situation in Angat Dam," David added.

Earlier, NWRB projected that the Angat Dam could breach its record-low 157.56 over the weekend, considering no rainfall over the Angat watershed in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Meanwhile, PAGASA said monsoon rains will continue over Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Batanes, Zambales, Bataan, Cavite, Batangas, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan, Antique, and Aklan.

Light to moderate with occasional heavy rains may also prevail over Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon and the Visayas.

The weather bureau advised residents in these areas, especially those living in areas identified to be at high risk of flooding and landslides, to continue monitoring official PAGASA updates.

It also asked the public to take pre-

cautionary measures and coordinate with their local government and disaster risk reduction and management offices.

In addition, the low-pressure area (LPA) inside the country's area of responsibility was estimated at 840 km east of Virac, Catanduanes before Saturday noon.

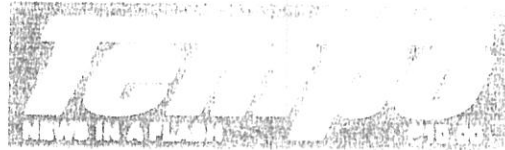
PAGASA weather specialist Meno Mendoza said the LPA could develop into a tropical depression within 48 hours.

Should it develop into a tropical cyclone, it will be locally named "Egay."

By Monday until Tuesday, Metro Manila, Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, northern Palawan, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon will continue to experience monsoon rains as the LPA or potential tropical cyclone is expected to enhance the southwest monsoon.

Aklan, Antique, Negros Occidental, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, and the rest of Luzon will have cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms.

Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms.



30 JUN 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

## Angat water level slightly dips amid monsoon rains

The water level at Angat Dam in Bulacan slightly decreased yesterday amid the prevalence of the southwest monsoon or "habagat" over a large portion of Luzon and Visayas in the past few days.

Based on Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration monitoring yesterday, Angat Dam's water level was at 157.96 meters or just 0.06 meters lower than the 158.02 meters last Friday.

National Water Resources Board Executive Director Seville David Jr. said Angat Dam's water level has been steady since 11 a.m. Friday.

"We think the monsoon rains is affecting the Angat watershed area. We are hoping the situation to continue and further improve the situation in Angat Dam," David added.

NWRB had earlier projected that the Angat Dam could breach its record-low 157.56 over the weekend, considering no rainfall over the Angat watershed in Norzagaray.

PAGASA said monsoon rains will continue over Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Cagayan,

Batanes, Zambales, Bataan, Cavite, Batangas, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan, Antique, and Aklan.

Light to moderate with occasional heavy rains may prevail over Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon and of Visayas.

The State weather bureau advised residents in these areas, especially those living in areas identified to be at high risk of flooding and landslides, to continue monitoring official PAGASA updates.

It also asked the public to take precautionary measures and coordinate with their local government and disaster risk reduction and management offices.

Meanwhile, the low-pressure area inside the country's area of responsibility was estimated at 780 kilometers east of Virac, Catanduanes around 3 p.m. yesterday.

PAGASA weather specialist Meno Mendoza said the LPA could develop into a tropical depression within 48 hours. Should it develop into a tropical cyclone, it will be locally named "Egay." (Ellalyn V. Ruiz)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



7  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 JUN 2019

DATE

## MAKATI FIRM SEEKS MINING PERMIT TO EXPLORE SITES IN CAMSUR TOWNS

A MINING company based in Makati City has applied for a mining permit before the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) to mine in two towns in Camarines Sur.

Top Quality, a Filipino-owned Corporation with main office at P. Ocampo St., San Antonio Village, Makati City, has filed an application to explore the 5,600 hectares mineral-rich Bgy. Panaytayan Nuevo in

Ragay town and in Bgy. Mangkawayan, Lupi municipality.

The mining firm has applied to mine minerals such as, silica, limestone and gold in the two towns.

An Exploration Permit is an initial mode of entry in mineral exploration allowing a Qualified Person to undertake exploration activities for mineral resources in certain areas open to mining.

**Sonny Sales**



### **Reforestation sa Ecija, tatapusin na -- DENR**

CABANATUAN CITY – Puntirang matapos ng Department of Environment & Natural Resource (DENR)-Nueva Ecija ang kanilang reforestation project ngayong taon.

Ayon sa DENR, halos 15,000 ektaryang Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed Forest Reserve ang target na mataninan ng iba't ibang puno sa ilalim ng kanilang Forestland Management Project.

Paliwanag naman ni Forester Cherrica Claudio, Division Chief for Technical Services Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO)-NE, layunin din ng nabanggit na proyekto na maisalba at mapangalagaan ang mga kabundukan para na rin sa susunod na henerasyon.

**Light A. Nolasco**



Sa loob ng 365 araw

# 365K PUNO TARGET ITANIM NG GCASH FOREST

**A**NG MGA Pinoy na nais makapag-ambag sa environmental preservation ay kumbinyente nang makagagamit ng innovative mobile phone app upang makatulong sa pagtatanim ng mga puno.

Ipinakilala ng nangungunang mobile wallet, ang GCash, ang exciting 'green' feature sa app na tinatawag na GCash Forest, ay nagpapahintulot sa mga subscriber na magtanim ng virtual trees na magkakaroon ng real-life counterparts. Sa pagtatapos ng 365 araw, layunin ng GCash Forest na makapagitanim ng 365,000 puno sa tulong ng GCash subscribers.

Ayon sa Forest Management Bureau (FMB) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), ang Filipinas ay nawawalan ng 47,000 hektaryang forest cover kada taon. Iniulat din ng FMB ang pangangailangan na i-rehabilitate ang 1.2 million hectares ng forest lands pagsapit ng 2022 upang maiwasan ang landslides o pagguho ng lupa, matiyak ang water availability, at

mapangalagaan ang biodiversity.

"GCash Forest is about making it easier, more convenient, and even rewarding for everyone to take care of our environment for the benefit of future generations," wika ni Mynt CEO Anthony Thomas. "GCash is no longer just providing an excellent platform for accessible financial products and services but also enabling Filipinos to be more active in responding to real-life issues, such as climate change mitigation through reforestation."

Ang GCash Forest ay itinuturing ng GCash na 'last mile initiative' na ganap na kilalala sa paglutang ng isang all-digital Filipino lifestyle.

Upang ipatupad ang kanilang tree-planting initiatives, ang GCash Forest ay nakipag-partner sa DENR, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) at sa Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN). Ang DENR ang magkakaloob ng land resources sa Ipo Watershed, isang mahalagang bahagi ng Angat-Umiray-Ipo watersheds system

na nagsu-supply sa 98 percent ng tubig sa Metro Manila. Ang WWF naman ang magkakaloob ng mga puno at manpower, habang ang BIOFIN ang magbibigay ng expertise sa monitoring.

"To plant trees through GCash Forest, GCash users need to collect 'green energy' by frequently using the app. Users who get enough green energy can choose which species of trees they want to plant in a selected area at the Ipo watershed. Once the trees are physically planted, users get to receive a certificate of ownership with a serial number, fun facts and updates on the growth of their trees on their GCash apps."

"Many Filipinos, especially the younger ones, care about the environment but a lot of them don't know how they can actively take part in environmental protection. This is a barrier that GCash Forest addresses because they only need to use their smartphones—an already integral part of their daily lives—to make a difference," dagdag pa ni Thomas.



**SINA** (mula sa kaliwa) Chris Manguera (Chief Marketing Officer), Joel Palma (President and CEO, WWF), Anthony Thomas (President and CEO, Mynt), Titon Mitra (Resident Representative to the PH, UNDP), at Ney Villaseñor (Vice President GCash, Corporate Communications Group Head) sa ceremonial tree planting ng GCash Forest launch.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXHIBIT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1800

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

5  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 JUN 2019

DATE

**Q & A WITH METRO MANILA MAYORS:**

**What are your priorities in your first 100 days?**

By **ERMA EDERA, CHITO A. CHAVEZ, JHON ALDRIN CASINAS, HANAH TABIOS, JEAN FERNANDO, JEL SANTOS, JOSEPH ALMER PEDRAJAS, and DHEL NAZARIO**

**MANILA MAYOR FRANCISCO "ISKO" MORENO DOMAGOSO**

**1. Clean up Manila.** To clean up the nation's capital and make it more "vibrant" and "energetic." Not only does pollution make the city look unpleasant, it also poses health risks to Manilans. **2. Manage the city's traffic.** "Ibabalik natin ang kalsada sa mga Manileño." Clearing of streets to ensure free flow of vehicular and foot traffic. **3. Make substantial improvements to peace and order.** Work hand in hand with the Manila Police District in making substantial improvements to peace and order, not only in preventing petty crimes, but also participating in the war on drugs. Manila's participation in the drug war will respect human rights not only for criminals but also for law enforcers. **4. Reintegration and collaboration.** Reintegrate and collaborate with national government agencies to develop the city and work with the private sector. Ensure that the following councils and boards will be fully functional: City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, City School Board, Peace and Order Council, City Health Board, and City Development Council. **5. Reenergize the bureaucracy and leadership.** Set the direction of the city, particularly in prioritizing policies to strengthen the Manila City Hall's foundation, to truly be responsive to the people.

**QUEZON CITY MAYOR JOY BELMONTE**

**1. House cleaning.** Strict housekeeping and internal governance policy starting with an executive order to create an Internal Audit Unit team under the Office of the Mayor. To rid city hall of scalawags and non-performing personnel, ensure that good and honest behavior is "incentivized and acts considered as betrayals of public trust are penalized." A Personnel Selection Board will be created to fill up vacant plantilla positions and promote personnel based on meritocracy and not palakasan (strong connections). Establish a feedback mechanism such as call centers to enable local residents to air their complaints and concerns. **2. Baseline data.** To know "our city and our people" to identify priorities by order of importance; to craft tailor-fitted programs and projects that best address needs and to maximize

the use of resources and avoid leakage or wastage of public funds. To provide all QC residents automated QCitizen card that will help city hall "spread out service delivery and make sure they get the services they need." **3. Planning.** All planning must be made within the first 100 days using the baseline data collected to establish targets, objectives, and Key Performance Indicators (KPI). To stick with the plans made by the City Development Council as encapsulated in the City Development Plan and Annual Investment Plan to avoid "whimsical projects" and to ensure that all projects are need-based. **4. Decentralization.** To decentralize service delivery to bring the government closer to the people providing them with comfort and transacting their business requirements at city hall. The plan is to create mini city halls in various parts of the city to make services more accessible and convenient. **5. Service with a heart.** To enforce some ordinance-based and doable programs in the first 100 days — stocking up on medicines in the city-run hospitals and health centers, on-call duty of city health personnel, provide maintenance medicines to seniors suffering from hypertension and diabetes and administering flu and pneumonia vaccines. To enter into public-private partnerships to ensure continuous projects and service delivery. **6. Anti-illegal drug campaign.** To strengthen the city's anti-illegal drug efforts by enlisting more volunteers in barangays, intensify efforts to fight illegal drugs and to provide optimum assistance to reforming drug users.

**MAKATI CITY MAYOR ABIGAIL BINAY**

**1. Makati subway.** The project is envisioned to deliver greater convenience and mobility that will translate to increased productivity among workers, greater profitability for businesses including micro, small and medium enterprises, and overall sustainable development and economic stability for the city. **2. Makati columbarium.** To build a public columbarium offering free cremation and inurnment services to city residents, especially those who



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

5  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 JUN 2019

DATE

P-2  
Q by A with Metro Manila Mayors:

can ill afford costly funeral expenses. Aside from providing a worry-free and cost-free yet decent way of laying the departed to rest, the facility is also intended to address the lack of interment space in the city. **3. Fast-tracking establishment of new public health facilities and services.** Makatizens can look forward to better and more convenient medical services as priority will be given to the completion and opening of the new Ospital ng Makati in Malugay, District 1 within the next three years. To prioritize the establishment of an Urgent Care facility in each barangay cluster which will operate 24/7 and cater to the needs of residents. **4. Digital schools.** To establish a school that befits a digital city, fully equipped with fast and reliable Wi-Fi connection and modern computers to teach students the latest technology. **5. Nutrition program for public school children (free nutritious meals as "baon").** To implement a nutrition program for public schoolchildren that aims to relieve their parents of the burden of giving daily "baon" (allowance) and, at the same time, promote proper nutrition among them. **6. Digitalization of systems and processes.** To develop an enhanced business permit and licensing system or e-BPLS, a computerized system that will provide easy access to business permits through different platforms. This will implement a "no-contact" policy in the processing of business permits and licenses, which will eliminate fixers and curtail, if not eradicate, corruption and the "palakasan system."

## PASIG CITY MAYOR MA. VICTOR "VICO" SOTTO

**1. Free medical consultation, medicines, hospitalization, and other medical expenses.** Provide the needed medical assistance within the hospital and health centers to avoid lining up at the city hall to ask for assistance. Whatever happens to the Universal Health Care in the national level, we will implement a local version of this act. **2. Help Pasig City families to have their own home.** If relocation is needed, it should be on-site and in-city. There will be no relocation if main services and sources of income are not available in the location. He also vowed to put an end to the "Palakasan System." **3. Improve quality education.** Expand the city's scholarship program. No scholarship grant will be taken

from a student. To be removed instead are the requirements that burden the students. Strengthen the local School Board. Organize "Summer Children Camps" for children who don't know how to read or have a difficulty in reading and "Teachers' Training Camps" to help teachers to continue develop the quality of public education. **4. Organize consultations before taking actions.** From policies of transport owners and drivers to fees of market stalls, all actions to be undertaken will undergo public consultations. Transparent and inclusive governance — from drafting to the evaluation of all programs and projects in Pasig. **5. Fight against corruption.** To lead honestly. Will not accept a single peso from bribe, kickback or "S.O.P" of government projects. Fully implement the Pasig Transparency or the Freedom of Information Ordinance of 2018. Establish the Government Efficiency and Anti-Corruption Commission. There will be a complaint hotline where the public could report and air their grievances.

## MANDALUYONG CITY MAYOR CARMELITA "MENCHIE" ABALOS

**1. Enhanced educational support.** To provide more students with school supplies and uniforms, shoes and bags. Have more beneficiaries of the ₱300 educational cash allowance for Grades 7 to 12 students. We are also planning to construct robotics laboratory rooms in city schools. **2. Environment protection.** Strengthen the no plastic and segregation policy in the city. Expand the information campaign on waste segregation and environment protection. We will have more electric-powered tricycles and jeepneys in the city to lessen air pollution. **3. Strengthen peace and order.** Continue to have more illegal drug surrenderers undergo and graduate from the city's drug rehabilitation program. We will also provide them with jobs once they finish the program. Purchase additional police mobiles and equipment for the city's police force. **4. Faster health service.** To have a centralized digital records of patients and computerization of medical records from every barangay to fast track the allocation of medicines and assistance to patients. **5. More infrastructure.** To construct a 5,000-seat sports arena. Improve and beautify our sidewalks, and continue the innovation and computerization of public documents for paperless transactions in government offices.

## MARIKINA CITY MAYOR MARCELINO "MARCY" TEODORO

**1. Improve access to quality education.** To continue to make education in community college free of tuition fees and asking the council for an appropriation for it through an ordinance that will declare it as a policy. Build additional structures to accommodate more students. Vertically align the qualifications of teachers to ensure the quality of teaching in schools and to ensure the quality and access to education by hiring more competent and qualified faculty members. **2. Strengthen social services.** People needing economic assistance will not seek politicians for help anymore. Instead, they can go to an office that will readily, empathically, and effectively address the economic, medical and social needs of the people. **3. Improve access to health services.** Construction of a "super health center" with specialty doctors. For diagnostic requirements, there are x-ray machines, laboratories, ECG, and CT scan available for the patients. There will also be a pharmacy that will dispense the required medicines for the patients. A 10-story Marikina Treatment Hub will be constructed next month to decongest hospitals in the city. **4. Caring for the environment.** Create parks and develop open spaces into green spaces. We are targeting to plant 100,000 trees by the end of the year by requiring students in the city community college to plant at least one tree before they graduate. **5. Marikina Shoe Trade Fair.** To stage by the end of the year, the Marikina Shoe Trade Fair, that will showcase all Marikina-made products at a permanent location whole year round.

## SAN JUAN CITY MAYOR FRANCIS ZAMORA

**1. Review and realignment of the 2019**

**Budget.** Review and realignment of the 2019 executive budget of San Juan City in accordance with our planned platforms and programs. **2. Improvement of San Juan Medical Center.** Rehabilitation and improvement of the San Juan Medical Center with around ₱500 million allotted budget for medical services and procurement of modern medical equipment. **3. Accessible social services.** To bring the city hall closer to the people by bringing social services down to the barangays and engaging in Private-Public Partnership (PPP) to be able to upgrade the city's delivery of social services. Expansion of "Zamora ID" membership which has 30,000 member individuals since its implementation in the last two years. **4. Transparency and accountability.**

6





P-3

Q & A with Metro Manila Mayor:

To practice transparency and accountability in the utilization of local government funds. 5. **Cooperation with the Office of the Congressman.** Full cooperation and coordination with the office of Cong. Ronaldo "Ronny" Zamora to ensure that his infrastructure projects and social services for the people of San Juan are fully implemented.

### NAVOTAS CITY MAYOR TOBIAS 'TOBY' TIANGCO

1. **Program continuity.** To inaugurate his brother's (outgoing Mayor John Rey Tiangco) projects and continue what he started. 2. **Relocation project.** To move the remaining families living in danger zones and near the waterways to new residences through the opening of new five four-story buildings at Navotas Homes 2 in Barangay Tanza, finish filling-up and start the soil test of the land where the future five-hectare Navotas Homes 3 in Barangay Tanza will be constructed. 3. **Livelihood assistance program.** To extend livelihood assistance to residents who depend on fishing by distributing 100 new boats and 400 new fish nets. 4. **Building**

**safer communities.** To start the installation of 17 closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in addition to the already 159 CCTVs installed, to ensure safer and more secured environment. 5. **More accessible social services.** Continue to improve the city's health services by opening the new Tanza Health Center, which will cater to the needs of at least 1,380 families at Navotas Homes 1, and inaugurating the Navo-Serve office, which will serve as a one-stop shop to residents seeking assistance from the office of the mayor, office of the congressman, and office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). 6. **Inclusive and holistic education program.** To continue the previous administration's project of giving cash incentives to graduates of public elementary, high school, and college schools and conducting art scholarship programs to encourage the youth, particularly the students, to pursue their studies and their other passion.

### VALENZUELA CITY MAYOR REXLON "REX" GATCHALIAN

1. **Relocation program.** Move the remaining families living under the transmission lines out of the danger zone and give them new houses through opening the first phase of the third Disiplina Village (a housing site) in Barangay Lingunan. 2. **Free, accessible, quality education.** Continue the construction of new buildings of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Valenzuela to enable the city government to accommodate more students and to expand its capacity to offer free, accessible, and quality tertiary education. Part of Mayor Rex's plan on

his third term is to invest in the youth. 3. **Online business processing service.** Enhance the government's capacity to serve its residents, especially the taxpayers and business owners, via the Internet by launching an end-to-end online business-processing service. 4. **One-stop shop public service.** Continue the construction of several Sentro ng Sama-samang Serbisyo (3S) offices which will bring various government services closer to people and will serve as one-stop shop. 5. **Historical site restoration.** Continue the reconstruction of the Polo Park to restore its historic value which will "give identity" to people and will get the residents "an anchor on where the city should be going by knowing who they are and who they started."

### MALABON CITY MAYOR ANTOLIN "LENLEN" ORETA III

1. **Good governance.** Enhance the city government's organizational efficiency by reviewing existing policies and adopting national standards of good governance, such as the Department of Interior and Local Government's (DILG) Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG). 2. **Care for the city's vulnerable sectors.** Continue the ongoing construction of facilities dedicated to assist the vulnerable sectors, including senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and the indigents, and come up with a program that will make health, economic, and social services more accessible and convenient to them. 3. **Health program expansion.** Expand the city government's nutrition and health services by strengthening its programs, including the Karinderya para sa Kalusugan

ni Chikiting (KKC), and developing the capacities of health workers to eradicate the city's malnutrition problem and ensure the well-being of its residents. 4. **Intensifying anti-illegal drug campaigns.** Strengthen the city's anti-illegal drug campaigns, including the Panunumbalik Naten program, to make Malabon City the first city to achieve a 100 percent drug-cleared status. 5. **Scholarship program.** Continue the existing scholarship programs and tap available resources from the national and local governments to incentivize the good academic performances of students.

### CALOOCAN CITY MAYOR OSCAR 'OCA' MALAPITAN

1. **Relocation of Justice Hall.** Prepare the budget for the expropriation of a land where the new justice hall will be relocated. 2. **Construction of Convention Hall.** Start the construction of a four-story convention hall beside the new Caloocan People's Park which will become the first convention hall in the city. 3. **New city jail facility.** Prepare documents to acquire the Transfer of Property of a land in North Caloocan, where the new jail facility will be built, in a bid to decongest the present Caloocan City Jail. 4. **New public markets.** Open two new markets in Barangay Bagong Silang and a market in Langaray in Dagat-Dagatan area to activate and boost the economy in the said areas. 5. **Public columbarium and crematorium.** Start the site development of a portion of a six-hectare government property in Camarin, North Caloocan, which will be converted into a public columbarium and crematorium, to address the congestion problem at the present Tala Cemetery. 6. **Creation of civic centers.** Start the site development of two 5,000-square-meter properties in North Caloocan which are proposed to become civic centers, including a barangay hall and a police district office, so that residents no longer have to go to South Caloocan to avail of government services. 7. **Quality education program.** Open and inaugurate the four new Senior High schools in North Caloocan which aim to help the Department of Education address the congestion problems in several high schools due to K to 12 program and encourage the youth to pursue their studies through affordable, yet quality education.

### PARAÑAQUE CITY MAYOR EDWIN OLIVAREZ

1. **Bulungan sa Parañaque project.** Start the construction of fishermen's wharf located along Coastal Road, a 100 percent funded project by the city government to be permanently called "Bulungan sa Parañaque." Also to be constructed near the "Bulungan" will be the mini-pier and Parañaque City Park. 2. **Two-way bridge construction to decongest traffic.** Start the construction of a multi-million two-way bridge linking Barangay La Huerta



P-4

Q by A with Metro Manila Mayors:

and Barangay Don Galo along Macapagal Avenue to decongest the traffic situation in the area. **3. Public market modernization.** Renovation and modernization of the public market in Barangay La Huerta to boost the economy in the said area, catering local and foreign tourists. **4. Relocation of vendors.** Transfer of about 2,000 legal and illegal vendors surrounding Redemptorist Church in Barangay Baclaran to the new commercial building along Roxas Boulevard owned by Philippine Reclamation Authority. The project will be between the city government and a private company under public-private partnership. **5. Recreation center for senior citizens.** Construction of the four-story building for the members of the senior citizen associations along Coastal Road. It will be a recreation center complete with state-of-the-art facilities for the 55,000 senior citizens in the city. **6. Command center of disaster and calamity.** Open and inaugurate the newly-constructed Command Center located at the 4th floor of the city hall building, open 24/7 to monitor and oversee disaster and calamity situation. **7. City government's satellite office.** Ground breaking for the construction of a P2.7-billion nine-story building within the Pagcor Entertainment City along Coastal Road by a private developer in partnership with the city government — which will serve as the city government's satellite office.

### LAS PIÑAS CITY MAYOR IMELDA AGUILAR

**1. Disaster resilience.** For the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO) — which is responsible for calamities and emergencies — to continue to be on alert in any eventuality that may occur. **2. Expansive and accessible health service.** To expand the coverage and service of the Green Card Program with additional hospital, the Las Piñas City Medical Center. To date, the program has 200,000 beneficiaries. **3. Quality education for all.** Expansion of the city-run business college, the Dr. Filemon C. Aguilar Memorial College of Las Piñas where it recently applied to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for additional four-year course, the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. **4. Public Order and Safe Communities.** For the city police chief assigned to the crime prevention to continue their work and the involvement of barangays in the rehabilitation of drug dependents. **5. Responsible and disciplined motorists and pedestrians.** To collaborate with the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to effectively manage the traffic situation in the city. **6. Efficient ecological solid waste management.** Creation of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) which is mandated not only for efficient garbage collection but also for comprehensive ecological solid waste management program.

### PASAY CITY MAYOR IMELDA "EMI" G. CALIXTO-RUBIANO

**1. Health.** To upgrade facilities in Pasay City General Hospital and all health centers. **2. Education.** Financial Assistance to students, free books for elementary and high school students. **3. Economic growth.** To promote a business-friendly city plus the implementation of ease of doing business. **4. Environment.** To promote the concept of clean and green in line with proper waste management. **5. Livelihood.** Establish a one-stop shop for entrepreneurs through the implementation of Go Negosyo Act; **6. Peace and Order.** Coordination with PNP and barangay officials in accordance with the drug awareness campaign and rehabilitation program.



# Clean Air Act 20 years

## later: Edsa still

### 'worst place to be'

#### SPECIAL REPORT

By Krixia Subingsubing  
and Jheset O. Enano  
@Team\_Inquirer

(Second of three parts)

Nineteen years ago, the then fledgling traffic aide Dennis Marcos directed far fewer vehicles through the Ortigas intersection. Now it's a major bottleneck on Edsa, with buses, jeeps, utility vans and cars inching across the three-deck interchange every day.

When the traffic got worse, so did the air. "The sun you can hide from, but you can't escape the air you breathe," said Marcos, now 39 and a traffic operations officer for the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA). "Edsa is the worst place to be assigned [as a traffic enforcer]. It's the most polluted."

And as though to underscore his heaving chest and recurring cough, data from the state and the academe show that air pollution nationwide has been steadily getting worse through the years. Motor vehicles are seen as the biggest culprit, accounting for over half to two-thirds of the poisonous emissions since 2002.

The diagnosis is clear: Lack of political will and fragmented interagency efforts have weakened enforcement of the landmark Clean Air Act, or Republic Act (RA) No. 8749.

Enacted in 1999, the law has failed to realize its promise as a sweeping measure against air pollution, as the Philippines still records emissions higher than the acceptable values.

#### Social justice

For Marcos and others who are constantly exposed to soot and dust, this continued failure could lead to respiratory complications, even death.

"Air pollution is a matter of social justice," said Dr. Mylene Cayetano, head of the Environmental Pollution Studies Laboratory at the University of the Philippines' Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology.

"Clean air has to be asserted as a basic human right. It's a health agenda, and that's where politics and governance should kick in," she said. "If we're not affected, we don't care. But people die early and are disabled at an early age because of air pollution."

Part of the problem is that the burden of implementing RA 8749 falls squarely on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said engineer Jundy del Socorro, officer in charge of the Air Quality Management Section (AQMS) under the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

Ultimately, the law aims to lower the emissions of particulate matter (PM) and total suspended particulates (TSP) to within air quality standards. Both PM and TSP are pollutants that harm both human health and the environment.

The DENR stands as the lead agency, with the Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Department of Health sharing the responsibility in enforcing the law.

The DENR releases its air quality monitoring report every three years to assess emission sources and concentration, among others. Data are provided by the monitoring systems that assess PM and TSP levels nationwide.

Yet beneath the seeming ministerial compliance is a flawed system plagued by malfunctioning or poorly maintained monitoring systems and by lack of personnel.

#### Nonfunctional stations

The AQMS showed that only 21 of 27 stations monitoring both PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> in Metro Manila and adjacent provinces were "functional." Only eight are capable of recording both.

Both particulate matters need close monitoring, especially since they are invisible to the naked eye. The much smaller PM<sub>2.5</sub> present a bigger challenge as they can easily enter the nose and throat and make their way to the lungs and even the circulatory system.

In Metro Manila, where the emissions are highest nationwide due to the volume of vehicles, the stations that supposedly monitor both particulates and gases—including carbon dioxide, sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides—have all fallen into disuse.

At press time, not one of the stations located in various cities in the National Capital Region (NCR) is functional.

Del Socorro cites a number of reasons. Some involve location, like the station on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City that needs to be moved out be-



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

P-2

Clean Air Act 20 years later: -----

cause of the ongoing construction of the Metro Rail Transit 7. Others involve problems with calibration, as some gases needed for the analyzers had arrived late due to issues involving procurement.

Maintaining these stations is also no easy task. Repair of the expensive equipment can cost hundreds of thousands of pesos. Lack of personnel slows down the process, with only four technicians under the AQMS servicing over 120 stations scattered nationwide.

Del Socorro said his office was still defending the hefty budget necessary for the stations. "As far as I know, not all of it has been approved ... We need the support of the office, but we also have to move forward and repair and work with what we can," he said.

The Air Quality Management Fund established under RA 8749's implementing rules and regulations to bankroll research and monitoring of air pollution cases is perennially short, at times even completely empty.

#### Enormous task

This was true in 2012 and 2013, although intensified crackdowns against polluters (smoke-belchers, factories, etc.) helped shore up revenue for the fund in the last five years.

These issues cripple the DENR

in crunching data to help craft policy, said Alberto Suansing, secretary general of the Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership.

"Air quality is such an enormous task but you need the budget and the logistics to accomplish your mandate," he said. "Lack of data is partly why enforcement of the law is spotty."

Still, what's clearest from the DENR's triannual reports is that mobile sources are the biggest contributor to air pollution.

"The DENR often gets the blame [for the worsening air quality] because [it doesn't] regulate or [it has] a failed monitoring system. But what is the root cause? It's the transport sector. And isn't the [DOTr] responsible for the transport sector?" Cayetano said.

Section 21 of RA 8749 states that the DOTr, along with the DTI, should implement emission standards through motor vehicle inspection systems and accrediting private emissions testing centers (PETCs).

Monitoring of PETCs is done by a composite team composed of the DOTr through the Land Transportation Office (LTO), DTI and DENR.

But some smoke-belching vehicles still pass the registration process at the LTO because some PETCs manipulate photos

of vehicles that never went through testing. Lack of personnel again haunts this process as it hampers consistent monitoring, leaving the centers to operate almost entirely in good faith.

Proof of the system's failure to regulate smoke-belchers before they head out to the streets are the continued apprehensions by the Anti-Smoke Belching Unit, done in cooperation with the MMDA and local government units.

AQMS data show that 24,266 of a total of 35,849 vehicles, or about 67 percent, failed their emissions test in 2018.

Owners also do not maintain their vehicles regularly, thus increasing emissions, said Suansing, a former chair of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

#### Efforts undone

At present, the DOTr, through its traffic superbody i-ACT, is intensifying a crackdown on smoke-belching vehicles, said i-ACT deputy director Elmer Argano in an earlier interview.

The DOTr is also pushing for the overhaul of all public utility vehicles to shift to Euro-4 compliant vehicles by 2020—a transition that will supposedly lead to better air quality. But its efforts to cut emissions were partly undone last year by the DOE's recent move to again allow the sale of Euro-2 diesel, which has far more PM than Euro-4.

The backtracking was a counterinflationary measure enforced after food and fuel prices shot up. But even when prices relaxed, the DOE has yet to ban it again.

The contradictory policies of government agencies illustrate the lack of coordination among them in enforcing RA 8749.

"The laws in place are OK. But enforcement and communication remain the issue," said Domingo Clemente, EMB director of the DENR-NCR.

With the policies in place and programs laid out, bureaucratic challenges "hamper [our] performance," Clemente said. "[The challenge] for government officials is finding the balance between development, sustainability, protocols and fast action," he said. —WITH A REPORT FROM JACOB LAZARO INQ



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

A-10  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 JUN 2019

DATE

TITLE:

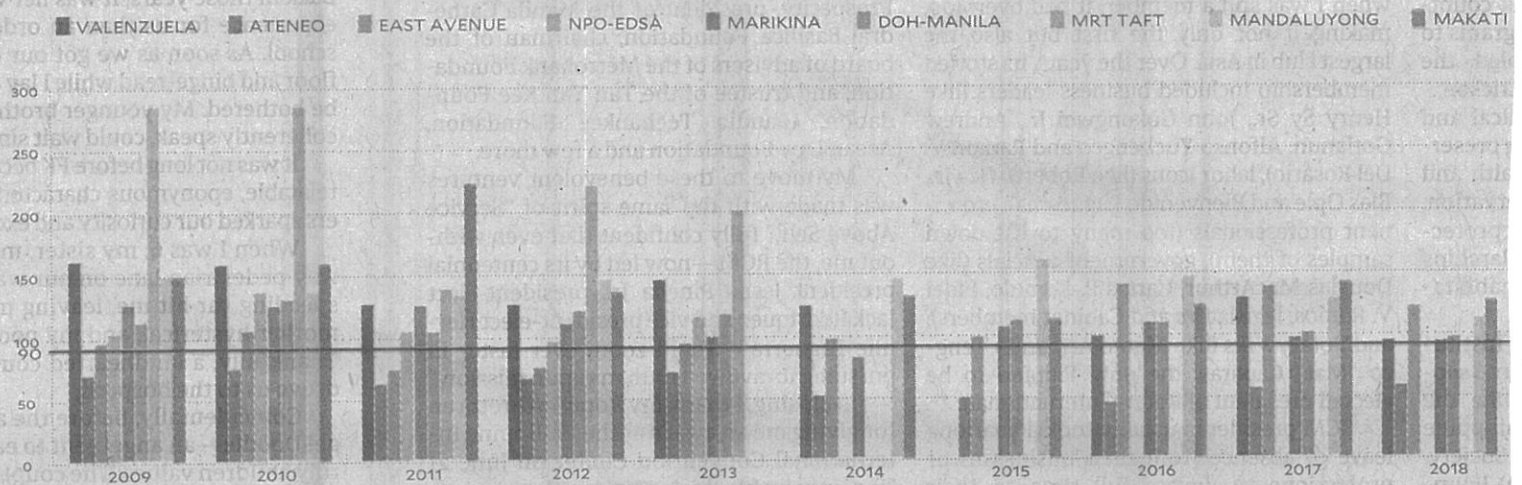
PAGE 1/

P-3

Clean Air Act 20 years later: - - - -

## METRO AIR FAILS STANDARD, EXCEPT ON TREE-FILLED CAMPUS

Under the 1999 Clean Air Act, the total suspended particulates (TSP) in the outdoor air we breathe should not exceed 90 micrograms per normal cubic meter (ug/nm). But 10-year data from DENR monitoring stations show air pollutants in different cities in Metro Manila exceeding the limit in 2009, except at Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City, thanks to its tree-filled campus. The area around MRT Taft station registered the highest TSP at 283 ug/nm in 2009 and 2010.

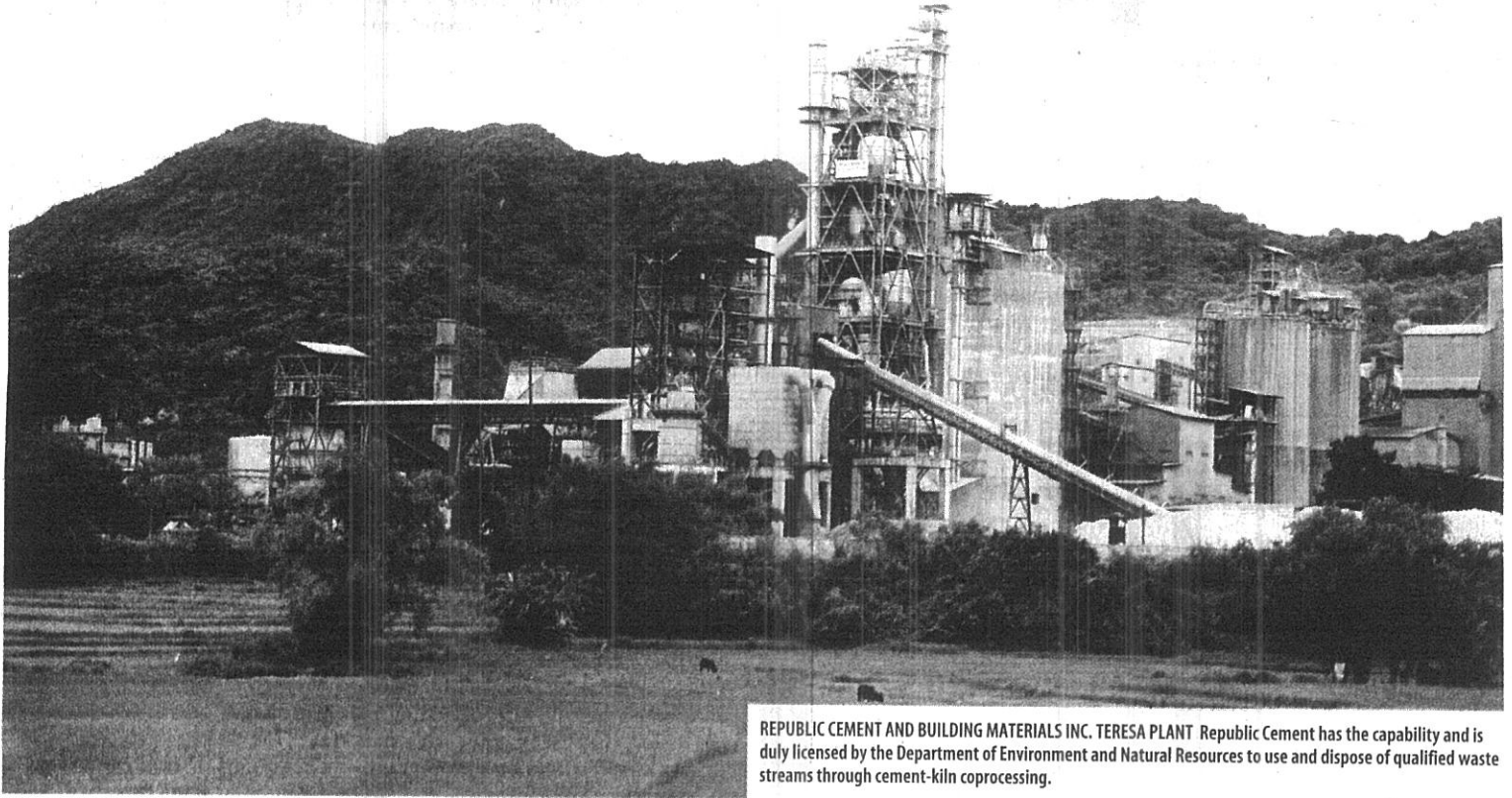


SOURCE: Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region, Environmental Management Bureau

INO GRAPHICS



## CEMENTING THE FUTURE THROUGH PLASTIC NEUTRALITY



**REPUBLIC CEMENT AND BUILDING MATERIALS INC. TERESA PLANT** Republic Cement has the capability and is duly licensed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to use and dispose of qualified waste streams through cement-kiln coprocessing.

By JT NISAY

**I**MAGINE the ocean with more plastic than fish. The United Nations Environment Program has warned that the scenario could be the reality thirty years from now if pollution levels continue at their current rate.

One measure that has fast gained traction among environmentally responsible companies to address the great ecological challenge is "plastic neutrality." The concept involves the recovery of plastics equal to what the company has produced. Collected plastic wastes are then recycled or co-processed.

Taking the lead in co-processing plastic wastes is

Republic Cement and Building Materials, Inc. Republic Cement partners with companies looking to balance their plastic footprint through cement kiln co-processing, an alternative waste management solution that torches waste materials such as plastics at 1450°C in a kiln chamber, recovering from them thermal and mineral properties that provide the energy needed to produce cement.



**THE 'TINGI' ECONOMY** The Philippines is the third-largest contributor to ocean waste plastics. Generally, consumer products distributed and sold in sachets, small packets, or *tingi* system, is a hallmark of developing countries.

Any emissions from the process are filtered and monitored by the minute to abide by standards of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. In the Philippines, the more common waste disposal methods are landfilling

and chemical treatment. Co-processing, a sustainable waste management solution, is more advantageous as it completely recovers the energy and minerals coming from wastes. "With more Filipino companies embracing the plastic-neutrality



TITLE:

PJ

PAGE 1/

30 JUN 2019

# PRIVATE FIRMS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES PARTNER TO HELP ACHIEVE WASTE-FREE FUTURE

By LEONY R. GARCIA

**W**HAT used to be a world miracle is now a certified nuisance—tons of plastic waste in varying size, from large containers, fishing nets to microscopic plastic pellets or even particles, are discarded every year, everywhere, polluting lands, rivers, coasts, beaches and oceans.

According to a scientific study published in the *Journal Science* in February 2015, at least 8 million metric tons of plastic end up in our oceans. It is equivalent to five grocery bags filled with plastic for every foot of coastline in the world. The cumulative input for 2025 would be nearly 20 times the 8 million metric tons estimate—100 bags of plastic per foot of coastline in the world!

As early as 2006, Greenpeace reported that at least 267 different animal species—from the whale, sea lions, and birds to the microscopic organisms called zooplankton—are known to have suffered from entanglement and ingestion of plastic debris. Ac-

cording to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, plastic debris kills an estimated 100,000 marine mammals annually, as well as millions of people birds and fishes.

This should not be the case as plastic was created to help mankind to eliminate the need to ransack the Earth in pursuit of substances, which are constantly growing scarcer, including plants and animals. The National Geographic said it all: "Since helping the allies win the Second World War—think of nylon parachutes or lightweight airplane parts—plastics have transformed all our lives as few other inventions have, mostly for the better. These have eased travel into space and revolutionized medicine; lightened every car and jumbo jet today, saving fuel—and pollution. In the form of clingy, light-as-air wraps, these extend the life of fresh food. In airbags, incubators, helmets or simply by delivering clean drinking water to poor people in those now demonized

disposable bottles, plastics save lives daily."

With the global movement to save Mother Earth, Nestlé reiterated its April 2018 commitment to make 100 percent of its packaging recyclable or reusable by 2025, with a particular focus on avoiding plastic waste.

The giant food company established in 2018 its Institute of Packaging Sciences to evaluate and develop various sustainable packaging materials, and collaborate with industrial partners to develop new packaging materials and solutions. Between 2020 and 2025 Nestlé said it will phase out all plastics that are not recyclable or are hard to recycle for all its products worldwide.

All 4,200 Nestlé facilities worldwide are committed to eliminating single-use plastic items that cannot be recycled. These items will be replaced by materials that can easily be recycled or reused. In the Philippines Nestlé has stepped up tangible moves to meet its target since 2018, with programs such as Balik Plastic,



P-2

Private firms, Government agencies partner to help  
Achiño waste-free future

Premyong Fantastic sachet collection among its adopted public schools in Metro Manila, Cebu City; and Cagayan de Oro City and the internal sachet-collection drive called "SaCo" (Sachet Collection) among its factories and offices. Collected sachets were turned over to GreenAntz for eco-brick production.

Ongoing local initiatives to promote better solid waste management and support its drive towards zero waste include packaging reduction with an annual target of packaging material reduction by 1,000 metric tons, or 1 million kilograms, of packaging materials.

Collection and Recycling of used packaging include the eco-brick project that will convert laminates to eco-bricks and pavers with hubs in Cabuyao, Laguna, Cagayan de Oro City, Cauayan City, Isabela and Baliwag, Bulacan.

Nestlé collaborated with the Department of Education (DepEd) and Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) to convert Bear

Brand packs into school chairs called "Tibay Chairs" intended for donation to schools in need.

The company also initiated collection of used beverage cartons from chocolate drinks and recycled them into paper, some of which are used as product promo sleeves for product bundles. The recycled paper products should be out in the market starting in January.

Aside from its existing programs, Nestlé initiated partnership with companies and industry associations, government and NGOs, academe and recyclers through the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Material Sustainability (PARMS). The group has launched a plastic-waste recovery program in seven pilot schools and their communities, in cooperation with the Parañaque City Community Environment and Natural Resources Office and DepEd. This is in preparation for the plastics recycling infrastructure that PARMS will set up in Parañaque City within the year, for sachets collection and upcycling.





# We cannot save the world from climate catastrophe if largest emitters of CO2 don't step up now

BY FRANK BAINIMARAMA

**SUVA, Fiji:** Are the most climate-vulnerable nations of the world right to demand that developed and major economies commit to carbon neutrality by 2050?

Should the poorest nations of the world insist that the "haves" put their significant economic and political resources behind aggressive efforts to combat climate change?

Do we have the right to expect political leaders to show the courage, vision and will to lead their citizens to responsible action to stem the growth of global warming?

The answer is yes, of course, and the reason is simple: We cannot save the world from climate catastrophe if the largest emitters of CO2 don't step up now.

And the most vulnerable countries of the world cannot adequately reduce our emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change without economic support from the developed world that is flexible and accessible. Governments, private financial institutions, international financial institutions and foundations must be a part of the solution.

Last week, European Union leaders missed a critical opportunity to develop a more aggressive collective mitigation target by 2020 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Perhaps more importantly, they had a chance to lead the world to carbon neutrality, but they failed to step up at the critical moment.

Their failure was a bitter disappointment to countries, like Fiji, that are doing everything within their means to achieve those same results. Island nations are determined to lead by example.

We have laid the ground work, but unfortunately, our efforts, strenuous though they may be, will not be enough alone. We need developed economies — and advanced developing economies — to make the same strenuous effort.

We are at a critical juncture in this fight, at a point where we know we can still act globally to change the course of human-made climate change or fail to act and face the reverberations of climate, environmental and biodiversity crises for generations to come.

The political and scientific ground has shifted under our feet since we signed the Paris Agreement in 2015. Governments have changed, and populists and climate sceptics have gained ascendancy in some countries.

Then, last October, the IPCC released its *Special Report on 1.5 Degrees*, which made it clear that time is closing in on us; we simply don't have the time to turn the tide that we thought we had in Paris.

It was a struggle then for small island states and members of the High Ambition Coalition to win the inclusion in the Paris Agreement of an aspiration to limit global warming to of 1.5 degrees Celcius, when the official goal of the agreement was 2 C.

Now we find that we are less than 12 years away from dramatic, far-reaching, and possibly irreversible consequences of surpassing 1.5 C of warming if we keep going the way we're going. We simply cannot miss opportunities like the one the EU missed last week, and we must embrace all possible solutions.

There are three things we need to focus on now. First, we need to reduce the amount of carbon we are releasing into the atmosphere. This means that countries need to set much more ambitious targets in their national climate commitments under the Paris Agreement that lead to rapid decarbonisation of high-emitting industries and sectors.

I am encouraged to see that the number of countries that are stepping up to the 2020 deadline is growing, but I'm both proud and concerned that most of these are from the developing world. The names of many developed and major economies are still notably absent from this list.

Second, we need to remove more of the carbon that has already been emitted into the atmosphere and this means massively increasing our investment in nature — developing and implementing natural climate solutions that can be implemented worldwide.

Nature has the incredible power to remove carbon dioxide from the earth's atmosphere, but we are currently failing to protect this vital resource. We will not be able to achieve 1.5 C without dramatically recalibrating how we look after and restore our natural landscapes. Under the leadership of China and New Zealand, we are expecting a big step forward on this front at the upcoming UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit (in New York on September 23 this year).

And, third, developed and major economies should increase the amount — and rapidly deploy — climate finance for developing countries to allow us to achieve and increase our mitigation targets, as well as urgently build our resilience to the impacts of climate change. This means at least \$100 billion a year by 2020.

The irony of the EU's failure of will is that so many European leaders understand fully what is at stake, and many individual European countries — and non-European countries — are beginning to take responsible action.

Still, it is a sad fact that the Marshall Islands and Fiji — two of the most marginal carbon emitters in the world — are the only two countries to have officially submitted long-term plans to the UN for achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

The Paris Agreement committed signatories to achieving net carbon neutrality by the second half of the 21st century, but it was unclear what was intended by the term "second half."

We know now that the deadline must be the beginning of the second half, not the end. Fifty years of ambiguous wiggle room, 50 years of hesitancy, and 50 years of procrastination will lead us to the catastrophe we fear.

Setting a date for achieving net-zero, matched with boosting short-term action, is critical and that's where national leadership comes in. It gives all the relevant stakeholders, government departments, businesses and citizens the signal they need to start making concerted changes.

If developing countries can develop robust emissions-reduction targets that truly drive us toward the goals we agreed to in Paris, then other nations can, too.

The EU, and the rest of the developed world, can still change course. The UN Secretary General's Climate Summit in September will provide a forum for every country to lay out their climate ambitions before the world and be judged.

I urge developed countries to come to New York with the most aggressive and most ambitious plans they can devise. In Paris, the small island states used our moral weight to push the world to accept the aspiration of limiting global warming to 1.5 C. In New York, vulnerable developing countries must do the same.

We cannot accept that countries with the means to do more will sit on the sidelines and do less. **IPS**

*Frank Bainimarama is Prime Minister of Fiji*



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

13  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 JUN 2019

DATE

## Manat River in ComVal to be tested for precious metals

By **ANTONIO L. COLINA IV**

**D**AVAO CITY - The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) 11 will get test samples from the riverbed of Manat River in Compostela Valley province to determine the presence of precious metals like gold, silver, chromite, and copper from the waste discharges of mineral processors that settled at the bottom of the river.

Richard Aquino, Engineer 3 of MBG 11, said that the agency has scheduled a six-day mineral survey in different locations along the river next month.

"The directive to us by the MGB Central Office is to conduct a mineral survey to evaluate the river and to determine if there is any metallic content like precious metals like in the river," Aquino said.

He said small mining processors from "Minahang Bayan" in Tagapura, Camanlangan, New Bataan and Bunglang, New Leyte in Maco were possibly releasing wastes into the Manat River.

He said the survey was necessary to determine if the river was heavily silted to require de-siltation as a flood control measure, and if it is also

economically viable to recover the precious metals.

He said the de-siltation would be undertaken by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) while the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will have to decide on the recovery of precious metals.

"We will determine the strategic sampling locations that can represent the entire river," he said.

He said test samples will be brought for laboratory examination by a metallurgist at the central office of MGB in Manila.



## CHINA BANS QUENCHING, TEMPERING OF STEEL BARS

GLENN BANAGUAS, one of the country's leading climate change scientists, said local government units should be in the forefront in ensuring that high-rise structures are safe and pose no threat to the population especially during natural calamities.

China, he said, implemented new rebar standard rules which also banned quenching and tempering of steel rebars. According to an article by SP Global, "The new rebar standard, which came into effect Nov. 1, 2018, is aimed at preventing water cooled bar disguised as hot rolled rebar from circulating in the market."

The changes in the rebar regulations were triggered by the 2008 Sichuan earthquake which killed more than 69,000 people and injured 374,176. The earthquake also left about 11 million people homeless.

Banaguas said cities and municipalities have the power to approve or reject the construction of a high-rise structure in their respective jurisdictions if it does not adhere to the safety provisions specifically prescribed in the law.

"Before, infrastructures were built based on the old national building code. Now, there is a need to incorporate the Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Reduction and Management strategies on the planning and decision-making," said Banaguas who was conferred Outstanding Young Scientist of the Philippines by the National Academy of Science and Technology.

Banaguas noted what happened in Tacloban City after super typhoon Yolanda hit the city and the entire Eastern Visayas in 2013.

"Why were many infrastructures damaged? Why were a lot of people affected? So aside from identifying the most vulnerable areas and most at risk, it is also significant to check the quality of our buildings...Based on the National Climate Change Action Plan priority area, our infrastructures should be climate proof," he said.

Banaguas said to avoid a repeat of the Yolanda disaster, high-rise structures should withstand typhoons with a strength of more than 300 kilometers per hour. To do this, LGUs should be more than strict in granting building permits. They should also be more cautious and ensure that only standard materials are used in the construction of high-rise structures, he said.

Banaguas said reports of the prevalence of substandard steel in the market was a major concern. "Generally, if there are some concerns on the methodology or process, it will be better to conduct more scientific tests and analyses. In experiments, if we want to prove the accuracy of the output, there is a need to validate them. For example, we can modify the methodology or we can introduce different parameters in the process. There is also a possibility to introduce new approach or innovative idea. Then look at the impact of the project. No matter how technical and innovative our research projects are, we want to make sure that these projects will create positive changes to the lives of the people," he said.

Banaguas said to ensure the safety of existing quench-tempered steel in the market, there is always a way to do it. "It has to be tested more. It has to undergo a series of tests. It has to be based on science," he said.

It was reported in some news outlets following a 6.1-magnitude earthquake that struck on April 22, 2019 that the building which collapsed in Pampanga—Chuzon Supermarket—had used quenched-tempered rebars.