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Manila Bay cleanup a unifying cause

IT has been eight months since the Duterte administration, particularly the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), embarked on the almost impossible task of cleaning Manila Bay and making its waters safe again for swimming and fishing.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu has created an inter-agency task force to draft and implement the Manila Bay Action Plan, a well-funded, ambitious program to clean the bay of garbage and other solid pollutants and bring down the level of coliform contamination in this once scenic body of water. The three-phase action plan involves cleanup and improvement of water quality, rehabilitation, and protection and sustainment.

Cimatu said the DENR will try to reduce the bay's fecal contamination to make it suitable for swimming and other public activities by December 2019. A report said the action plan has a budget of P47 billion.

'Manila Bay has become an environmental project so close to the hearts of the people that it has united many Filipinos and stirred them up into action even with no prodding at all.'

It is well to point out that the lead agency in the cleanup has only four months to go before its self-imposed deadline. Cimatu has to deliver on this promise, as little progress was done over the past 10 years since the Supreme Court mandated a long list of government agencies to clean up Manila Bay.

While there is a public-private partnership in cleaning Manila Bay, with local government units and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) at the forefront of the effort, the contribution made by the MMDA for the success of the project is worthy of praise.

Recently, the MMDA reported that their cleanup campaign yielded 3,810 tons of garbage, water hyacinth, and silt since the government started its rehabilitation program last January. The MMDA collected such huge pile of garbage from the Baywalk area, the Baseco beach, lagoon and aplaya areas, the Pasig and San Juan Rivers and from esteros and drainage laterals discharging to Manila Bay.

MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim said they expect to collect more garbage as the heavy rains and floods from Cavite and Bataan, aside from those in the National Capital Region, contribute to the environmental mayhem.

More and more people – residents and non-residents of Metro Manila – have joined the cleanup of the bay, with the MMDA registering some 18,457 volunteers who joined the continuous cleanup activities in the Baywalk and Baseco ares from January to August this year.

Manila Bay has become an environmental project so close to the hearts of the people that it has united many Filipinos and stirred them up into action even with no prodding at all.



Ang aming pananaw...



BAN SA REKLAMASYON APRUB

ANG pag-ban sa reklamasyon sa Laguna Bay ay napapanahon.

Ang mga reklamasyon ay kumikitil sa Manila Bay at lumalabag sa kautusan ng Korte Suprema na nagdeklarang kinakailangang buhayin ang parte ng karagatan na ito.

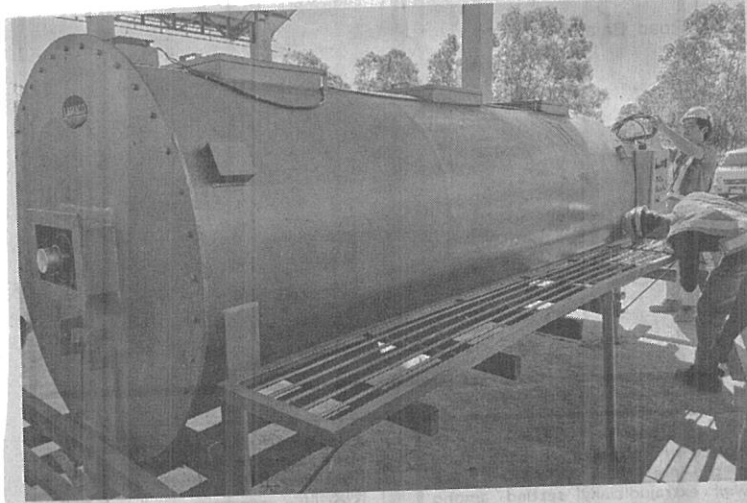
Tunay naman kasing lubhang naabuso na ang Manila Bay at tuluyan na sanang namatay ito kung hindi inaksiyunan ng administrasyon ang paglilinis dito.

Higit sa isang libong ektarya ang napipintong i-reclaim sa Manila Bay na kinatatakutang maglulubog sa Kamaynilaan sa mga mas matinding pagbaha.

Bukod pa rito, ang mga informal settler na nakapalibot sa Manila Bay ay nararapat na ring ilipat ng tirahan.



RIO TUBA NICKEL ADOPTS DOST'S INNOVATIVE SOIL CONDITIONING TECHNOLOGY



DOST's Bioreactor at the RTN facility can process 500 kilos of waste materials that will produce the same amount of fertilizers and soil conditioners.

Rio Tuba Nickel (RTN) is first in the mining industry to implement the use of DOST's bioreactor that converts biodegradable wastes into organic fertilizers and soil conditioners.

RTN, a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC), adopts this innovative soil conditioning technology through DOST's technology transfer program.

According to DOST project Supervisor, Dr. Myra L. Tansengco, Ph.D., the principle behind the bioreactor developed by DOST-ITDI is to promote efficient solid waste management practices in the communities to comply with RA9003.

"RTN is the first mining company to use the fertilizer and soil conditioner from this bioreactor for their rehabilitation programs and for use in the communities," says Dr. Tansengco.

The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 or RA 9003 was signed into law in 2001. It is the legal framework for a systematic, comprehensive, and ecological solid waste management program in the Philippines.

Almost 20 years after RA9003 became a law, the challenge continues to be on how to enforce proper waste segregation in the communities.

Engr. David L. Herrera, Se-

nior Science Specialist at the DOST, explains that the challenge is still for the barangay-level folks to be able to visualize how solid waste can be useful, for the individual and for the community as a whole, in order for them to be really serious about waste segregation.

"We are banking on RTN's community relations competency. I believe that if the barangay folks can distinctly understand how wastes are converted into useful materials, waste segregation will be easy to enforce," explains Engr. Herrera.

"RTN is proud to be first in the mining industry to run this bioreactor, it gives us the

integrity to compel the community to segregate household wastes. We are committed to educate the barangays on how solid wastes from their homes and backyards, when handled properly, can contribute to the protection of the environment and help reduce environment degradation," explains Wilbern Blitz Paeste, RTN's Mining Technology and Geosciences Coordinator.

RTN hopes that the people in the communities can envision how their daily household wastes can actually help grow plants and help make more productive the soils in the mine site in preparation for rehabilitation.



PH nickel ore output up 3% in H1 Firm to develop new mine

MANILA (Reuters) – Marcventures Holdings, Inc. said on Tuesday it plans to develop and put a new mine into commercial operation by 2021, as the Philippine nickel ore producer seeks to take advantage of Indonesia's ban on exports of the raw material.

Indonesia has decided to stop nickel ore exports from Jan. 1, 2020, two years earlier than initially flagged as it speeds up efforts to process more of its resources at home.

The mid-sized miner is looking to develop its BrightGreen mining property adjacent to its active mine in Surigao del Sur province in the Philippines' nickel mining region of Caraga, according to Marcventures President Isidro Alcantara.

"We will develop it next year and that will probably take a year to complete," he said in an interview on the sidelines of a Philippine mining conference. "Hopefully, the Indonesian ban stays permanently," Alcantara told Reuters.

Philippine nickel miners are likely to ramp up their ore production when a new mining season starts by April next year,

he said, echoing the outlook of other industry executives.

Last year, the Philippines was the second-biggest nickel ore supplier to China, next to Indonesia. In the first half of 2019, the Philippines became China's top source of the material used in stainless steel and batteries, and will likely maintain that status next year.

The Southeast Asian nation's nickel ore output rose a modest 3% in the first half of 2019 on a year-on-year basis, despite zero production at more than half the country's nickel mines, government data showed on Tuesday.

Alcantara urged the government to support the local nickel mining industry's expansion by lifting a moratorium on processing of new mining permits that has been in place since 2012.

The government has said the moratorium will not be lifted until a new mining tax legislation is passed, which will increase state revenues from mineral resources.

"We need to reverse some of the old policies. We need to expand in anticipation of the Indonesian ban," Alcantara said.



MGB recommends lifting suspension of 2 mines

By Vincent Mariel P. Galang
Reporter

THE suspension of mining operations of two companies may soon be lifted, according to an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"*Yung sa* [For] Zambales [Diversified Metals Corp. (ZDMC)] and Strong Built [Mining Development Corp. (SBMDC)], in particular, it's already endorsed for lifting. *Yung iba* [For the others] we still have to evaluate whether they have complied with the corrective measures," Analiza R. Teh, Environment undersecretary for climate change and mining concerns, told reporters on the sidelines of the Mining Philippines 2019 International Conference and Exhibition in Pasay City on Tuesday.

Ms. Teh said the regional offices of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) recommended the lifting of the suspension for the two mines.

ZDMC, whose mine is located in Sta. Cruz, is one of the mining units of Consunji-led DMCI Holdings, Inc.

SBMDC is a Cebu-based mining company, whose site is located in MacArthur, Leyte.

As part of the mining audit last year, ZDMC and SBMDC were among the nine companies whose operations were suspended, while three other mining firms were ordered closed.

Ms. Teh said that as of August 2019, Claver Mineral Development Corp., Oriental Synergy Mining Corp., and Libjo Mining Corp., have filed appeals with the Office of the President. The mineral production sharing agreements of Claver and Oriental were canceled, while Libjo was suspended.

Berong Nickel Corp., Carrascal Nickel Corp. and Emir Mineral Resources Corp. have already had their suspension orders lifted.

However, Ore Asia Mining and Development Corp., Krominco, Inc., Mt. Sinai Exploration and Development Corp., Wellex Mining Corp., and AAMPHIL Natural Resources Exploration and Development Corp., are still complying with the DENR order.

Meanwhile, Ms. Teh noted that Indonesia's possible ban on nickel ore exports will be an opportunity for the Philippines.

"*Isang* [That is an] opportunity if Indonesia will ban their exports. That would be an opportunity for the Philippines to be the prime source," she said.

On Sept. 2, Indonesia announced that it will bring forward its nickel ore export ban to Jan. 1, 2020 from 2022.

Data from the MGB showed that nickel ore production grew 3% to 11.306 million dry metric tons (DMT) in the first half of 2019. Major producers were Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. and Taganito Mining Corp., which produced 2.608 million DMT and 2.346 million DMT, respectively.

Ms. Teh said the real issue is how to ensure mining companies comply with environmental and safety standards.

"We need to develop public confidence in them. *Talagang kaya ba natin ang* [Can we really do] responsible mining? We are more focused on that. We would like to strengthen our monitoring and enforcement capabilities, so that we can really make sure that the mining companies will be able to comply with the provisions regarding the environmental requirements," she said.



TITLE:

Elusive pot of gold: Small-scale mining sans Minahang Bayan faces bleak future

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jonlmayuga

SMALL-SCALE mining in the Philippines continue to face a bleak future without "Minahang Bayan."

As small-scale mining operations outside Minahang Bayan are illegal, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is stepping up the processing of Minahang Bayan applications to legalize their operation.

There are around 300,000 to 500,000 small-scale miners in the country based on estimates provided by various sources, including the DENR, which remain vastly unregulated.

In 2015, the DENR, then under Secretary Ramon J. Paje, signed Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2015-3, which revises the implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act 7076, or the People's Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991, which will allow the government to improve the regulation of small-scale mining, including the sale of gold to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

The guideline for small-scale mining limits activities to the extraction of minerals mainly gold, within a declared Minahang Bayan and centralizes processing in a minerals processing zone within a Minahang Bayan area. This way, the government will be able to better monitor gold production by small-scale miners, who have been suspected of selling their gold to the black market to avoid paying taxes to the government. The practice reportedly resulted in the steep drop in the annual BSP gold purchases.

Small-scale mining contributes around 70 percent to the country's total gold output.

From its 2010 total gold output of 40,847 kilograms, the country's annual production dropped to only 18,423 kg in 2014, with only 633 kg coming from small-scale mining, or 3.43 percent, of the total.

The BSP purchases gold from small-scale miners in accordance with the small-scale mining law.

The BSP only has five existing buying stations located in Quezon City, Baguio City, Davao City, Zamboanga City and Naga City.

However, the lack of Minahang Bayan continues to trouble small-scale miners.

According to DENR Undersecretary Analiza R. Teh, the DENR, through the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) is processing applications submitted by the provinces. There are also applications for Minahang Bayan at DENR Regional Offices.

So far, MGB records reveal that from just three declared Minahang Bayan in 2015, there are now a total of 29 DENR-approved Minahang Bayan, 21 of which are located in Mindanao. Eleven of these Minahang Bayan were approved under Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Because of lack of Minahang Bayan where small-scale mining, including the processing of minerals are supposed to be conducted, miners continue to conduct "kamote mining," or mineral ore digging in previously condemned mine tunnels.

In the Caraga region alone, there are 465 illegal small-scale mining operations and 87 illegal mineral processing plants. This is because of the fact that there are only three declared Minahang Bayan and only one

approved mineral processing plant in the region. There are also 19 Minahang Bayan applications pending for approval, while so far, 25 applications have been denied.

The processing of gold by small-scale miners is also causing serious environmental problems as many of them continue to use cyanide and mercury which are prohibited by law.

Small-scale miners make use of their backyard to process gold. Aside from mercury being emitted into the atmosphere, the mine wastes are indiscriminately dumped in makeshift mine tailings, finding their way in nearby water bodies.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), through the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD) under its Engineering Research and Development program, in partnership with the University of the Philippines College of Engineering—Department of Mining, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering (DMME) led by Dr. Herman D. Mendoza, has developed an environmentally friendly gold-processing technology and constructed so far four facilities as early as 2016.

However, these facilities, which are ready for technology transfer, have no takers until now.

In an earlier interview, PCIEERD Executive Director Enrico C. Paringit said this could be because of budget constraint or lack of financial capacity to buy or lease the facilities.

The facilities called Community-Led Integrated Non-Mercury Non-Cyanide Gold Extraction Method designed to be a sustainable and practical extraction alternative to

amalgamation and cyanidation.

Aside from improving the efficiency of gold production throughout the field testing, the technology also addresses proper waste treatment.

Field testing is ongoing but Paringit said the facilities are ready for transfer to users. These facilities are in Benguet, Camarines Norte, Compostela Valley and Caraga region.

The facility in Itogon, Benguet, already has a processing capacity of up to 10 metric tons of ore per batch.

In Region 11, DOST 11, and UP Diliman have already forged a partnership with the Provincial Government of Compostela Valley, Municipality of Nabunturan, Barangay Katipunan, Nabunturan Integrated Miners Development Cooperative, and Compostela Valley State College for the project, located at Barangay Katipunan, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley province.

The other facilities are still waiting to be tapped by potential users.

In an earlier interview, Mendoza said another hurdle is the fact that there are no declared Minahang Bayan where the facilities are located.

"We have the technology and the facility. Now it is time for the government to identify areas where the miners can extract the minerals," he said.

Gold production from small-scale mining constitute about half of the country's annual gold output, but the decline of small-scale mining's contribution has led authorities to believe that the drop in BSP gold buy is due to the fact that small-scale miners are avoiding taxes.

Secrecy hovers over mining audit outcome

Those who question the continued opacity of the mining sector's performance audit findings have to direct their queries to Malacañang instead

The Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday resisted from making public the results of the two-year old third-party audit of mining firms whose assessment of compliance to regulatory strictures are at various stages of evaluation, suspension or even cancellation at present.

At the Mining Philippines 2019 International Conference and Exhibition at Sofitel Philippine Plaza in Pasay City, DENR Undersecretary Analiza Teh, who steers the agency's Climate Change Service and Mining Concerns unit, acknowledged the Mining Industry Coordinating Council or MICC is prevented from making full disclosure of the results of the performance audit due to its "recommendatory nature."

"As to why the DENR has not disclosed the information, we proposed this because several companies have requested for a copy of the full report and the MICC, pursuant to an executive order on the right to information and state policy on full disclosure, there's a provision there that because we have

submitted the report to the Office of the President, and it is recommendatory in nature, we cannot disclose the full report," Teh told reporters as she exited the event.

Those who question the continued opacity of the mining sector's performance audit findings have to direct their queries to Malacañang instead, she indicated.

But Teh also said the mining companies covered by the report "may request copies of the report on case-to-case basis."

"We are very cautious because the report of the third party involves confidential information gathered from the mining companies," the official reiterated.

Teh's response bothers stakeholders who fear that without full disclosure the continued viability of the mining companies may be at peril.

Teh herself noted the performance of the mining and quarrying sector grew by only 1.3 percent in 2018 in the wake of a series of closure or suspension orders by then Environment Secretary Gina Lopez. The

sector's contribution to local output growth, measured as the gross domestic product, amounted to only P107.8 billion or only 0.6 percent of GDP.

"This is considerably low given the abundance of mineral resources and potential to contributed to development," she said.

She also said some progress have been achieved just the same given that of the 13 mining firms who appealed for reconsideration, one suspension order had been lifted, three mineral production sharing agreement were canceled, one failed to make the threshold and nine still have to complete the payment of fines, penalties and the adoption of corrective measures.

Teh also acknowledged compliance to regulatory strictures could prove lengthy for the mining firms but claimed this could be accelerated by "prompt compliance."

"Is this bureaucratic?" she asked rhetorically. Teh said the government hired technical people to conduct the audit: "We rely on them."

Still, stakeholders complain that as long as the audit results are not made public, the truth about the continued effective closure of mining companies, official claims to the contrary notwithstanding, could not be emphasized enough.

Jun Vallecera



THE mining sector's contribution to local output growth, measured as the gross domestic product, amounted to only P107.8 billion or only 0.6 percent of GDP.



PH to gain from Indonesia export ban

BY JED MACAPAGAL

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the Philippines will not follow Indonesia's plan to ban export of nickel ore and sees Jakarta's move as an opportunity for local ore.

"Right now, there is no plan (to copy that regulation.) If Indonesia bans its exports, that will be an opportunity for the Philippines to be the primary source (of metal ores)," said Analiza Teh, DENR undersecretary.

Teh told reporters at the sidelines Mining Philippines 2019 conference in Pasay City yesterday the DENR's main concern is to ensure mining companies comply with the environmental and social safeguards.

"We would like to strengthen the monitoring and enforcement capabilities so that we can really make sure mining companies will be able to comply with the provisions," she added.



View of a nickel mine site in Sta. Cruz, Zambales. (Reuters file photo)

Indonesia will stop exporting nickel ore starting next year and will process more locally.

Local nickel mines are poised to increase ore production next

year. The Philippines currently has 29 active nickel miners and two processing plants.

Nickel is used to produce stainless steel and batteries.



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Nickel output up 3%

NICKEL ore output in the Philippines, one of the world's two biggest producers of the material for stainless steel and batteries, rose 3 percent in the first half despite zero production at more than half the country's mines, government data showed.

The Philippines, which sells most of its nickel ore to top buyer China, produced 11.31 million dry metric tons of the material between January and June, compared with 11.01 million tons in the same period last year, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said on Tuesday.

A series of government-initiated audits on the industry's compliance with environmental regulations disrupted the miners' operations, with some of them suspended from operations until corrective measures have been made.

Sixteen of the Philippines' 31 nickel mines reported zero output due to either maintenance shutdown or suspension of operations for environmental and other offences, it said.

The operating mines also produced 43,363 tons of mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide during the six-month period, up 2 percent from the January-June 2018 volume, the MGB said in its quarterly industry performance report.

The Philippines is 2018's second-biggest nickel ore producer, next to

Indonesia, the MGB said, citing data from the United States Geological Survey.

The Philippines is now the world's top nickel ore producer, according to Fitch Solutions Macro Research.

The MGB said the country's operating nickel mines managed to modestly increase ore output despite

lackluster prices in the first half.

Prices of nickel in both the London Metal Exchange and Shanghai Futures Exchange had rallied before and after Indonesia's announcement, and the MGB and local miners believe prices will remain supported in the coming years due to supply constraints. — Reuters



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Phl Eagle excites Singapore president

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY — Visiting Singapore President Halimah Yacob expressed excitement over the Philippine Eagle as she cited the cooperation between the Philippines and Singapore in biodiversity conservation.

Halimah, on a four-day state visit in the country, arrived here last night for an overnight trip that includes a visit today at the Philippine Eagle Center in Barangay Malagos, Calinan District, Davao City.

Managed by the non-profit Philippine Eagle Foundation, the Malagos Center keeps at least 30 Philippine eagle raptors and carries out conservation and breeding programs.

"I am also happy that we are also cooperating in biodiversity conservation, in June 2019, we reached a landmark agreement for a pair of critically endan-

gered Philippine eagles to be loaned to Singapore on a 10-year research and breeding program," Halimah said during the state banquet held in her honor the other night in Malacañang Palace.

"Singapore is honored to host and care for the Philippine national bird. I look forward to visiting the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City to see these majestic raptors and to learn more about the Philippine eagle conservation project," she said.

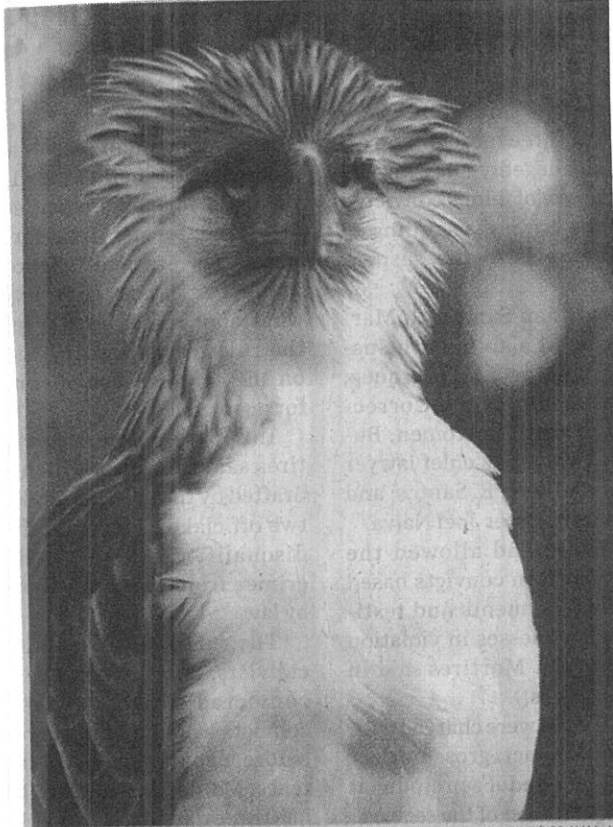
Two Philippine Eagles – the 15-year-old male Geothermica and 17-year-old female partner Sambisig – were flown to Singapore last June for the research and breeding program.

Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio hosted a dinner for Halimah last night at the Marco Polo Hotel.

Halimah will also hold a dialogue with youth groups at the Ateneo de Davao University before flying back to Manila later this afternoon.



#nationataglance



BW FILE/LSDAVAL JR.

DAVAO: DAVAO CITY

Singapore president is 1st foreign head of state to visit Eagle Center

SINGAPORE PRESIDENT Halimah Yacob will visit the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) today, the first foreign head of state to do so. "I hope that through this spotlight, it will open investments on facility development and more importantly, it's doing more to protect the species in the wild. This, in turn, means investing on protecting our forests and attending to the welfare of human communities in the upland," Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) Executive Director Dennis I. Salvador told *Businessworld* in a text message. In July this year, two Philippine eagles, a 15-year-old male named Geothermica and a 17-year-old female named Sambisig, were brought to the Jurong Bird Park in Singapore as part of a breeding loan agreement to help increase the eagles' population. "(The) eagles in Singapore are doing well," Mr. Salvador said.

PEC AREA

Meanwhile, Mr. Salvador also said that they will be submitting a position paper to the Davao City government for the reclassification of the PEC area as a protected zone from the current agricultural production area. He explained that under the current zoning, the eagles in the center are vulnerable to toxins as well as human disturbance. PEF will seek the establishment of a 50-meter buffer zone around the PEC as a "screen wall" and an additional 500 meter agricultural non-tillage zone around. The 8.4-hectare PEC is located within the Malagos watershed at the city's Baguio District. It serves as a conservation and breeding facility for the critically endangered Philippine Eagle and other birds of prey. — **Maya M. Padillo**



ALOKASYON NG TUBIG PARA SA MWSS ITINAAS SA 40CMS, 30CMS MANANATILI SA IRIGASYON

IBINALIK ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ang kanilang dating alokasyon na 40CMS sa unang araw ng Setyembre 2019 sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) at sa mga konsesyunaryo nito, Manila Water at Maynilad, ngunit mananatili sa 36cms metro kubiko bawat segundo alokasyon ang ipatutupad para sa Irigasyon.

Base sa ulat, ang antas ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay nasa 183.72 metro sa araw ng September 9, 2019, (8:00am), dahil sa malakas ang buhos ng ulan.

Kahapon (September 10), tumaas muli ang antas ng tubig ng Angat Dam ng halos isang metro, mula sa 183.72 naging 184.64.

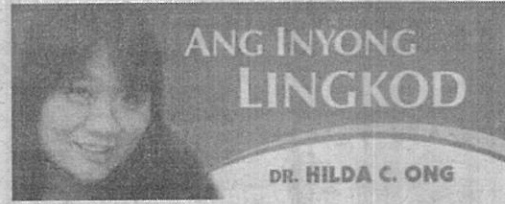
Samantala, ang lebel ng

tubig sa Ipo Dam at La Mesa sa loob ng dalawang araw. Umabot na sa 101.00m spilling level ang Ipo Dam.

IPO DAM	LA MESA DAM
September 9, 2019	September 9, 2019
101.00m	77.32m
September 10, 2019	September 10, 2019
101.01m	77.37m

Ayon kay Dr. Seville David, Jr. Executive Director ng NWRB, Sa ngayon, ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay mahigit na sa minimum operating level na 180 meters, ngunit, mababa pa rin kung ikukumpara sa normal high water level (NHWL) na 210 meters, malayo pa rin sa end of the year target na 212 meters.

Hinihikayat namin ang publiko na mag-ipon ng tubig sa panahon ng tag-ulan upang makabawas sa pa-



DR. HILDA C. ONG

ngangailangan ng tubig mula sa Angat dam at tumulong sa pagbawi at maitaas muli ang lebel ng tubig nito para may magamit tayo sa susunod na panahon ng tag-init

Kung madalas ang malakas na ulan sa may Norzagaray Bulacan, tataas ang lebel ng tubig hanggang sa malapansan ang 212 NHWL, upang may sapat na tubig ta-yong magagamit para sa taong 2019 hanggang sa panahon ng tag-init biglang paghanda sa taong 2020.

-ooOoo- LIBRENG PAGLILINIS NG SEPTIC TANK! HUWAG SAYANGIN ANG PAGKAKATAON!

Magbibigay ang West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) ng serbisyong paglilinis ng septic tank ngayong September para sa mga customer sa mga piling lugar ng walang bayad.

Kasama sa mga serbisyong binabayaran sa Maynilad ang pagpapalinis ng septic tank.

Para sa mga gustong magpa-schedule ng desludging ng

septic tank, narito ang mga requirement:

- 1.) Kailangan wala kayong outstanding balance sa inyong bill.
- 2.) Dapat ay hindi pa nalilinis ng Maynilad ang inyong septic tank sa loob ng 5-7 years.
- 3.) Para sa mga customers sa mga lugar na nabanggit, maaari kayong makipag-coordinate sa inyong barangay upang maproseso ang inyong request.

Ang mga interesado nito ay maaaring tumawag sa numerong 1626, para magtanong kung paano at kung ano ang mga kailangan. Ang mga karagdagang impormasyon tungkol sa Maynilad at sa kanilang serbisyo ay makikita sa www.mayniladwater.com.ph





Progress and concerns in wastewater management

AFTER WATER is used for laundry, bathing, dishwashing, using the toilet, and many more, it becomes wastewater. In order for this wastewater to be discharged back to the environment and be reused, it must be treated first. This means that wastewater should undergo a process wherein the water passes through several stages including filtering out of contaminants and cleansing before being sent back to the environment.

Wastewater treatment or management is a vital means of conserving the world's most important natural resource. With water pollution becoming more challenging to be mitigated, wastewater treatment is essential. In fact, the United Nations stated in 2017 that 80% of the world's wastewater, and over 95% in some least developed countries, is released to the environment without treatment.

Concerning wastewater management in the Philippines, much has been started and yet much more needs to be done. Notably, it started in 1995, when the Public Private Partnership center urged the government to transfer the burden of handling water supply and sanitation infrastructure to the private sector. Also, according to Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Systems, Inc., there was less than 8% sewer coverage and minimal septage treatment at those times.

To address these concerns, concession agreements that created Manila Water Company, Inc. (MWCI) and Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) were signed for a 25-year period in 1997, and have since been extended for an additional 15 years. The agreements entail ensuring 100% wastewater collection and treatment for Metro Manila.

Furthermore, the treatment of wastewaters is also upheld in the Clean Water Act of 2004. It directs the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to implement a wastewater charge system "in all management areas including the Laguna Lake Region and Regional Industrial

Centers through the collection of wastewater charges/fees." It also enforces a discharge permitting system which requires owners or operators of facilities that discharge regulated effluents to secure a wastewater discharge permit.

"Implementation of the polluter pays approach rather than issuing fines has been a key driver in incentivizing industries and residential compounds to install on-site/decentralized treatment systems," stated the Wastewater Report 2018 by the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), an institution of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

In terms of treatment facilities, OFID's report noted that "more than 58 decentralized treatment plants were constructed (in addition to the existing centralized plants), seeking low operation costs and the most potential for energy production while ensuring effluent standards were met."

It also stated that in Metro Manila, "15% of the population is connected to sewer networks and 85% have access to on-site sanitation (septic tanks), of which 44% of the fecal sludge and effluent is safely managed."

Amid these measures and developments, however, there is still ongoing concern about the lack of wastewater management.

Christian Walder, an urban development specialist (water supply and sanitation) at the Asian Development Bank (ADB), wrote in an article published in ADB's website last year that megacities like Metro Manila still do not have adequate sanitation and wastewater treatment regardless of important appearances of progress. "It is estimated that more than 11 million of Metro Manila's population is using on-site sanitation facilities and that there are more than two million septic tanks installed in the Philippines' capital region," he added.

The World Bank, meanwhile, stated that Metro Manila generates about two million cubic meters of

wastewater every day. "Without adequate sewerage facilities, only around 17% of this volume gets treated before being discharged into water channels in and around the metropolis, which end up mostly in Manila Bay," the institution added.

To address such inadequacy, in 2012, the World Bank approved a \$275M project that aims to improve wastewater collection and treatment practices in several catchment areas of Metro Manila. Named the Metro Manila Wastewater Management Project (MWMP), the project supports the investments of MWCI and MWSI to improve collection and treatment of wastewater from households and other establishments in the metropolis.

BusinessWorld reported last December 2018 that at the end of November last year, the MWMP was 73% complete and it absorbed 65.42% of the loan facility offered by the World Bank.

In addition, Mr. Walder of ADB emphasized that innovative solutions for wastewater treatment cities and communities can leapfrog wastewater management challenges. He cited a treatment plant in Biñan City, Laguna as an example.

"The facility is located in a densely populated area and has applied a nature-based technology — comprised of plants, microorganisms, biofilms, and engineered media — to break down the wastewater in a biological process that requires less energy and produces less sludge compared to a conventional centralized treatment plant," he explained. — **Adrian Paul B. Conozo**



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Du30 sacks Pasig River commission chief

By Julie M. Aurelio
@JMAurelioINQ

President Duterte on Tuesday said he had sacked the chief of the commission tasked with rehabilitating the Pasig River "for corruption" and joked that he would throw the dismissed official into its murky waters.

In a speech in Malacañang, the President confirmed an earlier statement by his spokesperson Salvador Panelo that he fired Jose Antonio Goitia as executive director of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC).

"This PRRC [head], I just dis-

missed him. He's a presidential appointee. When you go outside, you will see him," Mr. Duterte said.

"I tied an anchor to him. I will dump him into the Pasig River to fatten the tilapia there," he said in a speech at the award ceremony for the 2019 Outstanding Government Workers held in the Palace.

In a statement, the PRRC said that as of Monday it had already "abided with the orders of the Office of the President of the Philippines in the changes in leadership of the commission."

"Interim officials are already in place," it added.

Panelo gave no details re-

garding any alleged wrongdoing by Goitia, saying only that his dismissal was "pursuant to the President's continuing mandate to eradicate graft and corruption."

He said sacking Goitia was meant to "ensure that public officials and employees conduct themselves in a manner worthy of public trust."

"We hope that this shall serve as another example that this administration does not—and will never—tolerate corrupt practices in the bureaucracy and in public service," Panelo added.

Goitia did not immediately respond to the Inquirer's request for comment.

In June, he vowed never to tolerate any irregular transactions in his agency after he was chided by some groups that the PRRC failed to complete some projects despite its hefty P107-million budget for 2018.

Goitia denied the allegations and assured the public that the PRRC was strict in monitoring the progress of its rehabilitation projects for Metro Manila's waterways.

Malacañang directed Goitia to turn over all official documents, papers and properties in his possession to the Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Finance and Administrative

Services of the PRRC.

His dismissal was the most recent shakeup in the agency that was established to lead the revival of the once biologically dead river.

Through an administrative order issued by Malacañang on Aug. 28 but made public only last week, Mr. Duterte ordered the transfer of the PRRC's top post to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

The post, which was shared with the general manager of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, was previously held by the secretary of the Department of

Budget and Management.

In his speech, Mr. Duterte joked that the Pasig River was teeming with fish and that it's not true that Filipinos did not have anything to eat.

"If you say Pinoys don't have food, it's not true. The sol-

diers there, they just fish in the Pasig ... If it's simply bacteria, it's delicious," he said. "If there's nothing else left, I will have a party here. I will call it the Tilapia Festival."

He admitted that he appointed those who helped him win the 2016 presidential elections, many of whom were from Davao City where he was mayor for over 20 years.

Mr. Duterte lamented that it was very difficult to look for honest men to appoint to government posts.

"I took in several Davaoños, but they messed up. I will remove another person, though not corrupt," the President said. The unidentified official is reportedly handling an economic office. —WITH A REPORT FROM JHES-

SET O. ENANO INQ

PHOTO FROM PRRC FACEBOOK PAGE



Jose Antonio Goitia

Duterte fires Pasig River rehab body head

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has fired Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) Executive Director Jose Antonio Goitia due to allegations of corruption, Malacañang announced on Tuesday.

In a statement, Palace spokesman Salvador Panelo said the reason for the termination of Goitia's appointment was in line with the President's "continuing mandate to eradicate graft and corruption."

"The Palace announces the termi-

nation of the appointment of Mr. Jose Antonio E. Goitia as the executive director of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission," Panelo said.

"The termination is made pursuant to the President's continuing mandate to eradicate graft and cor-

ruption, and to ensure that public officials and employees conduct themselves in a manner worthy of public trust," he added.

Panelo advised Goitia, who was appointed by the President in 2017, "to turn over all official documents, papers and properties in his possession to the Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Finance and Administrative Services of the Commission."

"We hope that this shall serve as another example that this administration does not — and will never — tolerate corrupt practices in the bureaucracy and in public service," he added.

The termination came days after

Duterte signed Executive Order 90, transferring the chairmanship of the rehabilitation body to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from the Department of Budget and Management.

The PRRC was formed through an executive order signed by former president Joseph Estrada on Jan. 6, 1999.

Under the Estrada-era order, the budget secretary and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) general manager shall exercise co-chairmanship of the commission.

The MMDA, under Duterte's latest order, will retain co-chairmanship of the PRRC.



Pasig River rehab chief ousted

By MJ Blancaflor

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday fired Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission executive director Jose Antonio Goitia over allegations of corruption, saying he will drop the sacked official into the Pasig River.

“This PRRC [executive], I just dismissed him, presidential appointee. When you go outside, I’ll tie him to an anchor. I’ll drop this son of a bitch to the

Pasig River so the fish will grow fat,” Duterte said.

Duterte said Goitia was flaunting that he will be transferred to the Bureau of Customs, and has begun asking for money and trying to corner supply contracts.

The President said he will also fire a female official who heads an economic office.

“I will remove another official.

Though she is not corrupt, but she is not in parity with performance in handling an economic office. I have to change it,” Duterte said.

Goitia’s relief came a week after he transferred the chairmanship of the PRRC to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which used to be headed by the Department of Budget and Management.



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Pasig rehab chief sinibak ni Duterte

Sinibak ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa puwesto si Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) Executive Director Jose Antonio Goitia dahil umano sa korapsyon.

Inihayag ito ng Pangulo sa awarding ceremony para sa 2019 Outstanding Public Officials and Employees o Dangal ng Bayan awardees na ginanap sa Malacañang Martes nang gabi.

"I just dismissed him. Paglabas niyo ngayon, nandiyan siya sa labas. Tinalian ko muna ng angkla. Ihulog ko itong p*tang i*ang ito sa Pasig River para tumaba lalo ang tilapia," sabi ng Pangulo. Sinabi ng Pangulo

na inuna niyang sinibak si Goitia pero plano niyang sibakin ang lahat ng opisyal ng PRRC.

Pinapalutang aniya ng sinibak na opisyal na ilalagay siya sa Bureau of Customs at nanghihingi umano ng pera sa mga taong konektado sa Aduana.

"Lahat sila, inuna ko lang siya. He has been floating na siya ang ilagay ko sa Customs at nanghihingi na ng mga pera sa connected sa Customs. He is telling people that he will be appointed as Customs collector. Pinapasilip ko 'yung iba but my intention is to wipe them all. Top officials," anang Pangulo. **(Aileen Taliping/Prince Golez)**

SOUTHEAST ASIA RAVAGED

Climate change, urbanization spur outbreaks

HANOI/NHA TRANG, VIETNAM— Hundreds dead in the Philippines; a threefold increase of cases in Vietnam; hospitals overrun in Malaysia, Myanmar and Cambodia—dengue is ravaging Southeast Asia this year due in part to rising temperatures and low immunity to new strains.

Cases have surged across the region with around 670,000 infected and more than 1,800 people dead, according to an Agence France-Presse (AFP) tally of national and World Health Organization (WHO) data.

A6

FROM A1

Experts say it's the worst outbreak in years.

Dubbed "breakbone fever," dengue is one of the world's leading mosquito-borne illnesses and infects tens of millions across the globe annually.

Around half of the planet's population live in at-risk areas, mainly in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

So what is dengue, how does it spread, and how can it be contained?

Dengue is transmitted mainly by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which thrives in densely populated tropical climates and breed in stagnant pools of water.

Driving factors

The mosquitoes pick up the virus from infected humans, even asymptomatic ones, and pass it along to other people through bites.

Infections have steadily climbed across the globe since the 1970s due to rising temperatures and irregular monsoon rains linked to climate change, which allow for ideal mosquito

breeding conditions.

Dengue is mostly found in crowded areas, and breakneck urbanization across the globe has helped the virus thrive, especially in fast-growing megacities like Manila, Rio de Janeiro, Ho Chi Minh City and Tegucigalpa.

A massive boom in international travel and trade has also expanded dengue's footprint, allowing the virus to be carried across the globe in a matter of hours.

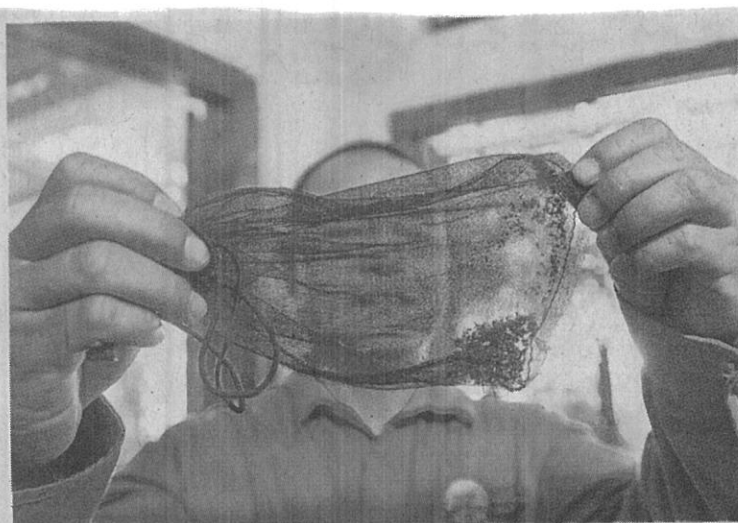
Once confined mostly to cities in tropical climates, dengue is now found in at least 125 countries across the world, with around 100 million infected every year, according to the journal *Nature Microbiology*.

Even the widespread use of plastics has contributed as things like garden pots and takeout containers collect water, creating perfect breeding pools for mosquitoes.

Its grim nickname comes from dengue's intense flu-like symptoms: severe headache, pain behind the eyes, full-body aches, high fever, nausea, vomiting, swollen glands or rash.

Four strains

It's most serious and deadly in children, especially young



PROMISING RESULTS A bag of mosquitos is held for examination by a field worker from the World Mosquito Program, a nongovernmental organization that has pioneered the Wolbachia method of fighting dengue in Vietnam. —AFP

girls, though scientists don't know why.

Contracting one of dengue's four strains gives immunity only to that particular one. Picking up a different strain, called a serotype, later usually causes a worse infection than the first.

With no known treatment, doctors can only help to ease the virus' brutal symptoms, which can last weeks and often renders patients completely

immobile.

The disease is cyclical. Dramatic outbreaks occur every few years, but climate change is believed to have contributed to a spike in cases in 2019, with July clocked as the warmest on record.

"Extremely warm temperatures we've seen this year" likely facilitated its spread, Rachel Lowe, assistant professor at the London School of Hygiene &



P-2

Climate change, urbanization spur outbreak

Tropical Medicine, told AFP.

Dengvaxia ban in PH

In Southeast Asia insecticide fogging is commonly used to kill mosquitoes, but they usually return after a few days, and insects can quickly become resistant to the chemicals.

A controversial vaccine developed by French pharmaceutical firm Sanofi Pasteur has been greenlit for use in 21 countries and the European Union but it's far from perfect.

The Philippines was one of the first countries to use the vaccine, called Dengvaxia, in a mass immunization program, but its fumbled rollout in 2016 has been blamed for the deaths of dozens of children and led to its eventual ban.

Wolbachia method

Several countries are also trialing the so-called Wolbachia method. First trialed in northern Australia, it's been tested in nine countries around the globe, including in Vietnam where early results are promising.

The World Mosquito Program (WMP) pioneered the method where male and female *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are

infected with the disease-resistant bacteria before being released into the wild.

In a matter of weeks, baby mosquitoes are born carrying Wolbachia, which acts as a disease buffer for the bugs making it harder for them to pass on not only dengue, but Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever.

Since the trials, dengue cases are down 86 percent in Vinh Luong, a crowded dengue-prone district in southern Vietnam.

Wolbachia was first discovered by scientists in the 1920s in mosquitoes living in the drainage system beneath the Harvard University School of Public Health.

Found in 60 percent of all insect species including dragonflies, fruit flies and moths, the bacteria was mostly ignored until the 1970s when researchers discovered it could be used to prevent the spread of disease by bugs.

Other groups, including in Singapore and Malaysia, are using Wolbachia but only in male mosquitoes who render female eggs infertile—a method that aims to suppress the mosquito population, which rarely lasts.

—AFP



SPEND OR SUFFER

CLIMATE CHANGE 'INEVITABLE;' \$1.8T NEEDED FOR WORLD

TO ADAPT—GLOBAL REPORT

PARIS—Nations rich and poor must invest now to protect against destructive climate change impacts already in the pipeline or pay an even heavier price later, a global commission led by former UN head Ban Ki-moon warned on Tuesday.

Spending \$1.8 trillion across five key areas over the next decade would not only help buffer the worst impacts of global warming but could gen-

erate more than \$7 trillion in net benefits, the report from the Global Commission on Adaptation argued.

"Global actions to slow climate change are promising but insufficient," the report concluded. "We must invest in a massive effort to adapt to conditions that are now inevitable." Investing now in early warning systems, climate-resistant infrastructure, mangrove protec-

tion, better agriculture and improving fresh water resources would pay for itself several times over, it said.

Mangroves—tropical tidal water forests—protect, for example, against storm surges and act as nurseries for commercial fisheries, but at least a third of them globally have been uprooted for tourism or aquaculture.

Without action by 2030, Ban told journalists, "climate change

could push more than 100 million people in developing countries below the poverty line."

"People everywhere are experiencing the devastating impacts of climate change," said Microsoft founder Bill Gates, cochair of the report along with World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva.

In the 25-year history of UN climate negotiations, adaptation has trailed far down the agenda compared with "mitiga-

tion," or the reduction of carbon emissions.

It was long seen as an issue only affecting poor and developing nations.

But recent massive inland flooding and a string of record-breaking hurricanes in the United States, along with ferocious heat waves in Europe and Japan, have shown that wealth is not an adequate shield.

"This is not just in the devel-

oping world but the developed world, too," said Dominic Molloy, a co-author of the report from Britain's Department for International Development.

But a new focus on adapting should not detract from the need to slash carbon pollution, he added.

"We absolutely need to do both, reduce emissions and adapt," Molloy told Agence France-Presse (AFP). —AFP



DOE pushes for joint ASEAN oil exploration

By **MYRNA M. VELASCO**

While sorting out a diplomatic tussle with China, Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi has also called on neighboring countries in Southeast Asia for a collaborative effort to pursue joint exploration for oil and gas resources in the region.

The Philippine energy chief who just came from the ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) in Bangkok last week has relayed that he vouched for the idea of "joint exploration" that could be pursued with the other ASEAN countries.

Cusi stated that this move will not only help the Philippines advance its energy security, but will also bring parallel benefits to neighboring countries.

"Now more than ever, it is vital for the ASEAN to work together," Cusi stressed; adding that joint petroleum exploration could cement pathways for energy security for countries in the region.

The Philippines is considerably sluggish in exploring its oil and gas resources and that has been adversely impacting on its quest for long-term energy independence.

Other than oil and gas

exploration and resource developments, Cusi also sought regional cooperation on the sphere of innovations in the renewable energy sector, climate change mitigation and the deployment of microgrid technologies.

"Shared borders mean shared responsibilities. It also means we face common challenges in the midst of pursuing our collective vision for the region," Cusi stressed.

On the sphere of oil exploration, the Philippine energy department is currently at the process of seeking additional budget from Congress that will aid it in improving the gathering, storage and processing of data relative to the country's petroleum blocks being offered to investors.

The department admitted that what it currently has are "weak data" and it was assessed that this partly weighed down investors' interest on its recently held petroleum contracting round.

DOE officials indicated they will file for "data improvement and storage budget" with Congress in the next deliberations of the General Appropriations Act (GAA) or the 2020 national budget.



Report says world must adapt to climate change

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In the 25-year history of UN climate negotiations, adaptation has trailed far down the agenda compared with “mitigation”, or the reduction of carbon emissions. **AFP**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

11 SEP 2019

DATE

EAT BULAGA PATULOY SA PAMAMAHAGI NG PLASTIC NA UPUAN AT KAGAMITANG PANG-ESKUWELA

BUKOD sa nalilinis na ang kapaligiran sa iba't ibang barangay ay napapakinabangan pa ang lahat ng mga bagay na plastic na kinokolekta ng Eat Bulaga na ipinagagawa nilang upuan. At matagal na panahon na silang namimigay ng plastic na upuan na may lalagyan ng libro o iba pang gamit sa eskuwelahan. Ang latest na napagkalooban ng Plastic ni Juan project kabilang ang upuan, libro, at iba pang kagamitan pang-eskuwela ay Benigno V. Aldana National High School sa Pozorubio, Pangasinan at sa Taliptip National High School sa Bulakan. Ito ay bunga ng pagbabayanihan ng ating mga Dabarkads sa barangay.



Electric Vehicle program at the SPMJ Forum

MOTORING TODAY



By **RAY BUTCH GAMBOA**

the Philippines new Inclusive Innovation Industrial Strategy (I3S)."

The SPMJ Forum was co-presented by the Association of Vehicle Importers and Distributors (AVID), led by its president, Ma. Fe Agudo, who is also the President and CEO of Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (HARI).

The forum is also part of AVID's Landscape series of talks, a semi-annual political and economic briefing which aims to provide a full assessment of the current environment for the automotive business.

The major factor that is driving this move is pollution. Vehicle emission contributes 69 percent to the air pollution problem in the country. And 90 percent of that pollution comes from Metro Manila, according to a recent study by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The comprehensive plan for the EV market which was discussed by Dr. Aldaba was an eye-opener. Most of us only see the limited presence of EVs through public transportation but not very much in the form of private vehicles. There's only the Toyota Corolla Altis, a hybrid EV, that was launched recently in the local market.

As of December 2018, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said there are only 4,362 registered EVs in the Philippines; and only 83 companies are in manufacturing or importing EVs, parts, or selling EV cars.

The Filipinos are eager to buy an EV. According of a survey of Frost and Sullivan in Southeast Asia, which showed that 46 percent of Filipinos are "eager" to buy an EV.

GAS, diesel, or electric.

Those features will be among the choices that buyers will soon consider when making a decision on their next car.

That may not be too far away. At the 4th Society of Philippine Motoring Journalists (SPMJ) Forum, Dr. Rafaela "Fita" Aldaba, undersecretary for Innovation and Competitiveness of the DTI, discussed the government's roadmap for the development of the automotive industry. She said "EV is among the top priorities of

In that survey, the **Philippine** market took the top spot, followed by **Thailand, 44 percent; Indonesia, 37 percent; Malaysia, 33 percent; Vietnam, 33 percent; and Singapore with only 23 percent.**

Many may not be aware of the progress of the EV program. At the SPMJ Forum, Dr. Aldaba mapped out the many bills, incentives, and projects which are now in place to provide support for the EVs when more these vehicles will enter the Philippine market.

Dr. Aldaba calls it "*developing an EV ecosystem*" which includes the promotion of EV manufacturing and the building of charging infrastructure around the country.

Incidentally, a survey among motorists around the ASEAN region revealed the the biggest factor that worries them if they should buy an EV is the range of the battery, or the distance that one fully charged battery would take them. This anxiety would be solved if there are more charging stations accessible to the motorists.

Dr. Aldaba's presentation showed that from the present **19 charging stations**, it targets to open **200 charging stations by 2022.**

That will definitely expand the EV market which today is only being defined by the public transportation network composed of e-buses, e-tricycles, e-jeepneys, and e-cars. Meanwhile, the E-trike project will deploy **100,000 units** nationwide to replace traditional gasoline-fed tricycles.

Giving incentives to car buyers and manufacturers is part of the government program.

Dr. Aldaba acknowledged that "*incentives are crucial to change the behavior of market players and promote demand for xEV and private investment across the value chain.*"

For manufacturers, among the incentives that are in the planning board are the removal or reduction of tariffs; incentives for parts and components; excise duty or vat exemption for equipment and parts.

For car buyers, the basket of incentives include priority in registration and issuance of plate numbers; exemption from the "coding" scheme; free parking in commercial establishments; provision of space for charging stations; annual vehicle registration exemption and three year registration interval.

Meanwhile, bills to support the EV program have been filed, some of them passed into law. Among these are the **Clean Air Act** that will phase out **Euro 2 and Euro 4 vehicles**; an executive order on zero tariffs for EV components and parts for assembly of hybrid, electric, flexible fuel and CNG motor vehicles.

There was an interesting discussion on the development of the EV battery, the tariff and duty packages, and the direction of the EV programs.

As part of AVID's Landscape series of talks, the SPMJ Forum was graced by the presence of VIPs in the automotive industry who are members of AVID — *Suzuki president Keiichi Suzuki, HARI officials led by Edward Go and Conrad Marty, Ford executive Josie Gonzalez. The event was ably organized by Raffy Ledesma, Hyundai's Corp. Comm. Head.*

SPMJ is an organization composed of motoring journalists in print, broadcast, and digital media. The SPMJ Forum is held quarterly and focuses on issues affecting the automotive industry and the mobile lifestyle.

Happy Motoring!!!

For comments & inquiries email sunshine.television@yahoo.com or visit www.motoringtoday.ph.



Environmental group urges gov't to ratify Basel Ban Amendment

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The Philippines is at risk of being the world's toxic dumping ground if it does not fast-track its own ratification of the Basel Ban Amendment.

Environmental justice group BAN Toxics is calling on the government anew to ratify the Basel Ban Amendment amid its entry into force, following the recent submission of Croatia's instrument of ratification to the United Nations.

The amendment, adopted by the parties to the Basel Convention in 1995, prohibits the export of hazardous wastes from member states of the European Union, Organization for Economic

Cooperation and Development, and Liechtenstein, to poorer countries, regardless of whether they are for recycling or not.

"This is a very historic moment, given what poorer countries had to endure in dealing with the trash dumped by richer countries such as Canada, US, Japan, South Korea and many other developed countries," BAN Toxics executive director Reynaldo San Juan said.

"The enforcement of the Basel Ban Amendment is environmental justice at work. But in the absence of our own government's ratification, we are at risk of receiving more toxic wastes because the Basel Ban primarily protects countries (that) ratified it," he added.

The Philippines is a signa-

tory to the Basel Convention, but it has yet to ratify the Basel Ban Amendment.

"This means that we are in the crosshairs of waste traders from developed countries, and their choices have since become narrower because of the Basel Ban's enforcement in other developing countries," San Juan said.

With Croatia's ratification, a total of 97 countries have now ratified the ban and, most crucially, the necessary three-fourths of the parties that were present and voting in 1995.

The agreement will become a new Article in the Convention and will enter into force for the 97 countries after 90 days, or on Dec. 5 this year. — **With Rhodina Villanueva**



Holy Angel U, UNESCO link up for Eco-Literacy

By Rex Arcadio R. San Diego II

THE Holy Angel University, in coordination with the UNESCO-Asia Pacific Network for International Education and Values Education (APNIEVE) Philippines, is launching a program that seeks to address climate change by integrating values into the personal lifestyles of today's Filipino.

The key word is Eco-logical Literacy, which holds a central role in improving the environment, by reducing waste production, and advocating a shift in mindset.

HAU and UNESCO-APNIEVE seeks to accomplish this by partnering with public schools.

The group sought to influence more learning communities by directly engaging the different Schools Divisions in Central Luzon, starting with those based in Pampanga.

Among those targeted for the initial launch are the Schools Divisions of Angeles City, City of San Fernando and Mabalacat City.

APNIEVE has expressed support for Eco-literate programs through training, benchmarking and service-learning in schools.

This includes engagement of different sector, and the sharing of best practices on sustainable development in HAU, Miriam College and other UNESCO-APNIEVE member institutions.

"We can start in our own little ways, by going micro," said Dr. Alma Natividad, dean of the HAU College of Education.

Globalization has made today's people highly consumeristic and heavily dependent on digital technology, in effect losing appreciation of nature and its processes.

According to Dr. Rhoda Santillan-Tayag, project proponent, to have an Eco-literate lifestyle is a step to reducing the world's issues.

"The problems of the world today are systemic, what we wear, what to eat, thus the need to be practical and minimalistic," Tayag explained. "When we bEco-me Eco—literate, we bEco-me more responsive to the conditions of our environment."

Tayag also suggested the promotion of "meatless days" as a means to address climate change.

"There is a link between meals, deforestation and global warming. Changing our diet can help fight climate change," Tayag shared.

According to a United Nations report, the cattle industry contributed 7.5 Billion metric tons of Carbon Dioxide into the atmosphere annually.

"To understand one's place is to understand one's self," said Tayag. "And to reduce meat consumption is a big step towards realizing this."



TITLE:

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TULONG-TULONG na ang mga opisyal ng pamahalaan para isaayos ang problema sa Good Conduct Time Allowance o GCTA.

Mayroon nang 22,000 na napalaya sa bisa ng GCTA, kasama na ang nasa 2,000 presong may kasong karumdumal na krimen o heinous crime.

Bukod sa may depekto umano ang batas sa GCTA, kasama ang Implementing Rules and Regulations nito, lumilitaw ring ginagawang pagkakaperahan ng mga matataas na opisyal ng Bucor ang nasabing batas.

OMBUDSMAN, DOJ

Nauna nang pinatawan ng preventive suspension ni Ombudsman Samuel Martinez ang 27 opisyal ng BuCor kabilang sina BuCor legal chief Fredric Santos, Technical Superintendent Maria Fe Marquez, and Correctional Officer III Joel Nalva at karamihan sa suspendido ng anim na buwang without pay ang nagmula sa maximum security compound at ilan mula sa minimum security compound.

Ayon sa Ombudsman, may malalakas at sapat na ebidensya na magdidiin sa 27 opisyal para sa kanilang suspension sa tungkulin.

Inakusahan ang mga opisyal ng pagbebenta ng GCTA habang iniimbestigahan pa ng Senado ang hospital pass for sale na ibinunyag ni Sen. Bong Go at ang kunyaring pagdedemanda para pagkaperahan pa rin na binunyag naman ni Senate President Tito Sotto.

Isa namang abogado at taga-legal department ng Bucor ang umano'y nakikipag-jamming ng droga sa mga druglord sa loob ng Bilibid, ayon kay Sen. Ping Lacson.

Sinasabi naman ng Department of Justice na magsasagawa rin ito ng suspensyon ngunit malalaman pa lamang kung sino-sino ang mga ito.

REBYU NG SC

Hindi lang mga kampakampi ni Pangulong Di-gong ang kumukwesti-yon sa ginawang batas sa GCTA noong panahon ni ex-Président Noy-noy Aquino at ang IRR



OMB, DOJ VS BUCOR; GCTA KLARUHIN - PDU30

nito na ginawa naman nina ex-Justice Secretary Leila de Lima at ex-Interior Sec. Mar Roxas.

Maging ang mga taga-oposisyon gaya ni Sen. Franklin Drilon na nag-sabing pumirma siya sa GCTA law at hindi nito inakalang masama ang bu-nga nito sa kalaunan.

Dahil sa pinagsama-samang pagdududa sa kung ano ang tama at kung ano ang mali sa GCTA law at ang IRR nito, ipinapasa ngayon mismo ni Pang. Duterte sa Supreme Court ang paglilinaw rito.

Ang iba naman ay gustong buwagin na lamang ang nasabing batas at palitan ito ng tama at makatwiran.

Kung ano ang magaganap sa mga ito, mabuti na ring lumitaw ang lahat ng mga depekto ng batas para magkaroon ng pag-tutuwid.

Isa sa mga depekto ng batas ay kung para lang ito sa mga nililitis pa lang ang kaso o kasama na rin ang mga convict.

Isa pang depekto ng batas ay kung hindi kasama sa mga makikinabang sa biyaya ng batas na nagbabawas ng panahon ng pagkakulong batay sa mabuting asal ng bilang-go ang mga may kasong heinous crime, recidivist, habitual delinquent at takas.

BITAY ANG SOLUSYON

Dapat na ring bigyan ng pansin ang panukalang parusang bitay sa iba't ibang paraan gaya ng firing squad, pagbigti, lethal injection, pugot-ulo, electric chair at iba pa.

Para kay Sen. Ronald 'Bato'dela Rosa, wala sanang problema sa mga may heinous crime kung umiiral ang parusang bitay.

Sa ibang salita, walang magaganap sanang mga maniobra gaya ng GCTA for sale, hospital pass for sale at demanda for sale kung mabitay na ang mga convict sa heinous crime.

Kabilang sa mga heinous crime ang katulad ng

pag-rape at pagpatay ni ex-Calauan, Laguna Mayor Antonio Sanchez kay Eileen Sarmenta at pagpatay rin sa boypren nitong si Allan Gomez, gayundin ang pag-rape at pagpatay rin sa Chiong Sisters.

Ang iba naman, gusto nang hindi paa-butin sa piskalya at korte at dapat umano sa kung saan nagaganap ang mga krimen gaya ng nangyari sa mga nang-rape noon at pumatay sa isang misis, isang bata at lola nito sa San Jose del Monte City, ang mga nanlalaban at iba pa.

GUSTO NG BAYAN

Ang magandang gain siguro ng mga mamabatas ay makinig o damhin din ang pulso ng taumbayan.

Halimbawa, bakit hindi sumasama maging ang mga mananampalataya sa isang simbahan sa panawagan ng mga lider nito para mag-aklas laban sa pamahalaan na nagpapairal ng madugong giyera sa droga?

Bakit hindi sumasama ang marami sa panawagan ng oposisyong-pulitikal sa panawagan magkaisa ang lahat laban sa pamu-nuan ng pamahalaan ngayon at ibinasura pa nga ng higit na nakararami ang Otso Diretson ng kandidato ng mga oposisyon na senador nitong nakaraang halalan?

Dapat kasama ito sa mga pagbabasehan ng paggawa ng batas at patakaran sa paggawa ng tamang batas sa heinous crime at hindi lang ang ingay ng mga nasa human rights at daldal ng mga nasa oposisyon at independ-

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Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring ipa-rating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.