

DATE : 18 SEP 2019

DAY : Wednesday

# **DENR**

## **IN THE NEWS**

**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**



## Cimatu to address garbage problem hounding Pasig River and tributaries

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary and Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) chairperson Roy Cimatu said that he will address the longstanding garbage problem hounding the Pasig River and its connected tributaries.

Secretary Cimatu meant business when he tackled the issue on solid waste firsthand during a meeting with the PRRC to discuss his plans for the Commission under the new chairmanship.

"All the esteros should be clean and all those garbage *na nasa ilalim ng tubig ay maalis*," Cimatu said, asserting his objective to remove all garbage in the rivers and *esteros* in Metro Manila which has made the people's lives miserable for the longest time. "*Kung wala lang nagtapon sana dyan sa mga estero, e wala na sana tayong [problema]. Through the years ay ganyan ang nangyayari, kaya ang kapal-kapal na yung sa ilalim*," the PRRC chair added.

"E bakit napupunta yung garbage sa estero? Eh meron naman tayong batas para

*i-dispose properly?*" Cimatu asks.

He then referred to Republic Act No. 9003 or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000," which provides for a systematic, comprehensive, and ecological solid waste management program in the country.

"It is the responsibility of the state *na ma-dipose properly yung garbage*," Cimatu said.

The PRRC has already diverted more than 30 million kilograms of solid waste since 2012 through resettlement and daily clean-up activities in the Pasig River and its 47 identified tributaries yet, there is still much work that needs to be done.

"It is a very complex and big project that we are in. *Andito na yung problema natin. Wala na tayong atrasan dito. Ituloy natin ito. Even how many years it will take, gagawin natin ito.*" Cimatu declared.

According to the retired Army general and former ambassador, almost 3,000 tons of garbage have been retrieved from Manila Bay.

He cites the "new" Boracay and the ongoing rehabilitation aptly named the "Battle for Manila Bay" as reflective accomplishments and how they can rightfully be carried out the same for the Pasig River and all the waterways in the National Capital Region. The Manila Bay rehab is set to be completed by the end of the year.

The meeting marked the environment chief's first visit to the PRRC after President Rodrigo Duterte signed Executive Order (EO) No. 90 which transferred the chairmanship of the Commission's Board to DENR. The EO emphasized the need to centralize the national government's rehabilitation efforts for the Pasig River and Manila Bay, hence the changeover.

The PRRC has earlier welcomed Cimatu's chairmanship and believes that the new brand of leadership will further support the Commission in achieving its mandate of restoring the Pasig River to its historic glory, with no garbage in sight and teeming with all kinds of aquatic life.



## DENR chief says he's ready to address garbage woes hounding Pasig River

**E**NVIRONMENT Secretary and concurrent Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) Chairman Roy A. Cimatu vowed to address the garbage problem hounding the Pasig River and its tributaries.

Cimatu recently met with the officials and employees of the PRRC, whose leadership was transferred to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources by virtue of Executive Order 90 signed by President Duterte.

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The PRRC has earlier welcomed Cimatu's chairmanship and believes that the new brand of leadership will further support the commission in achieving its mandate of restoring the Pasig River to its historic glory, with no garbage in sight and teeming with all kinds of aquatic life.

"All the esteros should be cleaned and all those garbage *nasa ilalim ng tubig ay maalis* [garbage at the river bed should be removed]," Cimatu said in a news statement.

Cimatu asserted his objective to remove all garbage in the rivers and esteros in Metro Manila, which, he said, has made the people's lives mis-

erable for the longest time.

He said the garbage problem at the Pasig River could have been avoided with the implementation of the garbage law. He said enforcing the garbage law—Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 which provides for a systematic, comprehensive, and ecological solid waste management program in the country will address the problem, noting that disposing of garbage is the responsibility of the government.

The PRRC has already removed more than 30 million kilograms of solid waste since 2012 through resettlement and daily clean-up activities in the Pasig River and its 47 identified tributaries.

However, Cimatu said there is still much work that needs to be done.

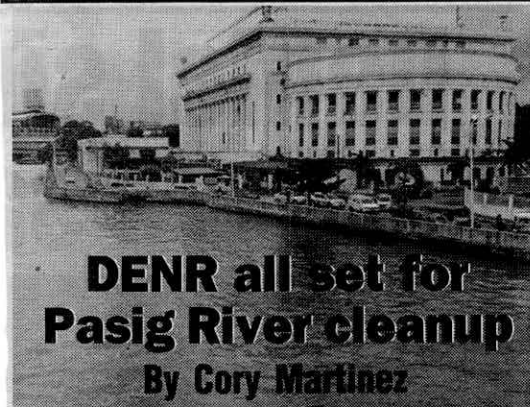
"It is a very complex and big project that we are in. The problem is here. There's no backing out in this. Let's continue. Even how many years it will take, we will do this," he said.

The official noted the importance of rehabilitating Pasig River as part of the "Battle for Manila Bay," which aims to rehabilitate historic water body.

Cimatu said that around 3,000 tons of garbage had been retrieved in Manila Bay so far. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



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## DENR all set for Pasig River cleanup

By Cory Martinez

THE garbage problem hounding the Pasig River and its connected tributaries will be addressed as soon as possible.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu said this as he stressed the need to remove all garbage in the rivers and esteros in Metro Manila which has made the people's lives miserable for the longest time.

"All the esteros should be clean and all those garbage na nasa ilalim ng tubig ay maalis. Kung wala lang nagtapon sana d'yan sa mga estero, eh wala na sana tayong (problema). Through the years ay ganyan ang nangyayari, kaya ang kapal-kapal na 'yung sa ilalim," said Cimatu, who also chairs the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC).

"Eh, bakit napupunta 'yung garbage sa estero? Meron naman tayong batas para i-dispose properly?" Cimatu said.

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According to Cimatu, almost 3,000 tons of garbage have been retrieved in Manila Bay.

He said the "new" Boracay and the ongoing rehabilitation named "Battle for Manila Bay" are reflective accomplishments on how they can be carried out the same for the Pasig River and all the waterways in the National Capital Region. The Manila Bay rehab is set to be completed by the end of the year.



## Arenas joins call to stop Manila Bay land reclamation projects

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

**D**EPUTY Speaker Rose Marie “Baby” J. Arenas has added her voice to the growing clamor to stop land reclamation in Manila Bay.

Speaking during a forum dubbed “Horizon of Heritage: A Forum on the Culture, Heritage, Wildlife and Tourism of Manila Bay” at the Manila Yacht Club on Tuesday, Arenas called on Congress to pass a law that will specifically ban and criminalize further reclamation in Manila Bay.

Arenas had authored and filed House Bill 3169, or “An Act Declaring Manila Bay as Heritage Asset Free From Any and All Forms of Further Reclamation and Providing Penalties Therefor.”

The bill seeks to declare Manila Bay, in its entirety, not only a national historical landmark but a heritage site that is protected and fully owned by the government “with management policies based on preservation of an ecosystem and rights-based, people-centered development framework.”

“It is my firm belief that by declaring the entire Manila Bay as a cultural heritage, we will be able to deliver the message in the simplest, loudest and clearest manner, that it is a crime to reclaim it. Manila Bay Area belongs to the Filipino people and must remain in public hands,” Arenas said.

Organized by an international ocean con-

servation advocacy nongovernment organization Oceana Philippines, the forum gathered environmentalists and conservation advocates who are opposed to proposed land reclamation activities in Manila Bay.

Oceana Philippines stiffly opposes land reclamation, also called dump-and-fill, which it says cause massive destruction in the country’s coastal and marine ecosystems.

Environmental lawyer Gloria Estenzo-Ramos, vice president of Oceana Philippines said the forum highlights the fact that there’s now a proposed measure that seeks to protect Manila Bay from destructive development.

She said the forum also paves the way for stronger collaboration among various stakeholders to oppose land reclamation.

“There will be a stronger collaboration among stakeholders. There will be a series of activities, to rally a support to protect Manila Bay. There will be online petitions to stop land reclamation in Manila Bay. All land reclamation, should be in fact be, criminalized,” said Ramos.

In her brief message, the lady legislator from Pangasinan said despite the clamor to stop further reclamation in Manila Bay coming from stakeholders, such as fisherfolks, coastal communities, civil society, the Church, concerned local government units, Congress and no less than President Duterte himself, the Philippine Reclamation Authority seems bent on moving forward with its reclamation projects this year.



# Peatlands fire near Agusan Marsh now under control

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

**B**UNAWAN, Agusan del Sur — Government authorities on Monday declared the peatlands fire near the Agusan Marsh in Agusan del Sur under control.

Forest personnel sent to investigate the fire that covered 63 hectares near the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary in Bayugan-3 in Rosario reported that the fire had been extinguished, said Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) Forster Jerome I. Albia in Bunawan, Agusan del Sur.

"Together with the Bantay Gubat team, we have seen that no ember was found in the area and the fire is totally out," Albia told Manila Bulletin.

"Only traces of ashes and burned portion were found and there is no presence of smoke in the area now. Everything is under control," he said.

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) Jose Flavio Concha also told Manila Bulletin on Monday that the peat fire that started last August 25 and the smoke that continued for several days was one of the issues discussed during a recent provincial management conference attended by four CENR officers and their planning officers.

He said an inquiry is in progress to determine the people responsible for setting the fire.

He clarified that the fire happened outside the perimeter of the Agusan

Marshland.

"We cannot determine at the moment about the people responsible but we expect them to come out and help the government in the protection and preservation of the Agusan Marsh," he added.

Forester Emily Tevez, Protected Area Superintendent overseeing the Agusan Marsh believe the fire may have started when local residents began to burn dry grass to clear an area "for fishing purposes."

The speculation is still to be determined and under thorough investigation by the validating and investigating team created by But DENR Regional Executive Director Felix S. Alicer said it was too early to speculate.

Alicer said he has created a team to investigate the fire. The team failed to reach site of the fire because the peat was too deep. "Peatlands are basically 90 percent water and composed of semi-decomposed organic matter accumulated through the years on a waterlogged area," he said.

"Peatlands are important in global warming because it helps sequester the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The materials beneath the peatland are combustible," Albia said.

Alicer instructed the CENRO in Bunawan to coordinate with local officials in drawing up measures to prevent future fires in the peatlands.

He also directed the Agusan del Sur Protected Area Superintendent Unit (PASU) to lead a round-the-clock patrol of the marsh.



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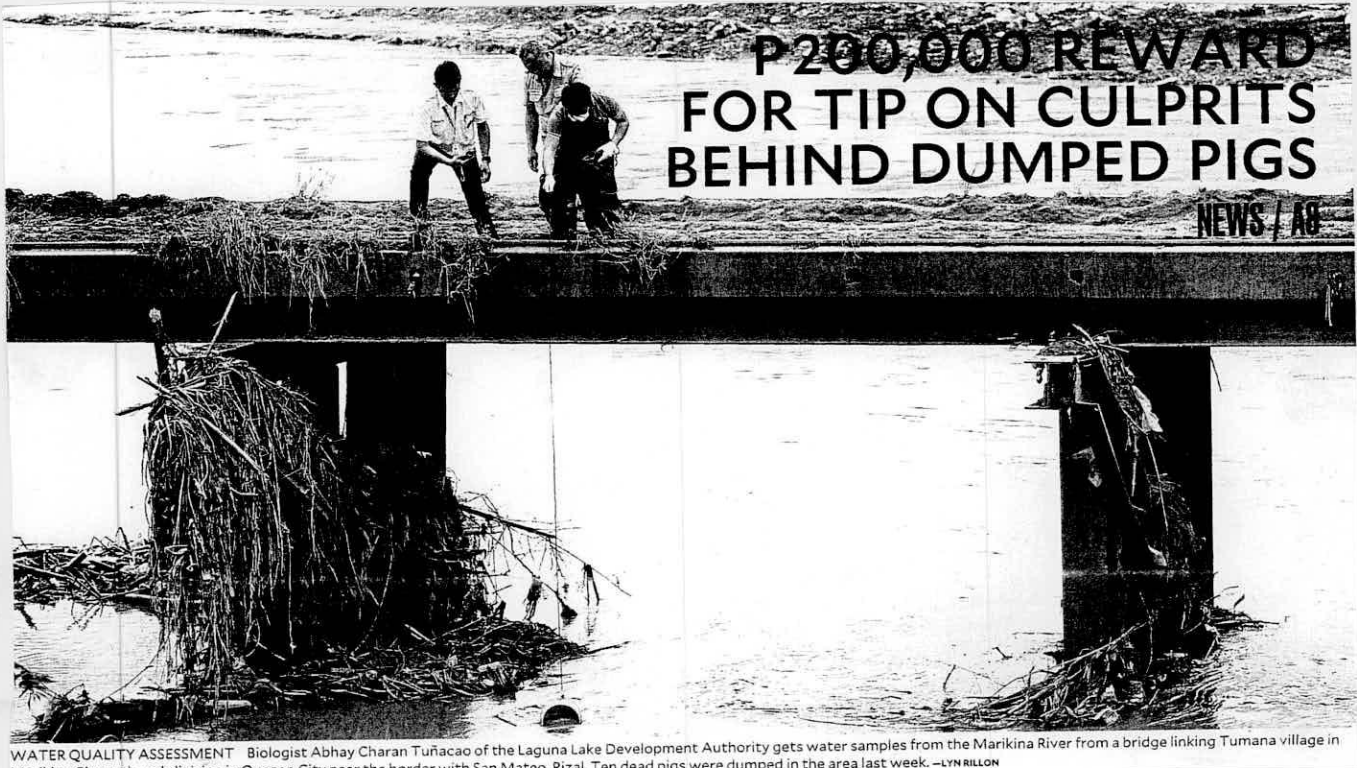
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**WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT** Biologist Abhay Charan Tuñacao of the Laguna Lake Development Authority gets water samples from the Marikina River from a bridge linking Tumana village in Marikina City and a subdivision in Quezon City near the border with San Mateo, Rizal. Ten dead pigs were dumped in the area last week. —LYN RILLON



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# P200,000 reward for tip on culprits behind dumped pigs

By Matthew Reysio-Cruz  
@MatthewINQ

The Marikina local government is offering a P200,000 reward for information that would lead to the identification of the origin of 58 dead pigs found floating on the Marikina River in recent days.

Marikina Mayor Marcelino Teodoro announced the reward on Tuesday, saying the money would come from his pocket.

"The information has to be conclusive," Teodoro said. "It should directly point to the ones who dumped the pigs."

The offer of reward appeared to reflect increasing pressure on the city government to ease fears generated by the appearance of dead pigs on the Marikina River since Thursday, after the Department of Agriculture (DA) confirmed that recent pig deaths in the

provinces of Rizal and Bulacan were due to African swine fever.

### Testing for the disease

It is not yet known, however, if the pigs had died from African swine fever. One of the carcasses has been sent to the Bureau of Animal Industry to be tested for the disease.

Although African swine fever is not transmissible to humans and pork remains safe to eat, according to health officials, Manuel Carlos, head of veterinary services in Marikina, has said other diseases could arise from the river if its waters have been contaminated by the dead pigs.

The local government has said the pigs could not have come from any place in the city, which has no hog industry.

Teodoro has said that there are no slaughterhouses or backyard piggeries in Marikina, so

the dead pigs could have been dumped on the river from somewhere near the headwaters in Rizal province.

An inspection team from the local government and the Laguna Lake Development Authority has been dispatched to five areas along the river—Roman Garden and the villages of Calumpang, Tumana and Nangka in Marikina and Circulo Verde in Quezon City—to test the water.

On Monday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office in Rizal sent a team to the Marikina River headwaters in Rodriguez town to try to determine the origin of the dead pigs.

### Cooperate with local gov'ts

Teodoro said on Sunday that when identified, those who dumped the dead pigs on the Marikina River would be charged with violation of the

Sanitation Code and the Clean Water Act.

The environmental group Ecowaste Coalition on Tuesday called on hog raisers to cooperate with their local governments and dispose of their dead pigs properly.

Hog raisers, the group said, should not throw their dead pigs in creeks and rivers to prevent the contamination of the waters with pathogenic bacteria.

"By cooperating with their city or municipal veterinarians, hog raisers can be promptly assisted by trained government personnel in the proper way of disposing of dead animals and in cleaning and disinfecting the environs of infected pigs," Jovito Benosa, the group's zero waste campaigner, said in a statement.

Several local governments in the regions have banned pork from Luzon despite health offi-

cial's assurances that pork is safe to eat.

On Monday, Agriculture Secretary William Dar cautioned local governments against imposing a ban on pork coming from other places.

### DA guidelines

Speaking to farmers in Bukidnon, Dar said local governments should wait for the guidelines in dealing with the disease that the DA would issue.

"Unless there is a confirmed case of [African swine fever] in the locality, local governments should not ban the entry of pork and pork-related products," Dar said.

No outbreak of the disease has been reported in the Visayas and Mindanao.

In Mindanao, the local governments of Cagayan de Oro and Misamis Oriental have banned pork from other places,

while Iligan City requires health papers before allowing in hogs and pork from other parts of the country.

In Western Visayas, the Negros Occidental provincial government has banned pork from Luzon for 90 days and the Bacolod City local government has launched an information campaign to raise public awareness of African swine fever.

In Cebu, the provincial government has banned pigs from other places, and shipped back 298 hogs worth P1.4 million to Masbate and Negros Oriental.

In Eastern Visayas, the agriculture department's regional office has set up checkpoints at Allen in Northern Samar, Ormoc City in Leyte, and San Ricardo in Southern Leyte to ensure hogs entering the region are free from African swine fever. —WITH REPORTS FROM JHESSET O. ENANO, FROILAN GALLARDO, CARLA GOMEZ, JOEY GABIETA AND DALE ISRAEL INQ





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# P.2 M offered for arrest of pig dumping culprits

By **NON ALQUITRAN**

Marikina Mayor Marcelino Teodoro yesterday offered a P200,000 reward for information leading to those responsible for the dumping last week of 58 dead swine in the city's river.

Teodoro said the reward comes from

his own pocket, as he asserted that the money would be given to informants who could conclusively pinpoint the culprits so they may be charged in court.

"We will file a writ of *kalikasan*

with the Marikina RTC (regional trial court)," he said in Filipino. "Because we are the aggrieved party in this incident. We are

the ones affected."

Teodoro said he would file criminal

and civil charges against the wrongdoers along with cases of violation of the clean water act and code on sanitation. Whether the people responsible are aware of it or not, the mayor said they can still be held accountable for dumping dead swine.

"The deaths are not the owner's fault. It's about not following proper treatment and disposal. There should be accountability," Teodoro stressed. "You may not have dumped it in the river and just placed it by the water but when it rains and it gets carried in the river, that's indirect dumping," he added.

GMA News reported yesterday that the ASF may have entered the country through bags of trash at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Also yesterday, a team from the Laguna Lake Development Authority and Marikina local government took water samples along the stretch of Marikina River - from the Roman Garden in Marikina; Circulo Verde in Eastwood, QC; Barangay Calumpang; Barangay Tumana and Barangay Nangka - to check for possible contamination.

Meanwhile, an official of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Cagayan Valley allayed fears of the entry of African swine fever (ASF), following the discovery of 13 swine carcasses scattered in a vacant lot in Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya on Monday.

DA regional technical director for operations Robert Busania admitted that the dead animals were not properly disposed of by their owner after the sow died giving birth. He added that the dead piglets were given by the owner to a group of drunken men, who then threw the carcasses in the vacant lot when they started to smell.

In Tacloban City, Leyte, DA Region 8 executive director Milo delos Reyes on Monday announced that no report of ASF cases has reached his office. Neither was there actual cases found or observed in blood samples collected from Ormoc City in Leyte and Las Navas in Northern Samar, two LGUs that promptly reported farmers' complaints that some pigs in these areas have been manifesting ASF-like symptoms.

A thorough investigation by the DA and LGU-based veterinarians found that the cause of death was just an ordinary respiratory disease in hogs.

In San Fernando, Pampanga, Gov. Dennis Pineda banned the entry of all live pigs into the province through Executive Order No. 34, which he signed last Sept. 13. The governor issued the prohibition even though there has been no ASF outbreak in the province.

Swine inventory in Pampanga totaled 51,415 metric tons live weight in 2018, making it the third highest producer in Central Luzon after Bulacan (259,677 MT) and Tarlac (98,591 MT), according to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority.

He said the ban is temporary and will be lifted based on the advice of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

"With respect to pork and pork-related products, only those with National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) seal, or with appropriate Certificate of Meat Inspection issued by NMIS, shall be allowed entry into the province, with the exception of those coming from ASF affected areas," a part of

the three-page order read.

Reacting to the discovery of dead pigs floating in the Marikina River and a creek in Barangay Silangan, Quezon City, environmentalists from the EcoWaste Coalition urged pig farmers to report sick pigs to the authorities and to coordinate with them for the safe disposal of dead animals which may be infected with ASF.

"We appeal to affected hog raisers to ensure the safe disposal of carcasses to prevent polluting the environment, especially our water resources," said Jovito Benosa, Zero Waste campaigner of the EcoWaste Coalition.

By cooperating with their city or municipal veterinarians, hog raisers can be promptly assisted by trained government personnel on the proper way of disposing dead animals and in cleaning and disinfecting the environs of infected pigs, he added.

Benosa also reminded the

public that dumping dead animals in waterways will be a violation of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, and RA 9275, the Clean Water Act, noting that violators may be held civilly and criminally liable.

In Manila, the Veterinary Inspection Board (VIB) yesterday told Mayor Isko Moreno that the city is "way ahead" in its campaign against the spread of ASF, particularly the operations against the sale of hot meat or "botcha."



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P.2 M offered for arrest of pig dumping culprits

VIB special enforcement squad chief Nick Santos said they are checking all possible points of entry and distribution channels like ports and markets, as well as cold storage facilities in Tondo and the Binondo area, to ensure that no hogs affected by ASF will enter the city.

- With Miriam Desacada, Cecille Suerte Felipe, Raymund Catindig, Rey Galupo, Ric Sapnu, Rhodina Villanueva, Roel Pareño



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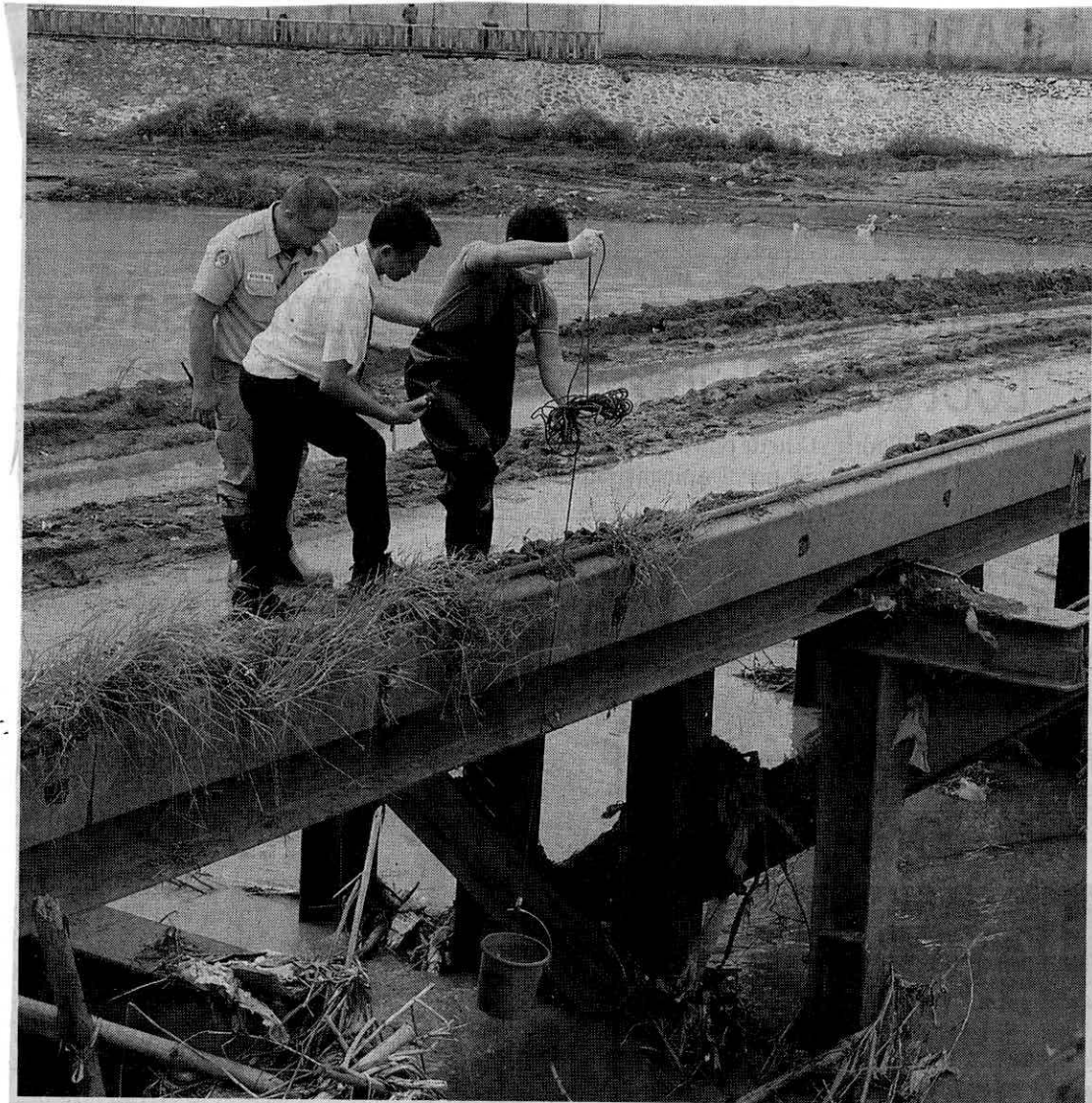
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**RIVER SAMPLING** Personnel of the Marikina City government and Laguna Lake Development Authority collect water samples from the Marikina River. The city government ordered the testing of the water after several carcasses of pigs were found floating in the river last week. PHOTO BY JOHN ORVEN VERDOTE



EDITORIAL

## Needless panic

It was a scene straight out of a horror movie: dead pigs, possibly contaminated with a deadly virus, floating down a river, as news of a fatal swine disease gripped the city. Over the past two weeks, at least 56 dead pigs have been reportedly dumped into the Marikina River, and some carcasses were also found in a creek in Quezon City, sending chills up the spine of pork-loving Filipinos who feared, among others, that their favorite protein source may no longer be safe to eat.

But all this is a needless scare—the height of irresponsibility, first of all, for hog owners to dump their hogs, afflicted with African swine fever (ASF), in the river in complete disregard of basic biosecurity protocols. “It was utterly irresponsible on the part of the backyard raisers as they did not only violate current laws, but their misdoing also spread the disease pathogens much faster,” lamented Agriculture Secretary William Dar.

The public panic generated is unnecessary, because as the Department of Agriculture (DA) has taken pains to point out, **ASF cannot be transmitted to humans**, and that there is no epidemic, as the disease has fortunately not spread from pockets in Luzon where it had appeared. Most crucially, local pork and pork products are safe to eat.

Indeed, the DA has cautioned the public against the spread of “unverified and unvalidated reports” regarding the disease that could cause “irreversible damage” to the country’s swine industry—reputedly the sixth biggest in the world. As of July 1, 2019, there were an estimated 12.7 million heads in the Philippines, of which 8.02 million pigs are raised in backyard farms, and 4.68 million in commercial farms. Most of the hog raisers are backyard growers, whose losses will be calamitous if the crisis is not managed well.

“The damage and economic losses caused by the recent water crisis in some parts of Metro Manila would be incomparable to the havoc and economic losses the ASF could bring into the whole country,” said Senate Majority Leader Migz Zubiri, who raised the alarm on the possible spread of ASF as early as March this year, following the reported presence of ASF in nearby Vietnam. “This is a very serious concern.”

The DA said on Monday the outbreak in the Philippines may, in fact, be over, as the ASF has been “managed, contained and controlled” in Barangay Pritil, Guiguinto, Bulacan, and in several barangays in Rodriguez, San Mateo and Antipolo in Rizal, due in part to the strict enforcement of the so-called 1-7-10 protocol to stem the further spread of the disease to other parts of the country. This means quarantine within a one-kilometer radius from the hot zone; surveillance and limited animal movement within seven kilometers, and then the requirement to report pigs showing signs of the disease (loss of appetite, lack of energy and hemorrhages visible on the ears and flanks) within a 10-kilometer radius. The viral disease typically afflicts pigs, warthogs and boars, and has a 100-percent mortality rate, causing death in as little as two days.

Still, even if ASF has been contained, the DA needs to do more, and move in concert with other government agencies such as the Bureau of Customs, airport officials and the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS), to continue to allay the public’s fears and cushion the impact on the local swine industry.

Containing the virus will require the vigilance and cooperation of other stakeholders, from the large corporate hog producers who are called on to enhance biosecurity measures in their own facilities, to backyard raisers who must report incidents of unexplained and sudden deaths and properly dispose of the dead animals, and individual Filipinos who should not bring in banned pork products from countries that have been identified as hotbeds of ASF, such as China.

Dar and Health Secretary Francisco Duque III have both stressed that as long as the hogs passed through the proper process of slaughtering and preparation, the public should not fear eating pork. Before slaughtering, a hog is validated and assessed by a veterinarian, who then issues a medical certificate. Once slaughtered, the meats are stamped with a seal from the National Meat Inspection Service—the assurance that it has passed the food safety measures imposed by the government. Consumers are thus urged to check the meat they purchase to ensure that it has passed the NMIS standards.

The government’s more critical task, on top of containing ASF, is ensuring that vigilance and proper information, not panic and anxiety, are what’s guiding the public’s response to this concern.



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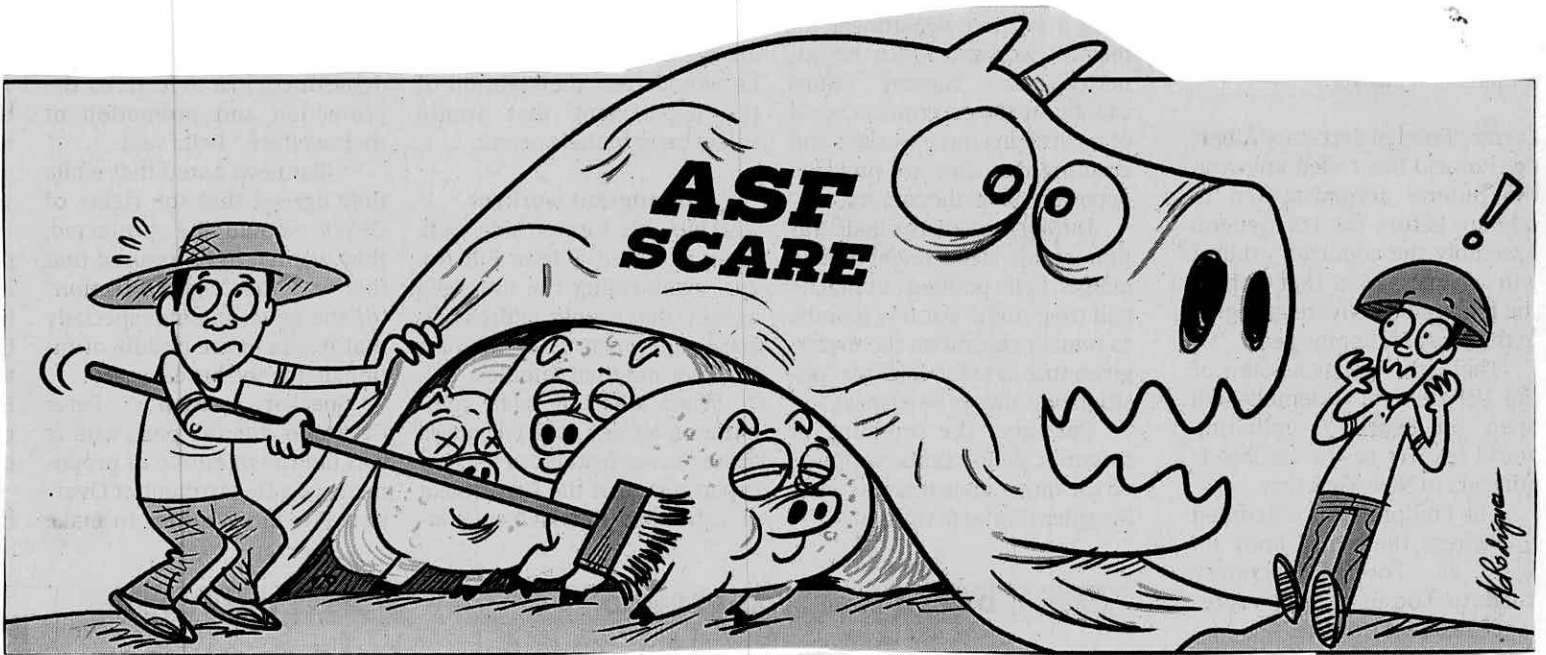
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## UNTV CUP

# Ombudsman, DENR triumph

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) debuted triumphantly while National Housing Authority (NHA) and Ombudsman scored contrasting wins in the 8th UNTV Cup held over the weekend at the Pasig City Sports Center.

The DENR Warriors leaned on the heroics of Ralph Lansang to outlast the GSIS Furies 101-98, while the NHA Builders of Bennett Palad defeated the Philippine National Police Responders 85-81 in Group II elims.

The Ombudsman Graft Busters spoiled the SSS Kabalikat's debut with a 110-73 drubbing in the lone Group I match of the event presented by UNTV through its president and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

Lansang shattered a 98-all count with a three-point shot with barely four ticks left to cap a brilliant 51-point show – so far the highest scoring output in the league for public servants.

He was supported by Ed Rivera who posted 22 points, 8 rebounds and 5 assists that helped negate the 49-point performance of GSIS' Bernante Parreño, including a league record 12 triples.



## Mining in limbo

### BIZ BUZZ



**M**ore than two years ago, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources ordered the closure of 27 mining firms because they were supposedly located in critical watershed areas around the country.

This was based, in turn, on a September 2016 audit alleging that these same firms were operating in violation of various environmental regulations and other government laws.

Well, thanks to Finance Secretary **Carlos Dominguez III**, the government convened the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) to implement a more thorough, more rational and less politicized audit of these mining firms.

It's funny how things changed when viewed through less emotional eyes. The MICC audit yielded results that led to the clearing of 24 of these 27 firms, meaning they now have the green light to resume operations. Theoretically.

Some firms that passed the audit included Oceana Gold; Hinatuan Mining; CTP Construction and Mining; Emir Minerals; Lepanto Consolidated; Marcventures Mining; AAMPHIL; Adnama Mining; Citinickel Mines; Berong Nickel; Strongbuilt Mining; Wellex Mining; Carrascal Nickel; Eramen Minerals; Libjo Mining; LNL Archipelago; Benguet Corp.; Krominco; Mount Sinai Mining; Zambales Diversified Metals; Oriental Vision Mining, and Sinosteel Philippines, among others. (The only companies that failed were Oriental Synergy Mining, Ore Asia Mining and Claver Mineral.)

Theoretically, with the independent findings showing that there was no basis for stopping their operations—and where there were some bases for stopping some, and these were already being remedied—these economically important mining firms should be back in operation by now.

But this is the Philippines, where theory and practice seldom meet.

In practice, the majority of these firms have yet to resume operations months after the MICC audit was concluded (and now they want another audit, but that's another story for another day).

In practice, these mining firms, which should have been returned to active status by now, are still prohibited from resuming mining operations (resulting in billions of pesos in lost revenue opportunities for both the private and public sectors).

And some industry insiders are beginning to suspect that something fishy is going on.

As one industry official intimated to Biz Buzz recently: "You can operate ... if you want it badly enough to make arrangements with some bureaucrats and local officials." In other words, a mining firm that wants to return to active status—being cleared by the MICC audit notwithstanding—has to strike a deal with someone, somewhere. And who knows what, or how much, that will cost, right?

So what advice are mining industry regulators giving to their constituent mining firms? Talk it out with local government units. Uh-oh. Or you can file your request straight to Malacañang where your documents are likely to get lost under a mountain of other important national government concerns. Uh-oh.

Will the beleaguered investors in the mining industry find a savior soon? *Abangan.*

—DAXIM L. LUCAS



18 SEP 2019

TITLE:

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DATE

## #nationataglance

### Green group asks salary for forest rangers

AN environmental group wants Davao City to absorb as employees farmers who volunteer as forest rangers and pay them with a monthly salary instead of just an honorarium.

Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) said guarding forests is an important job that few people are willing to do, the group said. So-called "Bantay Bukid" volunteers are a critical human resource needed to protect the city's natural resources, it added.

The P2,500 allowance that volunteers get monthly is not enough, IDIS Executive Director Chinkee P. Golle said in an interview.

Seventy-one volunteers conducted biodiversity monitoring in the first quarter, resulting in an increased number of species recorded from a year earlier.

Forest rangers planted more than 800 seedlings in the riverbanks and monitored previously planted areas to replace seedling mortality due to El Niño. They also collected as many as 110 kilos of garbage from the rivers, according to the environmental group.

— **Maya M. Padillo**





**INCREASED WATER PRESSURE**

# MAYNILAD PUTTING UP RESERVOIR IN VALENZUELA

Maynilad Water Services Inc. yesterday said it would build a new reservoir in Valenzuela City to boost water pressure for 50,000 customers in the area.

Construction will start in early 2020 and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2021.

Maynilad said the new pumping station would be equipped with high-efficiency pumps that could increase water pressure from the current 7

psi (pounds per square inch) to 16 psi in portions of Valenzuela and Quezon City.

Also, Maynilad said that at 16 psi, water could reach the third floor of a house or establishment.

Further, the new reservoir will have a storage capacity of 40 million liters, and can serve as additional reserve water for Valenzuela in case of supply shortfall or an increase in demand.

"This project, along with our pipe replacement and rehabilitation initiatives to reduce water losses, is a critical component of our long-term plan to provide reliable services," Maynilad president and chief executive Ramoncito Fernandez said.

"It will help us to sustain service levels in the north, given increasing demand for water supply," Fernandez said. —**RONNEL W. DOMINGO** INQ



# Meralco sees new round of tight supply

By **MYRNA M. VELASCO**

**L**uzon grid could be plunged into new round of supply tightening starting the first week of October given the delay on the commercial operations of the 500-megawatt San Buenaventura coal-fired power project in Quezon province.

The plant's commercial operation date (COD), which was targeted September 15, had been pushed back because the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) has not yet issued its certificate of compliance (COC), the ultimate permit the facility needs so it can already move forward into commercial operations.

The ERC, according to Meralco President and CEO Ray C. Espinosa, raised questions on the water rights accorded by the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), hence, the delay in their ruling on the issuance of COC for the power plant's operation.

Espinosa indicated they already informed the Department of Energy (DOE) on the feared new round of supply tightening next month because several plants will be on scheduled maintenance shutdown.

And while some capacity will be out from the system on their downtime, he emphasized that the San Buenaventura plant will be an essential shield for spare consumers from brownouts or service interruptions next month.

"We have alerted the DOE already that there are scheduled outages already in October – as early as the first week and we asked them to help us also to resolve this issue on water

rights," the Meralco executive stressed.

He added that by the first week of October, there are generating facilities that will be on shutdown and this will result in 600 to 900 megawatts of capacity being taken out from the system.

"There are several plants that will have their scheduled maintenance shutdown – so we've already planned for that, but we should be very careful on supply. We have contracted plants, but this San Buenaventura is important because this will add 455MW net capacity – and you know supply is always tight," Espinosa stressed.

Based on data that was submitted to the DOE, the plants on scheduled outages will be: the unit 2 of the Ilijan plant; San Lorenzo gas plant, one module of the Santa Rita gas plant, unit 2 of Southwest Luzon Power Generation Corporation, unit 2 of the Masinloc plant; and units 1 and 2 of the Sual plant.

The Malampaya gas production facility will also be on scheduled shutdown from October 12-15, and almost simultaneously, the 600MW unit 1 of the Ilijan gas-fired plant will be on maintenance from October 3-15.

There were also several plants that had been recently on forced outages including the Calaca unit 1, SMC Consolidated Power Corporation, Sual Unit 2; and the South Luzon Thermal Energy Corporation's units 1 and 2 generating plants.

The power plants with derated capacities include unit 2 of the Calaca plant, San Gabriel, Ilijan unit 2, and Masinloc unit 2 facilities.



## Study says poor nations need to raise carbon footprint to solve hunger

ACHIEVING a nutritious diet with adequate calories in developing countries will require a substantial increase in greenhouse gas emissions and water use, scientists reported Monday, calling on high-income countries to accelerate the adoption of plant-heavy diets.

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University developed a model looking at how changes to dietary patterns across 140 countries would impact greenhouse gas emissions and freshwater use at the individual and country level, publishing their work in the journal *Global Environmental Change*.

They used the model to determine the per capita and countrywide cli-

mate and water footprints of nine "plant-forward" diets, which included no red meat, pescatarian, vegetarian without eliminating eggs and dairy, vegan, and others.

Keeve Nachman, the study's senior author, told AFP that much of the conversation about mitigating the effects of climate change "fails to recognize that many parts of the world are dealing with undernutrition."

"In order to get them to a place where they are not experiencing chronic undernutrition, they'll need to eat more, and accordingly, they'll need to increase their carbon footprint," he said.

"What that says to us is that in

many high-income countries around the world, where we're consuming far more animal products than the global average, there's an increased urgency to start transitioning sooner rather than later towards some of these more plant-forward diets."

One encouraging finding, said the scientists, was that this goal does not necessarily require individuals to give up certain foods entirely.

Their modeling showed for example that a diet in which animal protein came mainly from low food chain animals, such as small fish and mollusks, had nearly as low of an environmental impact as a vegan diet.

Turn to A5

### Study...

From A4

#### Two-thirds vegan

They also found that reducing animal food consumption by two-thirds, termed going "two-thirds vegan," generally had a lower climate and water footprint than a traditional vegetarian diet which includes dairy and egg consumption.

Two-third vegan assumes a vegan diet for two out of three meals per day, with each meal providing equal caloric content.

"Some of the biggest barriers, speaking more as a person and less as a scientist, I think it can be difficult to grapple with the notion that I'm going to have to give up a single

food forever," said Nachman.

"So I think what's exciting about some of the diets that we've modeled is, there are diets that don't require you to fully eliminate any particular animal products, it's all about more nuanced approach."

The study also found that a food's country of origin can have huge consequences for its climate impact.

For example, one pound of beef produced in Paraguay contributes nearly 17 times more greenhouse gases than one pound of beef produced in Denmark, a disparity linked to deforestation as a result of grazing land.

A separate report published Monday by the Food and Land Use Coalition calculated that wide-ranging reform in the way food is produced and consumed could unlock \$4.5 trillion in new business opportuni-

ties each year by 2030.

It outlined 10 transitions, including measures to protect and restore nature and climate, empowering indigenous communities, promoting a diverse and healthy diet and reducing waste, finding these would save costs of \$5.7 trillion a year, more than 15 times the investment cost of \$350 billion a year.

"You can both have a better climate and better growth," Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, an ambassador for the coalition and former finance minister of Nigeria told AFP.

"We don't simply say to stop eating meat, moving towards a healthier, more plant-based diet is one of the transitions that we talk about. But another is practicing productive and regenerative agriculture" that rebuilds soil organic matter and restores biodiversity. AFP



# Winning the climate fight is the new business norm

By **DULCE SANCHEZ**

**O**ne Filipino company is making a herculean effort to stave off climate change by focusing on developing renewable sources of energy in a manner that leaves little to no carbon footprint.

Energy Development Corp. (EDC) has been pioneering sustainable practices since 1976 and is now the largest producer of geothermal energy in the Philippines and one of the world's largest in the world.

It is no mean feat to produce 1,475 megawatts of geothermal, wind, hydroelectric and solar energy — and to achieve the status of a carbon negative company at the same time. A carbon negative entity removes more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than it produces.

"We achieve this through generating green energy and improving our energy efficiency, as well as through our greening programs that contribute to greater carbon sequestration and help us fight climate change (GOAL 13)," Energy Development Corp. (EDC) said in its 2018 Performance Report which provides an insight on the firm's contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the report, EDC explained that the heart of its business is sustainability. The company's primary focus has always been to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all (GOAL 7). EDC also complies with GOALS 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 13 (Climate Action), and 15 (Life on Land).

"We implement environmental and social programs across all our business units to not just enhance the natural ecosystem, but also to uplift the lives of the members of our host communities," it said.

EDC added that it also continues to invest in low-carbon energy solutions to encourage consumers to make sustainable choices for the country and ensure that future generations of Filipinos "can still enjoy the beauty and benefits of our natural heritage."

The firm warned that the whole world is experiencing the effects of climate change. By 2100, if carbon emissions are not curbed, 74 percent of the world's population and 47 percent of its land area will be exposed to lethal temperatures, EDC said.

"The science is clear: the more frequent and intense heat waves are a direct result of human-induced climate change. We must act now to curb emissions," it said.

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Over the years, EDC's environmental stewardship program across all its project sites has evolved to enhance its impact in areas where it operates.

"While the renewable energy we produce is cleaner than traditional energy sources, we remain committed to environmental responsibility through our programs and initiatives that help us manage and reduce the negative environmental impacts of our operations. This includes our continuing efforts to monitor and manage our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other significant air pollutants, as well as our waste generation and water withdrawal," according to the report.

EDC is certified against ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental Management System) in two of its facilities, Mount Apo Geothermal Project and Southern Negros Geothermal Project. All its environmental and geoscientific laboratories are also accredited for ISO/IEC 17025.

On water use, EDC extracts water mainly for power plant operations and sometimes for geothermal well drilling. In the cascading hydropower plant in Nueva Ecija, surface water is used prior to the release for irrigation. For offices and solar farm project (cleaning), the firm purchases water from third-party providers.

Soon, the firm will fully adopt and integrate the Environmental Management System (ISO 14001:2015) for its BacMan and Leyte geothermal power plants, enabling each facility to improve on materials and waste management.

"We manage and monitor our waste, from its generation on-site to its disposal. Our Pollution Control Officers, who are accredited by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), are responsible for our monthly waste monitoring, which they then report to the DENR on a quarterly basis," read the report.

Lastly, on watershed management and biodiversity protection, EDC currently protects four geothermal reservations, which comprise almost one percent of the Philippines' land area.

The firm takes pride in its in-house experts and specialists that implement a comprehensive Biodiversity Conservation and Management Program (BCMP) and its BINHI greening legacy program that has been restoring forests in its areas of operation and bringing back to abundance 96 flagship Philippine native trees for over 10 years.

To date, EDC has already restored 9,323 hectares of denuded forests from 2008-2018 with the help of its 88 farmers associations in its geothermal areas in Leyte, Negros Island, Bicol, and North Cotabato.

## BEACON OF SUSTAINABILITY

EDC is guided by its mother company First Philippine Holdings' sustainability framework, which recognizes that their business' health depends on the health of the environment and of the society and communities with which they share the environment.

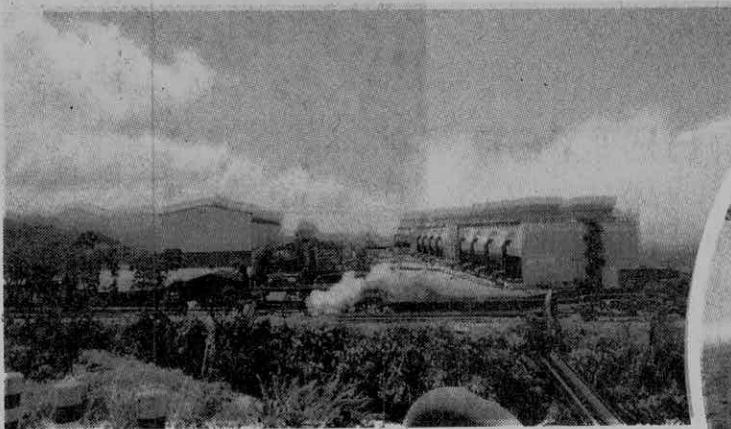


EDC's 150MW wind and 6.8MW solar farm is the first combined RE facility in the country.



Pg. 2

Winning the climate fight is the new business norm



**EDC's 232.5MW Malitbog Geothermal Power Plant in Leyte is one of the world's largest geothermal plants.**

EDC's chairman and CEO Federico Lopez, in his message included in the performance report, said humans "urgently need to overhaul how we relate with the Earth if we want to keep it habitable for humans in the decades to come. We don't have a choice. There is no Plan B or planet B, as some would say."

He noted that PricewaterhouseCoopers — a global network of firms that delivers assurance, tax and consulting services — warned that what the world needs to do to keep global temperature rise to less than two degrees Celsius is to reduce the "carbon intensity of the economy," which is the amount of carbon emitted per dollar of gross domestic product, by six percent each year until 2100.

"Although this number looks modest, it is nine times the current rate of improvement being experienced in the world today; this only underscores the magnitude of the transformation needed," Lopez said.

For EDC president and COO Richard Tantoco, what motivates the firm's officials and employees is that scientists remain optimistic that the growth of renewable energy is a reason to believe that the world can achieve the necessary reductions in factors that contribute to climate change.

He cited the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's findings that indicate the world may only have until 2030 to avert "catastrophic climate change."

According to Tantoco, carbon emissions increased in 2018 by another two percent from the previous year.

The urgent need to act "continues to motivate us to do things better, to make a difference toward turning the tide," he said. Tantoco said that over the past five years, EDC and the rest of the Lopez group of



**96 flagship Philippine native tree species are being grown and propagated in EDC's Vegetative Material Reproduction automated nursery facilities in Negros and Antipolo City as part of its BINHI greening legacy program.**

companies decided to be leaders in the country's business sector in sounding the warning about the worsening effects of climate change and the need for decisive action and enlightened choices.

"We know the pivot will not be easy, especially in the face of significant vested interests," he said.



# Getting the gist of sustainability reports

By MAY DEDICATORIA

In February this year, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) released Memorandum Circular No. 4, requiring all publicly-listed companies (PLCs) to submit a Sustainability Report together with the Annual Report.

"The Guidelines is intended to help PLCs assess and manage non-financial performance across Economic, Environmental and Social aspects of their organization and enable PLCs to measure and monitor their contributions towards achieving universal targets of sustainability, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well national policies and programs, such as Ambisyon Natin 2010," says the circular.

This reporting is more than explaining the number of trees planted under the corporate social responsibility department, but shows how companies improve themselves economically through good governance and stakeholder relations.

Sustainability reporting also highlights the company's product or service contribution to the SDGs. According to the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Asia and the Pacific will not achieve any of the 17 SDGs by 2030 — based on its current trajectory.

Specifically, Southeast Asia is "regressing in decent work and economic growth (Goal 8), climate action (Goal 13), and peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16)." On the positive side, the region is progressing towards quality education (Goal 4), affordable and clean energy (Goal 7) and industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9).

While the SEC has only required the submission only this

year, many companies have been publishing in-depth reports for years now. To easily appreciate a Sustainability Report, start by looking for the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Content Index at the back.

If the company follows the GRI framework, it should include three universal standards (foundation, general disclosures and management approach) and relevant standards from 33 topic-specific ones covering Economic, Environmental and Social series.

To know what truly is important for the company, check the discussion on stakeholder engagement and materiality, which reflects the prioritization among material or relevant topics and explains the role of all stakeholders.

According to *globalreporting.org*, "As the content relevant to stakeholder engagement and materiality assessment is reviewed, this service also provides feedback on the organizations' application of the Stakeholder Inclusiveness and Materiality principles."

A visual representation or matrix shows the significance of economic, environmental and social aspects versus the influence of stakeholders' assessments and decisions.



# Earth to warm more quickly, new climate models show

PARIS (AFP) — Greenhouse gases thrust into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels are warming Earth's surface more quickly than previously understood, according to new climate models set to replace those used in current UN projections, scientists said yesterday.

By 2100, average temperatures could rise 6.5 to 7.0 deg °C above pre-industrial levels if carbon emissions continue unabated, separate models from two leading research centers in France showed.

That is up to two degrees higher than the equivalent scenario in the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change's (IPCC) 2014 benchmark 5th Assessment Report.

The new calculations also suggest the Paris Agreement goals of capping global warming at "well below" two deg °C, and 1.5 deg °C if possible, will be harder to reach, the scientists said.

"With our two models, we see that the scenario known as SSP1 2.6 — which normally allows us to stay under 2°C (2 deg °C) — doesn't quite get us there," Olivier Boucher, head of the Institute Pierre Simon Laplace Climate Modelling Center in Paris, told AFP.

With barely one deg °C of warming so far, the world is already coping with increasingly deadly heat waves, droughts, floods and tropical cyclones

made more destructive by rising seas.

A new generation of 30-odd climate models known collectively as CMIP6 — including the two unveiled yesterday — will underpin the IPCC's next major report in 2021.

"CMIP6 clearly includes the latest modelling improvements," even as important uncertainties remain, Joeri Rogelj, an associate professor at Imperial College London and an IPCC lead author, told AFP.

These include increased supercomputing power and sharper representations of weather systems, natural and man-made particles, and how clouds evolve in a warming world.

"We have better models now," said Boucher. "They have better resolution, and they represent current climate trends more accurately."

A core finding of the new models is that increased levels of CO2 in the atmosphere will warm Earth's surface more easily than earlier calculations had suggested.

If confirmed, this higher "equilibrium climate sensitivity," or ECS, means humanity's carbon budget — our total emissions allowance — is likely to shrink.

The French models are among the first to be released, but others developed independently have come to the same unsettling conclusion, Boucher confirmed.

Two cars are seen in an area destroyed by a storm surge caused by Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas on Sunday. The United Nations said the destruction in the Bahamas was a result of climate change. AFP





# CLIMATE WARRIOR

## Greta Thunberg wins Amnesty's highest human rights award

**By Issam  
Ahmed**

WASHINGTON—Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg and the Fridays for Future youth movement received Amnesty International's "Ambassadors of Conscience" award on Monday for their work highlighting the need for urgent action to avert climate disaster.

The 16-year-old, who is taking a year out of high school, received a standing ovation from students at The George Washington University in the US capital where the ceremony was held.

"The politics required to take on this crisis simply doesn't exist today," Thunberg said, standing on a step to reach the microphone.

"That is why every single one of us must push from every possible angle to hold those responsible accountable and to make the people in power act." She added that the prize was not just for her but the millions of youth who have taken part since last year in weekly school strikes held every Friday, inspired



**Thunberg**

by the sit-in she began outside Sweden's parliament in August 2018.

The next of these will be on September 20, a day when Thunberg and thousands of New York students are expected to pour into the streets as part of a "global climate strike" along with other protests around the world.

That will be followed on Saturday by the first Youth Climate Summit at the UN and the Climate Action Summit on Monday, which the UN chief has convened because the world's biggest polluters remain woefully behind their greenhouse gas emissions targets.

Thunberg spoke forcefully Monday about the

"destruction" of the planet and the large-scale deaths that could come about as a result of climate change, water and air pollution and the destruction of food chains.

But she said she also saw an "awakening."

"Even though it is slow, the pace is picking up and the debate is shifting," she said, before concluding: "See you on the street!"

She was joined on stage by some young American activists.

"They can't just ignore us anymore!" said Jerome Foster, 17.

Earlier, Kumi Naidoo, the secretary general of Amnesty International, told AFP that the organization was originally not going to give out the prize in 2019, following the unprecedented decision to withdraw it from Aung San Suu Kyi in late 2018.

Amnesty rescinded the award from the Myanmar leader for "the shameful betrayal of the values she once stood for" over Suu Kyi's "apparent indifference" to the suffering of the Rohingya population. But Naidoo was swayed by the impact Thunberg and other youth activists

had already achieved and could achieve in future, adding that the UK's parliament declared a climate emergency after she met with British political leaders.

"The award is about acknowledging that they've already done something that many of us who've been involved for decades have not been able to do, they've been able to actually inspire a much larger number of people," he said.

"These young, high school students are playing a very important role in educating their own parents."

Naidoo added that the issue of climate change was increasingly a human rights issue, and touched upon every aspect of Amnesty's work, from refugees to indigenous rights to the defense of rights defenders, with an ever growing number of environmental activists being killed.

More than that, "climate change threatens the very ability of human beings to exist on this planet and with no human beings there are no human rights," he concluded.





## Insular kicks off bamboo planting project in Pampanga

Insular Foundation, the corporate social responsibility arm of Insular Life, joined hands with the local government of Lubao, Pampanga and the Philippine Bamboo Foundation (PBF) to help protect the environment through the propagation and planting of bamboo.

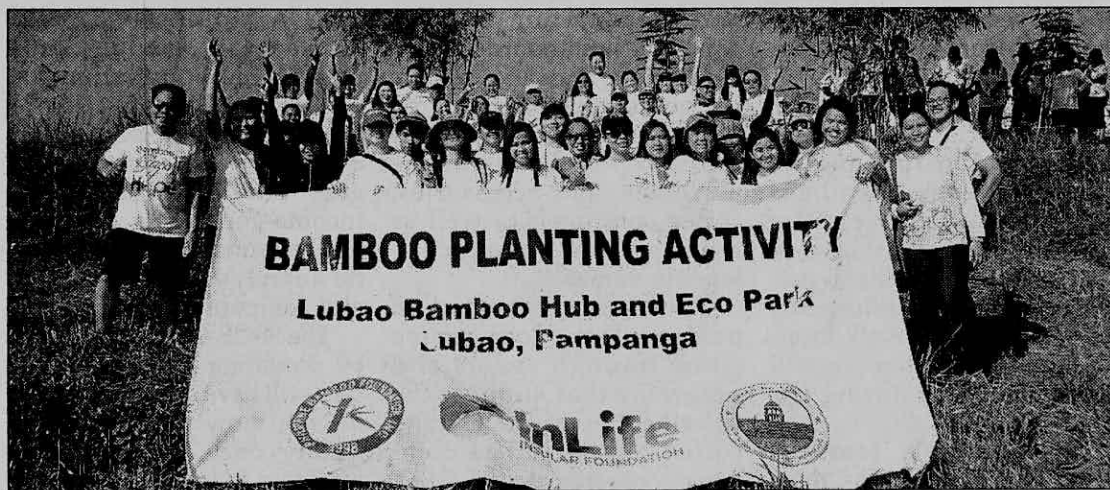
InLife executive chairman and Insular Foundation chairman Nina Aguas signed a memorandum of agreement with Lubao, Pampanga Mayor Esmeralda Pineda, and

education, disaster response and rehabilitation, employee volunteerism, and environmental protection," Aguas said.

To kick off the program, over 100 InLife employee volunteers went to the site recently for their first planting session at the Bamboo Hub.

Established in 1963 and incorporated in 1969, the Foundation was one of the first corporate foundations in the country. Since its inception, it has helped thousands of students attain higher education and achieve a better life through

scholarship grants for college and technician courses. It has assisted hundreds of teachers and school administrators improve their knowledge and skills through in-service training.



More than 120 InLife employees from Alabang and Makati, Insular Health Care, and San Fernando District Office participated in the bamboo tree planting activity at the Lubao Bamboo Hub and Ecopark.



InLife executive chairman and Insular Foundation chairman Nina Aguas, Philippine Bamboo Foundation president Edgardo Manda, and Lubao Mayor Esmeralda Pineda join hands as they formalize the 'Kawayanihan: Protecting the Environment and Lives through Community Work and Cooperation' project.

Philippine Bamboo Foundation (PBF) president Edgardo Manda to formalize the project called "Kawayanihan: Protecting the Environment and Lives through Community Work and Cooperation."

"Through Kawayanihan we are helping propagate bamboo, a versatile plant that can provide livelihood opportunities in many industries. But over and above this, the bamboo is known to purify air toxins and a rich source of breathable oxygen, which we really need at this point," said Aguas during the signing ceremony.

Under this project, Insular Foundation will adopt 1.8 hectares of the six-hectare ecopark called Bamboo Hub located in Lubao, Pampanga by planting and growing bamboos for the next three years.

The Lubao LGU, on the other hand, will be responsible in providing technical assistance in training and hiring workers for the park while PBF will oversee the production of bamboo seedlings and the development and marketing of bamboo products.

"As Insular Foundation celebrates its 50th year of incorporation this year, we are drumming up our programs on



## Pagasa warns vs haze from Indonesia forest fires

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) warned residents of Palawan and Tawi-Tawi of poor visibility due to haze from forest fires in Indonesia.

"We warn our fishermen against low horizontal visibility, specially at night," PAGASA-Puerto Princesa chief meteorological officer Sonny Pajarilla said in an interview over *GMA News*.

The haze has been reportedly observed in Puerto Princesa, Palawan since Friday.

Tawi-Tawi residents reportedly mistook the thick smoke as fog.

Nearly 150,000 people were treated for acute respiratory infections in recent months due to the haze, according to reports.

— Helen Flores



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TINIRA ng drone na may bomba o ng cruise missile ang dalawang pinakamalalaking oil facilities sa Saudi Arabia.

Hindi nakayanang harangin ng anti-drone at anti-missile system na gawang America ang nasabing pambomba.

Dahil dito, kalahati ng produksyon ng langis ng Saudi Arabia ang naparalisa.

At ngayo'y may masamang epekto o ikatataas ng presyo ng langis sa mundo at sa Pilipinas na rin.

Aasahan nating sa susunod na linggo, maaaring ang epekto sa mahal kong Pinas ng pangyayari ay pagtataas ng nasa P3 bawat litro ng mga produktong petrolyo.

'Yan ay kung hindi kakayanin ng Saudi Arabia na palitan agad ang nawalang produksyon o walang aagapay rito para punuan ang suplay ng langis.

### LIBO-LIBONG OFW

Pero may isa pang napakahalagang epekto sa atin ang pangyayari.

Ang bumubuo pala ng mga dayuhang nagtatrabaho sa dalawang pasilidad ng Saudi Aramco na binomba ay karamihang overseas Filipino worker.

Nasa 40 porsyento umano ang mga OFW.

Noong una, sinasabi ng mga OFW na malayo sila sa mga sentro ng giyera kaya hindi sila nababahala.

Lalo na ang mga nasa boundary ng Yemen at Saudi Arabia na maaaring pinagmulan ng drone o missile.

Pero iba na ang kwentong ngayong hindi na bala ng baril ang gamit ng mga naggiyerahan kundi mga drone at missile.

Dapat na bumisita ang mga opisyal ng pamahalaan upang tiyakin ang kaligtasan ng mga OFW.

Paano rin ang mga pamilya-OFW na apektado?

### HONG KONG OFW

Nagiging mapangahas na rin ang mga raliyesta sa Hong Kong at umaabot na sa paggamit ng mga petrol bomb ang inihahagis ng mga ito sa mga pulis-Hong Kong at iba pang mga awtoridad.

Dapat paghandaan na ng pamahalaan ang posibleng pag-uwi sa



## ULTIMATUM

ni BENNY ANTIPORDA

### NANGANGANIB NA MGA OFW AT PALIBING, AMBULANSYA

Pinas ng marami sa nasa 250,000 OFW bunga ng kaguluhan.

Sa ngayon, nanawagan ang mga raliyesta ng tulong mula sa Amerika at hindi natin kailangang ipaliwanag ang ibubunga nito.

Maaaring lalong magkagulo sa Hong Kong dahil dito.

At maaaring magbunga ito ng pagbagsak ng ekonomiya ng Hong Kong.

At kung bumagsak ang ekonomiya ng Hong Kong, maraming OFW ang mawawalan ng trabaho.

Uwi ang iba na maaaring may naipon pero ang iba, maaaring uwi nang luhaan at baon pa sa utang.

Ang Overseas Workers Welfare Administration at iba pang kaukulang ahensya ng pamahalaan, ano-ano na ang mga paghahanda nila sa mga nanganganib na OFW sa Saudi Arabia at sa Hong Kong?

### ESKORT SA AMBULANSYA

Maganda ang mungkahi ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na pupwedeng gamitin ng mga escort na pulis o sinomang awtoridad ng mga tumatakbong ambulansya.

Ito'y para makarating sa kanyang paroroonang ospital ang isang maysakit na malubha ang kalagayan.

At hindi mamamatay sa daan dahil nga sa trapik.

Pero dapat na siguruhin ng mga nasa loob ng ambulansya na totoong maysakit ang sakay nila at hindi ang mga abusadong opisyal ng pamahalaan na gusto lang makalusot sa trapik.

Nagiging talamak na kasi umano ang paggamit ng ambulansya ng mga opisyal ng gobyerno para sa personal nilang lakad.

Kung hindi naman, hindi dapat na gamitin sa krimen ang mga ambulansya gaya ng kunwaring pagtakbo nito para itakas lang sa mga awtoridad ang mga kriminal.

Mahirap naman kasing gamitin ang helikop-

ter dahil walang helipad karaniwan ang mga gusali ng mga ospital.

At hindi basta lalapag ang mga helikopter sa grounds ng mga ospital dahil hindi nakadiseno ang mga ito na pagbabaan ng mga helikopter.

### PALIBING KONTROLIN

Isa pang pinagmulan ng katakot-takot na trapik ang pag-okupa ng naglilibing ng buong kalsada at walang pinalulusot na mga motorista.

Nagaganap ito kung naglalakad ang mga naglilibing.

Dapat na kontrolin ng mga awtoridad ang estilo ng mga naglilibing na haharangin nila lahat ang motorista at okupahin ang buong kalsada.

Ang barangay officials na escort karaniwan sa paglilibing ang dapat magbigay ng mayayos na paglalakad o paggamit ng mga kalsada ng mga naglilibing.

Hindi nila dapat pabayaang hawakan ng mga sibilyan ang daloy ng trapik dahil ang iniisip ng mga ito ay ang kapakanan lang ng mga inililibing at wala silang pakialam sa perwisyong dulot nila sa iba.

Eh alam na natin ang nagaganap sa paglilibing nang naglalakad.

Napakabagal, lalo na kung may mga senior citizen na kasali rito o may mga people with disabilities.

Dapat talagang palaralin ang sentido komon at sa parte ng mga awtoridad, ang tungkulin nilang bigyan ng kanyang karapatan at obligasyon ang mga mamamayan na magkakaiba ang kalagayan.

O tulong-tulong lang po tayo laban sa trapik at paghanap ng mga solusyon laban dito sa abot ng ating makakaya.

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



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

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# PEOPLE'S JOURNAL Classifieds



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**  
National Ecology Center East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

## SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Capital Region, Patents and Deeds Section, in pursuance to Administrative Order No. 38 dated 19 April 1990, will sell at DENR-NCR Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division, National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, through sealed bidding to the highest bidder at 10:00 A.M. on **DEC 17 2019**, the tract of land situated in **Western Bicutan (Pinagsama), Taguig City** which are specifically described below to wit:

APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO./BLK NO./PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUED PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA NO. 007607-2079	ERNEST JOHN D. TALAMAYAN	Lot 8, Block 46 Psd-00-036894	60 sq.m.	Php 140.00	8,400.00	Php 250,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked "Bid for Land Described in MSA/SA/IGPSA No. 007607-2079". Bids must be accompanied with cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Quezon City, Philippines.

*[Signature]*  
**ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO**  
Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division  
MSG/JCP/HBP

PJ - Sept. 18, 25 Oct 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2019



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**  
National Ecology Center East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

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APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO./BLK NO./PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUED PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA NO. 007607-1886	RODOLFO L. UY	Lot 3, Block 7, Psd-00-036894	103.20 sq.m.	P140.00	P14,448.00	P100,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked "Bid for Land Described in MSA/SA/IGPSA No. 007607-1886". Bids must be accompanied with cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

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Republika ng Pilipinas  
Kagawaran ng Kapaligiran at Likas Yaman  
**PAMBANSANG PUNONG REHIYON**  
National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon

**PAGBEBENTA NG PAMPUBLIKONG LUPA**

Ang pabatid na ito ay ipinagkakaloob bilang patunay na ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region, Patents and Deeds Section, alinsunod sa Department Administrative Order No. 38, 19 April 1990, ay magkakaroon ng bilihan sa **DENR-NCR, National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**, sa pamamagitan ng isang **sealed bidding**, na makakapagbigay ng pinakamataas na halaga sa ika-10 ng umaga ng **DEC 17 2019**, ng lupang matatagpuan sa \_\_\_\_\_ na inilarawan ng mga sumusunod:

BILANG NG APLIKASYON	PANGALAN NG APLIKANTE	BILANG NG LOTE/PLANO	SUKAT NG LOTE SA METRO KUWADRADO	HALAGA NG LUPA KADA METRO KUWADRADO	KABUJANG HALAGA NG LUPA	KABUJANG HALAGA NG MGA ISTRUKTURA
IGPSA No. 007607-2079	ERNEST JOHN D. TALAMAYAN	Lot 8, Block 46 Psd-00-036894	60 sq.m.	Php140.00	Php8,400.00	Php250,000.00

Ang mga bid ay dapat na selyado at dapat isumite sa nasabing Dibisyon, mismo o bago sa itinalagang oras at petsa sa itaas at minarkahan na "Bid for Land Described in MSA/IGPSA No. 007607-2079". Ang mga bid sa pagbili ay dapat isumite sa pamamagitan ng pera, money order, treasury warrant, seripikadong tseke, cashier's check o manager's check na nagkakahalaga ng humigit kumulang sa sampung porsiyento (10%) ng isinuniting turing. Kung ang bumibili ay nais bawlin ang kanilang dinepositong halaga bilang alok sa pagbili, ngunit natukoy na ang pinakamataas na bidder, ang katumbas na deposito ay makukumpiska pabor sa pamahalaan. Ang mga alok sa pagbili ay hindi dapat bababa sa kabuuang halaga ng nasabing lupa. Ang pamahalaan ay may karapatang tanggihan ang isa o lahat ng alok sa pagbili kung kinakailangan.

Lungsod ng Quezon, Republika ng Pilipinas \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO**  
Chief, Licenses Patents and Deeds Division  
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BILANG NG APLIKASYON	PANGALAN NG APLIKANTE	BILANG NG LOTE/PLANO	SUKAT NG LOTE SA METRO KUWADRADO	HALAGA NG LUPA KADA METRO KUWADRADO	KABUJANG HALAGA NG LUPA	KABUJANG HALAGA NG MGA ISTRUKTURA
IGPSA No. 007607-1886	RODOLFO L. UY	Lot 3, Block 7 Psd-00-036894	103.20 sq.m.	Php140.00	Php 14,448.00	Php 100,000.00

Ang mga bid ay dapat na selyado at dapat isumite sa nasabing Dibisyon, mismo o bago sa itinalagang oras at petsa sa itaas at minarkahan na "Bid for Land Described in MSA/IGPSA No. 007607-1886". Ang mga bid sa pagbili ay dapat isumite sa pamamagitan ng pera, money order, treasury warrant, seripikadong tseke, cashier's check o manager's check na nagkakahalaga ng humigit kumulang sa sampung porsiyento (10%) ng isinuniting turing. Kung ang bumibili ay nais bawlin ang kanilang dinepositong halaga bilang alok sa pagbili, ngunit natukoy na ang pinakamataas na bidder, ang katumbas na deposito ay makukumpiska pabor sa pamahalaan. Ang mga alok sa pagbili ay hindi dapat bababa sa kabuuang halaga ng nasabing lupa. Ang pamahalaan ay may karapatang tanggihan ang isa o lahat ng alok sa pagbili kung kinakailangan.

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