

DATE : 03 JUL 2019

DAY : Wednesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Congress urged to prevent Manila Bay reclamation

TO prevent the “wholesale slaughter” of Manila Bay and its already fragile marine ecosystem, militant fishers’ group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said the entire region should be declared a land reclamation-free zone.

Pamalakaya is pushing for the passage of a proposed measure seeking to prevent all forms of reclamation activities in the entire Manila Bay, which was refiled by the Bayan Muna Party-list in the 18th Congress on Monday.

The House bill, according to Pamalakaya, advances the 2008 Supreme Court’s writ of continuing mandamus ordering 13 government agencies “to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay” because it will advance the protection of the gulf against land reclamation, also called dump and fill, which is considered as one of the most destructive activities in its coastal waters.

The proposed measure will also restrict the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) from issuing permits to big-ticket reclamation projects along the entire stretch of Manila Bay.

Pamalakaya said it recorded a total of 43 reclamation projects

covering at least 32,000 hectares of Manila Bay, threatening to displace hundreds of thousands of fishermen and residents.

“Reclamation will defeat the purpose of rehabilitating Manila Bay; a cleanup should not only reduce the levels of fecal bacteria, but must also include protecting the bay against all forms of destructive projects, especially reclamation that will wipe out the remaining mangroves and sea grasses which serve as fish shelter and protection of communities from natural disasters,” Fernando Hicap, Pamalakaya national chairman and former Anakpawis party-list representative, said in a statement.

The P43-billion budget for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, the group said, should be funneled to services for waste management like a Materials Recovery Facility and proper sanitary landfills, instead of relocating fishermen’s families that subsist on Manila Bay to far-flung areas without livelihood and basic social services.

“We challenge the newly elected legislators in the 18th Congress to support and pass the House Bill that are both beneficial to the biodiversity and to millions of fishermen and urban poor residents situated around the historic Manila Bay,” Hicap said. **Jonathan L. Mayuga**



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

03 JUL 2019

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____

NEWS BRIEFS

P25-B Boracay Medium-Term Action Plan OK'd

The government has approved the P25-billion Boracay Medium-Term Action Plan which lays out the programs for the continuing rehabilitation of the popular tourist destination. Malacañang announced the approval of the blueprint following President Duterte's meeting with his Cabinet on Monday night. "We announce the approval of the Boracay Medium-Term Action Plan which will sustain the efforts of the government after its closure," presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said. In April last year, the President ordered the closure of Boracay to tourists for six months to allow its massive cleanup and rehabilitation. It re-opened in October 2018. Of the 25.27-billion proposed investment, P16.21 billion will be allocated to infrastructure. —JULIE M. AURELIO



Tourism stakeholders laud P25-B Boracay Action Plan

By **CATHERINE TALAVERA**

Tourism stakeholders are hoping that the approval of the P25 billion midterm Bora-

cay Action Plan (BAP) speeds up the rehabilitation of the island which was closed for six months last year.

"We welcome the approval

of the Boracay Medium Term Action Plan by Malacañang and are confident that this will continue the efforts to fully rehabilitate one of the country's

prime tourism destinations," Tourism Congress of the Philippines (TCP) president Jose Clemente III told **The STAR** in a text message.

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said President Duterte approved the BAP during the 39th Cabinet meeting on Monday.

In January, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) presented the P25-billion BAP, which will install safeguards from ecological degradation and sustain tourism activities in Boracay.

"Boracay is still an ongoing concern as work is still proceeding to complete the government's plans when it was closed last year. We hope that the funds being allocated will speed up the rehabilitation as well as ensure its sustainability," Clemente said.

"That said, we are also looking forward to having the same kind of assistance for the other tourist destinations around the country that may need further funding to accomplish things similar to Boracay," he added.

NEDA earlier said the estimated total investment requirement for the BAP is P25.27 billion for all thematic areas, 64 percent or P16.21 billion of which would be allotted for infrastructure.

The indicative number of programs, projects and activities combined under all the thematic areas is 233. The private sector would finance P15.89 billion or 62.9 percent of the total cost, NEDA said.

It added that once approved by the President, the BAP would be implemented until 2022.

President Duterte ordered the six-month closure of Boracay last year after dubbing it a "cess-pool" due to the environmental degradation of the island.

The island reopened on Oct. 26 after completing the first phase of its rehabilitation program. There will be two more phases of the rehab program.

At present, the island is following a carrying capacity to ensure its sustainability.

A study commissioned by the DENR showed that Boracay's carrying capacity is only 55,757 people per day, including its residents. Only 19,215 tourists are allowed to be on the island at a certain time, with 6,405 tourists allowed to enter the island per day.

In a bid to ensure the carrying capacity of the island is met, the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) earlier implemented a moratorium on the addition of new charter flights to Caticlan and Kalibo.

Tourism Undersecretary and spokesperson Benito Bengzon Jr. emphasized that this only applies to new applications for chartered flights.

"Ensuring that we protect the environment, all of these initiatives are in line with the objective we have kept for ourselves, both the government and the private sector," Bengzon said.

"But the challenge here is to really achieve an economic balance between such economic activity and protection of the environment," he added.

Block-off dates for the entry of cruise ships to Boracay were also implemented to ensure the carrying capacity of the island is met.

"The close-out dates for cruise ships were set to manage the carrying capacity of island, as there is an expected surge in tourist arrivals during the Holy Week and summer time," DOT earlier said.

It added it will also implement more close-out dates within the year particularly on Oct. 26 to November in observance of All Saints and All Souls Day, and on Nov. 23 to Jan. 25 for the SEA Games, Christmas and the New Year.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXHIBIT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

DATE

Palace okays medium-term action plan for Boracay

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**

The government has approved a medium-term action plan to sustain the rehabilitation efforts of Boracay in a bid to promote a sustainable and beautiful tourist island.

Under the Boracay Medium-Term Action Plan, the government intends to regulate visitors and hotel accommodations, as well as improve the sewerage system, roads and other infrastructure in the island, according to Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo.

The blueprint for the Boracay recovery efforts was discussed during the Cabinet meeting convened by President Duterte in Malacañang last Monday.

"We likewise announce the approval of the Boracay Medium-Term Action Plan which will sustain the efforts

of the government after its closure," Panelo said.

"According to National Economic and Development Authority Director General and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia and Usec. Adoracion Navarro, there are four themes of the action plan: 1) Enforcement of laws where there will be intervention on the regulation of visitors and hotel accommodations; 2) Prevention where there will be interventions on the sewerage infrastructure, solid and liquid waste management," he said.

The action plan for Boracay recovery also includes "rehabilitation and recovery of ecosystems and sustainability of activities in the island such as improvement of roads and public health infrastructure, construction of permanent housing program for indig-

enous people and education facilities," Panelo said.

In April 2018, the government shut down Boracay to tourists for six months to pave the way for massive rehabilitation, including upgrading its sewage system. The temporary closure was ordered by the President who claimed the island has become a cesspool.

Boracay was eventually reopened to tourists with clear waters last October.

After the massive rehabilitation of Boracay, the government moved to clean and rehabilitate Manila Bay area and launched a crackdown on its pollutants. A government task force also moved to conduct a massive clean-up drive and rehabilitation of El Nido, Palawan and Panglao Island, Bohol amid reports of environmental issues similar to Boracay.



Duterte okays Boracay Medium-Term Action Plan

PRESIDENT Duterte has approved the proposed Boracay Medium-Term Action Plan which aims to sustain government's efforts in rehabilitating the island resort which underwent a six-month closure last year.

Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo, concurrent presidential spokesman, said the action plan was approved during the six-hour Cabinet meeting in

Malacanang on Monday night.

"We likewise announce the approval of the Boracay Medium-Term Action Plan which will sustain the efforts of the government after its closure," he said in a statement.

Panelo, citing National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Director General and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia and Undersecretary

Adoracion Navarro, said the action plan includes the rehabilitation and recovery of ecosystems and sustainability of activities in the island such as improvement of roads and public health infrastructure, construction of permanent housing program for indigenous people and education facilities.

It also includes the "enforcement of laws where there will be intervention on the regulation of

visitors and hotel accommodations" and the "prevention where there will be interventions on the sewerage infrastructure, solid and liquid waste management."

Last year, the President, who dubbed Boracay as a "cesspool," ordered the closure of the Boracay for six months to undergo cleanup and rehabilitation.

It was reopened on Oct. 26, 2018. — *Jocelyn Montemayor*



Malacañang approves P25-billion Boracay medium-term plan

PRESIDENT Rodrigo R. Duterte has approved the Boracay Medium-Term Action Plan, which covers measures for the resort island like enforcement of environmental rules and waste management.

"We... announce the approval of the Boracay Medium-Term Action Plan, which will sustain the efforts of the government after its closure," the President's Spokesperson Salvador S. Panelo said in a statement Tuesday following the Cabinet meeting.

Mr. Panelo said National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Director-General and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia and Undersecretary Adoracion M. Navarro reported during the Cabinet meeting Monday that

the action plan has four themes: "1) Enforcement of laws where there will be interventions on the regulation of visitors and hotel accommodations; 2) Prevention (covering) interventions in sewerage infrastructure, solid and liquid waste management; 3) Rehabilitation and recovery of ecosystems; and 4) Sustainability of activities in the island such as improvement of roads and public health infrastructure, construction of permanent housing program for indigenous people and education facilities."

NEDA has said that the action plan will be implemented until 2022.

In January, NEDA said an estimated investment of P25.27 billion is required to implement the action plan.

The private sector, according to NEDA, will finance P15.89 billion or 62.9% of the total cost.

The action plan, NEDA said, will meet the goal of ensuring that the island remains "a world-class tourism destination with a vibrant, productive and climate-resilient economy that is geared toward inclusive growth and anchored on the sustainable development of its innate natural resources."

Mr. Duterte ordered the six-month closure of Boracay on April 26, 2018 upon the recommendation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Department of Tourism (DoT). — **Arjay L. Balinbin**



President approves medium-term plan for Boracay island

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has approved a medium-term action plan for Boracay island, which was rehabilitated last year.

Palace spokesman Salvador Panelo said Duterte approved the plan, which would sustain the efforts of the government after the world-famous island resort's closure last year, during Monday's Cabinet meeting.

National Economic and Development Authority Director General and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia and his undersecretary Adoracion Navarro, Panelo said, discussed the four themes of the action plan.

Panelo said it included enforcement of laws... on the regulation of visitors and hotel accommodations, and the prevention of similar instances... on the sewerage infrastructure, solid and liquid waste management.

They also touched on the rehabilitation and recovery of eco-

systems, and the sustainability of activities in the island such as the improvement of roads and public health infrastructure, the construction of educational facilities and the establishment of a permanent housing program for indigenous peoples, the spokesman said.

President Rodrigo Duterte closed down Boracay on April 26 last year to make way for a six-month massive rehabilitation.

The closure came four months after he called the island a "cesspool" as its waters were heavily polluted.

It was reopened in October last year.

After Boracay was rehabilitated, the government then went all-in on rehabilitating Manila Bay.

The government earlier said it was looking into inspecting islands in Palawan for a potential closure for rehabilitation following Boracay's closure.

RALPH U. VILLANUEVA



03 JUL 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Boracay rehab action plan sustained

By MJ Blancaflor

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has approved an action plan that will maintain the government's rehabilitation efforts in Boracay, Malacañang said Tuesday.

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said Duterte approved the plan during the 39th Cabinet meeting on Monday.

"We will likewise announce the approval of the Boracay Medium-Term Action Plan that will sustain the efforts of the government after its closure," Panelo said in a statement.

The action plan has four themes, according to Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia and National Economic and Development Authority Undersecretary Adoracion Navarro.

These include enforcing the laws regulating the number of visitors and hotel accommodations and intervening in the sewerage infrastructure and solid and liquid waste management.

The action plan will also ensure the rehabilitation and recovery of the ecosystems and the sustainability of activities on the island, such as the improvement of roads and public health infrastructure, the construction of permanent housing for indigenous people and education facilities.

Last year, Duterte ordered the temporary closure of Boracay due to the dilapidated sewerage system and the surge in the number of tourists visiting it.

Boracay reopened its doors to tourists in October 2018, after the inter-agency task force assigned to conduct the rehabilitation plan had approved the reopening.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

**Daily
Tribune**
www.DailyTribune.com

16
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 JUL 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

DU30 OKs P25B Boracay action plan

The initiative, which requires an investment of P25.27-billion, will sustain the efforts of the government after its closure

By Kristina Maralit

President Rodrigo Duterte has given the green light for the Boracay Medium-Term Action Plan to ensure the continued rehabilitation of the island paradise.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo bared this following the 39th Cabinet Meeting led by the Chief Executive on Monday.

The initiative, which requires an investment of P25.27-billion, "will sustain the efforts of the government after its closure."

Picking up from the presentation made by Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia and Undersecretary Adoracion Navarro to Mr. Duterte, Panelo said the plan will be made up of four major components.

These are enforcement of laws; prevention; rehabilitation and recovery of ecosystems, and sustainability of activities on the island.

Under the law enforcement, intervention on the regulation of visitors and hotel accommodations or the island's carrying capacity will be strictly observed while prevention calls for the sustained improvement on sewerage system, infrastructure and management of solid and liquid wastes.

In the sustainability component, the government calls for the continuous improvement of roads and

public health infrastructure, construction of permanent housing program for the indigenous people and education facilities.

It was April last year when Mr. Duterte ordered Boracay, one of the country's world-renowned tourist destinations, closed after calling it a "cesspool".

It was reopened in October — but not without a slew of new and stricter rules for visitors and establishments following extensive cleanup and renovation efforts throughout the island.

Meeting of the minds

President Rodrigo Duterte presides over the Cabinet meeting on Monday when the Boracay Medium-Term Action Plan was approved.

PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO





BORACAY ACTION PLAN TO COST P25.3B

By CAI U. ORDINARIO
@caiorinario

THE national government and the private sector will spend P25.26 billion to implement the medium-term Boracay Action Plan (BAP), according to documents obtained from the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

In a Cabinet presentation on Monday, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia and Neda Undersecretary Adoracion M. Navarro said the amount includes P7.22 billion from the national government and P15.89 billion from the private sector. The remaining P2.15 billion will be obtained through cofinancing between local governments and the private sector.

The President approved the BAP on Monday. Chief Presidential Legal Counsel and Presidential Spokesman Salvador S. Panelo said the plan "will sustain the efforts of the government after its closure."

"The total public investment cost amounts to 28.6 percent of the total investment requirement. Majority of the projects will be financed by the private sector amounting to P15.9 billion, or 62.9 percent of the total investment requirement," Navarro said in the presentation.

Navarro said the bulk of the government share of P7.22 billion is composed of agencies' regular budget worth P4.89 billion, or 19.4 percent of the total; local government unit funds, P1.95 billion, or 7.7 percent; cofinancing arrangements between

agencies and LGUs, P202.17 million, or 0.8 percent. The government still needs to secure financing for P182.24 million, or 0.7 percent.

The bulk of the funds will be spent on putting in place reliable infrastructure facilities worth P3.49 billion or 48 percent of the amount. Another area that will receive a significant share of the pie is pollution control and prevention worth P1.99 billion, or 28 percent of the total.

Spending for enforcement of laws and regulations, as well as responsive social services such as those for health, education and housing, will have a 9-percent share at P635.47 million and P676.66 million, respectively.

SEE "BORACAY" A2

Other areas that will receive funds are sustainable economic activities including tourism and livelihood worth P336.43 million or 5 percent of the total; and rehabilitation and recovery of ecosystems worth P96.49 million or 1 percent of the total.

"To monitor the implementation of programs, projects and activities in the BAP, the BIATF [Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force] issued Resolution 2018-31 'Creating the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group' [or BIARMG]," Navarro said.

Monitoring

APART from implementing the BAP, the BIARMG will help set up an effective monitoring and evaluation system to keep track of the activities for the BAP.

The BIARMG will also harmonize relevant databases and consolidate all the monitoring reports of departments into one single overall monitoring report.

The Management Group will have a general manager under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The General Manager will be supported by an Assistant General Manager, and Strategic Communication Department and Stakeholder Representatives.

Navarro said the BIARMG will serve as an interim structure while the government creates an institution tasked to manage Boracay Island on a long-term basis. The creation of the new institution should be done before May 8, 2020.

"Based on the evolving discussion at the Task Force, member-agencies expressed a desire to have an institutional structure that is national government-led and with considerable participation of LGUs, and to enlist the support of Congress in enacting a legislation to that is in line with this," Navarro said.

"Whatever the final institutional structure is, Neda as the lead agency in crafting this Boracay Action Plan believes that the new entity that will manage Boracay Island must be able to craft and enforce rules that give foremost consideration to the carrying capacity of the Island and must be able to translate the principles for managing Boracay," she explained.

DOT cheers approval

MEANWHILE, the Department of Tourism (DOT) welcomed President Duterte's approval of the BAP to complete the island's rehabilitation and continue its sustainable tourism development program.

"By essentially institutionalizing the functions of the BIATF with the approval of the Action Plan, we can clearly see the government's determination to sustain the gains of the initial six-month rehabilitation," said the DOT statement. The DOT chairs the Thematic Cluster on Sustainable Economic activities including Tourism and livelihood.

"The President's move assures us of Boracay Island's sustainable tourism development with the BAP serving as the BIATF's guide in ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth in the island with continuing opportunities for all stakeholders," Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat said.

The DOT also gladly noted that the Neda has consolidated and packaged the BAP in line with local and national development plans and directions.



BusinessMirror

PAGE
UPPER

LOWER
PAGE 1
STORY
BANNER
STORY
EDITORIAL
CARTOON

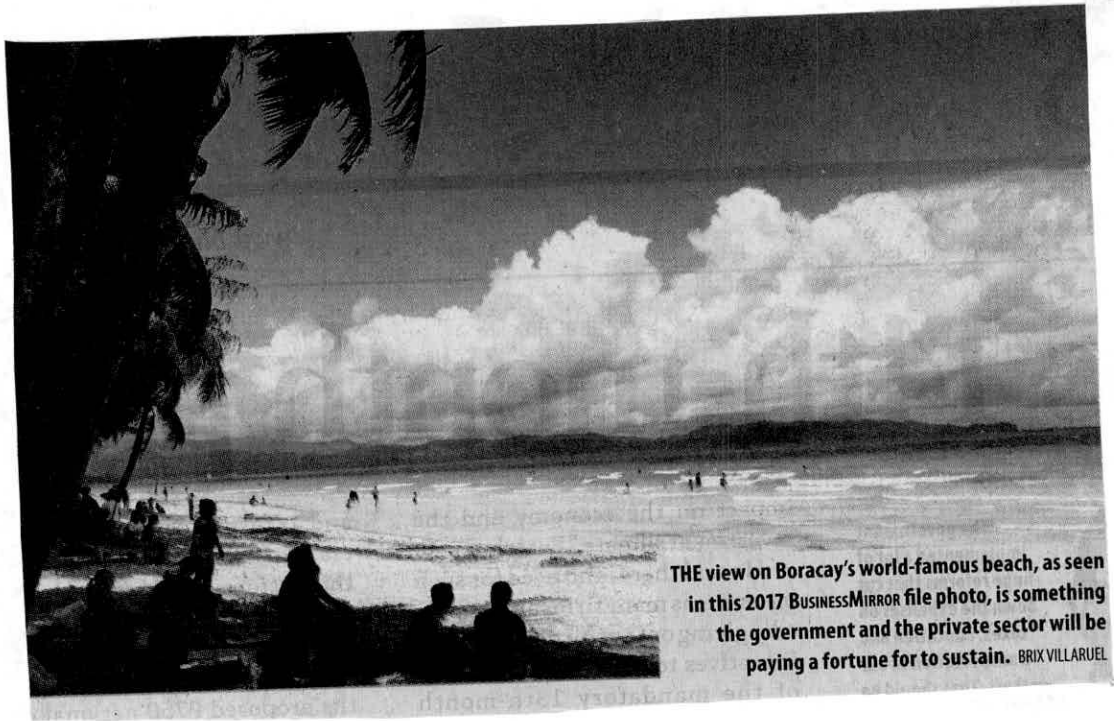
03 JUL 2019

DATE

A broader look at today's business

P-2

Boracay Action plan to cost ₱ 25.7B



THE view on Boracay's world-famous beach, as seen in this 2017 BUSINESSMIRROR file photo, is something the government and the private sector will be paying a fortune for to sustain. BRIX VILLARUEL



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



13
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 JUL 2019

DATE

DUTERTE OKAYS P25B BORACAY ACTION PLAN

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has approved the P25 billion Boracay Medium-Term Action Plan to maintain the top tourist spot following its six-month closure last year.

Duterte approved the plan "which will sustain the efforts of the government after its closure" during the 39th Cabinet meeting on Monday night, his spokesman Salvador Panelo said yesterday.

The plan covers for areas namely:

- Enforcement of laws where there will be intervention on the regulation of visitors and hotel accommodations

- Prevention where there will be interventions on the sewerage infrastructure, solid and liquid waste management

- Rehabilitation and recovery of ecosystems

- Sustainability of activities on the island such

as improvement of roads and public health infrastructure, construction of permanent housing program for indigenous people and education facilities.

Boracay, once dubbed by President Duterte as a "cesspool," was closed for half a year in 2018 to give way to the rehabilitation of its sewerage system and the demolition of illegal structures.

Efren Montano



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



15
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 JUL 2019

DATE

Aprub na ni Duterte P25-B BORACAY MEDIUM-TERM ACTION PLAN

INAPRUBAHAN na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang P25-bilyong Boracay Medium-Term Action Plan.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo, ginawa ng Pangulo ang pag-apruba sa ginanap na ika-39 na regular cabinet meeting sa Malakanyang noong Lunes ng gabi.

Ang naturang plano

ay naglalagat ng mga programang naglalayong ma-rehabilitate ang nabanggit na isla upang masustinehan ang mga ginagawa ng gobyerno para sa ikagaganda at ikaaayos ng isla.

Sinabi ni Panelo na inilatag nina National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Director General at Socioeconomic Planning

Secretary Ernesto Pernia at Undersecretary Adoracion Navarro ang mga kaukulang plano kabilang na ang mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng umiiral na batas kaugnay sa bilang ng mga bibisita at hotel accommodations sa isla, solid at liquid waste management, rehabilitasyon at pagsasaayos ng ecosystems at pagsasaayos ng mga

kalsada at public health infrastructures at permanenteng housing para sa mga katutubo at education facilities ng mga ito.

Ang nabanggit na action plan ay inaprubahan ng NEDA noon pang Disyembre 21, 2018.

Ayon sa NEDA, ang estimated total investment requirement para sa naturag programa ay aabot sa P25.27-bilyon kung saan P16.21-bilyon o 64 na porsiyento ay ilalaan sa infrastructures.

Sinabi pa ng NEDA na aakuin ng private sector ang 62.9 porsiyento o halagang P15.89-bilyon sa kabuuang gastusin para sa mga programa.

Magugunita na Abril noong nakaraang taon nang ipasara ng Pangulong Duterte ang Boracay upang sumailalim sa rehabilitasyon.

EVELYN QUIROZ



Boracay rehab binuhusan ng ₱25B ni Duterte

INAPRUBAHAN na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang Boracay Medium Term Action Plan na popondohan ng 25 bilyong piso para mas lalong mapaganda at mapaunlad ang isla.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo na ang plano para sa Boracay ay inaprubahan ng Pangulo sa cabinet meeting Lunes nang gabi.

Sa ilalim ng medium term action plan, magpatupad ng mga regulasyon para sa mga turistang bisita sa Boracay pati na rin sa hotel accommodation.

Mahigpit na babantayan ng gobyerno ang waste management system ng isla para matiyak na hindi na maulit ang pagkasalaula sa karagatan ng Boracay.

Ang kawalan ng maayos na sewage system ang isa sa mga dahilan kung bakit ipinasara ni Pangulong Duterte ang Isla ng Boracay sa loob ng anim na buwan dahil dumidiretso sa dagat ang dumi at ihi mula sa mga establisimento.

Ilalarga rin sa inaprubahang action plan ang rehabilitasyon ng ecosystem sa buong isla, pati na ang pagpapaganda sa mga kalsada, pasilidad para sa mga paaralan at pagtatayo ng permanenteng housing program para sa mga katutubo.

"We likewise announce the approval of the Boracay Medium-Term Action Plan which will sustain the efforts of the government after its closure," ani Panelo. **(Aileen Taliping)**



NGOs, tribal groups urge DENR to cancel coffee plantation permit

By **LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON**

Non-government organizations and indigenous groups are urging the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to cancel its integrated forest management agreement (IFMA) with M&S Co. Inc.

M&S, an affiliate of Consunji-led DMCI Holdings, operates the Dawang coffee plantation in Lake Sebu in South Cotabato.

The NGOs claimed that M&S Co. is encroaching on the ancestral domain of the T'boli-Manobo S'daf Claimants Organization (TAMASCO) in South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

M&S operates the plantation under an IFMA, which is authorized by the DENR.

"For indigenous people, land is life. For 28 years, we have not been able to farm and make a living because of the plantation. This is unfair, unjust, and undemocratic," TAMASCO chair Dande Danyan said.

The IFMA expired in 2016, but was renewed by the DENR by integrating it into another approved IFMA given to M&S without consent of the IP group.

The groups claimed that this was a violation of the Indigenous People's Rights Act, which requires that any activity in an ancestral domain must seek the consent of the IP from a certain domain.

"The merger of the two IFMAs awarded to M&S by the DENR is a gross violation of the free, prior, and informed consent of the indigenous people as provided for in the law," TAMASCO legal counsel Pochoy Labog said.

"The merger was a sleight of hand that skirted the expiration of the agreement to favor a big company over a marginalized indigenous people. The DENR must immediately cancel this dubious permit and end the continuing violation of M&S," he said.

The Dawang coffee plantation used to be a part of the logging concession of the Sarmiento Industries covering the towns of Kalamasig, Bagumbayan, Isulan, Palimbang, all in Sultan Kudarat, and in the municipality of Maitum, Sarangani.

The logging concession was then covered by the industrial tree plantation lease agreement (ITPLA) until June 1991.

A year later, the ITPLA was converted into IFMA and awarded to the Consunji company.



Angat Dam's water elevation rises above critical

By **RAMON EFREN LAZARO**

MALOLOS – The elevation at Angat Dam's water reservoir rose above its 160-meter critical level yesterday.

Monitoring by the Bulacan provincial government showed that the dam's water level was at 160.34 meters yesterday morning, an increase of 0.43 meter when compared to Monday's 159.91 meters.

However, this is still 19.66 meters below the 180-meter minimum operating water level where the irrigation supply allocation to nearby provinces

can resume.

Josephine Salazar, regional director for Central Luzon of the National Irrigation Administration, had said that Angat Dam officials usually release the allocation when water elevation is above 180 meters.

To help solve the recurring problem of water shortage, Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez has suggested the creation of mini dams in the provinces near Metro Manila.

"It is ironic that Metro Manila is submerged in flood waters even at the slightest

downpour, yet households do not have a steady supply of water from their faucets," he said.

Aside from the mini dams, Romualdez said the 18th Congress could help the national government through a bill that will create a "central authority on water resource management" that will be called the Department of Water.

He said he got the Department of Water idea from Rep. Gavini 'Apol' Pancho whose Bulacan home province is always affected by floodwaters, with several towns remain

submerged for weeks every rainy season.

"I fully subscribe to the proposal of Cong. Apol. Since the creation of Department of Water is a priority of President Duterte, I will ask other leaders of Congress to include the mini-dam concept in the legislative measure," Romualdez said.

"The mean annual rainfall of the Philippines varies from 965 to 4,064 millimeters. It is time that we study the possibility of rainwater harvesting as a source of drinking water for our cities and municipalities,"

he added.

Pancho explained that the construction of mini-dams in nearby provinces would not only help address the regular water supply problem but also partly solve the yearly flooding problem in Metro Manila.

"Recently, the heavy downpour submerged several areas of Bulacan and parts of Metro Manila yet the water level in Angat Dam rose only by a meter. If we can

collect the rainwater in small dams, then we may have a steady supply of water even for agricultural, commercial and industrial use," Pancho said.

– **With Delon Porcalla, Helen Flores**



Angat water level up to 159.85m

BY VICTOR REYES

WATER level at Angat Dam continued to rise, boosted by the rains brought by the southwest monsoon.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) reported that as of 6 a.m. yesterday, Angat's water level was at 160.29 meters, up by .44 meter from last Monday's mark of 159.85 meters, but still way below the dam's normal operating level of 180 meters.

The dam's water level initially rose by 1.21 meters last Sunday and by .68 meters last Monday.

Before that, Angat's water level had steadily dipped the past months, forcing authorities to implement rotational water interruptions.

PAGASA also reported that tropical depression "Egay" has dissipated a day after weakening

See ANGAT ► Page B5

• FROM PAGE B1 •

ANGAT

into a low pressure area.

Weather specialist Meno Mendoza said PAGASA is currently not monitoring any weather disturbance inside the Philippine Area of Responsibility.

"But the southwest monsoon will continue to affect a large part of Luzon, so we will continue to experience rains," Mendoza said.

The agency said Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Mindoro provinces and Palawan will experience monsoon rains while Metro Manila, Western Visayas, and the rest of Luzon will have cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms.

Mindanao and the rest of Visayas will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers due to localized thunderstorms.



Angat Dam rises above critical level

THE water level at Angat Dam rose above the critical level on Tuesday, thanks to the strong rains that recently lashed Luzon.

As of 6 a.m. on Tuesday, the reservoir's level was 160.29 meters, higher than the critical level of 160 meters.

The dam's level on Monday was 159.85 meters.

However, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) said it would not increase the water allocation for the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System, which releases supply for water concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water.

The dam's declining level prompted regulators to reduce the allocation for Metro Manila to 3.1 billion liters per day from 4 billion liters per day.

"Sa ngayon po, sa tingin natin mananatili muna ang kasalukuyang alokasyon na ibinibigay natin po para sa water supply sa Metro Manila sa kadahilang hindi pa naman ho ganoon kataas ang level n'ya (We

have to maintain the current allocation because the dam's level has not risen that much)," NWRB Executive Director Seville David Jr. Said in a radio interview.

Metro Manila and some areas in Luzon have been waterlogged for days because of the downpours spawned by tropical depression "Egay" and the southwest monsoon.

Although Egay has dissipated, monsoon rains were expected in Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Mindoro and Palawan, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration. Cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms are expected in Metro Manila, Western Visayas and the rest of Luzon.

Meanwhile, localized thunderstorms will bring partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers in Mindanao and the rest of Visayas.

DIVINA NOVA JOY DELA CRUZ



Tumaas na ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat dam

Dulot ng mga pag-uulan na nararanasan sa Luzon dala ng bagyong Egay at habagat ay tumaas na ng bahagya ang water level sa Angat dam sa Bulacan.

Sa ulat ng PAGASA dam monitoring division na kahapon alas-6:00 ng umaga ay nakapagtala ang dam ng 160.29 meters ng water level na mas mataas ng 44 meters mula sa 159.85 meters na water level ng dam noong Lunes.

Tumaas din ang water level sa La Mesa dam sa Lagro Quezon City na nakapagtala kahapon ng 72.23 meters ng water level na mataas ng 47 meters mula sa 71.76 meters ng water level noong Lunes.

Patuloy naman ang pagbaba ng water level sa ibang dam sa bansa dahil hindi nakakaranas ng pag-uulan sa kinaroroonan ng Ambuklao dam sa Baguio, Pantabangan dam sa Pampanga, San Roque dam sa Dagupan at Ipo dam sa Norzagaray Bulacan.

-Angie dela Cruz-



Tubig sa Angat dam umangat

MULING umangat ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat dam at kahapon ng umaga ay wala na ito sa critical level.

Ayon sa datos ng Philippine Atmospheric

Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat kahapon ng umaga ay 160.29 metro, tumaas ng 0.44

metro mula sa 159.85 metro noong Lunes ng umaga.

Pero malayo pa ito sa normal minimum operating level ng Angat na 180 metro kaya kulang pa rin ang isinusuplay na tubig nito para sa Metro Manila. Ang normal high water level ng Angat at 210 metro.

Tumaas din ang lebel ng tubig sa La Mesa dam ng 0.47 metro o mula 71.76 metro ay umakyat ito sa 72.23 metro.

Ang critical level nito ay 69 metro at ang normal water level ay 80 metro. —*Leifbilly Begas*



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

03 JUL 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Water level sa Angat Dam tumaas na

Tumaas na ng bahagya ang water level sa Angat Dam sa Bulacan dulot ng mga pag-uulan na naranasan sa Luzon dala ng bagyong Egay at habagat.

Sa ulat ng PAGASA dam monitoring division, nakapagtala ang Angat ng 160.29 meters ng water level na mas mataas ng 44 meters mula sa 159.85 noong Lunes.

Tumaas din ang water level sa La Mesa dam sa Lagro, Quezon City na nakapagtala kahapon ng 72.23 meters mula sa 71.76 noong Lunes.

Ang Angat dam ang nagsusuplay ng 90 percent ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Patuloy naman ang pagbaba ng water level sa Ambuklao dam sa Baguio, Pantabangan sa Pampanga, San Roque sa Dagupan at Ipo sa Norzagaray, Bulacan.
(Angie dela Cruz)



BAHAGYANG TUMATAAS ANG LABEL NG TUBIG SA ANGAT DAM

NOONG nakaraang buwan ng Mayo at Hunyo, patuloy ang pagbaba ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam kaya kinakailangan ipatupad ang 'rotational water service interruptions' upang matiyak na magkakaroon ng suplay ng tubig, kahit na sa loob ng ilang oras araw-araw.

Nagpatawag ng press conference ang National Water Resources Board (NWRB) at Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) dahil kinakailangan ang maigting na paghahanda ng water concessionaires, Maynilad Water at Manila Water lalo na kapag humina na ang suplay ng tubig na mula sa mga water concessionaires sa mga susunod na linggo.

Inaasahan naman ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) na mas maraming ulan ang bubuhos sa buong bansa sa pagsapit ng buwan ng Agosto.

Noong ika-22 ng Hunyo, ipinatupad ng NWRB ang karagdagang pagbabawas sa alokasyon sa MWSS, mula sa 40 metro kubiko bawat segundo, ibaba na sa 36 cms.

Tumaas man nang bahagya ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam, mananatili pa rin sa 36cms ang alokasyon ng NWRB sa MWSS.

Ayon kay Dr. Seville David, Jr. Executive Director ng NWRB, ang lebel ng tubig as of July 2, 6am ay



ANG INYONG LINGKOD

DR. HILDA C. ONG

nasa 160.29, bahagyang tumaas at kung patuloy ang pagbuhos ng malakas na ulan sa may paligid ng Angat Dam, tataas muli ang lebel ng tubig mula sa 160 kritikal lebel hanggang sa umabot muli sa 212 normal high water level (NHWL).

Panawagan ni David sa mga water concessionaire na nagsisilbi sa NCR, tipid-tipid pa rin sa tubig dahil kahit halos araw-araw nang umuulan ay hindi pa rin sapat ang taas ng tubig sa Angat Dam. Dapat maging handa ang publiko, partikular ang mga nakatira sa mabababang lugar, dahil nasa critical level ang Angat Dam,

Makiisa sa pagsulong ng

NWRB sa pagtitipid sa tubig, upang maayos na mapangasiwaan ang interes ng publiko sa maaaring danasin ng bawa't isa, kapag nagkaroon ng kakulangan sa tubig, dahil yan sa kawalan ng disiplina.

Sana mas madalas ang pag-ulan ngayong buwan ng Hulyo hanggang Agosto sa may Norzagaray, Bulacan dahil kung madalas at malalakas ang pag-ulan, tataas ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam hanggang sa malapansan ang 212 NHWL, may sapat na tubig tayong magagamit.

Maging responsableng sa paggamit ng tubig sa halip na mag-ipon ng tubig.



Angat, wala na sa critical level

Dahil sa pag-uulan, umangat nang bahagya sa 160-metrong critical level, o ng 0.44 metro ang tubig sa Angat Dam sa Bulacan kahapon, mula sa 159.85 metro nitong Lunes.

Gayunman, nagmo-monitor pa ang National Water Resources Board bago dagdagan ang supply sa Metro Manila, na nasa 36 cms pa rin.

Samantala, humina na ang bagyong 'Egay', pero magpapaulan pa rin ang habagat sa ilang bahagi ng Luzon ngayong Miyerkules.

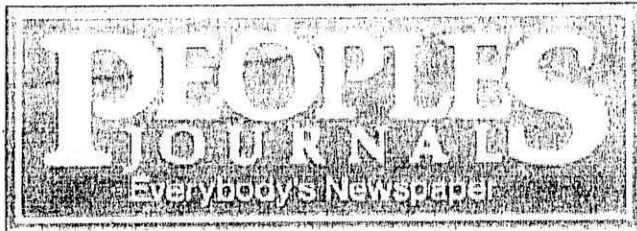
Ayon kay PAGASA weather specialist Meno Mendoza, uulanin pa rin ang Zambales, Bataan, Occidental Mindoro, at hilagang bahagi ng Palawan.

Suspendido naman kahapon ang klase sa lahat ng antas sa Bocaue, Marilao, Baliwag, Paombong, Balagtas, Hagonoy, at Meycauayan sa Bulacan.

Ellalyn Ruiz at Freddie C. Velez



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

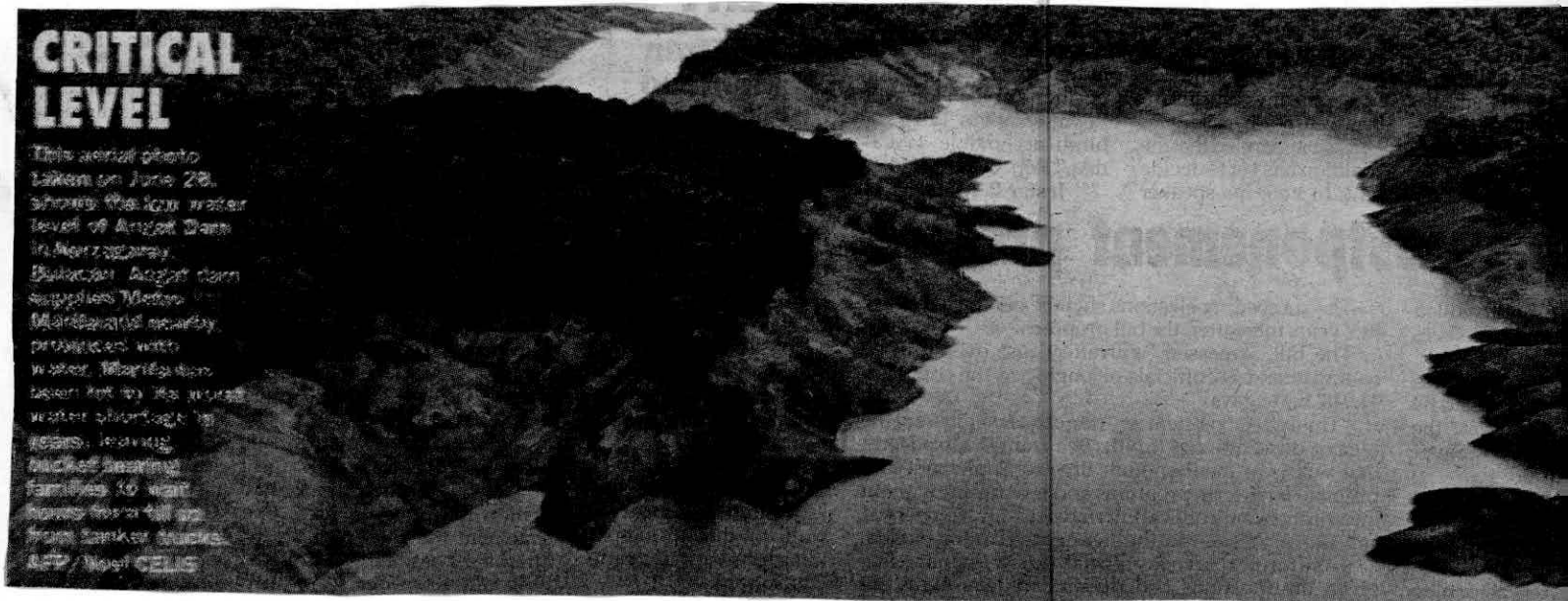
CARTOON

03 JUL 2019

DATE

CRITICAL LEVEL

This aerial photo taken on June 28, shows the low water level of Angat Dam in Marikina. Damaged Angat dam supplies Metro Manila with water. Marikina has been hit by the recent water shortage in 2008, leaving hundreds of families to wait hours for a fill up from tanker trucks.
AP/Wide World





Congress to prioritize passage of bill creating new water department

By JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ [@joveemarie](#)

THE 13th Congress will prioritize the passage of the proposed Department of Water to address the country's problem on water shortage, a lawmaker said on Tuesday.

Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez said the creation of a new department will include the construction of mini dams.

He said the passage of the measure creating a Department of Water is a long-term solution to the water shortage.

According to Romualdez, the construction of mini dams was proposed by Bulacan Rep. Gavini Pancho at the sidelines of Monday's pre-Sona economic and infrastructure forum at the Philippine International Convention Center Reception Hall in Pasay City.

"Since the creation of Department of Water is a priority of President Duterte, I will ask other leaders of Congress to include the mini dam concept in the legislative measure," said Romualdez in a news statement.

Romualdez also said the country's economic managers have long been pushing for the creation of a central authority on water resource management, which will become the Department of Water.

"This is expected to address the suboptimal use and poor management of the country's water resources, the result of fragmented regulation of water supply and usage," he said.

Currently, Romualdez said there are now at least 32 agencies involved in the management of the country's water resources.

"This structure gave rise to issues on coordination of plans for projects and programs in the sector, as well as limitations in the development of new water sources in several areas," he added.

Romualdez said the proposed water agency should prioritize the creation of sustainable water supply from various sources, including rainwater from local catchment or mini dams.

"It is ironic that Metro Manila is submerged in floodwaters even at the slightest downpour, yet households do not have a steady supply of water from their faucets," he added.

"The mean annual rainfall of the Philippines varies from 965 to 4,064 millimeters annually. It is time that we study the possibility of rainwater harvesting as a source of drinking water for our cities and municipalities," he said.

For his part, Pancho said the construction of mini dams will not only help address the water supply problem but also solve the flooding problem besetting Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

He said constructing mini dams is not too costly for the government since the project only involves stages of walling of existing infrastructure and levelling and deepening of riverbed.



Romualdez floats two-step move to solve water problem

By Maricel V. Cruz

LEYTE'S 1st District Rep. Martin Romualdez on Tuesday called for the construction of mini-dams to be used in harvesting rainwater as well as the creation of a central authority tasked with water resources management to solve the perennial supply lack of potable water in Metro Manila and other urban areas.

Romualdez said the central authority, to be called Department of Water, would prioritize the creation of sustainable water supply from various sources including rainwater from local catchment basins or mini-dams.

In a related development:

- The Manila Water Company Inc. said it was able to boost its supply for the benefit of its more than 6 million customers in the East Zone concession area by tapping other sources.

An additional source Manila Water has

tapped is the Cardona Water Treatment Plant, which draws raw water from Laguna Lake and now produces 61 million liters per day, said Jeric Sevilla, the concessionaire's head of communications.

The company said it was compelled to tap other sources of water since the National Water Resources Board had reduced the allocation to concessionaires of regulator Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System from Angat Dam.

The treatment plant was able to distribute only 24 mld during its initial stages of operations last March. This means the plant now produces more than 150 percent more water.

At full capacity, the plant can distribute potable water to around 800,000 people.

Romualdez lamented that while many areas in Metro Manila get flooded at the slightest rain, the taps in thousands of households in the metropolis go dry when the dry season comes. *Next page*

Romualdez...

From A1

"It is ironic that Metro Manila is submerged in flood waters even at the slightest downpour, yet households do not have a steady supply of water from their faucets," added Romualdez, president of the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (CMD).

"The mean annual rainfall of the Philippines varies from 965 to 4,064 millimeters annually. It is time that we study the possibility of rainwater harvesting as a source of drinking water for our cities and municipalities," Romualdez said.

Bulacan Rep. Gavini Pancho told Romualdez about the possibility of building mini-dams at the sidelines of Monday's pre-State of the Nation Address economic and infrastructure forum at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

"I fully subscribe to the proposal of Congressman Apol. Since the creation of Department of Water is a priority of President Duterte, I will ask other leaders of Congress to include the mini-dam concept in the legislative measure," said Romualdez, a lawyer and president of the Philippine Constitution Association (Philconsa).

Pancho said the construction of mini-dams will not only help address the water supply problem but also solve the flooding problem in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

"Just this Monday, the heavy downpour submerged several areas of Bulacan and parts of Metro Manila yet water level in Angat Dam rose only by a meter. If we can collect those rainwater in small-dams, then we may have a steady supply of water even for agricultural, commercial and industrial use," Pancho said.

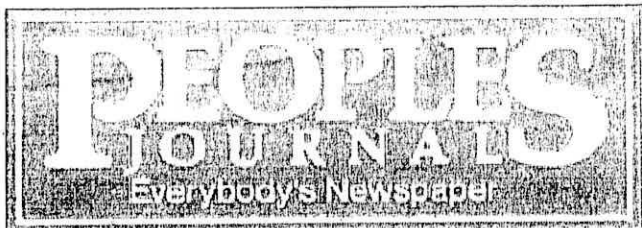
He added building mini-dams is not too expensive since the project only involves stages of walling of existing infrastructure and levelling and deepening of riverbeds.

"It is not going to be too expensive because of the existing infrastructures in place. What is needed is walling to be done in stages," said Pancho.

"What is important is to put rainwater to productive use and not just allow to go to waste and cause floods," he added.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER
 PAGE 1
STORY
 BANNER
STORY
 EDITORIAL
 CARTOON

03 JUL 2019

DATE

DEPT' OF WATER PROPOSAL BACKED

By Jester P. Manalastas

LEYTE Rep. Martin Romualdez has joined the call for the creation of a Department of Water.

Rep. Romualdez, one of the contenders for the speakership, underscored the need to have a central authority on water resource management.

The main objective of the Department of Water is to address the problem of drinking water supply in Metro Manila and other urban areas.

In his proposal, the Department of Water should prioritize the creation of sustainable water supply from various sources including rainwater from local catchment or mini-dams.

"It is ironic that Metro Manila is submerged in flood waters even at the slightest downpour, yet households do not have a steady supply of water from their faucets," Romualdez, president of the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (CMD), said.

"The mean annual rainfall of the Philippines varies from 965 to 4,064 millimeters annually. It is time that we study the possibility of rainwater harvesting as a source of drinking water for our cities and municipalities," he added.

Meanwhile, the idea of constructing mini-dams was proposed to Romualdez by Bulacan Rep. Gavini "Apol" Pancho on the sidelines of Monday's pre-SONA economic and infrastructure forum at the reception hall of the PICC Reception Hall in Pasay City.

"I fully subscribe to the proposal of Cong. Apol. Since the creation of Department of Water is a priority of President Duterte, I will ask other leaders of Congress to include the mini-dam concept in the legislative measure," Romualdez, a lawyer and president of the Philippine Constitution Association (Philconsa), said.

Pancho said the construction of mini-dams will not only help address water shortage but also solve the flooding problem in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

"Just this Monday, the heavy downpour submerged several areas of Bulacan and parts of Metro Manila yet water level in Angat Dam rose only by a meter. If we can collect rainwater in small dams, then we may have a steady supply of water even for agricultural, commercial and industrial use," Pancho explained.

The Bulacan solon noted that constructing mini-dams is not too costly for government since the project only involves stages of walling of existing infrastructure and leveling and deepening of riverbed.

Romualdez cited the experience of Singapore where rainwater is collected through a comprehensive network of drains, canals and rivers and channeled to the reservoirs before it is treated for drinking water.

This makes Singapore, he said, one of the few countries in the world to harvest urban storm water on a large scale for potable consumption.



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

03 JUL 2019

Useless

ELSEWHERE I have proposed that more problems could be addressed successfully by abolishing, instead of creating more, government agencies. I also mentioned that the government of the future—emphasis on the future—could allow the people themselves to make collective decisions, bypassing elective officials who supposedly represent them. This in effect makes Congress, among other institutional contraptions, redundant, and therefore better off abolished.

Even now, the need for trimming government is obvious. Examples:

– Reports about members of the House of Representatives suggesting that their choice for Speaker will be prompted by President Rodrigo Duterte's body language mean, in my opinion, that they do not have a gut of their own. A visceral extension of presidential clout, Congress — like an appendix whose usefulness medical science has yet to determine — is a costly prop, an embarrassment which the democratic ideal would wish excised.

– The separate court cases of Jinggoy Estrada and Junjun Binay have been on trial for ages. But the judges ruled on them only after the voters dashed their lingering hope for a lift in their political careers. Public workers like these judges are freeloaders; they thrive in a culture that free-rides on private initiative and community action.

– The poor often do not need help to survive. In the countryside, they break their backs raising crops, putting in long hours of work in farmlands which may not belong to them but to landlords. In urban areas, the better-off workers get by on rock-bottom wages; the worse off informal settlers eke out a daily living from the dump, some of them building homes under bridges. In coastal towns, fishermen brave stormy days and nights to provide for their families. All the poor need from government is a fair enforcement of laws where farmers are freed from price manipulations



**INGMING
ABERIA**

conspired by traders, where the urban poor are protected from unjust evictions and human rights breaches, and where the fisherfolk are allowed to freely fish within a territory owned by a sovereign of which they are constituents, without being threatened with physical harm by foreign aggressors. If the government cannot provide them that minimum amount of fairness, what use do the poor have for government?

In many cases government has wasted so much resources at its disposal that could have prevented it from spending more for current and future needs, such as creating government agencies or investing in weaponry. Lack of institutional memory and knowledge management in government compounds its tenacious ills, topped by corruption, which keeps it from re-

sponding to problems in a timely, effective and efficient manner.

The proposal to create a Department of Water Services, for example, highlights the current effort to recover lost opportunities. The conditions in 1995 when the National Water Crisis Act was passed have remained as dire as they were, yet the law aimed precisely at preventing the occurrence of the water crises that we are experiencing today. Tons upon tons of researches have been conducted to support related aims. Other laws obviously need revisiting, such as the Water Code of 1976. The Rainwater Harvesting Act of 1989 prescribed a three-year water-for-every-*barangay* program, but we know nothing of feel-good stories that came out of it.

One of the key findings from water-related studies — and which people sometimes either ignore or forget — is that dams

that feed irrigation systems and water supply systems, costing billions of pesos, are only as good as the watershed that supports them, which often costs nothing. But greed destroys the ecosystem and fixing watersheds is costly; it reconfigures the value attribution of resource bases, as taxpayers eventually pay for the rehabilitation of watersheds that have been destroyed by commercial loggers and miners, and who recently have been joined in by real estate developers. It is probably more than coincidental that election funders of consequence usually come from their ranks.

Farther afield and stepping back in time, then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile did not only rape the forests of Samar, he also converted the military under his control into a private army, terrorizing the local folks who resisted the unmolested destruction of forested areas in the island by the San Jose Timber Corp., which he owned.

On another point, the Werfast gun licensing case involving former Philippine National Police Director General Alan Purisima shows why corruption gets in the way of modernizing the police and, in a similar situation, the military. Stated differently, our military build-up could have been started years ago as part of a long-term strategy, except that our leaders had been too busy making money, some of them going to the extent of selling ordnance to rebel groups.

Too many misses, either by design or neglect, which kept us from achieving common goals leave us exasperated, wondering how long we can wait for something really good and lasting to come out of government.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS
INQUIRER

A9
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 JUL 2019

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/

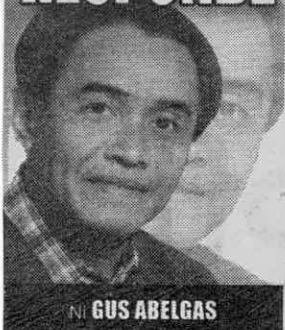
DATE _____

QC officials eye ban on single-use plastics

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte and Vice Mayor Gian Sotto are eyeing a ban on single-use plastics as the first law to be passed under their administration. "Single-use plastic straws take 500 years to decompose in a landfill, so we should shift to paper or metal straws," Belmonte said on Monday. Other proposals that were being eyed included practicing proper waste disposal and segregation, reducing dependence on cars powered by fossil fuels, and engaging in urban farming in school backyards without the use of chemical fertilizers. "These simple things can help the future generation which hopefully won't experience drastic weather changes like what we have now," Belmonte said. —MARIEJO S. RAMOS



RESPONDE



NI **GUS ABELGAS**

Basura talamak, pagbaha mataas

NGAYONG randam na talaga ang panahon ng tag-ulan ay siguradong ang problema naman sa mga pagbabaha ang haharaping kalbaryo ng marami naming mga kababayan.

Kung ang mga pagbaha sa Metro Manila ang pag-uusapan, naku po mukhang malayo pa itong masolusyunan. Aminado ang MMDA sa ngayon imposible pa tong tuluyang matugunan.

Bagama't napakahaba ng mga estero ayon sa MMDA na sa sukat ay mula Manila hanggang Baguio back and forth halos kalahati umano rito eh hindi nagagamit.

Alam na marahil ninyo ang dahilan, barado at barado sa basura ang mga daluyan ng tubig. Ito ay dahil na rin sa kawalan ng disiplina ng sabihin na nating marami nating mga kababayan.

Panay ang reklamo sa baha, pero sila naman ang dahilan nang pagbabaha. Walang pakundangang pagtatapon ng basura sa mga waterways at kung saan-saan, 'yan ang talagang malaking dahilan kaya may problema sa pagbaha.

Sa panig naman ng mga nasa pamahalaan, dapat din naman ay may regular silang ginagawang paglilinis sa mga drainage, estero at mga daluyan ng tubig, hindi yung kung kailan lang tag-ulan at bumaha saka doon aaksyon at maglilinis.

(Sundan sa page 5)

Dapat tungkulin yan ng nasa barangay level na matyagan ang kanilang mga nasasakupang lugar.

Marami rin kasing opisyal sa barangay ang walang pakialam ni hin-

di lumalabas ng kanilang opisina at hindi nakikita kung ano ang problema ng kanilang mga constituents.

Ang problema ay madaaling solusyunan kung maaga pa lang ay naaaksiyunan.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



03 JUL 2019

DATE



PUSONG PANALO

ni Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

(Pagpapatuloy)
SA MGA supermarket at mga department store, kadalasan ay tinatanong ng mga bagger ang mga kostumer kung sila ay may dalang sariling eco bag. Kung ang kostumer ay walang dalang sariling bag, maaari pa rin siyang makabili ng mga plastic bag. 'Di tulad

sa ibang lugar katulad ng Kenya na ipinagbabawal na nang ganap ang mga plastic bag, dito, maaari pa ring makabili sa murang halaga. Kaya patuloy ang pagtatapon ng mga plastik sa mga karagatan, ilog, kanal at patuloy ang panganib sa ating planeta at mga nabubuhay rito.

Naniniwala akong kinakailangang magpatupad ang pamahalaan ng mas malakas at malinaw na mga regulasyon tungkol sa paggamit ng plastik. Kailangang matukoy rin ang responsibilidad ng mga korporasyon at negosyo, pati na ng mga indibidwal, organisasyon, at komunidad. Makatutulong din kung mayroong malinaw na plano kaugnay ng pagbawas ng produksiyon ng mga produktong gawa sa plastik, at kung

ANG PROBLEMA SA PLASTIK

ano-ano ang mga praktikal na alternatibo para sa mga ito.

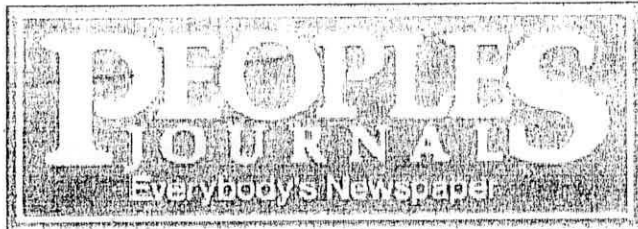
Dagdag pa rito, siguro ay kailangang huwag masyadong tumutok ang lahat sa plastic straw. Hindi ako sigurado kung ilang porsiyento ng basurang plastik ang straw ngunit alam kong marami pang ibang produktong plastik at basurang plastik ang dapat din nating pagtuunan ng pansin.

Posible nga na ang mga batas, polisiya, at regulasyon ay maaaring

maimpluwensiyahan ng mga kapitalista at may-ari ng malalaking negosyo. Hangad kong maintindihan ng mga kapitalistang ito na kung hindi gagawing prayoridad ang pangangalaga sa kapaligiran, darating ang panahon na mas makasasama ito sa kanilang puhunan at negosyo. At hindi lamang apektado ang kanilang negosyo kundi pati na rin ang kanilang pamilya, ari-arian, mga mahal sa buhay at mga anak.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



3
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 JUL 2019

DATE

Canadian envoy sees better PH-Canada ties

"OUR relations are good and are only going to get better," Canadian Ambassador to Manila John Holmes said during the 152nd Canada Day in Makati City on Monday night.

"The final resolution of this problem, never mind how long it took, came about through tremendous cooperation between the government of the Philippines, the Embassy, and the officials in Canada," he said in a speech at a reception hosted by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

"We got the job done and my message coming out of that issue is that if our two countries can continue to work collaboratively as we did in resolving this matter, imagine what we can do to enhance our trade, our investment, our people-to-people context. The opportunities are limitless and we really want to build on that," he stressed.

The Canadian government is "delighted" with the statement from the Palace affirming that Ottawa and Manila's relations are "cordial" and back to normal.

Holmes revealed the Philippines and Canada are seeking to further boost ties in agriculture, transportation, and information and communications technology.

"These are the areas we are very interested and I think a lot of scope for partnerships in that," Holmes said. From 2013 to 2014, Canadian company Chronic Inc. exported containers labeled as recyclable plastics to two importers in the Philippines. The shipment however was found to contain a mixture of plastics, metals, and paper, as well as household wastes and diapers.

In 2016, courts in the Philippines ordered the importers to ship the containers back to Canada at their expense but the importers failed to comply with the court order.

After this issue, Canada in 2016 amended its Export and Import of Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Recyclable Material Regulations.

According to Environment and Climate Change Canada, the amendments now apply to waste that is controlled or prohibited in the country of import.

Cristina Lee-Pisco



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENTIAL OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
 SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN
 THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

4
 PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
 STORY

BANNER
 STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 JUL 2019

DATE

Roni Santiago
 SKP
 MANILA BULLETIN
 JULY 3, 2019



Garbage row with Canada over

SIXTY-NINE containers of garbage which a Canadian company exported to the Philippines in 2013 and 2014 are now back in Canada, ending a diplomatic row between Canada and the Philippines.

The shipment had been mislabeled as recyclable plastics when it was sent to the Philippines. It actually contained household wastes, including diapers and kitchen trash, electronics, paper, and plastics. The containers of Canadian trash were stored in Philippine ports for 16 years, with some finding their way to a landfill in Tarlac.

For years, no company or government office would assume responsibility for the Canadian garbage, until President Duterte took it upon himself to act on the problem. He threatened to declare war on Canada unless it got back the garbage that had been exported by a Canadian company. The Canadian government took it upon itself to act on the problem and had the garbage shipped back at its own expense.

The garbage issue led to our discovery that many industrial countries, notably the United States, Japan, Britain, and Germany had long been dumping their garbage by exporting it to China and other countries in Asia, including Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

The idea of using these countries as dumping grounds for garbage stirred national protests. The finding that much of the garbage was composed of plastics that is non-biodegradable and is bound to pollute the environment for hundreds of years led to a worldwide movement against the mounting

danger of plastic pollution in the world's oceans.

The campaign against plastic pollution is now well underway, with many nations pioneering in devising ways to recycle plastics into construction materials for roads and buildings. We have a factory in Las Piñas recycling soft plastics such as food wrappers into chairs that are then donated to public schools.

The ultimate solution to non-biodegradable plastics would be research to find means to make plastics just like wood, leather, cloth, and paper, so they would decompose at the end of their useful days. Researchers at the University of the Philippines Baguio have reportedly discovered strains of bacteria found in Zambales capable of biodegrading some plastics.

Our diplomatic scrap with Canada is over with the return of the 69 container vans of garbage which will now be incinerated in a waste-to-energy facility in Vancouver. Many other countries have now also taken steps to stop the old practice of shipping garbage to other countries. China, which had long been receiving the bulk of scrap plastics from around the world, decided last year to close its doors to all foreign refuse. Since 2015, Canada has amended its regulations so it no longer allows the practice of exporting plastics and other trash.

It has been an acrimonious situation all around, but it has ended well, not just in our relations with Canada but also in efforts around the world to step up research and recycling to end the worldwide danger that plastics have come to pose for the entire world.



EDITORIAL

Garbage row with Canada over

SIXTY-nine containers of garbage which a Canadian company exported to the Philippines in 2013 and 2014 are now back in Canada, ending a diplomatic row between Canada and the Philippines.

The shipment had been mislabeled as recyclable plastics when it was sent to the Philippines. It actually contained household wastes, including diapers and kitchen trash, electronics, paper, and plastics. The containers of Canadian trash were stored in Philippine ports for 16 years, with some finding their way to a landfill in Tarlac.

For years, no company or government office would assume responsibility for the Canadian garbage, until President Duterte took it upon himself to act on the problem. He threatened to declare war on Canada unless it got back the garbage that had been exported by a Canadian company. The Canadian government took it upon itself to act on the problem and had the garbage shipped back at its own expense.

The garbage issue led to our discovery that many industrial countries, notably the United States, Japan, Britain, and Germany had long been dumping their garbage by exporting it to China and other countries in Asia, including Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

The idea of using these countries as dumping grounds for garbage stirred national protests. The finding that much of the garbage was composed of plastics that is non-biodegradable and is bound to pollute the environment for hundreds of years led to a worldwide movement against the mounting danger of plastic pollution in the world's oceans.

The campaign against plastic pollution is now well underway, with many nations pioneering in devising ways to recycle plastics into construction materials for roads and buildings. We have a factory in Las Piñas recycling soft plastics such as food wrappers into chairs that are then donated to public schools.

The ultimate solution to non-biodegradable plastics would be research to find means to make plastics just like wood, leather, cloth, and paper, so they would decompose at the end of their useful days. Researchers at the University of the Philippines Baguio have reportedly discovered strains of bacteria found in Zambales capable of biodegrading some plastics.

Our diplomatic scrap with Canada is over with the return of the 69 container vans of garbage which will now be incinerated in a waste-to-energy facility in Vancouver. Many other countries have now also taken steps to stop the old practice of shipping garbage to other countries. China, which had long been receiving the bulk of scrap plastics from around the world, decided last year to close its doors to all foreign refuse. Since 2015, Canada has amended its regulations so it no longer allows the practice of exporting plastics and other trash.

It has been an acrimonious situation all around, but it has ended well, not just in our relations with Canada but also in efforts around the world to step up research and recycling to end the worldwide danger that plastics have come to pose for the entire world.



EDITORIAL

Tapos na ang problema sa basura ng Canada

NAKAUWI na sa Canada ang animnapu't siyam na container ng basura na dinala ng isang kumpanya ng Canada sa Pilipinas noong 2013 at 2014, hudyat ng pagtatapos ng diplomatikong sigalot sa pagitan ng Canada at Pilipinas.

Idineklarang recyclable plastics ang kargamento nang dalhin ito sa Pilipinas. Ngunit naglalaman pala ito ng halo-halong mga basura tulad ng mga diaper, electronics, papel at mga plastics. Nananatili sa pantalan ng Pilipinas ang mga basura ng Canada sa loob ng 16 na taon, kung saan ang ilan ay napadpad sa landfill sa Tarlac.

Sa mga nakalipas na taon, walang kompanya o opisina ng gobyerno ang umako sa responsibilidad para sa mga basura ng Canada, hanggang sa mismong si Pangulong Duterte na ang umaksiyon sa problema. Nagbanta siyang magdedeklara ng digmaan laban sa Canada kung hindi maibabalik ang basura na dinala sa bansa ng isang Canadian company. Tuffugon naman dito ang gobyerno ng Canada at iniuwi ang basura sa kanilang bansa.

Ang isyung ito sa basura ang nagbigay sa pagkakatuklub na maraming industriyal na bansa, lalo na ang Estados Unidos, Japan, Britanya, at Germany ang matagal nang nagtatapon ng kanilang mga basura sa pamamagitan ng pagdadala ng mga ito sa China at iba pang bansa sa Asya, kabilang ang Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, at Pilipinas.

Ang ideya na gamitin ang mga bansang ito bilang tambakan ng kanilang mga basura ay lumikha ng pambansang protesta. Ang pagkakatuklub na karamihan sa mga basura ay binubuo ng mga plastic na hindi nabubulok at magdudulot ng polusyon sa kalikasan sa susunod na daang taon, ay nagdulot ng pandaigdigang hakbang laban sa lumalagong panganib ng polusyon sa plastic sa mga karagatan ng mundo.

Maayos nang umuusad ang kampanya laban sa polusyon sa plastic, kung saan maraming bansa ang nangunguna sa paglikha ng mga paraan upang magamit muli ang plastic bilang materyales sa konstruksiyon para sa mga kalsada at mga gusali. Mayroon tayong pabrika sa Las Pinas na nagre-recycle ng mga soft plastic tulad ng mga food wrappers bilang materyales sa pagbuo ng mga upuan na ibinibigay naman sa mga pampublikong paaralan.

Ang pinakamainam na solusyon sa hindi nabubulok na plastic ay pananaliksik upang humanap ng paraan upang itulad ang plastic sa mga kahoy, leather, tela at papel, na nabubulok kapag tapos nang gamitin. Napaulat na rin ang pagkakatuklub ng mga mananaliksik ng University of the Philippines Baguio sa strains ng bacteria na natagpuan sa Zambales na kayang tumunaw ng ilang uri ng plastic.

Tapos na ang ating diplomatikong sigalot sa Canada sa pagbabalik ng 69 container van ng basura na ngayon ay dadalhin sa isang waste-to-energy facility sa Vancouver. Marami na ring ibang bansa ang nagsimula nang humakbang upang ihinto ang nakagawiang pagluluwas ng mga basura sa ibang mga bansa. Matagal nang tumatanggap ang China ng mga basurang plastic mula sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo ngunit nagdesisyon ito noong nakaraang taon na isara na ang pintuan para sa mga basura ng mga dayuhan. Mula noong 2015, inamyendahan naman ng Canada ang regulasyon nito upang hindi na nito payagan ang pagluluwas ng mga plastic at iba pang basura.

Isa itong mapait na sitwasyon, ngunit ngayon ay nawakasan na, hindi lamang para sa ating ugnayan sa Canada ngunit gayundin sa pagsisikap ng mundo na palakasin ang mga pag-aaral at pagre-recycle upang wakasan ang pandaigdigang panganib na hatid ng plastics sa mundo.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

PILIPINO
FILIPINO MIRROR MEDIA GROUP CORPORATION
MIRROR
- SALAMIN NG KATOTOHANAN -

5
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 JUL 2019

DATE



NAMUMULOT ang mga batang ito ng mga mapakikinabangang basura na dala ng mga alon sa Baseco Beach compound sa Tondo, Manila.
Kuha ni **NORMAN ARAGA**



#nationataglance

CENTRAL VISAYAS: CEBU

New Cebu governor orders halt to all quarrying, provincial engineer's projects, and P1.3B capitol building

ON THE FIRST day of her return to the Capitol on Monday, Cebu Governor Gwendolyn F. Garcia issued directives stopping all quarrying activities, projects under the Provincial Engineer's Office (PEO), and the P1.3 billion Capitol Resource Center project. "It is hereby ordered and enjoined, WT Construction Inc., and any and all persons acting on its behalf, to stop and permanently discontinue any and all activities relative to the construction of the Cebu Resource Center Project," reads the executive order dated June 30 this year. Ms. Garcia said the center, meant to be the flagship project of her predecessor, now Vice Governor Hilario P. Davide III, is allegedly anomalous. The governor also issued a memo to the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, treasurer's office, and Cebu Provincial Police Office directing the stoppage of quarrying activities in the province. "To put a stop to the unabated illegal quarrying activities in the province and to prevent the further degradation of the environment which causes calamities that result in massive destruction of properties and loss of human lives, and in view of my administration's decision to review all Sand and Gravel (SAG) permits issued by



THE FREEMAN/ANBANAYNAL

CEBU Governor Gwendolyn F. Garcia (in white) at the site of the P1.3 billion Capitol Resource Center project.

the province," the memo reads. In a separate memo to the provincial engineer, Ms. Garcia ordered the suspension "of any and all work relative to projects that are undertaken by your department, as well as to serve notice to all concerned contractors of said suspension." The PEO was given 48 hours to submit a detailed report of all its programs and activities, including projects accomplished, continuing, and for implementation. — **The Freeman**



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Manila Standard

B4
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 JUL 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Didipio miner bares new dev't contributions

By Ben Moses Ebreo

KASIBU, Nueva Vizcaya—OceanaGold Philippines Inc. recently revealed their updated contributions to the country's economy and development as they continue their operations in barangay Didipio in this town.

David Way, general manager of the Didipio gold-copper mine, said a large proportion of the revenue they generate in the country is invested right away in their covered communities.

He said these investments cover employment, taxes, social development, agriculture, environment and other support and assistance to the beneficiary barangays.

On employment, OGPI manages 1,500 staff and contractors, spent P2.5 billion for employee wages alone since

2013, and provided 3,000 additional livelihood opportunities through partnerships with cooperatives and social development organizations.

The company also invested P6.8 million on employees' welfare, community and pre-employment trainings, forged partnerships with the Nueva Vizcaya State University, Quirino State University, Isabela State University, Saint Mary's University, Ifugao State University, and University of the Philippines to provide 246 scholarships in the province and neighboring province of Quirino.

It also provided 291 On the Job Training placements at the Didipio mine, trained and employed an additional 104 villagers from Didipio and nearby communities on modern underground mining operation, which will continue

to grow as the operation matures, and spent around P104 million in underground mine training since 2016.

Since 2013, Way said OceanaGold has paid P568 million in local taxes, paid P210.6 million in Real Property Taxes, and paid its increased excise tax since 2018.

The company also invested P1.2 billion in social projects since 2013, spending P595 million for local social development management program projects, and P615 million for other local corporate social responsibility projects.

"We also established the community-owned corporation DiCorp, which has generated P1.5 billion gross revenue for the local community from long term contracts with the Didipio Mine Project and is now providing external services to our operation," Way added.



TITLE:

PAGE 1/



ANTI-MINING PICKET Environmental group Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment stages a picket at the Mines and Geosciences Bureau on Tuesday calling for a cease in the mining operations of Australian-Canadian miner OceanaGold Philippines Inc. (OGPI) in Barangay Didipio, Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya. PHOTO BY RUY L. MARTINEZ



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

03 JUL 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Carpio inhibits from *kalikasan* writ hearing on WPS

By EDU PUNAY

Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio has inhibited from the environmental protection case filed with the Supreme Court (SC) by Zambales and Palawan fishermen aimed at compelling the government to protect marine resources in the West Philippine Sea and stop Chinese environmental depredation in Philippine waters.

Carpio confirmed that he has voluntarily inhibited from the writ of *kalikasan* petition during full court session yesterday.

"There is no compulsory ground to inhibit, but I voluntarily inhibited for the peace of mind of the SolGen (solicitor general)," he explained in a text message.

Solicitor General Jose Calida had sought Carpio's mandatory inhibition in the case, citing alleged "personal bias and manifest partiality," as shown by the senior magistrate's "active participation in the South China Sea (SCS) arbitral proceedings" and his "continuing public pronouncements against the actions taken by the government in relation to the SCS Arbitral Award."

In the writ of *kalikasan* petition, the fishermen seek to compel the government to protect, preserve and rehabilitate the environment at Panatag Shoal, Ayungin Shoal and Panganiban Reef.

His fellow justices accepted his decision, according to SC spokesman Brian Hosaka.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

1
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 JUL 2019
DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/



NEWS

Dirty air from China reaches north PH

Seasonal winds are blowing large volumes of polluted air from China to the Philippines, especially from March to May, and this could affect the health of rural communities at the northwestern tip of the country even though they are quite distant from industrial activities. Scientists say high exposure to the dirty air could cause respiratory, cardiovascular, neurologic damage and possibly cancer. —STORY BY JHESSET O. ENANO

A8



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

A2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 JUL 2019
DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

POLLUTION WITHOUT BORDERS

1/2

STUDY FINDS NORTH LUZON RURAL FOLK BREATHING DIRTY AIR FROM CHINA

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

Seasonal winds are blowing polluted air from China to the Philippines, and this could affect the health of rural communities at the northwestern tip of the country even though they are quite distant from industrial activities, according to a Filipino scientist.

"But what is more alarming is the presence of heavy metals in the samples ... These come from industrial activities," said

Mylene Cayetano, head of the Environmental Pollution Studies Laboratory of the University of the Philippines' Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology (UP IESM).

Cayetano was involved in a study that looked into the movement of pollutants.

Samples taken from Burgos, a fifth-class municipality of about 9,000 in Ilocos Norte province with no heavy industries, showed that the air in the town contained microscopic particulate matter (PM2.5) from

man-made emissions—fine particles that could cause serious health problems, such as lung diseases.

Lead, cadmium content

The components produced from industrial emissions and burning of solid waste from China included heavy metals, such as lead and cadmium, and chemical compounds, such as sulfate, nitrate and ammonium.

High exposures to lead and cadmium can cause respiratory, cardiovascular and neurologic

damage to the body. These toxic metals are also considered carcinogenic.

Published in the Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics journal last year, the study found that over a third, or 34 percent, of the sampled fine particulates came from long-range transport (LRT) of industrial emissions, solid waste burning and secondary sulfate from East Asia, particularly from China.

To the authors' knowledge, this study is the first of its kind to analyze the aerosol or smoke

characteristics in this region and the first to confirm that the emissions from China had reached the Philippines.

They chose Burgos for the study since the research wanted to look into the presence of PM2.5 in areas where there is little economic activity, Cayetano told the Inquirer on Tuesday.

PM2.5 is finer than a strand of hair at 2.5 microns in diameter and can be made up of hundreds of different chemicals. While some are naturally occurring like dust, these particulates

are most commonly known as pollutants that come from human activities, such as burning fossil fuels in cars and in energy production.

Lab analysis in Taiwan

Along with main author Gerry Bagtasa, also of the UP IESM, and Chung-Shin Yuan of the Institute of Environmental Engineering of National Sun-Yat Sen University in Taiwan, Cayetano collected 24-hour samples of fine aerosol during China's four seasons (winter, **A8**

FROM A2

spring, summer and fall) from 2015 to 2016.

Chemical analyses were done in a laboratory in Taiwan, where the scientists identified the chemical fingerprints and composition of the samples. Wind and receptor model analyses were used to quantify the levels of air pollution, determine its source, and check its seasonal variation.

The study showed that the highest PM2.5 concentration was recorded during China's

spring, which is from March to May in the Philippines. During this period, the northeast monsoon wind, locally known as "amihan," prevails over the country and blows emissions from East Asia to the Philippines.

The highest PM2.5 concentrations were recorded at more than 34 micrograms per cubic meter. This was higher than standards set by the World Health Organization for PM2.5 for a 24-hour period, though lower than the national standards.

"It is already an established fact that pollution doesn't know

boundaries," Cayetano said, noting other East Asian countries like Japan and South Korea were also suffering from pollutants from China.

Challenge for Sokor, Japan

Cayetano and Bagtasa received their doctoral degrees in South Korea and Japan, respectively, where they had also extensively studied the LRT pollutants from China to the other East Asian countries.

"It's challenging for South Korea and Japan because no matter how much they try to clean the air for their residents,



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

A2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 JUL 2019

TITLE: _____

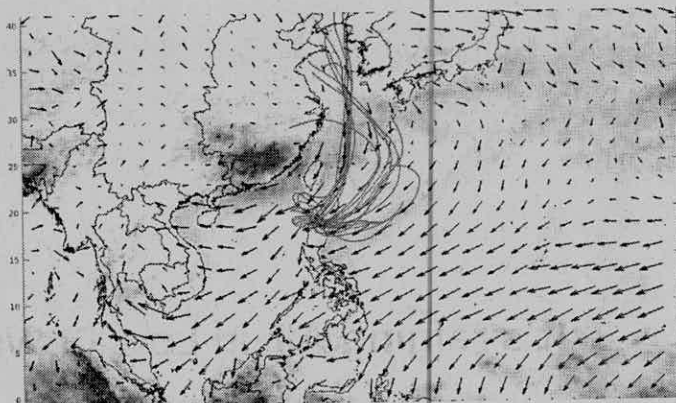
PAGE 1/

DATE _____

they have a neighbor who continues to pollute," Cayetano said. She cited other studies that showed pollutants from China had reached as far as the other side of the globe, specifically California.

She said that whether the air pollution from China would travel further down from the Ilocos region depended on the wind and atmospheric pressure.

"By then, it would be difficult to delineate, for example, in Metro Manila, where we are already dealing with a lot of pollution from our own doing," she said. INQ



DIRTY AIR Polluted air from China's massive industries and huge numbers of vehicles has reached the Ilocos region, blown by northeast monsoon winds from March to May as shown in this illustration in a 2018 study published by the Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics journal.

2/2

Bataan 2020, Inc. partners with WWF-Philippines to promote proper paper waste management

Bataan 2020, Inc. has inked its partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines for Project P.A.P.E.R. with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the 31st of May at the Bataan 2020, Inc. Main Office in Quezon City.

Bataan 2020 is one of the leading manufacturers of paper, board, and tissue products in the Philippines, and manages two paper mills in Samal, Bataan, and Bae-sa, Quezon City. On top of being recognized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as a producer of renewable energy, the company is the only tissue mill in the Philippines to be awarded a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.

Bataan 2020 began its partnership with WWF-Philippines when Project P.A.P.E.R. was first launched in 2016. Project P.A.P.E.R., which stands for the Proper Assessment of Paper for Efficient Recycling, works with elementary school students to raise awareness of the effects of climate change while promoting proper

waste management. In its pilot phase, the project was able to reach 720 students from 4 different schools in Metro Manila.

With the signing of the MOA, Bataan 2020 has committed to continue the work of the initial phase to reach a much wider group of schools across Metro Manila. It will continue to conduct modules to impart upon students how proper waste segregation and recycling form an integral component for the conservation of resources and addressing climate change. At the end of each module, students get to apply their learnings to practical use through a paper collection drive that will be conducted with the schools.

"It's fantastic that we have partners like Bataan 2020, considering the size and significance of the paper industry to our daily lives. We look forward to continuing this partnership, and we hope to reach more and more of the youth," said Palma, commending the commitment of Bataan 2020 to the environment.

Project P.A.P.E.R. is expected to continue for the incoming school year. The

partnership with Bataan 2020 will continue to carry the message of WWF-Philippines to more schools and more members of the youth.

For more information on the partnership, please contact:

Ms. Cloda Urquico

Corporate Partnerships Manager, WWF-Philippines
curquico@wwf.org.ph

Ms. Maybelle Huang

Sales & Marketing Manager, Bataan 2020
maybelle.huang@bataan2020.net

For media arrangements, please contact:

Mr. Dan Ramirez

Communications and Media Manager, WWF-Philippines
dramirez@wwf.org.ph



From left to right: Bataan 2020 Sales and Marketing Manager Maybelle Huang, Bataan 2020 General Manager Clement Huang, WWF-Philippines President and CEO Joel Palma and WWF-Philippines Corporate Relations Manager Cloda Urquico stand with signed MOAs to affirm the partnership between the two organizations.

PHOTOGRAPH © ALO LANTIN / WWF-PHILIPPINES



SM Baliwag, Ms. Philippines Earth beauties promote Green Initiative

BALIWAG, Bulacan—Candidates of Ms. Philippines Earth 2019 made a surprise visit at SM City Baliwag to instill environmental awareness through SM Green Bag initiative followed by a glamorous Hair Style Competition in the afternoon.

Miss Philippines Earth Organization is committed to producing world-class beauties that will embody preservation of the Earth and the conservation of its resources in the country and internationally.

Their partnership with SM made way to boosting the SM Green Bag, the country's first reusable bag made of 100% recyclable, non-toxic materials. The proceeds from Green bag purchases go to an organization that aims to protect the environment.

SM Green Bag initiative strongly supports the "no to plastic" movement, as each bag is designed to save up to three plastic bags at a time.

Lauded as the only multi-awarded reusable shopping bag in the Philippines, SM Green Bag has been cited by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as a model for environmental activism in 2010.

Two years later, SM Markets won the Philippine Quill Award from the International Association of Business Communicators and was declared Champion for the Recycling Category and Candidate Master overall of Zero Basura Olympics for Business in 2013.

Jun David

Candidates of Ms. Philippines Earth 2019 visit SM Hypermarket Baliwag for a meaningful day with shoppers. The beauties promoted environmental awareness among shoppers through the SM Green Bag initiative, followed by a glamorous Hair Style Competition in the afternoon.
Jun David





Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

C2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 JUL 2019

DATE

1/2

A Stand on Environmental Sustainability

By **KATHRINA YSABEL PINEDA**

Canadian Manufacturing, the leading manufacturer of high-quality bed linens and towels celebrated their 60th anniversary with a stand on environmental sustainability. In addition, Canadian Manufacturing announced its partnership with Haribon Foundation in line with the launch of its new Bamboo Cotton Collection.

Canadian provides the best linen and bath accessories, products that not only deliver high quality, but reflect the company's commitment to

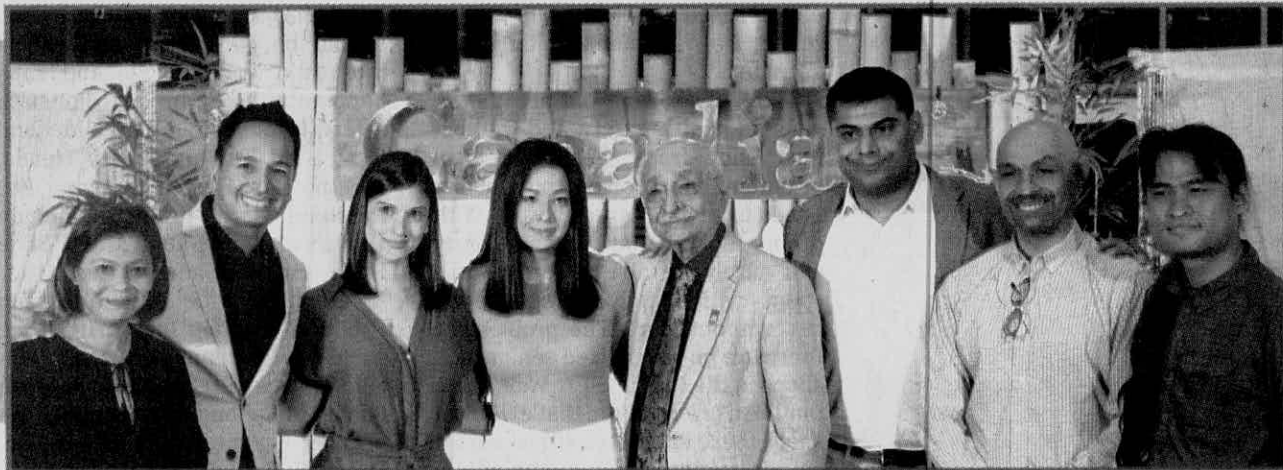
environmental sustainability. Through responsible business, Canadian takes an active role in the global movement of going green with the new eco-friendly line.

Canadian's "Get a Sheet, Adopt a Tree" campaign, which supports Haribon's "Adopt-a-Seedling" program, encourages consumers to take part in bringing back the beauty of the country by helping rebuild its lost biodiversity.

"We believe that it is high time we in Canadian Manufacturing took a more active part in restoring our lost natural resources and promoting environmental sustainability. Our part-

nership with Haribon Foundation is one of the activities we've lined up for the celebration of our 60th anniversary this year. We hope that many Filipinos will #GoNatural and make the switch to a more sustainable lifestyle," said Canadian Manufacturing sales and marketing director Chand Daryanani.

Canadian is working with Haribon Foundation, which advocates various activities such as conservation of sites and natural habitats of animals to protect Philippine biodiversity, in the cam-



Canadian Manufacturing executives together with Haribon Foundation Partnership Officer Joseph Senga, and environmental advocates Bianca King and Winnie Wong gather for the launch of the Canadian Bamboo Collection and Get a Sheet, Adopt a Tree campaign.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
 SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

C2
 PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
 STORY

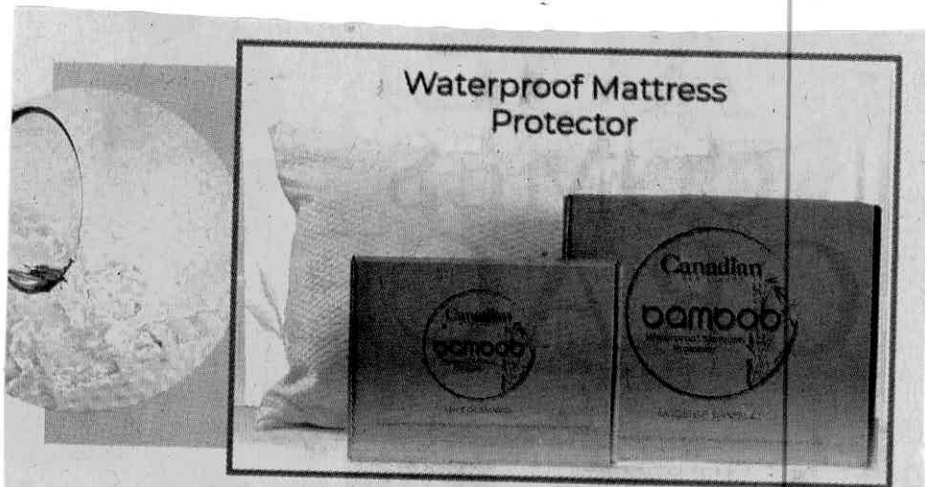
BANNER
 STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 JUL 2019

DATE



campaign "Get a Sheet, Adopt a Tree". Part of the proceeds from the sale of the Canadian Bamboo Cotton Collection will fund Haribon's Adopt-a-Seedling program and will support forest restoration activities in denuded forests around the country.

The bamboo is the fastest-growing plant in the world, reaching maturity in just three to five years. It is a better alternative to plastic and being a sustainable raw material, it has minimal environmental impact.

The Canadian Bamboo Cotton Collection is made of 100 percent bamboo and uses little to no chemicals during production. The Canadian Bamboo sheets feature a thread count of 300 and are breathable with odor protection, antimicrobial and smooth as silk.

The sheets "thermo-control" feature is perfect for the Philippine weather and users with sensitive skin.

Completing the eco-friendly line is Canadian's waterproof mattress and pillow protectors, all made of 100 percent bamboo. These bed accessories protect the sheets from spills, stains and dust mites.

Canadian also uses reusable self-fabric packaging and biodegradable carton for the packaging of this collection. Canadian's Bamboo Cotton Collection comes in five fresh colors, namely Coconut, Olive, Ice Drop, Coal, and Wheat.

The Canadian Bamboo Cotton Collection is now available in SM Aura Premiere and will soon be available in selected SM stores nationwide.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Malaya Business Insight

B2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 JUL 2019

DATE

Nestlé Philippines joins World Oceans Day clean-ups

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

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

"This activity is one of the many ways in which we work together to help shape a waste-free future," according to Mr. Mar-

zouki. In April 2018, Nestlé announced a global commitment that 100% of its packaging will be designed for recycling or reusable by 2025. The company's vision, that none of its waste ends up in landfill or as litter, is being pursued in three focus areas: developing the packaging of the future; helping shape a waste-free future through collection and recycling; and addressing consumer beliefs and behaviors.

"We at Nestlé Philippines are accelerating efforts to find solutions to the plastics problem. It is imperative that while we look for innovative packaging solutions among our initiatives, we also take immediate action to stop leakage into waterways and oceans, and find ways to recycle our packaging," Mr. Marzouki said.



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



Palace upbeat on passage of Disaster Resiliency dept.

By MJ Blancaflor

THE Palace has expressed optimism that the law seeking to create the Department of Disaster Resilience will be made with the new Congress.

Speaking to reporters in Malacañang, Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said the 18th Congress which opened Monday will "hopefully" pass the law creating a new department that is expected to deliver an enhanced disaster resiliency and quick disaster response.

Earlier this year, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said that efforts in creating the country's DDR has been gaining momentum.

During his State of the Nation Address in 2017, President Rodrigo Duterte called on the Congress to "expeditiously craft a law establishing a new authority or department that is responsive to the prevailing 21st century conditions."

In the 17th Congress, five Senate bills were filed proposing the establishment of a DDR.

The other proposed names are: Department of Disaster Resilience and Emergency Management, Department of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, and Department of Disaster and Emergency Management.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives had approved its version of the bill on third and final reading in 2018.

Under the bill, DDR would be responsible for coordinating the preparation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of disaster and climate change resilience programs.

The bill would also order the creation of the Prevention, Mitigation, and Preparedness Fund which will be used to support programs for climate change adaptation, disaster risk prevention and mitigation of 3rd to 6th class provinces and municipalities in the country.

The proposed department would have more powers than the current National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

As proposed in the House bill, the powers, functions, and funds of the Office of Civil Defense, Climate Change Office, Geo-Hazard Assessment and Engineering Geology Section of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, and the Bureau of Fire Protection would be transferred to the DDR.



Honasan vows policy continuity at DICT

By Miguel R. Camus
@miguelrcamusINQ

From military service, a brief intermission as a coup plotter and a decades-long career as a senator, Gregorio B. Honasan II is embarking on his next mission as head of the Department on Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

Honasan, who took his oath as DICT secretary in Malacañang on Monday, outlined to reporters a broad vision to connect "everybody to everybody" in a more secure and less costly manner.

He promised continuity in the department's programs as former acting secretary Eliseo Rio Jr. will stay on as its "most senior" under-secretary for operations. But

Honasan said plans were underway for a reorganization within the DICT, potentially moving key personnel and hiring outsiders.

He also offered hints at the strengths he brings to the table despite a perceived lack of technical experience expected of DICT heads: long years in public service and political savviness.

"I have been a senator for 21 years. I've been chair of [committees] in labor, environment, defense and public order," Honasan said on Tuesday after inaugurating a free Wi-Fi project at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

"If there are questions about my technical competence, maybe it's up for debate. But I would put these credentials, 44 years of public service, on the

table and let the appointing authority decide," he added.

At one point during the press conference, Honasan said he would be the "political interpreter" of the programs mentioned by Rio, including the government's common tower initiative and the entry of the third mobile player—the Mislattel Consortium backed by China Telecom and presidential friend Dennis Uy.

On Mislattel, which is expected to obtain its license to operate by July 8 this year, Honasan said it was unfair to cast doubt on the bidding process last year. Moreover, he suggested that DICT would take a less combative public approach toward incumbent operators PLDT Inc. and Globe Telecom.

"We will harness the patri-

otic instincts of these entities so that we can serve the public and they make profits at the same time, fairly," Honasan said.

He said the government would also ensure a level playing field in business, adding that he was open to a fourth or even fifth telco beyond Mislattel.

Honasan said he expected lawmakers in the Senate to support their reforms in ICT and efforts aimed at "institutionalizing good programs" within the DICT.

Critics previously said Honasan was barred from accepting the post of DICT secretary due to a constitutional ban. They cited Article 6 Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution, which stated that no member of Congress could be appoint-

B3

HONASAN VOWS POLICY CONTINUITY AT DICT

FROM B1

ed to any office created during their term.

"It's a matter of interpretation. That will be resolved by the Commission on Appointments. Let them evaluate my fitness or lack of it," Honasan said.

Honasan, a former army colonel who gained notoriety in the 1980s for a string of un-

successful coup attempts against then President Corazon Aquino, was first elected as Senator in 1995.

Among the bills he authored and co-authored were the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, the National Security Policy, Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act of 2009 and the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, information

on his Senate biography showed.

He took up Economics in the University of the Philippines before enrolling to the Philippine Military Academy, where he graduated as "Class Baron," considered the institution's highest leadership award. He earned his Masters Degree in Business Management from the Asian Institute of Management. INQ



GOTCHA JARIUS BONDOC



Chinese ramming vessel still out there - unpunished

Rodrigo Duterte wishes China to guarantee Filipino fishers' rights and safety, Malacañang stated yesterday. That shows China is boss. The President was referring to Recto Bank, in Philippine exclusive economic zone, where a Chinese steel vessel rammed a Filipino wooden boat. By Constitution and world law the Philippines is the one accountable in its maritime jurisdiction. But China always wants its way. Baselessly it claims the entire South China Sea, including Recto, as internal waters. Ships traversing even international portions must submit. When Manila cried that 22 Filipinos thrown overboard cruelly were left at sea, Beijing insisted the rammer had to avoid swarming by others. As Manila began to check on the victims, Beijing demanded joint investigation. Suggesting a third-party prober in case of disagreements, Beijing said no way.

Meanwhile the Chinese rammer is still out there - unpunished. Three weeks since identifying "Yuemaobinyu 42212" from Guangdong, the Chinese embassy has only denied any hit-and-run. No proof has been given of the supposed besiegement, a claim belied by independent satellite videos of Recto that night of June 9. No details have been released about the offender's tonnage, captain or ownership. That it has returned to Philippine EEZ is possible. Duterte is allowing Chinese to fish there in the name of friendship. Unrepentant "42212" is like a specter ship raring to ram again. Lack of justice imbues it with impunity.

"Gem-Ver 1" was salvaged before sinking. The Philippines outlaws reckless imprudence resulting in damage to property. Even if it wrongly thinks that Recto is "traditional fishing ground of many countries," the Philippine Coast Guard must file charges on behalf of the victimized fishermen and Filipino people. To withhold its findings and leak only that "Gem-Ver 1" technically erred in anchoring for the night is to shirk from its duty. The abandonment was criminal. Article 265 of the Revised Penal Code punishes an injurer's failure to help on the spot the injured. China has equivalents of those laws. The UN Convention on the Law of

the Sea, of which Manila and Beijing are signatories, further requires assistance to mariners in distress. Let the Chinese captain and crew justify their flight.

Poaching is illegal too. The Chinese embassy admitted that "42212" was purse-seine fishing in Recto. That is punishable under the Philippine Fisheries Code. Section 91 forbids "any foreign person, corporation, or entity to fish or operate any fishing vessel in Philippine waters." Further, "the entry of any foreign fishing vessel in Philippine waters shall constitute a prima facie evidence that the vessel is poaching in Philippine waters." Violators face fine of \$600,000 to \$1,000,000, plus six years imprisonment.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources must sue and collect. It would look silly enforcing fisheries conservation on Filipinos but let aliens off the hook. Every year since 2011 the agency and its Muslim Mindanao regional office close for three months the Sulu Sea, Basilan Strait, and Sibuguey Sea from sardine fishing. That allows fish stocks to replenish. Mere selling, buying, or possession of banned fish is punishable. Small fishers can be fined P6,000, and commercial operators P500,000 if found to have even just one sardine. Jail time is six months to six years. The region's 214,000 fisher families and all commercial herring catchers and canners comply. Livelihoods of Filipino fishers - the poorest of the poor - thus are protected. The US Navy was made to pay P87-million damage in 2014 for a ship grounding in Tubbataha Reefs. There is no reason to abet Chinese poachers.

At the rate it's going, China's preferred joint investigation is going nowhere. Manila and Beijing have not even begun to name the probers, much more how many, which laws apply, where to meet, etc. It seems they are waiting for Filipinos to forget. Meanwhile, Beijing will forge on with its decades-long goal to subsume the Philippines.

Catch *Sapol* radio show, Saturdays, 8-10 a.m., DWIZ (882-AM).

Gotcha archives: www.philstar.com/columns/134276/gotcha





STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

03 JUL 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Call to rescue planet earth

Citing the need to rescue planet earth, United Nations (UN) secretary general Antonio Guterres has called on the world to create conditions for "harmony between humankind and nature" in the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan.

In his meeting with the Foreign Ministers of China and France, Guterres expressed his gratitude to both countries not only for their "climate action" but for their multilateral approach to climate change, which he said was "absolutely essential" to the success of the 2018 UN climate conference in Katowice, Poland, last December.

Guterres noted that the recently-concluded UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Bonn was not a success, saying that the realities on the ground today are "even more difficult" because of "political failing in some areas of the world."

"We need a boost in political will," asserted the UN chief. "I very much count on the determination of both China and France, both with the Paris Agreement - both with climate action and with multilateralism - to allow for our capacity to overcome the present difficulties."

The UN chief spoke about the upcoming Climate Action Summit, which he is hosting in New York this September, "to raise ambition, to

make sure that we are able to commit clearly to implement the decision that was taken in Paris for \$100 billion per year" to boost the developing world's capacity for mitigation and adaptation.

At the same time, he hopes that the resources can be used to reform and replenish the Green Climate Fund, a mechanism he described as "essential for the finance of climate action."

Guterres informed the meeting that the UN Secretariat is "working very closely with the UNFCCC and IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change], whose recent report he called "a red alert," but also saw as "a strong stimulus for action."

"We do believe that it's necessary to limit the growth of temperature at the end of the century to 1.5 degrees", which "requires carbon neutrality midcentury...[and] an enhanced effort with the nationally determined contributions that will be reviewed in 2020," said the UN chief.

Acknowledging "the difficulties and the problems each country has," he expressed his gratitude to both France and China for their determination, "to increase, ambition and to make sure that the political will of the international community, in a multilateral way, will match the enormous challenge that we are facing."

Elmer N. Manuel





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL MAPPING AND RESOURCE INFORMATION AUTHORITY
www.namria.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The National Mapping And Resource Information Authority, Bids and Awards Committee (NAMRIA BAC) invites interested bidders for the following project:

1. License Renewal of NAMRIA Web Policy and Security Software Solution
Approved Budget for the Contract - PHP 10,600,000.00

The bidding schedule is as follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bidding Documents | Starting June 26, 2019 |
| 2. Pre-Bid Conference: | 10:00AM, July 04, 2019
MGB Conference Room
Fort A. Bonifacio, Taguig City |
| 3. Deadline of Submission and
Opening of Bids: | 10:00AM, July 16, 2019
MGB Conference Room
Fort A. Bonifacio, Taguig City |

The NAMRIA BAC reserves the right to cancel the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the government.

Dir. RUEL DM. BELEN
Chairman, BAC

P.S. June 26 & July 3, 2019



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines

CIRCULAR

No.: 2018-001
Date: FEB 01, 2018

TO: All Heads of Departments, Agencies, Bureaus, and Offices of the National Government, including State Universities and Colleges (SUCS); Budget Officers; Heads of Accounting Units; and All Others Concerned

SUBJECT: Guidelines on the Payment of Prior Years' Unpaid Authorized Personnel Benefits of the Officials and Employees of the National Government

1.0 RATIONALE

Salaries and other personnel benefits are the main sources of income of government officials and employees. At present, there are several money claims filed before this Commission involving small amounts relative to prior years' unpaid authorized personnel benefits of government officials and employees.

These prior years' unpaid authorized personnel benefits were not paid due to the following reasons: late submission of the complete supporting documents because the employee-payee was on leave; the removal of employee-payee from the payroll since he/she has no sufficient remaining leave balance; and failure of the budget/accounting office to obligate the allotment in the respective registries for those personnel benefits. Thus, these are treated as unbooked obligations by their respective agencies and offices.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) issued National Budget Circular (NBC) No. 557 dated June 3, 2015, which provides, among others, that since Personnel Services (PS) benefits are mandatory in nature, actual services rendered or benefits allowed in prior years shall not be categorized as unbooked obligations. Thus, such are exempt from the existing policy, rules and regulations on unbooked obligations.

Currently, before payment is made by the department, agency, bureau or office, these prior years' unpaid authorized personnel benefits of government officials and employees are being filed before this Commission as money claims.

To facilitate payment of these prior years' unpaid authorized personnel benefits, CCA, in line with its power under Section 2(2),² Article IX-D of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, hereby adopts the following guidelines to avoid delay in the payment of prior years' unpaid authorized personnel benefits.

2.0 COVERAGE

This Circular covers all departments, agencies, bureaus, and offices of the national government.

3.0 GUIDELINES

3.1 The Authorized Personnel Benefits which refer to compensation of government employees pursuant to law and those authorized by the President of the Philippines, shall be as follows:

3.1.1 Basic Salaries, including Step increments;

3.1.2 Standard Allowances and Benefits, which shall be limited to the following:

- 3.1.2.1 Personnel Economic Relief Allowance
- 3.1.2.2 Uniform or Clothing Allowance
- 3.1.2.3 Year-End Bonus and Cash Gift

3.1.3 Specific-Purpose Allowances and Benefits, limited to the following:

- 3.1.3.1 Representation and Transportation Allowances
- 3.1.3.2 Per Diem
- 3.1.3.3 Honoraria
- 3.1.3.4 Night-Shift Differential
- 3.1.3.5 Overtime Pay
- 3.1.3.6 Subsistence Allowance
- 3.1.3.7 Hazard Pay
- 3.1.3.8 Special Counsel Allowance
- 3.1.3.9 Overseas and Other Allowances for Government Personnel Stationed Abroad
- 3.1.3.10 Other allowances and benefits as may be authorized by law or the President of the Philippines

3.1.4 Incentives, which refer to the following:

- 3.1.4.1 Loyalty Incentive
- 3.1.4.2 Anniversary Bonus
- 3.1.4.3 Productivity Enhancement Incentive
- 3.1.4.4 Productivity Incentive Bonus (until 2015 only)
- 3.1.4.5 Performance-Based Bonus
- 3.1.4.6 Other existing benefits as may be categorized by the DBM as incentives

3.1.5 Benefits authorized under the Magna Carta Law and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

3.1.6 Personnel benefits for military and uniformed personnel as authorized by law or the President of the Philippines.

3.2 Personnel Services benefits are mandatory in nature. Actual services rendered or benefits allowed in prior years shall not be considered as unbooked obligations. Thus, such are not covered by existing policy, rules and regulations on unbooked obligations.

3.3 As prescribed under existing rules and regulations, at the end of the calendar year, the budget and accounting offices of the departments, agencies, bureaus and offices of the national government should obligate the allotment in the respective Registries for the unpaid salaries and other authorized personnel benefits to avoid it from becoming unbooked obligations.

3.4 Prior years' unpaid salaries and other authorized personnel benefits which are already approved for payment in the current year may now be paid by the department, agency, bureau and office of the national government

3.5 To facilitate the payment of unpaid prior years' authorized personnel benefits, the government official/employee must file before his/her department, agency, bureau or office the request for payment, together with the necessary supporting documents, within 15 calendar days following the CY when the obligation arose.

3.6 If the filing of the request within the prescribed period under the preceding number cannot be made due to justifiable grounds, which include, but not limited to illness/sickness of the claimant, calamities, cases of fortuitous event and *force majeure*, the same must be filed within 15 days after the cited justifiable ground ceased to exist, with a notarized letter of explanation.

3.7 Upon receipt of the request for payment with the complete set of supporting documents, the officers and employees of the accounting/budget/finance office tasked to process the request must complete processing the payment and transmit the same to the approving officers within 30 days from receipt.

3.8 Upon receipt of the request for payment and its complete supporting documents, the approving officer must act upon the request within 15 days from receipt thereof.

3.9 Every agency, department, bureau or office of the National Government, including State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), shall prepare a regular Monthly Status Report of the unpaid prior years' salaries and other authorized personnel benefits of its officials and employees, which shall be submitted to this Commission's Resident Auditor or the audit team leader (ATL) and supervising auditor (SA) and to the DBM every 5th working day of the following month.

3.10 Aside from the Monthly Status Report, every department, bureau, office or agency of the National Government, including SUCs, is required to submit a regular Semestral and Annual Status Report of the unpaid prior years' salaries and other authorized personnel benefits to the respective ATLs and SAs concerned and to the DBM for review and analysis of the PS fund utilization of the agency/office. The Monthly Status Report shall be attached to the Semestral Status Report and to the request of the department, agency, bureau or office for exemption from the lapsing of the Notice of Cash Allocation allocated for payment of PS in a given CY, if such request is made.

3.10.1 Two Semestral Status Reports of the unpaid prior years' salaries and other authorized personnel benefits shall be submitted by the department, agency, bureau or office, as follows:

- a. The first Semestral Status Report shall cover the period of January to June of the CY, which shall be submitted on or before the 15th day of July of the same CY.
- b. The second Semestral Status Report shall cover the period of July to December of the CY, which shall be submitted on or before the 15th day of January of the following CY.

3.10.2 The Annual Status Report shall be submitted to cover the period of January to December of a given calendar year, which shall be submitted on or before the 15th day of the given CY.

3.10.3 If the above dates fall on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, then the report shall be submitted on the next working day.

1/2



03 JUL 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

2/2

3.11 The formats of the status reports are herein attached as Annexes A, B and C, respectively.

3.12 The ATIs and SAs of the government agency / department / bureau / office concerned shall forward the reports to their respective clusters in the COA National Government Sector (NGS) within ten working days from receipt thereof. The NGS, in turn, shall forward the same within five working days to the Government Accounting Sector for analysis and policy formulation purposes.

3.13 The head of department, agency, bureau or office shall supervise the full implementation of this Circular to ensure strict compliance and avoid undue delay in paying the prior years' authorized personnel benefits of the officials and employees of the department, agency, bureau or office.

3.14 All payments made under this Circular are subject to budgeting, accounting and auditing laws, rules and regulations, and to post-audit.

4.0 PENALTY CLAUSE

Failure to observe the provisions of this Circular shall subject the erring officials and employees to applicable penalties under Republic Act (R.A.) No. 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, and R.A. No. 9485 or the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2003, and other existing laws and regulations.

5.0 APPLICABILITY

This Circular shall be applied prospectively.

6.0 EFFECTIVITY

This Circular shall take effect after 15 days following its publication in two newspapers of general circulation and its filing in the Office of the National Administrative Register, University of the Philippines Law Center.³



MICHAEL G. AGUINALDO
Chairperson

JOSE A. TABIA
Commissioner

ISABEL D. AGITO
Commissioner

ERD/RNP/DVP
CPASSSS-OAC-2019-02-00200

¹ Item 4.2.2.4 of the Department of Budget and Management National Budget Circular No. 557 dated June 3, 2015.
² The Commission [on Audit] shall have exclusive authority, subject to the limitations in this Article, to define the scope of its audit and examination, establish the techniques and methods required therefor, and promulgate accounting and auditing rules and regulations, including those for the prevention and disallowance of irregular, unnecessary, excessive, extravagant, or unconscionable expenditures or uses of government funds and properties.
³ As required under Section 3 of Chapter 2, Book VII of the Administrative Code of 1987.

Annexes A to C of the COA Circular may be accessed in the COA Website @ www.coa.gov.ph

P.S. July 3, 2019