

DATE : 21 DEC 2013

DAY : Friday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Malaya Business Insight

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DENR recognizes Globe Telecom for volunteerism efforts

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has recognized Globe Telecom for its volunteerism efforts and "invaluable support for DENR's pursuit for sustainable development."

The Certificate of Recognition, signed by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, was presented to Globe by DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns Benny Antiporda during the recent celebration of National Volunteer Day with the theme "Volunterismo: Tugon sa Nagbabagong Panahon."

Globe is among 55 DENR partner-organizations from the business sector, government, non-government organizations, and academe who were honored for their active participation in DENR volunteer projects and special events since 2012.

"This is our small way of thanking you for the big contributions you have made to the success of the DENR's programs and activities," Antiporda told the agency's partner organizations during the event even as he enjoined more people and organizations to help in protecting the environment. "The citizen's support alone will dictate either the success or failure of DENR's programs," he added.

"We are honored to receive this recognition for our contribution to DENR's overall vision. We are glad that our efforts in leaving minimal carbon footprint through Globe Telecom's volunteering activities are aligned with DENR's projects," said

Yoly Crisanto, Globe Chief Sustainability Officer and SVP for Corporate Communications. "Our principle is to continuously develop sustainable programs and integrate them into our everyday business practices to benefit the triple bottom line."

Globe is an active supporter of DENR volunteerism programs and advocacy such as coastal clean-up at the Las Piñas - Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA); mangrove tree planting in Calatagan, Batangas; watershed ecosystem awareness at Angat Dam, Norzagaray, Bulacan; and staging of history and nature bike parade, among others.

Globe is one of the country's few companies that nurture its people's innate desire to help by providing every employee with one day of "Volunteer Time-Off" every year to pursue their chosen advocacy. It also encourages "volunteering," where employees are free to organize themselves in groups to pursue their advocacies.

In 2017, volunteerism in Globe reached an all-time high of 52.8 percent of total employee base who volunteered for various social development causes. It also institutes activity-based and skill-based volunteering to support work with a partner group or community, organizing people who may want to join various advocacies and provide pro bono services, capacity building, or skills transfer.



DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda (left) hands over a plaque of recognition to Globe Chief Sustainability Officer and SVP, Corporate Communications Yoly Crisanto (right) for the company's support for DENR's sustainability efforts. With them is Jaypee Gulay (center), Program and Partner Relations Manager, Globe Citizenship and Advocacy Marketing.



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2008 SC ORDER STILL UNENFORCED

MANILA BAY REHAB: CIMATU EYES 'LETHAL SOLUTION'

By Melvin Gascon
 @melvingasconINQ

Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu on Thursday vowed to lead the rehabilitation of Manila Bay with a "lethal solution" to comply with a 10-year-old Supreme Court order for the government to clean up the coastal areas of Metro Manila.

At a press briefing, Cimatu said he intended to apply the same "political will" seen in the six-month rehabilitation of Boracay Island, which he called a "success," to address the sources of pollution on Manila Bay.

"This problem of Manila Bay is one that we have to frontally solve. We will come up with a lethal solution in order to hand over a cleaner, better Manila Bay to the next generation," he said, without elaborating.

In a 2008 decision, the Supreme Court directed 13 government agencies, led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), to "clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay ... to make [the waters] fit for swimming, skin diving, and other forms of contact recreation."

With another year drawing to a close, Cimatu said the court order must finally be carried out especially by the DENR.

He said he had directed the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria), an attached agency of the DENR, to prepare maps of the river systems in the capital as a "starting point" of cleanup efforts that start in early 2019.

The DENR has also set up a meeting with local officials to

MANILA BAY REHAB: CIMATU EYES 'LETHAL SOLUTION'

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draw up plans for the relocation of thousands of informal settlers living along rivers and estuaries that drain into the bay.

"We initially looked at what is causing the problem in Manila Bay and found out that the biggest culprit are the esteros. So we decided to plug everything that flows into the sea," he said.

The department, he said, is also looking at requiring Metro Manila's two water supply concessionaires, Maynilad and Manila Water, to construct water treatment facilities—a matter raised on Wednesday by Rep. Lito Atienza, a former Manila mayor and DENR secretary.

Cimatu said that for Metro Manila's usage, water treatment plants will be built in Quezon City and Taguig. INQ

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Mapping of esteros directing waste water to Manila Bay ordered

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has ordered the National Mapping Resource and Information Authority, one of the DENR's attached agencies, to prepare maps that will help identify the *esteros* or canals that dispose of wastewater

directly into Manila Bay.

The maps will be used in the rehabilitation of the bay, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said in a news conference in Quezon City yesterday.

"We have to start early. We have to hit the ground running since Manila Bay's cleanup will

be a difficult task," Cimatu said.

"Our aim is to reduce the bay's coliform level," he added.

A 2017 report by the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau showed that the fecal coliform level in Manila Bay reached as high as over 330 million most prob-

able number (MPN) per 100 milliliters. The safe level is only 100 MPN/100 ml.

Cimatu said a meeting would soon be set with concerned mayors together with other stakeholders so that rehabilitation measures will be implemented immediately.

In 2008, the Supreme Court issued a continuing writ of mandamus ordering 13 government agencies to clean up Manila Bay and restore its water quality to Class SB, or safe for recreational activities such as swimming.

Cimatu said the clean-

up will cover four areas - Metro Manila and the provinces of Cavite, Bulacan and Bataan.

He said they would soon start checking on establishments, factories and creeks that dispose of wastewater into the bay.

- Rhodina Villanueva



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DENR nanindigan sa paglilinis sa Manila Bay

NANINDIGAN ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa pagnanais nitong ma-rehabilitate at malinis ang Manila Bay at mabawasan ang dumi at basura sa look.

Ayon kay DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu ang naturang paglilinis sa Manila Bay ay isang mandato ng DENR upang maibalik ang dating malinis na Manila Bay.

Sa isang press conference kahapon, sinabi ni Cimatu na hangad niyang mabawasan ang dumi at coliform bacteria na itinatapon sa Manila Bay

sa pamamagitan ng malimitahan at ma-contain lang ito sa isang maliit na lugar.

"Ang rehabilitation at clean-up ng Manila Bay ay mandato ng DENR" ani pa ni Cimatu.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu na tinatanggap niya ang hamon para muling malinis ang Manila Bay at maibalik ang ganda nito na itinuturing na pinakamagandang sunset na makikita sa Maynila.

"I accept the challenge to rehabilitate the Manila Bay and it's my mandate" ani pa ni Cimatu.

Ayon pa sa secretary ng

DENR, nais niyang mabawasan muna ang mga duming itinatapon ng Metro Manila partikular na ang apat na estero sa paligid ng Manila Bay para panimulang hakbang ng paglilinis.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi naman ni Benny Antiporda, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government, na kailangan munang malimitahan ang mga duming itatapon bilang panimulang hakbang para malinis ang Manila Bay.

"Kailangan kasi ma-contain muna sa isang lugar ang mga dumi para hindi ito kumalat at humalo sa buong dagat ng Manila Bay" ayon pa kay Antiporda. **SANTI C**



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REHAB NG MANILA BAY

Sisimulan na sa Enero

NAKATAKDANG simulan sa kalagitnaan ng Enero ang Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

Ayon kay Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu, target nilang linisin ang Manila Bay para buhayin ang swimming activities doon.

Sinabi ni Cimatu na base sa pag-aaral ng mga eksperto, masyadong mataas ang coliform content ng tubig sa Manila Bay kaya delikado ito sa kalusugan ng mga tao.

Bukod sa industrial wastes, masyado aniyang mataas ang fecal coliform sa naturang karagatan.

Sa mandamus na ipinalabas ng Korte

Suprema, may isang dekada na ang nakalilipas, inatasan ang 13 ahensiya ng pamahalaan na magtulong-tulong para sa pag-sasaayos ng kondisyon ng tubig sa Manila Bay.

Ang mga ito ay ang Metro Manila Development Authority, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Education, Health, Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries, Public Works and Highways, Budget and Management at Interior and Local Government, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police-Maritime Group, Philippine Ports Authority, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, at Local Water Utilities Administration.



COMMONSENSE

MARICHU A. VILLANUEVA

A la Boracay Manila Bay rehab

Long before President Rodrigo Duterte called the seawaters of Boracay as “cesspool” in describing one of the country’s most popular tourist destinations, another famous landmark in the Philippines was once dubbed in 2005 by a government environment official as one “big sewer.” Last Monday, incumbent officials of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) headed by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu announced plans of the Duterte administration to undertake an “a la Boracay” rehabilitation of the coliform-infested Manila Bay to save it from total degradation.

A report from the DENR Environmental Management Bureau showed the fecal coliform level in Manila Bay has reached over 330 million most probable number per 100 milliliters, way above the safe level of only 100 MPN/100ml.

Located in the heart of the country’s capital city, the DENR announced – or should we say threatened – to undertake a massive rehabilitation of the Manila Bay of Boracay-scale. It took almost six months during which the government closed down for rehabilitation the world-renowned Boracay island resort. It was re-opened back to business and tourists only last October.

Cimatu vowed to exercise the same level of political will that they did in Boracay to clean up the entire stretch of the Manila Bay that spans across the National Capital Region, Central Luzon and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon).

Although he warmly welcomes the planned Manila Bay rehabilitation, Buhay party-list Rep. Lito Atienza could not help but express skepticism on the announcement of Cimatu on how to carry this out. Atienza noted with apprehension why the DENR Secretary’s comprehensive rehabilitation plans did not mention specific timelines of what and how the clean up of the Manila Bay will be done.

“Congratulations Mr. Secretary. But you cannot clean it unless you require the two water concessionaires to provide what they have committed – wastewater treatment to convert it to as clear water as this bottled drinking water,” Atienza said.

He particularly cited the Ayala-owned Manila Water Co. Inc. and the Maynilad Water Services Inc., the two water concessionaires of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) that divided between the two utilities the water service areas of Metro Manila into East and West zones, respectively.

It was Atienza – then as DENR Secretary during the term of former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo – who ruefully described Manila Bay as a “big sewer” for all the garbage and wastes in Metro Manila and surrounding areas. It was under his watch as DENR Secretary when he led petitioners in filing a mandamus case before the Supreme Court (SC) to clean up the Manila Bay.

In 2008, the High Court issued a continuing writ of mandamus, ordering 13 government agencies to clean up Manila Bay and restore its water quality to Class SB or safe for recreational activities such as swimming. Class SB waters are also suitable for commercial propagation of shellfish and as spawning areas for milkfish and other similar species.



So, it was not an empty rhetoric from Atienza. He recalled his personal crusade to save the Manila Bay – known for its iconic “sunset” attraction – started during his stint as Mayor in the city of Manila for three consecutive terms. He elevated his crusade to save the Manila Bay when he later served as DENR Secretary.

The Manila Bay – the inland body of water that we see running parallel along Roxas Boulevard – is actually just a portion of the long stretch of the bay area covering Metro Manila where the picture-perfect “sunset” is a daily awesome sight.

Saving the Manila Bay was a fitting discussion that we had with Atienza as guest of our weekly breakfast news forum. Proudly carrying its name as *Kapihan sa Manila Bay* for the past four years already, we hold it every Wednesday at the Café Adriatico in Remedios Circle in Malate, located at the “back street” of the Bay Area.

“Let’s talk about the clean up of the Manila Bay. This is the Manila Bay forum. The DENR said they will clean it up like they did in Boracay. That’s a lot of crap that they are talking about,” Atienza quipped. “They cannot do it because the Manila Bay is dead,” he rued.

Atienza pointed to the outflow of the sewer lines that go directly to the Bay coming from the toilets and kitchens of households and all the industrial wastes of establishments all over Metro Manila. “And they mix with the water of the Bay and this is the one killing the waters,” he pointed out.

A part of the DENR’s strategy, according to Cimatu, is to ensure compliance with environmental laws of local government units (LGUs) surrounding the Manila Bay area. A Manila Bay Command Center will be created to oversee the zonal operations of four field offices to be set up in six coastal cities in Metro Manila: Malabon-Navotas, Manila, Pasay-Parañaque and Las Piñas. The field offices will be manned by DENR personnel who would closely coordinate with city or municipal environment officers to ensure that cleanup activities and programs are carried out and sustained.

As explained by Cimatu, the DENR will look for technologies that would effectively treat water of pollutants. And also seek assistance from law enforcement agencies in going after violators of environmental laws, especially those who discharge untreated wastewater into the Bay.

Just how these measures could save Manila Bay remains uncertain.

Aside from years of water pollution, Atienza fears the planned new reclamations around Manila Bay are yet the latest threats to its popular sunset view. According to him, there are at least five reclamation projects that each seek to extend the land farther out from the existing Manila Bay breakwater areas that we see along Roxas Boulevard.

Atienza is worried that such reclamation projects would reduce Roxas Boulevard to a “back street” of the over-extended Manila Bay area. But that is another story altogether. For now, the immediate task at hand is to implement *a la Boracay* rehabilitation to save the Manila Bay from its ignominious “big sewer” tag.

DENR defers to DOF decision on mining tax issues

By **LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is letting the Department of Finance to (DOF) decide on the taxation of the industry which will facilitate the lifting of the moratorium imposed on new mineral agreements.

This after the interagency Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) decided to defer the DENR's recommendation on the lifting of the moratorium on new mining projects as provided under Executive Order 79.

"We will just defer in terms of decision on the position of the DOF. This is about tax so it is really more of the DOF," Environment Under-

secretary Analiza Teh told reporters on Thursday.

"According to the DOF, the excise tax is not enough and that more reforms have to be undertaken. They are also looking at the royalty and not just excise. Although there is a two percent increase already in excise tax, that will not be sufficient to lift the moratorium," she said.

DENR remains optimistic that once TRAIN 2 or the Tax Reform for Attracting Better and High-quality Opportunities (TRABAHO) Bill is passed, new mining projects will eventually be approved because that is the only condition on the lifting of the moratorium on the processing of mining agreements.

"I think we are seeing a positive

outlook for the mining industry next year," Teh said.

"The objective of the new tax package is not just to earn new revenues, but also to weed out those technically and financially incapable," she added.

The EO calls for a moratorium on new mineral agreements until a bill rationalizing existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms take effect.

However, the DOF clarified that TRAIN only increased the excise taxes on mineral products, and did not fully incorporate a new fiscal regime for

mining.

House Bill 8400 has already been approved by the House of Representatives on third and final reading. The bill was transmitted to the Senate last Nov. 13.

EO 79, issued by former president Benigno Aquino III, disallows the approval of new mineral agreements until legislation rationalizing existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms take effect.



DENR eyes environmental tax

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is looking to impose an environmental tax on businesses that use single-use plastics to help reduce solid wastes in the country.

During the department's yearend performance press conference on Thursday, Benny Antiporda, Environment undersecretary for solid waste management and local government unit (LGU) concerns, said the tax would also enable the DENR to source funds for the development of recycling facilities.

According to him, the department will continue to encourage industries to get involved in programs

that increase the recovery of packaging materials, which end up in dumps and oceans.

"Basically, we cannot tell them to stop doing their business, we cannot tell them not to use [plastic]," Antiporda said.

"We're trying to think of something that could help our environment. The main objective of solid waste management [at] the moment...is to stop the plastic people, not the plastic itself," he added.

The Philippines is the third-biggest ocean polluter after China and Indonesia, according to a 2015 study conducted by the University of Georgia and reported by Ocean

Conservancy and McKinsey Center for Business and Environment.

At present, the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability is doing a pilot study on recycling flexible packaging or multimaterial film packaging.

Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, mandates LGUs to have a comprehensive solid waste management plan and establish an MRF in each village to receive, sort, process and store compostable and recyclable materials.

The law prohibits establishing and operating open dumpsites.

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ



DENR pushes, DoF backs tax on use of plastic

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), with the support of the Finance department (DoF), is pushing an environmental tax on companies to discourage the use of plastic, with a goal to implement the tax before President Rodrigo R. Duterte ends his term in mid-2022.

"How can we stop people and tell them to stop using plastic if it is not illegal to use plastic? Since that is the situation, we will just come up with an environmental tax proposal to the legislature and have
Plastic, SI/3

Plastic, *from SI/1*

them come up with a law imposing that environmental tax, which should not be that big. It will be minimal," DENR Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda told reporters on Thursday, explaining that the envisioned tax will help address the broader problem of solid waste management.

Asked for comment, Department of Finance (DoF) Assistant Secretary Antonio Joselito G. Lambino II said the DoF was consulted in drafting the bill and supports it.

Asked for a timetable for turning the proposal into a law, Mr. Antiporda replied: "Before the end of President

Duterte's term is our target."

He said the proposal includes exemption for companies based on a point system if they practice environment-friendly measures like operating solar power systems, waste segregation and water recycling. A company earning a certain number of points may be exempted from the tax, Mr. Antiporda said.

"We will start in January by consulting with stakeholders and of course the National Solid Waste Management Commission. I'm positive it will be welcomed because, basically, it is about the environment," Mr. Antiporda said. —

Reichelene Joy N. Ignacio

To be filled in ten copies



Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
Regional Office No.

Petition No. _____

PETITION FOR THE IDENTIFICATION, DELINEATION AND RECOGNITION OF ANCESTRAL DOMAIN CLAIM AND FOR THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF ANCESTRAL DOMAIN TITLE

I HEREBY PETITION THIS COMMISSION FOR THE IDENTIFICATION, DELINEATION AND RECOGNITION OF ANCESTRAL DOMAIN CLAIM AND FOR THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF ANCESTRAL DOMAIN TITLE

DE...
makokolekta mula sa 'envi-
romental tax' ay gagamitin
sa pagresolba sa solid waste
sa bansa tulad ng pagpondo sa
recycling facilities.
Anyang binabatangkas ng
DENR ang isang merit sys-
tem na mag-exempt sa mga
kompanya sa pagbabayad ng
buwis kapag natugunan nila
ang itatandang criteria.
"If you are using solar
panel, proper segregation in-
side and outside your facility,
if you have 'yung water recy-
cling.' Yung mga ganoon na
in case ma-fulfill puwede ka
ma-exempt sa tax na 'yon,"
dagdag pa niya.

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**Isusulong ng DENR
TAX SA
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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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DENR shelves recommendation to lift ban on new mining projects

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the government agency tasked to regulate the mining industry through Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), said it is now up to the Department of Finance (DOF) what ideal tax structure to slap against mining companies as well as to push for the lifting of ban on new mining projects.

This, after the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) deferred the recommendation to lift Executive Order (EO) 79, which placed a moratorium on the issuance of new mineral agreements

Under EO 79, no new mineral agreements should be approved "until a legislation rationalizing existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms shall have taken effect".

When the excise tax hike on mineral products from 2 percent to 4 percent

under The Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law was implemented, the DENR argued that it should already be considered as a new tax regime.

But the DOF clarified that TRAIN only increased the excise taxes and did not cover the implementation of a new fiscal regime for mining.

The new fiscal regime being proposed now by the DOF covers other taxes and fees, such as royalty, windfall, profit, and incentives.

In November, the House of Representatives already passed on third and final reading House Bill (HB 8400), which seeks to "rationalize and institute a single fiscal regime applicable to all mineral agreements."

In the upper chamber, however, it is still uncertain when the DOF proposal on new mining fiscal regime, which was filed as Senate Bill (SB) 1979 by Senate President Vicente C. Sotto III, will be taken up.

When asked if the DENR will submit

its comment and recommendation on how to improve the tax structure under SB 1979, Environment Undersecretary for Mining Concerns Analiza Rebuelta-Teh said the agency "will defer".

"In terms of position [in the new fiscal regime on mining], it's already up to the DOF," Teh said.

Nevertheless, she said the DOF is consistent about consulting the DENR about the issue.

MGB previously recommended a per commodity tax increase in the mining sector but it was eventually dismissed.

Meanwhile, most of the suspension and closure orders issued by former Environment Regina Paz Lopez, which was just recently validated by Cimat, already took effect, with only one company formally appealing to President Rodrigo Duterte.

In November, Cimat decided to keep Lopez's closure orders on Claver Mineral Development Corp., Oriental Synergy Mining Corp., Ore Asia Mining and Development Corp.



DENR positive on mining industry's revenue capacity

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said its outlook for the revenue to be generated by the mining industry for the government is positive despite changes to the industry's tax regime being proposed in various tax reform bills.

"We see a positive outlook for the mining industry. What the MICC (Mining Industry Coordinating Council) is saying was the new fiscal regime will happen once the second package of the TRAIN Law is passed and that will really provide a more advantageous package for the government," DENR Undersecretary Analiza A. Rebuelta-Teh told reporters in a briefing on Thursday.

"In that case, although (a pending bill decreases) the royalty for the mineral reservations, it can be offset (elsewhere) in the new fiscal regime," Ms. Teh added.

The Department of Finance (DoF) announced this week that the MICC has agreed to conduct the second round of an "objective, science-based, and fact-finding" review of mining operations for next

year to cover the 15 remaining mining firms out of the 41 initially reviewed by the DENR under its former Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez.

During the meeting, the MICC deferred a recommendation to remove the moratorium on the issuance of new mineral agreements.

"TRAIN only increased the excise taxes and did not cover the implementation of a new fiscal regime for mining. The new fiscal regime proposed by the DoF covers other taxes and fees, such as royalty, windfall, profit and incentives," the DoF said in the statement, noting that this clarification led the MICC to defer the recommendation.

DENR Undersecretary Jonas R. Leones said that suspended mining companies have to submit their action plans which will be composed of rehabilitation actions to the environmental damage they have caused.

He also noted that mining companies whose operations were ordered to cease also have to submit a progressive rehabilitation plan as well. —

Reicelene Joy N. Ignacio



ATM supports MICC decision to defer lifting of mining-permit moratorium

By CAI U. ORDINARIO

@cuo_bm

THE Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) should follow up its recent actions with the decision on the closure and suspension orders to make mining sustainable in the country, a local civil society group said.

In a statement on Thursday, Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) expressed its support for the decision of the MICC to defer the lifting of the moratorium on new mining permits.

However, much needs to be done in order to address the demands of Executive Order (EO) 79, which imposed a moratorium on new mineral agreements "until a legislation rationalizing ex-

isting revenue-sharing schemes and mechanisms shall have taken effect."

"The new excise tax rates approved under the TRAIN law is not sufficient to address the demand of EO 79, which is that a new fiscal regime on mining must be passed," ATM said.

"A new fiscal regime on mining includes new rules on royalties, a tax on super profit or windfall profits, increased social-development funds and increased rehabilitation and decommissioning funds," it added.

ATM said deciding with finality on the closure and suspension orders issued by former Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez.

This should be coupled by the issuance of a "no-go zones" map.

In its last meeting, the MICC instructed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to study the process of delineating the "go and no-go zones" for mining application identified under EO 79.

The DOF earlier said the DENR and other concerned member-agencies were tasked to form a technical working group that will identify a pilot area for the implementation of the updated no-go zones.

The MICC also instructed DENR to check the provisions in the implementing rules and regulations and see whether the issues concerning the go-no go zones could be resolved by revising the IRR.

"The MICC should not forget that other conditions remain in

place that justify this moratorium," ATM said.

In a statement on Tuesday, the DOF said this is despite the increase in the excise taxes for mineral products to 4 percent, from 2 percent under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion law or Republic Act 10963.

DOF said a new revenue-sharing scheme and mechanism for mining will be covered in Package 2 plus of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program.

The House of Representatives provides for this new fiscal regime to ensure that the government gets its rightful share of the profits from mineral resources by approving House Bill 8400 on third and final reading. The bill was transmitted to the Senate last month.

MWSS urges speedy ECC for P12.2-B Kaliwa Dam

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) is asking the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to hasten the approval of the Environmental Compliance Certificate of the P12.2-billion Kaliwa Dam in a bid to secure Metro Manila's water supply.

The New Centennial Water Supply project can only take off once the DENR issues the ECC, a requirement that needs to be secured by any project that poses potential environmental risk or impact.

"We already asked (Secretary Roy) Cimatu to ask his people to expedite the process and not to be lax about it because this is a national government project approved by NEDA and signed by the President himself," MWSS administrator Reynaldo Velasco said.

"We already submitted that (ECC application) before. But we also understand that they have a process since it is a big project," he added.

The DENR is also doing its own consultation and completing other requirements such as the counting of the trees that will be cut down for the project.

MWSS hopes to secure the ECC and finish the design until March next year to immediately proceed with the construction of the dam.

"It is supposed to be finished by 2023 but I want it done by 2022 before President Duterte ends his term," Velasco said.

"Once the report is accepted, we are just given 120 days to approve the ECC. I think three months can be done if all the requirements based on the procedural screening are submitted," DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said.

"In fairness to MWSS, they are cooperating with us and they are giving all the requirements that we are asking," he added.

Velasco also clarified claims that there were no consultations on the part of the MWSS.

"We never shortcut our project be-

cause we do not want to derail or give ammunition to the people who are complaining about it," he said.

Meanwhile, the MWSS has already released an initial P565 million to the Department of Public Works and Highways for road construction.

Of the P12.2 billion construction cost, 85 percent will be funded by the official development assistance (ODA) from China amounting to P10.2 billion, while 15 percent or P2 billion will be shouldered by MWSS.

After 34 years, Kaliwa Dam is set to fully take off following the formal signing of the contract between President Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping last month.

The project, which will supply additional 600 million liters of water per day to Metro Manila, will be undertaken by China Energy Engineering Corp.

The construction of the multi-billion water project was first approved by NEDA in 2014. The financing scheme was changed in 2017 from a public-private partnership to ODA.



Kaliwa Dam to negatively affect Quezon, Rizal provinces—German-funded CSOs

THE Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPI), a network of 250 civil society organizations (CSOs), rights groups, peace and faith-based institutions, said it is “joining the call to altogether stop and abandon the plan to build” the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project (NCWS-KDP).

The proposed NCWS-KDP “is a threat and perhaps a disaster waiting to happen to Quezon province and some parts of Rizal province that might even annihilate the Dumagats and Remontado tribal people living in the Sierra Madre mountain ranges,” PMPI said in a statement issued on Thursday.

The project, being part of the “Build, Build, Build” program of the Duterte administration to be financed by China, is a P12.2 billion (\$231 million) mega dam that aims to ensure water supply for the fast-growing Metropolitan Manila and surrounding areas.

The NCWS-KDP will be constructed inside the declared Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve, under Proclamation 573, series of 1968 and under Proclamation 1636 in 1977.

The PMPI believes the dam will drown 291 hectares of forest from the total 9,800 hectares in Infanta Kaliwa Watershed, including the sacred site of Dumagat-Remontado in the areas of Tinipak in Barangay Daraitan, Tanay, Rizal province. The dam construction will endanger the rich biodiversity in the Sierra Madre and also adversely affect the whole ecosystem in the surrounding areas including the symbiotic relationship between the tribal people and their ancestral lands, the PMPI said.

“We do not agree that in the name of development, our brother and sister IPs should be sacrificed and displaced from their ancestral lands if ever these dam projects will push through,” PMPI National Coordinator Yolanda R. Esguerra was quoted in a statement as saying. “We are against any form of development that would sacrifice the lives of other living species in the forest and river ecosystem. We need to take into account the rights of people and Mother Nature in any development plan and projects.”

Esguerra said PMPI calls on the local government, particularly the Executive Committee of the Regional Development Council (RDC) in Region 4-A (Calabarzon), which endorsed the proposed multibillion peso dam project to heed the voice of its constituents.

There were many opposition from various environmental groups and indigenous peoples (IPs). The rights of the Dumagats and Remontados have been violated when they were deprived of a Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as required by Republic Act (RA) 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997 by the ongoing construction of the access road from Sitio Kamagong, Barangay Magsaysay, Infanta up to Sitio Queborosa, Barangay Pagsangahan, General Nakar, both in Quezon province.

Also, the said proposed project would essentially violate RA 7586, since the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has yet to issue an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).

“Thus, we strongly ask President Rodrigo Duterte to rescind the loan agreement he officially signed with Chinese President Xi Jinping last November that will fund the project,” PMPI said.

“We are against it, because many lives will be at risk and livelihood will be affected. The proposed 60-meter high Kaliwa Dam will be constructed within a zone of two active tectonics represented by the Philippine Fault Zone and the Valley Fault System. We do not oppose the government’s Build, Build, Build program per se, but these will endanger and displace many people,” PMPI Southern Tagalog Cluster Point-Person Conrado Vargas said. “Even a country like Japan with their technology and all, were caught flat-footed when the 2011 earthquake hit them.”

Instead of building mega dams, the government and its primary water agency like the MWSS should look into alternative ways to manage our water resources toward a more sustainable and ecological way, the PMPI said.

For example, the use of deep tunnel sewerage system to convey used water by gravity to centralized water reclamation plants and used water is treated and further purified into ultraclean, high-grade reclaimed water like what the Singapore did to its water system.

“That is more economical than constructing mega dam,” Vargas added. “Other ways are rehabilitation of Wawa dam and Pasig-Laguna river basin, desiltation of Angat Dam and also the restoration of the deteriorating forest covers of the Sierra Madre ranges that serve as our watershed should be the government’s top priority.”



San Miguel set to start water project in Bulacan

The P24.4-billion Bulacan Bulk Water Supply Project (BBWSP) of conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) is expected to start operations early next year.

This is the first major water project to be implemented by the Duterte administration.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) said the two phases of the project are 97 percent complete and are expected to be inaugurated by President Duterte in January 2019.

While the Bulacan water project was started by the Aquino administration in 2012, it is the first major water project to be completed during Duterte's term.

MWSS administrator Reynaldo Velasco said the treatment plant would have a capacity of 400 million liters per day (MLD) which could go as far as 800 MLD," he said.

The formal start of operations next month will also signal the beginning of the 25-year concession period which will last until 2044.

Luzon Clean Water Development Corp., a consortium of San Miguel Holdings (80 percent) and K-Water Resources Corp. (20 percent), will then start charging consumers at

Turn to B12

San Miguel... From B9

P8.50 per cubic meter.

The BBWSP aims to address the water supply requirements of municipalities in the province of Bulacan, thereby reducing groundwater extraction and use of deep wells which are being discouraged due to adverse environmental impact.

The project intends to supply treated bulk water to water districts in Bulacan province through the construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities for abstraction,

treatment, and conveyance of treated bulk water supply.

Since the construction of the Ipo Dam and Angat Dam, Bulacan has been the host of the backbone of Metro Manila's water supply system.

However, even with the expansion of the system, Bulacan has not been considered part of the beneficiaries of the Angat water system despite the clamor from the province for its inclusion.

It was in July 2012

when a memorandum of agreement was signed between MWSS and the province of Bulacan for the supply of treated bulk water to the entire province through its water districts.

The BBWSP is one of the two water projects of the MWSS under the country's public-private partnership program, the other one being the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam project aimed at meeting the increasing water demand in Metro Manila. — Louise Maureen Simeon

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

'Climate change' for PH Media

THE SOUTHERN WATCH Paul's Alarm



By Paul Gutierrez

BELOW is the statement released by the National Press Club (NPC) over the latest 'global media situationer' released by the Paris-based 'Reporters Without Border' (RSF).

The report is significant considering that it validates what the local media community has been experiencing since the formation of the 'Presidential Task Force on Media Security' (PTFoMS), which, incidentally, is an "initiative" of the NPC at the start of the Duterte administration.

As of this year, the Philippines has been removed in the 'Top 5' of countries considered as the 'most dangerous countries' for journalists.

The "bottom line" is, the "climate" for the practice of the profession has been improving, despite the effort of some quarters to continue "demonising" the state of the Philippine media.

For those in the know, the improvement is not a welcome development to these same quarters as this would also greatly affect their respective "bottom line" as the possible dilution in foreign fund they are getting for projects they claim would "help" im-

prove the working condition of the working press, now looms in the horizon.

Translation? Ginawang "kabuhayan" ng ilang grupo sa media ang tulong-pinansiyal ng mga dayuhan para "pondohan" (kuno) ang mga proyekto upang "proteksyunan" ang media.

At ngayong mayroon nang 'climate change' pabor sa mas "ligtas" na kapaligiran para sa mga mamamahayag, 'bad news' ito para sa kanila.

Read on, dear readers...

"The National Press Club of the Philippines (NPC), the country's oldest and largest national organization of active members of the press, has welcomed the latest report by the global media watchdog, 'Reporters Without Border' (RSF) where not a word was included on the state of the Philippine media.

"Titled, 'Worldwide Round-up of Journalists Killed, Held Hostage or Missing in 2018,' the 24-page report, covering the period January 1 to December 1, 2018, can already be viewed and downloaded in the RSF's website (rsf.org).

"According to the Paris-

based organization, the "most dangerous countries" today for journalists, in terms of those killed are, Afghanistan (15), Syria (11), Mexico (9), Yemen (8), India and, for the first time, the United States, which both registered six deaths.

"Overall, the RSF, which has been compiling its data since 1995, said a total of 80 journalists and 'media workers' were killed this year.

"Of these, 63 were professional journalists, which is 15 percent higher compared to the 55 professional journalists killed last year.

"Worldwide, the RSF said 348 journalists and other media practitioners are under detention, with China on top of the list with 60 journalist under detention, followed by Egypt and Turkey with 38 and 33 journalists and media workers behind bars, respectively.

"There are also 60 journalists and media workers being held hostage by armed groups in the war-torn Middle East.

"Good or bad, we would have welcomed the 'assessment' made by other media organizations on the state of the Philippine media, especially from a respectable organization like the RSF," NPC president Rolly Gonzalo said, noting the "concerted effort" by some quarters in the country to continuously "paint a horrifying picture of the state of

the Philippine media in the eyes of the world."

"Given that the 2018 RSF report is very much focused and concise in its assessment, we can only conclude that the RSF, by not commenting on the Philippines, has also been made aware of the tremendous effort being exerted by the Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFoMS) to protect local journalists.

"RSF's silence can only mean that it appreciates the measures being done by the task force and its media partners like the NPC to uphold and promote press freedom in the country," Gonzalo said.

"He noted that since the infamous '2009 Ampatuan Massacre' where 32 of the 58 victims were members of the press, the Philippines has continuously been tagged by the RSF and even by human rights groups as among the 'most dangerous countries' in the world for journalists.

"But with this latest report by the RSF, it can be said that the united effort by Philippine media groups and the PTFoMS to protect all media workers in the country is starting to bear fruit.

"This has happened despite efforts by some local quarters to still paint a frightening picture of our media environment before the eyes of the world," the NPC president added.



Mitsubishi firm backs KC tree planting

TO COLLABORATE for a greener future, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation and local affiliate International Elevator & Equipment, Inc. supported Knights of Columbus' tree-planting activity called "Faith in Action: Save the Earth, Plant a Tree" which was recently held in the Grotto Area of the National Bilibid Prison Reservation in Barangay Poblacion, Muntinlupa City.

Employees, executives, and partners of Mitsubishi Electric and IEE volunteered in the planting of a thousand alibangbang, duhat, and langka seeds.

Participating in the activity is part of Mitsubishi Electric's commitment to carbon reduction and biodiversity preservation in the Philippines and the Asia Pacific region which is espoused in the company's Environmental Vision 2021.

"Our goal is to be a leading 'green' company that contributes to the safety, security, and comfort as well as sustainability of communities," said Katsumi Fujisaki, General Manager of the Mitsubishi Electric Asia Pte Ltd Environmental Strategy.

The company draws up an Environmental Plan every three years to implement its advocacy. In 2018, program

pillars were identified that focused on creating low carbon societies, recycling-based communities, harmony with nature, and strengthening environmental preservation capabilities.

"Our biodiversity preservation activities have expanded to almost all Mitsubishi Electric business sites. The planet needs to be protected for future generations and we're doing our part by manufacturing eco-efficient products and by planting trees which is equally important," emphasized Fujisaki.

In 2017, Mitsubishi Electric embarked on a tree planting activity in Tayak Hills in Rizal, Laguna.

This year, the company supported Knights of Columbus which is a global Catholic-based fraternal organization engaged in charity and a broad range of services to fellow members and to those in need. Environment-related activities are part of Knights of Columbus Luzon Jurisdiction's schedule of activities every year, including Linis-Kalikasan or the Coastal Cleanup in the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area, in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.



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• **Bacolod diocese leads tree-planting**

BACOLOD CITY — The Diocese of Bacolod has partnered with the government for the implementation of the tree-growing project, dubbed "Panggas," among the Catholic schools under its jurisdiction. The project is being undertaken through an agreement formalized on Wednesday between the Diocese of Bacolod, the Negros Occidental provincial government, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Catholic Education Association of the Philippines (CEAP)-Negros Occidental. Fr. Chris Gonzales, head of the Diocese's Social Action Center, said the inspiration of the project is Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si (Praise Be), On the Care of Our Common Home." (PNA)



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Trusted Since 1858

The Manila Times



21 DEC 2013

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Govt crackdown led to cleaner beaches – Puyat

BY NEIL JAYSON N. SERVALLOS

THE crackdown on erring tourism establishments has paid off, the Department of Tourism (DoT) said on Thursday.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said the government's thrust in improving tourist spots led to the successful rehabilitation of Boracay island and certain areas in El Nido, Palawan and Panglao, Bohol.

"For me it was very positive not only

around the country, but abroad. Around the country I noticed *lalo na noong nagbukas ang Boracay* (when Boracay reopened), the netizens, *silang mismo ang nagre-report ng issues on kalat sa pinupuntahan nila* [they are the ones reporting on garbage issues in the places

they have visited)," she said.

Puyat said the government reduced the coliform count in Boracay from thousands to 50.

"*Napakalinis, nakapaganda* (It's clean and beautiful). I've noticed that a lot of people, I don't know, really want to maintain Boracay," she said.

The coliform count in beaches in Panglao and El Nido also went down.

Puyat said a quality check by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in October in Panglao's Alona Beach yielded a coliform count of 16,000 most probable number (mpn) while Buena Suerte in El Nido had 1,300 mpn.

The normal water quality for beaches is 100 mpn, while swimming pools usually have 400 mpn. Registering above 1,000 mpn level is risky.

The tourism secretary said the government would start addressing the environmental concerns on several tourist spots in La Union, Baguio, Puerto Galera, Coron and Siargao.

"We have to broaden the focus from a single island — Boracay — to the greater vision of the entire country. We also have to look past the pressure to just appeasing the present but rather to see to it that the future is even better," she said.



Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat



Friday, December 21, 2018

'Butanding' sighting season on in Sorsogon

By NIÑO N. LUCES

SORSOGON CITY – The provincial government on Thursday officially declared that the whaleshark or 'butanding' sighting season off the coast of Donsol is officially on.

Sorsogon Governor Bobet Lee-Rodrigueza said that sightings of the human-friendly whale sharks have started for almost a month ago and was observed on a consistent basis since last week.

"Yes, these friendly whale sharks are spending Yuletide season this year in Sorsogon. As per advise by the local government unit of Donsol, spearheaded by Mayor Josephine Alcantara-Cruz, in partnership with the provincial government, the butanding season is officially on and open," Lee-Rodrigueza said.

Sorsogon Provincial Tourism Officer Bobby Gigantone told the Manila Bulletin that their counterpart in Donsol town started monitoring and sighting the whaleshark as early as three months ago.

"Iba-iba yung numero ng makikita mong mga butanding. Hindi naman sila pareparehas kadami since nagstart yung monitoring namin in the past 3 months. Kahapon anim na butanding ang nakita sa karagatan na sakop ng Donsol. So, mga average of 6 sightings ng butanding ang makikita mo araw-araw (The number of sighted butandings vary since we started three months ago. Yesterday we spotted six off Donsol)," Gigantone said.

In previous years, 'butanding' sightings in Donsol start in January or February and ends in June.

"Nagbago ngayon yung sightings ng butanding, siguro dala na rin ng climate change. Pero kahit ano pa man yan, we have to take advantage of it kasi ito yung isa sa mga bumubuhay ng turismo sa ating probinsiya (The butanding sighting schedule has changed, perhaps due to global warming. But whatever the exact reason is, we have to take advantage of the early sighting to boost tourism which is a main source of livelihood in the province)," Gigantone said.



ANG biis talaga ng panahon.

Pasko na naman kaya binabati ng ULTIMATUM ang lahat ng Merry Christmas o Magandang Pasko.

Bagama't magtatapos na ang buong taon ng 2018, ang totoo, ito ang hudyat ng pagpapatuloy ng nakaraan habang nakaharap tayo sa mga bagong hamon sa buhay, trabaho, misyon at iba pa.

Magpapatuloy ang mga problemang hindi natatapos habang ipinanganganak naman ang iba.

May mga matatapos, may mga magpapatuloy at kahit mawala na tayo sa mundong ito sa katandaan, ganito pa rin ang magaganap.

18K+ PA ANG MAMAMATAY

Hindi sumusuko ang mga nagpapalaganap ng droga.

Talagang gusto nilang kumita ng salapi kahit masira ang bansa, lalo na ang ating mga kabataan.

Patuloy rin nilang gustong humawak ng kapangyarihan sa pamahalaan upang maipagpatuloy nila ang kanilang gustong magaganap.

Batay sa datos, dalawang porsyento sa kada 300,000 surrenderee sa Oplan Tokhang ang bumabalik sa pagdodroga, pagtutulak nito, pagiging narco-cop, narco-politician at iba pa.

Nagkaroon tayo ng mahigit isang milyong surrenderee sa Oplan Tokhang.

Kaya naman, sa simpleng kwentahan, ang 2% ay 6,000 at kung i-triple mo ito para tumbasan ang 1M na surrenderee, magiging 18,000 ang bumalik sa dating gawi.

At alam ba ninyo na may matatayang ang mga ito at handang lumaban sa mga awtoridad?

Dito tiyak na magaganap ang patuloy na patayan sa droga.

'Yun bang === may mamatay na adik, tulak, druglord, narco o ninja cop, narco-politician, druglord at iba pa.



GIYERA SA DROGA, ILLEGAL PARKING AT BASURA

STOP NA

Kapag walang titigil sa paggawa at pagpapalaganap ng droga, magpapatuloy ang giyera.

May mamamatay ring pulis, sundalo, NBI, infor-

mer, lider ng mga bayan at bansa habang lumalaban sa droga.

Sa mga susunod at araw at taon, sana makatulong ang mga mamamayan sa giyera sa droga at hindi basta manood lang o kaya'y protestahin ang mga kalakip na kamatayan.

Simple lang naman ang hiling ng Pangulo.

Stop na...at walang giyera, walang patayan.

ILLEGAL PARKING

Sa Enero 7, 2019, ipatutupad na ng Metro Manila Development Authority ang bagong patakaran sa illegal parking.

Magmamahal na nang husto ang multa.

Kung ngayon ay may P150-P300 multa rito, magiging P1,000 na at kung magpapatuloy ito, maaaring aabot ito sa P6,000 para sa isang sasakyan lamang dahil magkakaroon ng dagdag na violation gaya ng obstruction at iba pa.

Mahal din ang paghatak at impounding.

Kaya, ngayon pa lang, mga Bro, dapat gumawa na tayo ng ating mga parking area sa ating mga compound o bahay.

Sa ngayon, hindi manghahatak ang mga awtoridad ng mga sasakyan dahil puno na ang mga impounding area.

Subalit papalitan ito ng paniniket at paniningil ng itinaas na multa sa mga paglabag sa illegal parking.

GIYERA RIN

Hindi natin pinangungunahan ang mga pangyayari.

Pero tiyak na lilikha ng giyera rin ang problema sa parking.

Maaaring aabot ang giyera sa mga demandahan.

Pero may aabot din sa patayan.

Kaya lang, dapat na tandaan na may batas na nagbabawal ng pag-park sa bangketa at kalsada o daanan ng tao.

Ang totoo, grabe ang mga violation natin dito.

Meron na ngang mga city at barangay road na nilalagyan ng mga pintuan at inangkin na ang mga kalsada bilang garahe ng sasakyan.

Sa totoo lang, maraming kalsada ang Metro Manila pero nilalamon ng illegal parking at pag-angkin ng mga mamamayan sa kalsada.

Pati nga mga barangay hall ay nakatayo sa mga bangketa at kalsada at kung saan makikita ang mga ito, naririyang din ang mga grabeng illegal parking.

ANG BASURA

Mayroon din tayong giyera sa basura.

Matagal nang batas habang limbawa ang paghihiwalay ng nabubulok at hindi nabubulok at may ispesyal ding kargahan ang mga basura ng ospital at basurang industriyal gaya ng mga nakalalasang kemikal.

Pero napakarami ang hindi sumusunod sa mga batas dito at kung saan saang nagtatapon ng basura ang mga mamamayan.

Dahil sa mali nating pagtatapon ng basura, lalo na ang mga solido gaya ng mga plastic, nagbabara ang mga ilog, sapa, drainage at iba pang daluyan ng tubig.

Baha, baha at walang katapusang baha ang ating natatamo.

At ang masaklap, dahil sa maling pagtrato natin sa basura, hayag at nagtapon sa ating bansa ng mga bansang Korea at Canada ng kanilang basura.

Kailangan natin ang giyera laban sa basura at sana, sa susunod na taon, susunod na tayo sa mga batas sa basura at maiwasan natin ang giyera rito.

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Anomang reaksyon o reklamo ay maaaring iparating sa 09228403333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.