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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Kailan lilinisin ang maruming Manila Bay?

Naniniwala ako na ang mga informal settlers na naninirahan sa baybayin ng Manila Bay at mga nasa tabing estero ang nagpaparumi sa karagatan. Tapon lang sila nang tapon sa tubig at walang pakialam kung maging marumi man ang karagatan. Para sa kanila, bahala na kung ano ang mangyari.

Naniniwala rin ako na mas matindi pa sa Boracay ang Manila Bay sapagkat matagal nang panahon na pinagtatapanan ng dumi at basura ng mga iskuwaters.

Sa pagkaalam ko may kautusan ang Supreme Court sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) noong 2008 na i-rehabilitate at ipreserba ang

Manila Bay. Pero lumipas ang maraming taon at walang ginawa ang DENR. Kaya ang resulta, marumi at umaalingasaw ang Manila Bay. Maraming basurang naglutangang. Kakadiri sa baho.

Noong nakaraang linggo, nangako si DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu na pangungunahan ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay. Ayon sa kanya "lethal solution" ang ipatutupad para mailigtas ang Manila Bay sa pagkasira. Ayon pa sa kanya, iaaaplay ang ginawa niya sa Boracay na anim na buwan na isinara at ni-rehabilitate dahil marumi. Sa kasalukuyan, malinis na malinis na ang Boracay. Sumunod ang mga pasaway na resort at restaurant owners.

Kailangang linisin ang Manila Bay. Nakakahiya sa mga dumadalaw na turista na pagtanaw nila sa Manila Bay, pawang basura ang bumubulaga sa kanila. Naaamoy din nila ang nakakasulasok na amoy mula sa dagat kung saan makikita ang magandang paglubog ng araw.

Sana matupad ang pangako ni Sec. Cimatu na lilinis sa lalong madaling panahon ang Manila Bay.

Kung nakaya niyang linisin ang maruming Boracay, kaya rin niyang linisin ang Manila Bay.

Salamat po. ---**ANTHONY SALAAT, Project 6, Quezon City**



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



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Sprints by the Bay, regatta redefined

On February 3 next year, a new Dragon boat regatta will fire up the waters of SM Mall of Asia Seaside Boulevard together with the joint forces of Seahawks Dragonboat PH, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippine Canoe Kayak Dragonboat Federation (PCKDF) and SM by the Bay.

This new regatta aims to promote fellowship and sportsmanship among dragon boat teams all over the country. This event will also promote the World Wetlands Day 2019.

It was in August 10 last year when Seahawks PH and SM by the Bay teamed up to build a stronger fitness platform at the bay area of SM MOA. Since then, the two pro-

gressed together and continued growing and winning in their own ways. In a bolder move and a bigger heart, the partnership was recently made bigger with the help of DENR and PCKDF.

With the guidance of DENR in protecting natural resources, the partnership will bring the next level of dragon boat racing in the country.

Through "Wetlands and Climate Change," the event aims to become an advocate of awareness for the importance of our wetlands in the ecosystem while helping the fight against climate change.

The Seahawks Games: Sprints by the Bay will see the teams compete in the following: First 30 teams, 200 meters, 5 categories, and one of a kind event. For details, follow at [w2ww.facebook.com/SeahawksPH](https://www.facebook.com/SeahawksPH), www.facebook.com/SMbytheBay, Instagram: @SeahawksPh, Instagram: @thesmbythebay.



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Japan still PH's No. 1 source of ODA

By Ben O. de Vera
 @bendeveraINQ

Japan remained the Philippines' biggest source of official development assistance (ODA), accounting for more than 40 percent of the total received by the country as of end-September, state planning agency National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) said.

In a statement Friday, Neda said active ODA from Japan, a long-time contributor of ODA to

the Philippines, amounted to \$5.98 billion—\$5.84 billion in loans and \$141.33 million in grants—or 41.2 percent of the total.

One of the notable projects financed by Japan, according to the Neda, is the first phase of the Metro Manila subway project, which covers the construction of a 25.3-kilometer subway.

The subway will run from Mindanao Ave. in Quezon City to FTI in Taguig, with an extension to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The govern-

ments of the Philippines and Japan signed the P50-billion loan agreement for the Metro Manila subway project on March 16. The project is expected to break ground in January 2019, the Neda noted.

In the meantime, the World Bank's combined loans and grants to the Philippines during the period reached \$3.13 billion, or more than a fifth of the total.

The Manila-based Asian Development Bank extended \$2.24 billion in loans and grants, or

15.4 percent of total.

Rounding up the top 10 ODA sources were the United States (\$806.76 million in grants), South Korea (\$659.73 million in loans and grants), Australia (\$467.72 million in grants), the United Nations (\$341.95 million in loans and grants), the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (\$207 million in loan), France (\$191.96 million in loans and grants) and the European Union (\$167.39 million in grants).

As for China, it had granted

the Philippines \$62.09 million in loans and \$62.28 million in grants, or a combined \$124.37 million to date.

Across 17 development partners and multilateral lending institutions, which also included Germany, Italy, Canada, Spain, New Zealand and the Opec Fund for International Development, the country's total active ODA portfolio stood at \$14.51 billion as of September, the latest Neda data showed.

To date, the country had

availed itself of \$12.28 billion in loans and received \$2.22 billion in grants from those 17 countries and financial institutions.

"As we assess 2018, we look at our development partners with full of appreciation and gratitude. They have been constantly beside us in our efforts to pursue much-needed reforms and both social and physical infrastructures to reach our goals," Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and Neda chief Ernesto said. INQ



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CLIMATE-LINKED DISASTERS IN 2018 CAUSED \$100B IN DAMAGE WORLDWIDE

PARIS—Climate change-induced disasters cost nations at least \$100 billion in 2018, a watchdog said Thursday, warning the spate of deadly wildfires, floods and superstorms was “a shadow” of things to come if greenhouse gas emissions aren’t slashed.

This year is set to be the fourth hottest on record and as planet-warming carbon and methane levels in the atmosphere continue to rise, extreme weather events such as the devastating blazes that destroyed swathes of California are likely to become far more common.

“2018 showed the catastrophic threat that climate change presents the world. And this was just a shadow of what would come if temperatures continue to rise,” said Kat Kramer, global climate lead for the Christian Aid group.

Hurricanes

Her team compiled a list of 10 climate-linked disasters and used open source data, official estimates and assessments from insurance firms to determine the cost of each.

Topping the list were hurri-

canes “Florence” and “Michael,” which caused an estimated \$17 billion and \$15 billion worth of damage, respectively.

Michael was the strongest storm to hit the continental United States since 1969 which killed 45 people, and at least 13 in Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

This month saw nations agree a common rule book to implement the 2015 Paris climate accord, in which countries committed to limiting global temperature rises to well below 2 degrees Celsius.

But major polluters including the United States and Saudi Arabia disputed a landmark scientific report released in October that suggested nations must slash fossil fuel use by nearly half in a little over a decade in order to achieve the Paris goals.

“The only answer is for immediate global efforts to reverse the rise in emissions, to put the world on course for carbon neutrality by the middle of the century,” Kramer told AFP.

The pledges finalized at the COP24 talks in Poland this month set Earth on a path to-

wards 3-degrees-Celsius warming enough to displace hundreds of millions and tug at the fabric of society.

Kramer said governments were still beholden to domestic audiences who rely on dirty energy to heat their homes and power their cars.

‘Face of climate change’

“Since much of the public’s day-to-day life is based around using fossil fuels, governments are often unwilling to make the changes that would be needed to cut emissions.”

2018 saw at least one major climate-induced disaster on every inhabited continent on Earth.

Christian Aid found that four events including the California wildfires, drought in southern Europe and widespread flooding in Japan cost at least \$7 billion each.

“The unprecedented floods, droughts, heat waves, wildfires and superstorms we’ve seen in recent years they are the face of climate change,” said Michael Mann, distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science at Penn State University. —AFP



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LLDA, now ISO 9001:2015 Certified

The Laguna Lake Development Authority General Manager Joey C. Medina (5th from left) receives the ISO 9001: 2015 Registration Certificate.

The ISO 9001:2015 specifies requirements for a quality management system who needs to demonstrate its ability to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements and aims to enhance customer satisfaction through the effective application of the system, including processes for improvement of the system and the assurance of conformity to customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

The Certificate of Registration is a confirmation of LLDA's drive towards improvement of public service.



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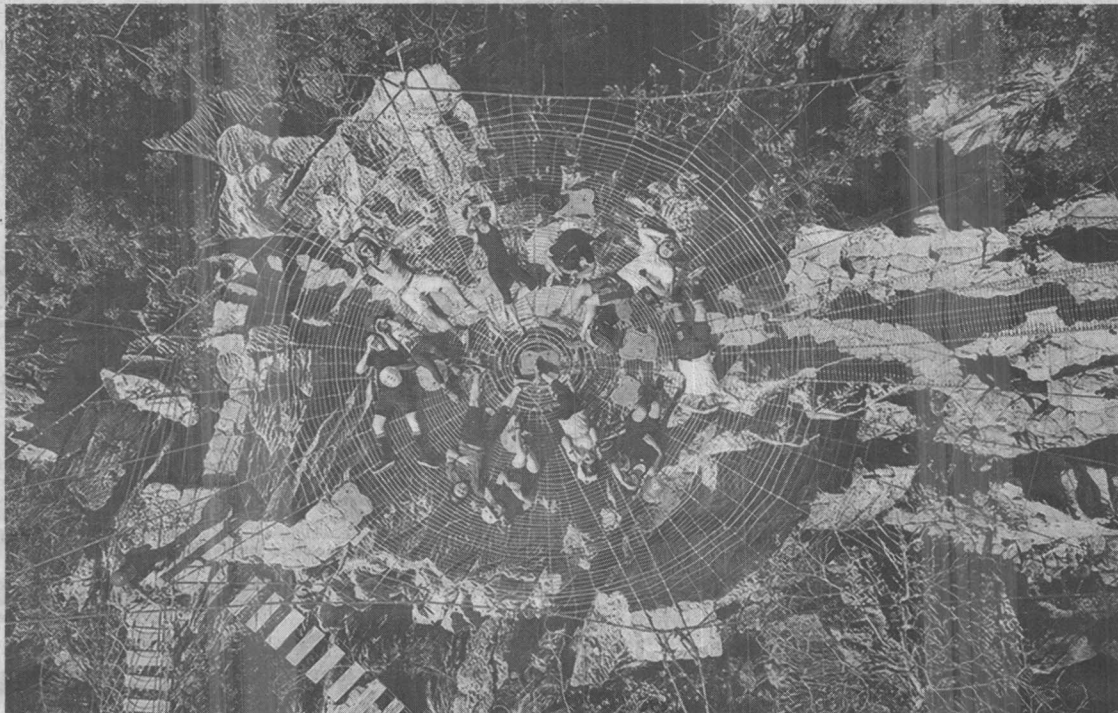
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Masungi Georeserve champions Philippine conservation in Explorers meet, UN Awards

The award-winning conservation project in the limestone forests of Baras, Rizal recently gathered over 100 local and international explorers, scientists and journalists in the Philippines with the support of National Geographic Society - Asia. Shortly after, Masungi Georeserve received international recognition for innovation in conservation financing and resourcing at the United Nations 14th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. In partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Masungi Georeserve spearheads the conservation of 60-million-year-old limestone formations and biodiversity through protection, education and research, and sustainable development. The conservation and maintenance of the georeserve is purely financed by low-volume geotourism.

For more information about the project and other relevant details on how to contribute to the initiative as individuals or organisations, please contact 09088887002 or 09951869911 or visit www.masungigeoreserve.com.



Masungi Georeserve balances man and human interaction through low-impact, sustainable designs like the "Sapot" (spiderweb) and strict visitor management practices.



Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat lays out the country's sustainable tourism agenda at the closing of Explorer Encounters.



Costa Rica minister and environmental activist Carlos Manuel Rodriguez awards the inaugural Pathfinder Award Special Commendation to Masungi Georeserve Justices Ayer and Billie Dumaliang.



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