

14 JAN 2010

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Monday

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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



'Strict law enforcement needed for Manila Bay cleanup'

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has vowed to strictly implement the country's Clean Water Law as it beefed up efforts to restore Manila Bay to its pristine state fit for public recreation.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the strict implementation of the Philippine Clean Water Act is the "key to addressing water quality issues and other environmental problems in the bay."

Ocular inspections conducted by the DENR showed that several establishments in Manila discharged their wastewater into Manila Bay.

"Establishments have to put up their own sewage treatment plants. They cannot discharge wastewater in *esteros*. We are giving them three months to establish STPs," Cimatu said.

He said the planned rehabilitation of Manila Bay would be in three phases.

Phase 1 covers cleanup and water quality improvement, Phase 2 for rehabilitation and Phase 3 for protection and sustainability.

The first phase will begin this year, which involves the cleanup of *esteros* and waterways, reduction of the level of fecal coliform and toxic discharges from establishments as well as provision of temporary sanitation facilities for informal settlers residing along the Manila Bay.

Manila Bay waters are considered the most polluted in the country due to domestic sewage, toxic industrial effluents from factories and shipping operations as well as leachate from garbage dumps.

A report from the DENR-attached agency Environmental Management Bureau showed that the fecal coliform level in the bay reached as high as over 330 million most probable number per 100 milliliters. The safe level is only 100 MPN/100ml.

The DENR targets to reduce coliform level to less than 270 MPN/100ml by December this year.

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, which is 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.

PAL backs cleanup

Flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL) has expressed its support for the government's move to clean up Manila Bay.

In a statement, PAL said Manila Bay is heavily polluted and an all-out campaign for its sustained cleanup would save it for future generations of Filipinos.

"The rehabilitation of the bay will make Manila more livable and attractive for Manilans and foreign visitors" Jaime Bautista, PAL president and chief operating officer, said.

"As a key promoter of tourist travel to Manila and the largest airline based here, PAL supports the government's efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay with the same determination that revived Boracay Island. We will be proud to promote a revitalized Manila Bay, with its iconic sunset, as the symbol of a capital city that welcomes the world to its shores," Bautista added. - Louise Maureen Simeon, Richmond Mercurio



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ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy A. Cimatu checks out the Estero de San Antonio Abad in Manila during an ocular inspection of wastewater outfalls and pipes in the Manila Bay area. NONDY LACZA

Most hotels back Manila Bay cleanup, but...

MOST hotels around the Manila Bay area have expressed support for the cleanup of the historic bay straddling three of the country's most progressive regions, but a few want the government to first look at the pollution from informal settlers before the hotels. Others want it to mitigate the impact on tourism numbers once hotels are shut down for alleged pollution.

"If there are violations from hotels, of course these need to be fixed," said Arthur Lopez, president of the Philippine Hotel Owners Association. But he stressed, "the DOT [Department of Tour-

ism] must plan and must assist in relocating displaced guests with minimal inconvenience to the latter."

The DENR is implementing a one-strike policy against hotels found discharging untreated wastewater into Manila Bay. About 2,000 hotels are on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources inspection list, as well as 500 condominium developments. (See, "DENR has 1-strike policy vs pollutive bay condos," in the *BUSINESSMIRROR*, January 11, 2019.)

"I just hope those hotels with existing sewerage treatment plants will be exempted from any penalties and sanc-

tions," said one veteran hotelier managing a large chain of accommodations, but declined to be identified. "We install our STPs right at the planning stage, as it's part of our corporate social duty responsibility to the environment. Installing them are not knee-jerk reactions. Those are buried in the earth, expensive and as huge as trailer trucks."

He added, "Hopefully they will commend those compliant, unlike you-know-where [i.e., Boracay Island] wherein they applied the shotgun approach and they closed all the establishments, compliant as well as violators."

SBB "MANILA BAY," A2



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Most hotels back Manila Bay cleanup, but...

Manila Bay...

CONTINUED FROM A1

The problem is if they will change the parameters again. If so, we'll need to upgrade our STPs to conform to new parameters."

The Duterte administration closed Boracay for six months, from April 26 to October 26, 2018, affecting businesses that may have actually been compliant with environmental laws. The DENR also put out a series of confusing memorandum circulars on which establishments should have STPs. Along with this, some resorts had also complained that the DENR also had different sets of easement measurements.

The hotelier said, "for example, we already have an LLDA [Laguna Lake Development Authority] Clearance as well as an ECC [environment compliance certificate]—and both are under the DENR. They're already strict and comprehensive as it is."

He emphasized, "Hopefully, they first attend to the major cause of the cesspool that is Manila Bay—the squatters."

For its part, Conrad Manila said it supports the Philippine government's campaign to preserve Manila Bay with a long-term plan to rehabilitate it from its current state.

"With our location at the Mall of Asia Complex which is proximate to Manila Bay, we are deeply committed to protecting this valuable body of water, as we always make a difference in the communities where we operate, particularly along environment protection. We share a strong partnership with our local community partners for sustained environment community projects: cleanup drive, proper waste segregation and management, water recycling and energy conservation," it said in a news statement sent to the BUSINESSMIRROR.

An official of another hotel, who requested anonymity as the official was not authorized to speak on the matter, said: "As for President Duterte's directive, I think it's a good move, to help cleanup Manila Bay. Many hotels like us are championing sustainability and it'd be a shame if they didn't have proper water treatment facilities to begin with. Our facilities are reviewed by a third party monthly, and samples are submitted to the DENR in compliance with the law. We also do our bit in coastal cleanups, having worked with government agencies, Philippine Coast Guard, among others."

The hotel official added that the establishment's "wastewater is tested monthly by a third party, submitted to the DENR, and we're compliant with the standards."

According to a presentation by the DENR of its action plan to clean up Manila Bay during a Cabinet meeting last January 7, the Manila Bay area spans 1,994 square kilometers with a coastline of 190 km, comprising three regions—the National

Capital Region, Central Luzon and Calabarzon. Sixteen river systems drain into the bay including the Angat River, Pasig River, Marikina River and the Rio Grande.

Cimatu's warning

ON Friday, Secretary Roy A. Cimatu inspected the bay area and said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will not hesitate to close any establishment found polluting the bay.

Prior to the scheduled commencement of the planned rehabilitation of the natural harbor on January 27, the DENR chief led the inspection of Estero de San Antonio de Abad, a waterway that directly drains into the Manila Bay through an outfall at the Manila Yacht Club.

Together with other officials of the DENR and partner agencies, he witnessed effluents coming from the pipes of some of the nearby establishments that actually flow into the estuary.

"We have to correct it," Cimatu told reporters, while expressing disappointment at the sight of untreated discharges that validated reports on the disposal of their wastewater to the Manila Bay.

Estero de San Antonio de Abad, according to him, will be the "ground zero" for the Manila Bay rehabilitation.

The DENR found out that its fecal coliform level is at around 1.3 billion most probable number (MPN) for every 100 milliliters (ml).

Having the highest range of this group of harmful bacteria from human and animal feces, this 1.2-kilometer (km) polluted estuary is referred to as one of the "Billionaire's Lanes," or priority areas for the rehabilitation plan, in reference to the billions in bacteria.

The coliform level of the nearly 2,000 square-km Manila Bay, on the other hand, is at 330 million MPN/100 ml, or 3.3 million times above the standard safe level of 100 MPN/100 ml fit for swimming.

The DENR said it aims to lessen the coliform level to less than 270 MPN by December of this year. "We will be going upstream," Cimatu bared of their next moves, following their inspection of some of the suspected erring establishments located at the mouth of the popular sunset viewing spot of the country's capital.

He specifically pointed out to big establishments that contribute to water degradation at the portion of Estero de San Antonio de Abad along Leveriza Street, which has about 200 million MPN/100 ml-coliform level.

There are about 304 commercial establishments and 38 hotels to be visited by the DENR and partner agencies as part of the rehab activities.

"We will check if they are connected to the sewer line or have a [sewage] treatment plant [or STP]," said the environment secretary. "Even the Maynilad and the Manila Water will also be subjected to our inspection." **Reports by Ma. Stella F. Arnaldo and Roderick L. Abad**



Diokno: Better to use loans for P47-B Mla Bay cleanup

BY BERNADETTE D. NICOLAS
@BNicolasBM

THE budget chief recommended at the last Cabinet meeting that the country obtain a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) or World Bank to finance the "ambitious" rehabilitation of Manila Bay—pegged to cost around P47 billion.

Although there was still no decision on his recommendation, Budget Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno told the *BUSINESSMIRROR* that this proposal was also backed by Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia.

However, Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III was not present during the meeting, Diokno said.

"...In fact, I recommended that we just borrow money so that there will be more discipline," Diokno said. "We will just borrow money from ADB or World Bank." Sought for clarification, Diokno said this was because the fund needed is "too big."

"So if it's not multiyear, it could be five years, because if it's like that, there will be more discipline to review the feasibility [of the project]," he said, noting that the cleanup was an "ambitious program" covering three regions, particularly the National Capital Region and Regions 3 and 4.

Road tax?

THIS, as he also confirmed that the government is also looking at sourcing the fund needed for the cleanup from the road user's tax, billions of which are no longer being released after the President said he wanted the Road Board abolished for corruption.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has said that the cleanup would take seven years.

Diokno said the Road Board abolition will pave the way for the government to revert the total road user's tax to the general fund.

"We need to abolish it, then you need to have a special budget. You have to file a bill in Congress for the use of that fund so you need that under the present structure, [since] the road user's tax is supposed to be used for road maintenance," he said.

Malacañang has said that the Road Board funds can also be used for Tropical Depression Usman's victims and public hospitals.

Last Tuesday, President Duterte threatened to close hotels near Manila Bay if they do not practice proper waste treatment. He also ordered Interior Secretary Eduardo M. Año and Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu to proceed with plans to clean up Manila Bay, as they did with Boracay.

The President said he is also not bothered if this move will affect the number of tourists staying in these hotels.



DENR, 12 agencies to craft Manila Bay rehab plan

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jonlmayuga

AN interagency body led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will kick off exploratory talks this week to come up with a plan on how to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

Environment Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda, the deputy spokesman of Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the DENR chief has been tasked by President Duterte to lead the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

"There will be an interagency meeting composed of representatives from the mandamus agencies. Probably more will eventually invite to join [the interagency body]," Antiporda said.

To recall, on December 18, 2008, the Supreme Court ordered 13 government agencies to "clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to SB level to make them fit for swimming, skin diving and other forms of contact recreation."

Under DENR Administrative Order 34, Class SB refers to areas regularly used by the public for bathing, swimming and skin diving.

Aside from the DENR, the other concerned agencies are the Departments of Agriculture, Public Works and Highways, Interior and Local Government, Education, Health, and Budget and Management, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Local Water Utilities Administration, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Philippine



A MAN collects recyclable materials from the pile of garbage that was washed ashore on Manila Bay by strong waves brought by Tropical Depression Henry on July 16, 2018. Thirteen agencies will start discussion on a plan to rehabilitate Manila Bay, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. FILE PHOTO

Coast Guard, Philippine National Police-Maritime Group and Philippine Ports Authority. These agencies are collectively referred to as "mandamus agencies."

Antiporda, the DENR's undersecretary for solid waste management and local government units, was earlier quoted in news reports as saying that the Manila Bay rehabilitation will take seven years to complete and a budget of not less than P47 billion.

"By next week, the secretary will publicly announce some of the plans," he said.

Last week Cimatu declared that the strict implementation of Republic Act 9275, or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, is the "key

to addressing water quality issues and other environmental problems in the historic Manila Bay."

Cimatu recently conducted an ocular inspection of the Estero de San Antonio de Abad in Malate, Manila, where outfalls from establishments in the area discharge their wastewater.

After the inspection, Cimatu ordered that establishments have to put up their own sewage treatment plants (STPs), prohibiting the direct discharge of wastewater in the esteros.

The DENR chief also gave concerned business establishments three months to put up their own STPs.



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DENR, 12 agencies to craft Manila Bay rehab plan

To jump-start the rehabilitation, the DENR will start the cleanup of esteros by tracing the sources of untreated wastewater.

The planned rehabilitation program will be strategic to oversee the implementation of the three-phase Manila Bay Action Plan. Phase 1 involves the cleanup and improvement of water quality, Phase 2 involves actual rehabilitation and Phase 3 covers protection and sustainment.

Phase 1 is set to begin this year. It will include the cleanup of esteros and waterways, reduction of the level of fecal coliform and toxic discharges from establishments, and provision of temporary sanitation facilities for informal settlers residing along the esteros and the Manila Bay shoreline.

Solid waste management and planning for the relocation of the informal settlers will also be done.

Critics of the Duterte administration remain unimpressed by the DENR chief's plan.

In a statement, the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said the DENR itself is the one facilitating the destruction of Manila Bay.

This, after one of Pamalakaya's local chapters received a notice of scoping from the DENR to reclaim a total of 420 hectares of Manila Bay within the municipal waters of Bacoor, Cavite.

The public scoping is an early stage of environmental impact assessment where the proponent aims to provide an overview of the proposed project.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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DOT supports DENR effort to rehabilitate Manila Bay

By ANALOU DE VERA

The Department of Tourism (DOT) expressed its support for the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to rehabilitate Manila Bay in a bid to bring it back to its former pristine state.

The tourism department said the effort of cleaning up the Manila Bay "is for the best interest of the tourism industry and is in line with the thrust of the DOT to create a culture of sustainable tourism."

The DOT issued this statement even as it said that it will conduct consultations and dialogues with the other members of the Boracay Interagency Task Force to ensure that "accredited tourism establishments in all parts of the country will conform with the highest standard of environmental conservation."

"We will continue to strengthen our partnership with the industry and national and local government agencies to ensure the sustainable development and management of this economic sector," the DOT said.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has started to inspect the establishments and waterways surrounding the Manila Bay.

Previously, Cimatu expressed hope to replicate what has been achieved in Boracay Island, which had undergone six months of rehabilitation.

"We are preparing for an all-out strategy to bring the coliform concentration in Manila Bay to a safe level so that millions of people who reside in the bay region and neighboring areas will enjoy its waters and marine resources without fear of getting sick," Cimatu said.



Oversight now House priority

By Hananeel Bordey, Marlo Mallari and Gladys Mae Ablon

The House of Representatives focuses on oversight while the Senate ponders on quickly passing the budget when Congress resumes today in an abbreviated session of less than a month to give way to the election campaigns that start on 12 February.

Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said the chamber will

devote legislative work to the review of measures earlier approved during the 14 January to 8 February assembly.

"We already finished the legislative agenda that President (Rodrigo) Duterte asked for in his State of the Nation Address. So, now we will spend more time on oversight because there are laws and the laws are good," Arroyo said.

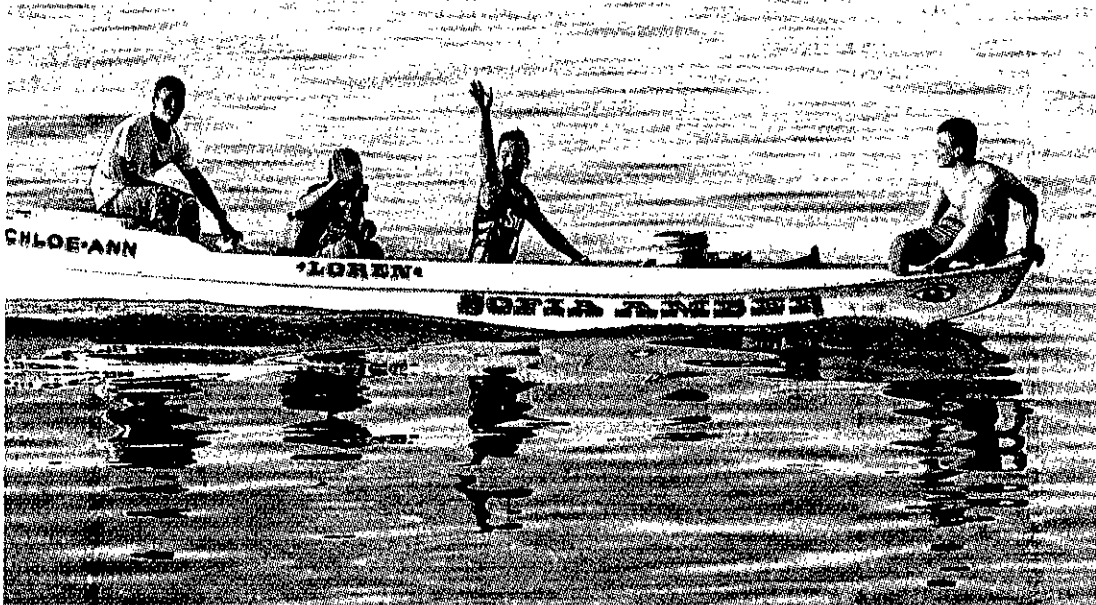
While vowing they will carefully scrutinize the 2019

proposed national budget, Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon said he will not stand in the way of the smooth passage of the General Appropriations Bill (GAB).

The approval of the 2019 GAB is the top agenda of the Senate when it resumes session.

Drilon said the Senate will work on the passage of the P3.757-trillion 2019 budget within two weeks.

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Clear water, bright smiles As Manila Bay gets cleaned up, leisure boat rides become frequent. ROMAN PROSPERO

From page 1

"As Minority Leader, I will not obstruct, but I will thoroughly scrutinize the spending of the people's money," Drilon said.

He noted that proposed budgets of major Departments like Public Works and Highways (DPWH), National Defense (DND), Health (DoH) and Interior and Local Government (DILG) are still up for interpellations.

He cited huge "insertions" in the DPWH and DILG budgets that need scrutiny.

End of month target

"We'll see what will happen, but we will finish the budget not later than end of January," the senator vowed.

There were allegations that P75 billion was inserted into the DPWH budget while P16 billion was added into the DILG.

"We will scrutinize these," Drilon said.

He expressed his intention to put the P16 billion "inserted" into the DILG budget without Secretary Eduardo Año's knowledge to DoH to fund rural health facilities and salaries for contractual nurses.

The Senate has blamed the House of Representatives for the delayed transmittal

of the GAB, following the change in speakership from Davao del Norte Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez to Arroyo.

Malacañang has called for the immediate passage of the 2019 national budget, saying any delay would affect the programs of the Duterte administration.

Presently, the government is operating on a reenacted budget.

Waiting for Senate

Arroyo said proper implementation of the laws will spur growth and generate more jobs.

"Now, they have to be implemented. The more important thing is to make them work to ease doing business because that's the way to bring about prosperity, business and jobs. So, it will be oversight which will be a lot of the work," she said.

So, it is mainly waiting what the Senate will bring back to us.

Arroyo added anew there were no priority bills from the legislative agenda of the President that are still pending in the House and they are just waiting for the Senate's action.

"If ever, the bicameral (conference for priority bills will also be undertaken), but

this is dependent on when the Senate will be able to finish them," she explained.

The Speaker said she recently signed the rice tariffication bill following the Senate's approval.

"So, it is mainly waiting what the Senate will bring back to us, but for the part of the House, we're already finished," Arroyo said.

Hearings galore

Different committees will check on the status of ongoing projects.

The Metro Manila Development Committee will have a discussion on the policies on the registration and use of motorcycles as an alternative public utility vehicle in Metro Manila, the proposed resizing of lanes on EDSA to accommodate an additional lane or the so-called "Road Diet" and the proposed rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

Meanwhile, the Committee on Disaster Management will gather updates on the master development plan for Marawi City and the program components and financing for its rehabilitation to be undertaken by the government with the Asian Development Bank.

The Committee on Transportation



will also discuss security issues at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, the rehabilitation of the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 and other projects supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Road Board gone sans House

Even without the nod of the House of Representatives, the Road Board is in the path of abolition since the Senate only needs to transmit to Malacañang the "enrolled" copy of the bill that abolishes it for the President to sign it into law.

Thus, said Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon yesterday as he stood firm that there is no need for a bicameral conference meeting which he even cautioned against since he expects holding such a meeting might only lead to an impasse.

The bill becomes a law even without the signature of the Speaker or the Senate President.

"If I were Senator (Vicente) Sotto (III), I will transmit the copy he signed and if the President does not sign it, in 30 days it becomes a law," Drilon said on radio.

However, he expressed optimism that President Duterte will sign the "enrolled" copy.

Cash cow up for slaughter

Last September, the Senate adopted House Bill 7436 calling for the abolition of the Road Board which was branded by Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno as a "cash cow" of the previous administration.

The President himself publicly announced his desire to have the Road Board abolished.

The House, however, rescinded the bill which was approved during the leadership of Davao del Norte Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker.

Drilon stressed that the adopted version only needs the President's signature to become a law.

"It does not mean that if the Speaker or the Senate President does not sign it, it will not become a law because they cannot veto, that is only for certification that the processes of the law were followed. That is why even if Speaker Arroyo will not sign it, there is no reason for it not to become a law if the President approves it," explained Drilon.

After the President's announcement that he wanted the Road Board abolished, House Majority Leader Rolando Andaya Jr. immediately announced that the House is ready with a contingent for the bicameral conference committee.

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EDITORIAL

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Cleaning Manila Bay

SEVERAL administrations in the past have attempted -- and obviously failed -- to clean the waters of Manila Bay, where one can see the world-famous beautiful sunset.

This time around, under the leadership of President Duterte, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will lead a task force to take another crack at this seemingly impregnable problem.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu has created an interagency task force to firm up and implement the "Manila Bay Action Plan," an ambitious, well-funded program to bring down coliform contamination in the bay.

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

'With private sector and government cooperating in this task, and with enough budget, political will and dedication, we can all achieve the environmental goals we have set for Manila Bay.'

We note that little progress has been done over the past 10 years since the Supreme Court mandated a long list of government agencies to clean up Manila Bay. Fresh from its experience in rehabilitating Boracay and El Nido, the DENR is training its eyes on Manila Bay, with Cimatu scheduling a meeting with all stakeholders tomorrow, Tuesday, to map out the three-phase action plan -- cleanup and improvement of water quality, rehabilitation, and protection and sustainment.

Private-sector participation where government agencies have failed is part of the DENR's approach this time, notes Commodore Robert Lim Joseph Jr. of the Manila Yacht Club. The club has been implementing -- almost single-handedly -- measures to mitigate the pollution in the bay but the problem really needs the whole Metro Manila community, Cavite, Bulacan and other provinces to make a dent.

Commodore Joseph cites Cimatu for giving tasks to all stakeholders, government and private, towards achieving the objective of cleaning up the bay until the end of the year. An immediate task is to see to it that every establishment complies with regulations on sewerage treatment, beginning with a survey on buildings, commercial establishments, factories.

The DENR action plan also includes an education campaign, with the help of DepEd and schools, to train barangay officials and residents on waste segregation.

It is good that the private sector has been mobilized to assist the government in this gargantuan environmental mission. The Manila Bay Coordinating Office under Undersecretary Sherwin Rigor has been formed, with help from nongovernment organizations, Manila Yacht Club's Commodore Robert Lim Joseph, Jr. and Atty. Antonio Oposa, Jr., an international environmentalist. Boat owners are cooperative in this regard, even lending their boats to government officials conducting surveys on the status of Manila Bay.

With private sector and government cooperating in this task, and with enough budget, political will and dedication, we can all achieve the environmental goals we have set for Manila Bay.



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Rehab and restoration

Finally, the government is embarking on a serious effort to rehabilitate and restore Manila Bay to a healthy, environmentally livable condition. I dare not say pristine as that would be romanticizing the gargantuan and longer-term initiative needed to get what was once described as one of the cleanest and most beautiful bays in the world. Obviously heartened by the success of the Boracay cleanup which even the most strident critics have come to applaud as the "rehab and restoration" measures remain in force and effect as evidenced by the salutary reception with which those who stayed in the island greeted the new year, President Duterte and his crew, principally DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu and DILG Secretary Eduardo Ano, have vowed to do a Boracay within the next five years. It will truly be a huge challenge whose success has eluded past administrations.

But no matter. If there is anything which

this administration is known for, it is its penchant to take on such challenges which have festered for years—to the public's dismay and universal ridicule. Why, even the SC mandamus ruling for the bay's clean up has remained largely unimplemented for still unexplained reasons.

Last Friday, Secretary Cimatu and his crew did a walk through with various stakeholders and members of media at the most obvious sources of waste in the most, for want of a better term, visible and visited areas within the Manila Bay area—the Manila Yatch Club-BSP-Manila Zoo-Cultural Center-PICC quadrant—at the Manila-Pasay boundary. The estero in this area—Estero de San Antonio Abad—which flows into an outfall just under the Manila Yatch Club has a coliform count hundreds of thousands above the acceptable levels. This is just one outfall and one estero. In due time, using the newest available technology, the Task Force congregating around the existing Manila Bay "Clean Up" Office created after the issuance of the mandamus, will have a real, honest-to-goodness map of the esteros and waterways in and around the bay area which, by the way, extends from Cavite in the south to Bataan in the north. In the meantime, the Task Force has divided the entire Manila Bay area into four quadrants to ensure the proper and responsible inventory of all establishments, big and small, housing, hotel or otherwise, esteros and waterways, sewage and water lines, solid waste facilities and all the other appurtenant installations and requirements of living and working in a huge (1994 square kilometer

with a 190 kilometer coastline), heavily populated (about 30 to 35 percent of the entire population) bay area. That is just the start.

I have no doubt that, like Boracay, there will be a number of skeptics but there will be an even bigger number of well-wishers for this clean up to succeed. Which is why it is well that the Task Force has moderated public expectations by stating early on that it will be done in phases starting with the clean-up of the waterways and the establishments which directly dump their wastes into these. For the purpose, the Task Force should immediately order the MWSS and its two concessionaires, Manila Water and Maynilad, to come out with their long overdue plan to put in place a modern water and sewerage system in the entire MWSS concession area for which they have been collecting fees since. That injunction should later on involve the water districts servicing the other areas outside of the MWSS concession to ensure that all those tasked to provide the service and for which they have been and are being paid are up to their jobs. And then move from there. We will as we should monitor developments as the program unfolds.



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Luntiang Pilipinas nominee backs Manila Bay cleanup

By **RYAN PONCE PACPACO**

A VETERAN journalist representing Luntiang Pilipinas party-list group yesterday supported President Rodrigo "Rody" Duterte's order for Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu and Interior Sec. Eduardo Año to start the cleanup of the most famous but heavily polluted bodies of water in the country.

Luntiang Pilipinas first nominee Michael Ubac, a former Inquirer reporter who covered the House of Representatives, said Cimatu and Año face a three-pronged problem in cleaning the bay.

Ubac, an ex-deskman, cited the lack of wastewater treatment facilities of hotels and big establishments that dump their untreated wastewater into the bay; the liquid waste from households and solid waste that end up in the bay; and the toxic industrial effluents discharged by factories and ships. About 1,500 tons of waste are illegally dumped daily on private land, in rivers, creeks and in the bay, said Ubac based to a study by the Asian Development Bank.

Previous audits undertaken by Greenpeace and EcoWaste Coalition showed that at least 70 percent of Manila Bay wastes are plastic bags and packaging.

President Duterte's order is necessary to save Manila Bay, the partylist group said.

"Manila Bay is dying. What compounds the problem is the lack of an effective roadmap for reviving this body of water despite a Supreme Court order issued ten years ago. It's good that we have taken notice of this wanton disregard of our environmental laws. We should exert all efforts to clean it up," said Ubac, a veteran journalist.

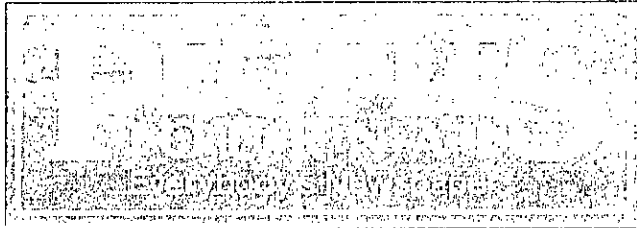
Sen. Loren Legarda, founder of Luntiang Pilipinas Partylist and author of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, called attention to the massive degradation of Manila Bay. She noted that Manila Bay is one of Metro Manila's crowning glories, boasting the best view of the sunset in the country "and yet it continues to be neglected: the view of the otherwise beauti-

ful sunset is marred by styrofoam containers; plastic bags, discarded appliances and many other solid waste."

"It's time that we take a stand against this pollution and degradation. Let us take Manila Bay back and let us, above all, work towards a healthy, sustainable and disaster-resilient future through initiating and supporting concerted clean-up efforts," said Legarda, the United Nations Global Champion for Resilience.

The President on Tuesday night warned hotels along Manila Bay, particularly those that do not have wastewater treatment plants, to "do something about your waste there, otherwise I will close (the hotels)."

"So hotels should put [up] water treatment plants, or I will shut them down," the President said in a speech at a barangay summit on the peace process in Pasay City.



14 JAN 2013

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Luntian partylist bet prods DENR, DILG to start Manila Bay cleanup drive

A VETERAN journalist representing Luntiang Pilipinas party-list group yesterday supported President Rodrigo "Rody" Duterte's order to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Department of the Interior and Local Government to start the cleanup of famous but heavily polluted Manila Bay.

Luntiang Pilipinas first nominee Michael Ubac, a former Inquirer reporter who covered the House of Representatives, said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Interior Secretary Eduardo Año face a three-pronged problem in cleaning the Bay.

Ubac, a deskman when he left the Inquirer, cited the lack of wastewater treatment facilities of hotels and big establishments that dump their untreated wastewater into the bay; the liquid waste from households and solid waste that end up in the bay; and the toxic industrial effluents discharged by factories and ships.

About 1,500 tons of wastes were illegally dumped daily on private land, in rivers, creeks and in Manila Bay, said Ubac, citing a study by the Asian Development Bank.

Previous audits undertaken by Greenpeace and EcoWaste Coalition

showed that at least 70 percent of Manila Bay wastes are plastic bags and packaging.

"Manila Bay is dying. What compounds the problem is the lack of an effective roadmap for reviving this body of water despite a Supreme Court order issued 10 years ago. It's good that we have taken notice of this wanton disregard of our environmental laws. We should exert all efforts to clean it up," Ubac added.

Sen. Loren Legarda, founder of Luntiang Pilipinas Partylist and author of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, called attention to the massive degradation of Manila Bay.

She noted that Manila Bay is one of Metro Manila's crowning glories, boasting the best view of the sunset "and yet it continues to be neglected: the view of the otherwise beautiful sunset is marred by styrofoam containers, plastic bags, discarded appliances and many other solid waste."

The President on Tuesday night warned hotels near Manila Bay, particularly those that do not have wastewater treatment plants, to "do something about your waste there, otherwise I will close (the hotels)."

Ryan Pacpaco



Abante

UNA SA BALITA



14 JAN 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Manila Bay maaari nang pagliguan sa Disyembre – Cimatú

INIHAYAG kahapon ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatú na sinusubukan ng ahensiyang bawasan ang kontaminasyon sa Manila Bay upang maging malinis ito at maaari nang mag-swimming at magsagawa ng public activities dito sa darating na Disyembre 2019.

Hindi man ito magiging kasigaling ng tubig sa Boracay at El Nido ngunit ang hyperpolluted na Manila Bay ay maaari nang langyan kapag natapos ang major rehab sa katapusan ng taong 2019.

"An interagency task force will attempt to bring down coliform contamination of the bay to acceptable levels with a P47-

billion 'Manila Bay Action Plan,'" saad ni Cimatú.

Dagdag pa nito, ang istriktong pagpapatupad ng Republic Act No. 9275 o ang Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 ay siyang magiging daan upang maipahayag ang mga isyu sa kalidad ng tubig at iba pang problemang pangkapaligiran sa 'historic bay.' (Jobelle Macayan)



Manila Bay rehab gimik lang!

NABABAHALA ang niga mangingisda sa Bacoor, Cavite dahil ang pangamba nila ay gimik lang ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang Manila Bay rehabilitation para mas mapadali ang reclamation at pagkasira ng nasabing baybayin.

Ayon sa Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya ng Pilipinas, nais ng local government ng Bacoor na tabunan ang 420 ektarya sa Manila Bay para sa hindi pa malinaw na mga dahilan.

Nag-isyu na ang DENR ng notice of public scoping para sa reclamation project sa Bacoor.

Ito ang kauna-unahang hakbang na kailangan para sa Environmental Impact Assessment. Pag wala nang problema dito, susunod na ang pagkuha ng Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).

Mahalaga sa pagkuha

ng ECC na pumayag ang mga residenteng apektado sa proyekto para ito matuloy.

"Kailanman ay hindi isinulong ng DENR ang tunay na pangangalaga ng kalikasan. Marapat lamang silang bansagan bilang Destroyer of Environment and Natural Resources dahil instrumento sila ng mga mandarambong ng kalikasan at karagatan," sabi ni Myrna Candinato, president ng Alyansa ng mga Magdaragat sa Bacoor.

Maraming mga original resident ng Bacoor ang namumuhay sa pangigingisda at pag-aani ng talaba at tahong.

Oras umano na matabunan ang karagatan, mawawalan sila ng kabuhayan, katulad ng nangyari sa mga mangingisda sa Parañaque at Las Piñas nang itinayo ang Coastal Road noong panahon ni diktador Ferdinand Marcos. **(Eileen Mencias)**



Soon for bathing Instead of clambering up rocks to avoid the toxic water, these boys will soon be happily dipping themselves in Manila Bay based on the rehabilitation timeline of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

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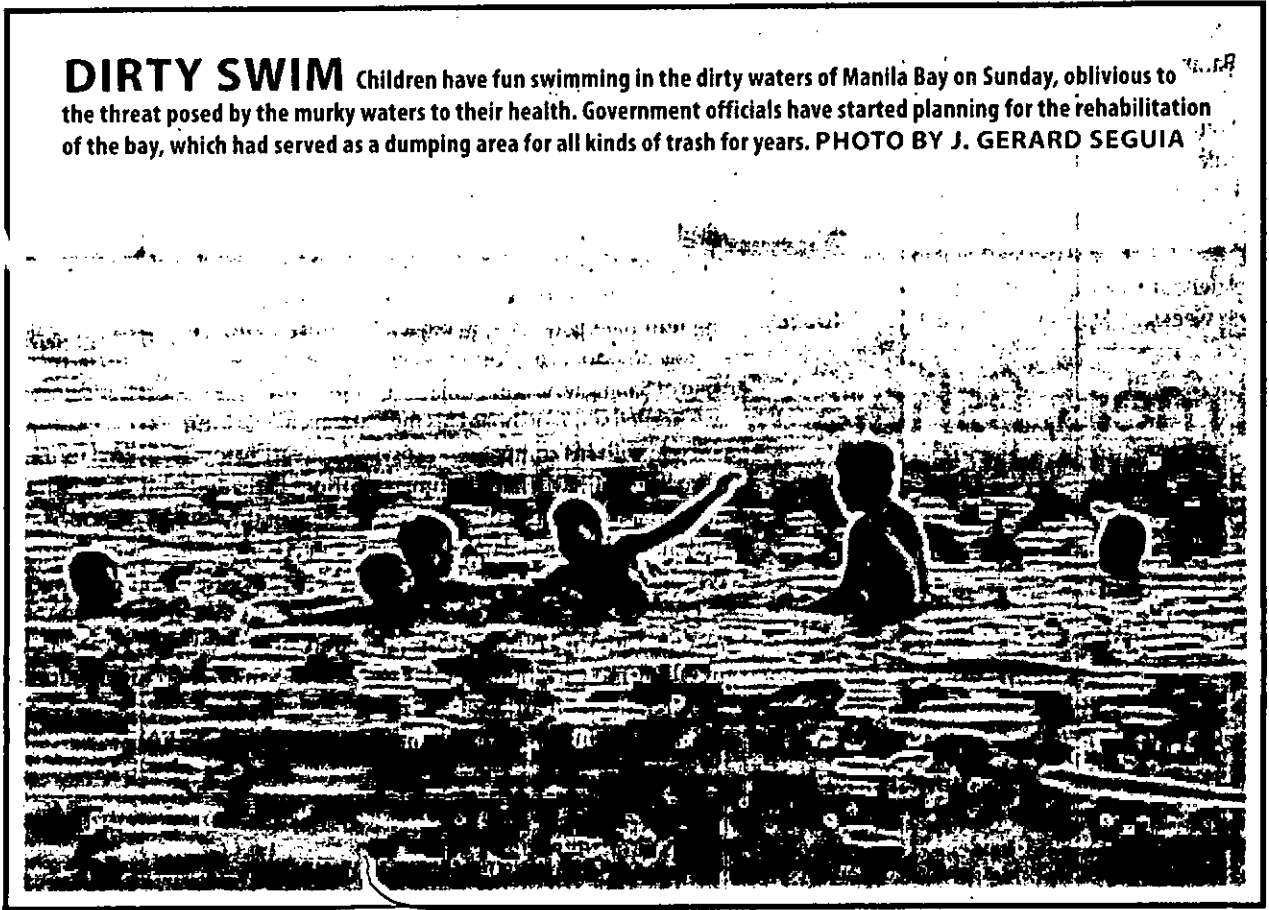
The Manila Times



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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DIRTY SWIM Children have fun swimming in the dirty waters of Manila Bay on Sunday, oblivious to the threat posed by the murky waters to their health. Government officials have started planning for the rehabilitation of the bay, which had served as a dumping area for all kinds of trash for years. PHOTO BY J. GERARD SEGUIA



14 JAN 2010



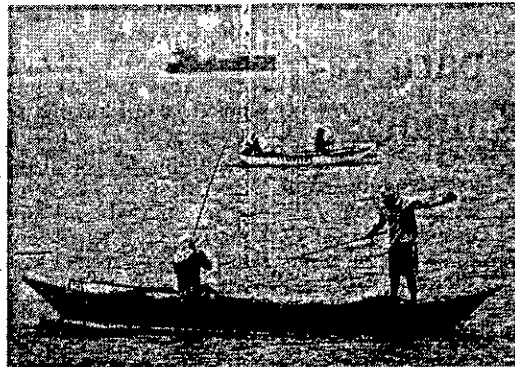
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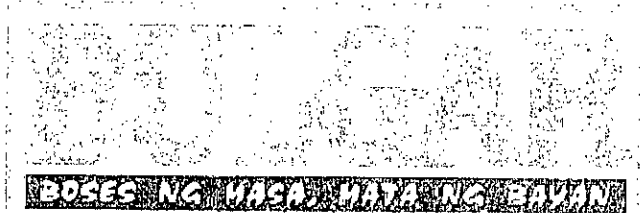
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



NAGBABAKASAKALING may mahuhuling isda sa Manila Bay ang mga mangingisdang residente sa paligid ng lawa. Kamakailan ay inatasan ni Pangulong Duterte si Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu na simulan ang paglilinis ng Manila Bay, kung saan dumadaloy ang Pasig River at dumi ng mga estero ng Metro Manila. INQUIRER



14 JAN 2019

DATE



'Pag tuluyang nalinis ang Manila Bay, napakalaking ginhawa at biyaya!

NAPAKALAKING bagay kung maisa-sagawa nina Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte at Department of the Environment and Natural Resource (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay.

Sa tingin natin, kahit ito lang ang magawa ni P-Duterte sa buong anim na taon ng kanyang administrasyon ay matatandaan na siya bilang isa sa pinakamagaling na pangulo ng bansa.

Bakit? Ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay ay malaking kapakinabangan sa mga mangingisda, lalo na sa mga taga-Batangas at Cavite dahil kung mawawala ang mga basura rito ay darami ang mga isda na puwede nilang makuha.

Ang Manila Bay ay simbolo ng ating bansa mula pa noong panahon ng mga lolo at lola natin.

Isa sa mga dahilan kaya naging kapital ng Pilipinas ang Maynila ay dahil napakaganda ng Manila Bay. Tanyag sa buong mundo ang eksena ng paglubog ng araw

at Sec. Cimatu ang paglilinis sa Boracay Island ay magagawa rin nila ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay. Natatandaan ba ninyo noong inanunsiyo ni P-Duterte ang pag-sasara ng anim na buwan ng Isla ng Boracay ay naghihyaw ang mga dilawang senador tulad nina Risa Hontiveros at Bam Aquino na mali raw ito?

Nang-intriga pa nga noon si Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV na ipinasara lang umano ni P-Duterte ang Boracay Island para makapasok ang mga Intsik na casino operator?

O, ano ngayon, tameme sila na masaya ang buong bayan at maging ang mga negosyante rito na nalinis ito sa wakas.

Nakilala natin si Sec. Cimatu noong nakasama natin siya sa gobyerno ni ex-P-GMA.

Siya ay respetadong heneral ng Army at walang bahid ng korupsiyon. Tahimik lang siya, pero masigasig at walang ki-

sa Manila Bay.

Eh, anong nangyari nitong nakaraang 40 dekada?

Ngayon kasi, kapag pumunta tayo roon para makita ang paglubog ng araw ay mandidiri na tayo sapagkat mabaho na ang ilang lugar doon dahil puno na ng napakaraming basura.

Ano naman kung malilinis ang Manila Bay?

Magiging simbolo ito na unti-unti nang naaayos ang ating bayan.

May posibilidad na mapansin ng mga foreign investor na umuunlad na ang Pilipinas at magbubuhos na sila ng pondo para mas mapalago ang industriya at mga negosyo rito.

Napakarami ng mga nagpaparumi sa Manila Bay at marami ang mga kumikita sa pamamagitan nito nandiyan ang mga pabrika at establisimyento na malayo sa Manila Bay, pero nagtatapon ng mga basura nila sa Pasig River na umaagos patungong Manila Bay.

Daan-daang milyon umano ang kinikita ng opisyaes ng city hall ng Maynila, Pasay, Cavite at iba pa para hindi mai-pasara ang mga pagawaan at establisimyento na nagdurumi sa Manila Bay at Pasig River.

Hahanap talaga ng dahilan para masabotahe ang proyektong linisin ang Manila Bay.

Malaki rin umano ang kinikita ng mga "magagaling" sa coast guard na hinahayaang magtapon ng basura sa Manila Bay ang mga barkong dumararong dito.

Subalit, kung nagawa nina P-Duterte

natatakutan.

Malaki ang tiwala natin kay Sec. Cimatu sa pagtantiya niyang magagawa ang paglilinis bago magtapos ang taong ito.

Sana ay magtagumpay tayo sa proyekto ni P-Duterte na malinis ang Manila Bay!



14 JAN 2010

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Erap sa Manila zoo, local gov't buildings **Proper waste disposal system dapat sundin**

INATASAN ni Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada si City Administrator Ericson Alcovendaz na tiyaking maayos ang waste disposal ng mga estrukturang pag-aari ng local na pamahalaan kasunod ng plano ng national government na isagawa ang major rehabilitation ng Manila Bay.

Partikular na pinatututukan ni Mayor Estrada ang Manila Zoo na kabilang sa nabanggit ng DENR na walang maayos na waste disposal system upang matiyak na makatutugon sa Environmental Code Ordinance 8371 na naipasa ng konseho sa ilalim ng kanyang termino.

Nagbigay din ng direktiba si Estrada kay Alcovendaz na magsagawa ng imbentaryo sa mga gusali na pag-aari ng city government para sa lalong madaling panahon lito ay magawan ng mga tamang waste disposal bago magsimula ang

rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

"Dinatnan na nating ganyan ang sitwasyon ng Manila Zoo kaya't ginagawan natin ng paraang maayos ito. Kaya nga tayo nagkaroon ng Environmental Code Ordinance para masolusyonan ang mga problemang sumisisra sa ating kalikasan," ani Estrada.

Tiniyak ni Estrada, suportado niya ang proyektong rehabilitasyon ni Pangulong Duterte kaya't ngayon pa lamang ay ipinaliinspeksiyon na rin niya ang iba pang city owned premises na posibleng direktang nagtatapos sa Manila Bay.

"Inuuna natin ang mga local government properties na sumunod sa mga environmental laws bago natin tutukan ang commercial establishments. Kailangan Makita nila na tayo sa gobyerno ang unang sumusunod sa batas," ani Estrada.



14 JAN 2010

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Erap sa Manila Zoo: Sumunod sa tamang pagtatapon ng basura

INATASAN ni Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada si City Administrator Ericson Alcovendaz na tiyaking maayos ang waste disposal system ng Manila Zoo at iba pang mga istrakturang pag-aari ng lokal na pamahalaan kasunod ng plano ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na isailalim sa rehabilitasyon ang Manila Bay.

Kabilang ang Manila Zoo sa mga tinukoy ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na palpak ang waste disposal system na nagpapalala umano ng problema sa polusyon sa Manila Bay.

Sinabi ni Estrada na titiyakin niyang tutugon ito sa Environmental Code Ordinance 8371 na naipasa ng konseho sa ilalim ng kanyang termino.

Nagbigay din ng direktiba si Estrada kay Alcovendaz na i-imbentaryo ang mga gusali na pag-aari ng city government para magawan nila ng tamang waste disposal system bago pa magsimula ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

"Dinatnan na nating ganyan ang sitwasyon ng Manila Zoo kaya't ginagawan natin ng paraang maayos ito. Kaya

nga tayo nagkaroon ng Environmental Code Ordinance para maresolba ang mga problemang sumisisra sa ating kalikasan", ani Estrada.

Dagdag ni Estrada, suportado niya ang proyektong rehabilitasyon ni Pangulong Duterte kaya't ipinasusuri na niya ang iba pang pag-aari ng lungsod na posibleng direktang nagtatapon ng kanilang basura sa Manila Bay.

Isusunod aniyang tututukan ng lungsod ang mga commercial establishment lalo na ang mga nasa paligid ng nasabing look. (Mia Billones)



Waste not, want not

When this column began it was with lamentations about surgical waste, and how it leaves a mark in the world's landfills for what might as well be eternity. Half a year later, the shift away from single-use plastic may be visible on social media, typified by cute photos of zero-waste stores and colorful replacements for plastic straws and utensils, but environmentalists are uncomfortably aware that the world's plastic production and waste disposal is still far from ideal. One can only imagine how much single-use plastic was purchased and summarily discarded over the holidays.

I've been thinking about this along with Marie Kondo, the "tidying up" guru and originator of the minimalist "KonMari" method, whose books and new Netflix series have encouraged households across the world to dispose of things which don't "spark joy." In each episode, Marie Kondo shows up at a client's doorstep, with the client most commonly being a couple, and helps them to organize their homes, with the serene smile and unflappable composure of an adult who is so put together.

But exposure to a worldwide audience opened KonMari to criticisms as well, some of which were not entirely well-founded. For one thing, memes mocking KonMari for "forcing" one to let go of one's books have little basis in fact; unlike her aggressive "home makeover" counterparts from reality TV, KonMari doesn't force her clients to let go. The Guardian alone has three "think-pieces" on what Marie Kondo supposedly gets wrong. Most of the criticisms are, to put it bluntly, very Western in nature. One of the



HINTS AND SYMBOLS

KAY RIVERA

most popular articles describes Marie Kondo's actions, of "greeting" and honoring a house upon arrival or her "waking up" books that have been in storage, as trappings of a "woo-woo" fairyland type of thinking. It suggests a certain Western shortsightedness to be immediately dismissive and fail to recognize the animistic roots of such practices, as well as the belief, shared among a number of Eastern philosophies, that even inanimate things have spirits.

One of the more valid concerns about the KonMari method is that it does encourage quick disposal. The bags of stuff which the clients discard are less satisfying to think about when one considers that they might go straight to the landfill. Angela Spring, writing for The Guardian, laments that getting rid of things which no longer "spark joy" encourages a culture of disposability, and would have liked to see KonMari encourage disposal in a manner which honors the Japanese concept of "mottainai." This is a sense of regret at the idea of waste,

said to encompass the concepts of reducing, reusing, recycling and repairing things. It is a term which evokes the type of care which encourages people to use things up until the very end of their lifespan, and to find new homes or uses for things they no longer need. It is a trait that honors the intrinsic value of every created thing—which, in fact, the KonMari method does.

This isn't to idealize Japan or its culture. Despite its much lauded philosophy of "waste not, want not," Japan still wastes around 6.5 million tons of food per year, and was reported several times to be "drowning in plastic" after China ceased imports in an effort to reduce paper and plastic waste. Clearly the local environmentalists still have a lot of work to do.

As we find ourselves swept up in one well-meaning trend after another, from reducing our use of plastic to simplifying our lives with the KonMari method, there's a caution for us not to misinterpret the latter as, perhaps, many of Kondo's critics do. The method, if its philosophy were to be understood, should be producing a type of cultural shift, and it shouldn't be the type which promotes getting rid of stuff just to make way for more stuff. In the long term and in the bigger scheme of things, what the method should really teach is the recognition of the eternal and intrinsic value of things, which should replace the quick-to-buy, quick-to-dispose culture we've come to know, and which would impact our environment more than a ban on plastic straws would.

kchuarivera@gmail.com



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14 JAN 2010

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51 containers of garbage shipped back to South Korea

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

The 51 containers of illegal garbage languishing at the Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT) in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental were finally shipped back yesterday to South Korea where the assorted wastes came from several months ago.

But environmental group EcoWaste Coalition pointed out "the struggle for environmental justice, morality, and the rule of law is not yet over" as there are still 5,176.91 tons of bulk waste lying on and waiting to be shipped out of the country in a ▶4

51 containers of...

government land in Barangay Santa Cruz, Tagoloan.

Aileen Lucero, national coordinator of EcoWaste Coalition, cited the departure of the illegal garbage exports from South Korea from local shores extolling the move as a "triumph for environmental justice, morality, and the rule of law."

During the ceremonial send-off rites held at the MICT, Lucero asserted "the waste shipments violated Korean and Philippine Customs and environmental laws, as well as the Basel Convention," and "sending the garbage back to its origin is only just, moral and lawful."

The Quezon City based toxic waste watchdog sent a 15 member delegation to witness the momentous send-off ceremony of illegally transported mixed waste in the Philippines.

"Our resolute stance to get the garbage returned to its sender shows

how much we, the Filipino people, want our fragile ecosystems to be protected against the adverse effects of waste trafficking, which is a serious threat to our people's lives, their health, and the environment," Lucero said.

Emphasizing their stance against waste trafficking, activists from the EcoWaste Coalition and various civil society groups from Davao City prominently brandished a banner with the words "stop exporting garbage to the Philippines."

They also paraded placards saying "we are not a garbage can for Korean waste," "Korean waste should be treated in Korea," and "don't transfer Korean waste to the Philippines."

"By saying 'no' to garbage dumping from Korea and other countries, we say 'no' to the derogation of our country's dignity and sovereignty, 'no' to the disrespect for national and international laws, and 'no' to the harm they will bring

to our communities," Lucero told the crowd assembled at the MICT.

Lucero vowed that EcoWaste Coalition will continue to vigorously remain "as a civil society group dedicated to promoting a zero waste and toxics-free Philippines, we promise to remain vigilant to ensure that our country does not become a dumpsite for any country's garbage."

MICT Port Collector John Simon said: "May our victory serve as a lesson to big nations that small nations like the Philippines can rise and fight for its right to have a clean environment free from the hazardous waste of the most powerful and industrialized nations of the world."

Not forgetting about the 103 containers of reeking Canadian residual wastes disguised as plastic scraps for recycling, the EcoWaste Coalition stressed that "the repatriation of the South Korean garbage to its source should rouse Canada into resolving the festering garbage dumping controversy."



Korean garbage returns to sender; watchdog elated

THE waste and pollution watch group EcoWaste Coalition on Sunday extolled the departure of 51 containers of illegal garbage exports from South Korea as a “triumph for environmental justice, morality and the rule of law.”

Speaking at the ceremonial send-off at the Mindanao International Container Terminal, Aileen Lucero, the group’s national coordinator, said “the waste shipments violated Korean and Philippine customs and environmental laws, as well as the Basel Convention.

“Our resolute stance to get the garbage returned to its sender shows how much we, the Filipino people, want our fragile ecosystems to be protected against the adverse effects of waste trafficking, which is a serious threat to our people’s lives, their health and the environment,” Lucero said.

To emphasize their stance against waste trafficking, activists from the EcoWaste Coalition and various civil society groups from Davao City held a banner that read “stop exporting garbage to the Philippines.”

They also brandished placards saying “we are not a garbage can for Korean waste,” “Korean waste should be treated in Korea,” and “don’t transfer Korean waste to the Philippines.”

“By saying ‘no’ to garbage dumping from Korea and other countries, we say ‘no’ to the derogation of our country’s dignity and sovereignty, ‘no’ to the disrespect for national and international laws, and ‘no’ to the harm they will bring to our communities,” Lucero told the crowd.

“As a civil society group dedicated to promoting a zero waste and toxics-free Philippines, we promise to remain vigilant to ensure that our country does not become a dump for any country’s garbage.”

MICT Port Collector John Simon echoed Lucero’s stance.

“May our victory serve as a lesson to the big nations that small nations like the Philippines can rise and fight for their right to have a clean environment free from the hazardous waste of the most powerful and industrialized nations of the world,” Simon said.

Lucero was quick to point out “the struggle for environmental justice, mo-

rality and the rule of law is not yet over” as there were still 5,176.91 tons of bulk waste languishing on government land in Barangay Santa Cruz, Tagoloan, waiting to be sent home.

“For the sake of the Tagoloan people’s health and their environment, we call upon the Korean government to continue its fruitful cooperation with the Philippine government to ensure the rapid reexport of these wastes to Pyeongtaek City,” she said.

On Dec. 27 and 28, 2018, the governments of the Philippines and South Korea resolved to have the 6,500 tons of illegal garbage re-exported to the latter. Philippine authorities have determined the waste shipments as “misdeclared, heterogeneous and injurious to public health.

Not forgetting about the 103 containers of reeking Canadian residual wastes disguised as plastic scrap for recycling, the EcoWaste Coalition said “the repatriation of the South Korean garbage to its source should rouse Canada into resolving the festering garbage dumping controversy.”

Illegal garbage exports from Canada entered the port of Manila in several batches from 2013 to 2014. In 2015, the waste from 26 of these 103 containers were illegally disposed of at a landfill in Tarlac.

Canada’s indecisiveness to take their reeking garbage back violates the rule of law and is immoral, the EcoWaste Coalition said. Despite Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s assurance in 2017 that “it is now theoretically possible to get it back,” the Canadian garbage continues to fester with no end in sight, the group said.

The return of the dumped waste to South Korea shows doing the right thing is not just theoretical, the EcoWaste Coalition said, expressing its hope that Canada would finally comply with the Basel Convention.



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CARTOON

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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Trash shipment sent back to Korea

BY WILLIAM B. DEPASUPIL

THE 51 container vans of wastes declared as plastic synthetic flakes have been sent back to South Korea.

"The waste shipment are currently being loaded to the vessel that will bring it back to South Korea," Cagayan de Oro Port Collector Floro Calixihan told *The Manila Times* on Sunday.

The Port of Cagayan de Oro has jurisdiction over the sub-port of Tagoloan, where the container vans were

offloaded and illegally discharged.

Calixihan said the ship left port as soon as all the 51 container vans were loaded.

The waste shipment came from Pyeongtaek City, South Korea.

The Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-

Northern Mindanao office that examined the shipment consigned to Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp. found that the vans contained hazardous waste. The broker was identified as Mary Claire Booc.

Records showed that Verde Soko, on two separate occasions, brought into the country one shipload containing 5,176.91 metric tons of various plastic and waste materials misdeclared as plastic synthetic flakes, and another 51 40-footer containers, also declared as containing plastic synthetic flakes.



Solon: All Korean trash must go

Misamis Oriental Rep. Juliette Uy on Sunday insisted that all remaining garbage from South Korea that are stored in Verde Soko plant site in Sta. Cruz, Tagoloan, should be shipped back to its port of origin and fast.

"All, not just part or some, of the total garbage shipments stored at MICT (Mindanao International Container Terminal) should be returned to South Korea. All of it. There should be no gray areas in this regard," Uy said.

Emano added he would invite Sen. Cynthia Villar to visit the garbage site, for her to personally decide on what should be done with the waste.

The government on Saturday started shipping back to South Korea the mostly hazardous and toxic wastes, but there are still at least 5,000 metric tons of garbage remaining at the Verde Soko dumpsite.

She was reacting to a statement of Misamis Oriental Gov. Yevgeny Emano, who earlier said he was looking into the possibility of recycling the remaining hazardous wastes and process them into plastic chairs through Villar Sipag Foundation.

Emano added he would invite Sen. Cynthia Villar to visit the garbage site, for her to personally decide on what should be done with the waste.

MICT collector John Simon is supporting Uy's stand, noting that all the hazardous wastes must be returned to South Korea, since their shipment violated customs and environmental laws.

Uy said she will pursue accountability and address problems in the government policy, operations, and procedures that allowed the importation of solid wastes from South Korea.

She also urged the Department of Natural Resources (DENR) and Phividec to work and cooperate in the upcoming congressional investigation on the shipment.

"I see the need to adopt new stringent policies to prevent the importation of plastic and other types of waste, since we do not want our province and our whole country for that matter to become a global garbage dump," Uy emphasized.

On the other hand, she lauded the South Korean government, the BoC, DENR and other civil society and environmental groups for working together and addressing the solid waste management controversy in a "swift" manner.

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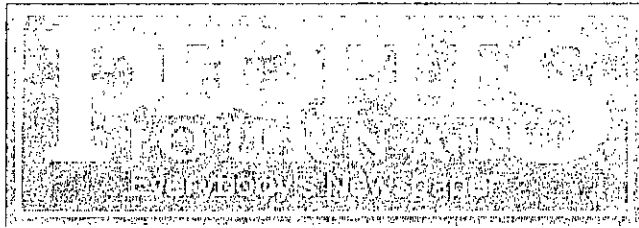
CARTOON

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

14 JAN 2019



RUBBISH. Customs officials inspect a batch of illegal garbage exports from South Korean before the trash in 51 containers is shipped back to its sender. **Story on A2**



14 JAN 2013

DATE

Trash returned to sender

By Cory Martinez

THE 51 containers filled with illegal garbage exports from South Korea dumped in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental were finally returned yesterday to their country of origin:

This was announced by EcoWaste Coalition national coordinator Aileen Lucero who together with 14 members of the group attended the send-off rites at the Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT).

The group lauded the departure of the South Korea's mixed plastic waste cargoes, wrongly declared as "plastic synthetic flakes," saying that the move is a "triumph for environmental justice, morality and the rule of law."

"The waste shipments violated Korean and Philippine customs and environmental laws, as well as the Basel Convention," and "sending the garbage back to its origin is only just, moral and lawful," Lucero stressed.

Based on the investigation report of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-Region 10 of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the misdeclared garbage was in violation of DENR DAO 2013-22.

The said regulation, which imple-

ments the provisions of Republic Act 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act), states that "no importation of heterogeneous and unsorted plastic materials shall be allowed."

EMB inspectors, according to the report, found assorted plastics such as bottles, straws, gloves, shower hose, utensils, toothbrushes, Styrofoams, wrappers and cellophane, as well as textiles, wood, metal rods, vinyl tiles, broken glasses, paper boxes, spray cans, shoes, slippers, gloves, diapers, etc.

Also found in the shipments were waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), popularly known as e-waste, including printers, keyboards, electric fans, cables, cellphone batteries and chargers, dry cell batteries, and LED lamps.

During the send-off rites, Lucero's group and various civil society groups from Davao City demanded a stop to exporting garbage to the Philippines.

"Our resolute stance to get the garbage returned to its sender shows how much we, the Filipino people, want our fragile ecosystems to be protected against the adverse effects of waste trafficking, which is a serious threat to our people's lives, their health and the environment," Lucero said.



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Mga basurang itinapon sa Mindanao ibinalik na sa SoKor

SINIMULAN na kahapon ang pbabalik sa South Korea ng tone-toneladang basura na iligal na naipuslit sa bansa.

Matatandaang noong Nobyembre, 1,200 tonelada ng basura mula sa South Korea ang naharang sa inspeksyon ng Bureau of Customs.

Kabilang sa laman ng mga basura ay syringe, diapers at iba pang hospital wastes.

Nakaselyo na at handa nang ibalik ang nasa 51 containers ng nasabing mga basura.

Ayon kay John Simon, port collector sa Mindanao International Container Terminal sa

Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, aabot sa 200 containers ng basura ang ibabalik sa South Korea.

Gayunman, 51 na containers pa lamang ang maibabalik dahil kailangan pang maibalot muli ang mga basura at ibabalik sa mga containers kung saan nanggaling ang mga ito.

Isang ceremonial re-exportation ng mga basura, tungong Korea ang magaganap ngayong araw at dadaluhan ng mga opisyal mula sa Department of Natural Resources and Environment, BOC, local officials at environmental groups.



Basurang itinambak sa Misamis ibinalik na sa SoKor

Sa wakas, naibiyahé na kahapon ang 51 containers ng ilegal na basurang nakatambak sa Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT) sa Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental pabalik sa South Korea kung saan ito nanggaling ilang buwan na ang nakalilipas.

Gayunman, maagap na ipinunto ni Aileen Lucero, national coordinator ng environmental group na EcoWaste Coalition na "the struggle for environmental

justice, morality and the rule of law is not yet over" dahil mayroon pang 5,176.91 tonelada ng basura ang nakatambak pa rin lupa ng gobyerno sa Barangay Santa Cruz, Tagoloan, at naghihintay na maibiyahé palabas ng bansa.

Sa ceremonial send-off rites na ginanap sa MICT, sinabi ni Lucero na "the waste shipments violated Korean and Philippine customs and environmental laws, as well as the Basel Convention," at

"sending the garbage back to its origin is only just, moral and lawful."

"May our victory serve as a lesson to big nations that small nations like the Philippines can rise and fight for its right to have a clean environment free from the hazardous waste of the most powerful and industrialized nations of the world," pahayag naman ni MICT Port Collector John Simon.

Chito A. Chavez



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 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Basura ibiniyahe pabalik ng SoKor

IBINIYAHE na kahapon ang bahagi ng tone-tonelada ng basura pabalik ng South Korea na naipuslit sa bansa noong nakaraang taon.

Matatandaang naharang ng Bureau of Customs ang aabot sa 1,200 tonelada ng basura noong Nobyembre.

Kabilang sa mga basura ay syringe, diapers at iba pang hospital wastes.

Ayon kay John Simon, port collector sa Mindanao International Container Terminal sa Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, nasa 50 container ang ibiniyahe kahapon. Nasa 200 container ang ibabalik sa South Korea.

Aniya, kailangan pang maibalot muli ang nalalabing mga basura at ibalik sa mga container kung saan nanggaling ang mga ito.—*Radyo Inquirer*



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Imported trash returned to SoKor

The 51 containers of illegal garbage languishing at the Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT) in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, were finally shipped back Sunday to South Korea where the assorted wastes came from several months ago.

However, Aileen Lucero national coordinator of environmental group EcoWaste Coalition quickly pointed out "the struggle for environmental justice, morality and the rule of law is not yet over" as there are still 5,176.91 tons of bulk waste lying on and waiting to be shipped out of the country in a government land in Barangay

Santa Cruz, Tagoloan.

But still, EcoWaste Coalition cited the departure of the illegal garbage exports from South Korea is a "triumph for environmental justice, morality and the rule of law."

During the ceremonial send-off rites held at the MICT, Lucero asserted "the waste shipments violated Korean and Philippine customs and environmental laws, as well as the Basel Convention," and "sending the garbage back to its origin is only just, moral and lawful."

The Quezon City-based toxic watchdog sent a 15-member delegation to witness the send-off ceremony of illegally transported

mixed waste.

"Our resolute stance to get the garbage returned to its sender shows how much we, the Filipino people, want our fragile ecosystems to be protected against the adverse effects of waste trafficking, which is a serious threat to our people's lives, their health and the environment," Lucero said.

Emphasizing their stance against waste trafficking, activists from the EcoWaste Coalition and various civil society groups from Davao City prominently brandished a banner with the words "stop exporting garbage to the Philippines." (**Chito Chavez**)



DENR's closure orders questioned anew

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR**

While the nine suspended mining companies simply accepted their fate, three companies ordered closed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) won't easily accept the government's decision.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has denied in November the motion for reconsideration (MR) filed by mining companies Claver Mineral Development Corp. (Claver), Oriental Synergy Mining Corp., and Ore Asia Mining and Development Corp. (Ore Asia) seeking to invalidate the closure orders that former DENR chief Regina Paz Lopez imposed on them in 2017.

The companies, however, have the right to appeal to the Office of the President (OP) 15 days upon receiving Cimatu's decision.

More than a month later, Business Bulletin learned that both Claver and Oriental Synergy have already filed an appeal to OP, while Ore Asia has attempted to submit another Motion for Reconsideration (MR) to the DENR.

This was confirmed by Environment Undersecretary for Mining Concerns Analiza Rebuelta-Teh though she said the DENR is poised to deny the

second MR filed by Ore Asia.

"Ore Asia filed another MR and clarification to the DENR, which we received on December 18. In the said motion, they are requesting for sufficient time to submit their position paper, arguments, and documentary evidence in support of its motion," Teh said.

"We will deny it. As a rule, no second MR is allowed," she added.

She noted, however, that for "out denial to become final and executory," there should be no appeal filed to OP within 15 days. This means that Ore Asia may still be given a chance to make an appeal to OP once the DENR denied its MR.

Of the three firms, Claver was the first to seek OP's intervention, filing its appeal as early as December. Then on Friday, the legal counsel of Oriental Synergy has confirmed that they also went to OP to dispute DENR's closure order.

"We have submitted our appeal to the Office of the President and furnished DENR with a copy. OP received our appeal on December 20," the firm's legal counsel said in a phone interview.

Oriental Synergy has a nickel and chromite mine in Dinagat Islands covering 648 hectares of land. Its head office is in Caloocan City.



SAY MO ATTORNEY?



By ATTY. PERSIDA RUEDA-ACOSTA

Kgg. na Chief Acosta, NAGTATRABAHO ako sa isang ospital sa aming bayan. Iinatapon sa isang lugar na nadeklara palang "critical habitat" ang mga basura kasama ang mga kemikal na ginagamit namin sa mga pasyente. Ano po ba ang kaharapin naming parusa kung sakaling matuklasan na kami ang nagtapon doon?

*Lubos na gumagalang,
Farah*

Dear Farah,

Para sa inyong kaalaman, ang batas na nakasaklaw sa inyong katanungan ay ang Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9147 o Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act. Nakasaad sa Section 27 ng batas na ito na:

"Section 27. *Illegal Acts.* - Unless otherwise allowed in accordance with this Act, it shall be unlawful for any person to willfully and know-

ingly exploit wildlife resources and their habitats, or undertake the following acts: x x x

(c) effecting any of the following acts in critical habitat(s):

(i) dumping of waste products detrimental to wildlife; [...]"

Samakatuwid, ipinagbabawal ng batas na ito na magtapon ng mga waste products na magiging mapanganib at maaaring makasira sa ating wildlife lalo na sa mga nadeklarang critical habitats.

Ayon sa Section 25 ng naturang batas, magtatatalaga ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary ng mga critical habitats na hindi kasama sa protektadong lugar sa ilalim ng R.A. No. 7586 o National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992 (NIPAS):

"Section 25. *Establishment of Critical Habitats.* - Within two (2) years following the effectivity of this Act, The Secretary shall designate critical habitats outside protected areas under Republic Act No. 7586, where threatened species are found. Such designation shall be made on the basis of

the best scientific data taking into consideration species endemicity and/or richness, presence of man-made pressures/threats to the survival of wildlife living in the area, among others.

Kaugnay nito, nakasaad din sa batas na ito na ang sinumang lumabag ay maparurusahan ng kulong ng isang (1) taon hanggang walong (8) taon. Maaaring maipataw ang multa sa halagang limang (P5,000) libong piso hanggang limang (P5,000,000) milyong piso.

Nawa ay nasagot namin ang inyong mga katanungan. Nais namung ipaalala sa inyo na ang opinyon na ito ay nakabase sa inyong mga naisalaysay sa inyong liham at sa pagkakaintindi namin dito. Maaaring maiba ang opinyon kung mayroong karagdagang impormasyon na ibibigay. Mas mainam kung personal kayong sasagunin sa isang abogado.

Maraming salamat sa inyong patuloy na pagtitiwala.

**Ang inyong Lingkod Bayan,
DR. PERSIDA V. RUEDA-ACOSTA, DSD
Punong Manananggol Pambayan**

Paunawa:

Isangguni ang iba pa ninyong usaping legal sa aming opisina sa address na nakasaad sa pitak na ito o kaya ipadala ang inyong katanungan sa aming e-mail address: pao_executive@yahoo.com o tumawag sa PAO hotline: (02) 426-2801; 426-2450; 426-2987; o 929-9436 local 106 o 107 during office hours at local 159 after office hours.

Ang mga serbisyong legal ng PAO gaya ng legal advice, court representation, pagsasagawa ng dokumento, notaryo at iba pa ay libre at walang bayad mula sa kliyente ng PAO sang-ayon sa R.A. 9406 (PAO Law). Sang-ayon din sa nasabing batas, ang katunggali o kalaban sa kaso na matatalo ang magbayad ng attorney's fee sa PAO para ideposito sa National Treasury. Maaaring isumbong kay Chief Acosta ang sino mang public attorney o empleyado ng PAO na manghingi o tatanggap ng salapi mula sa kliyente ng PAO sa address na ito: 5th Floor, DOJ Agencies Building, NIA Road corner East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, 1104.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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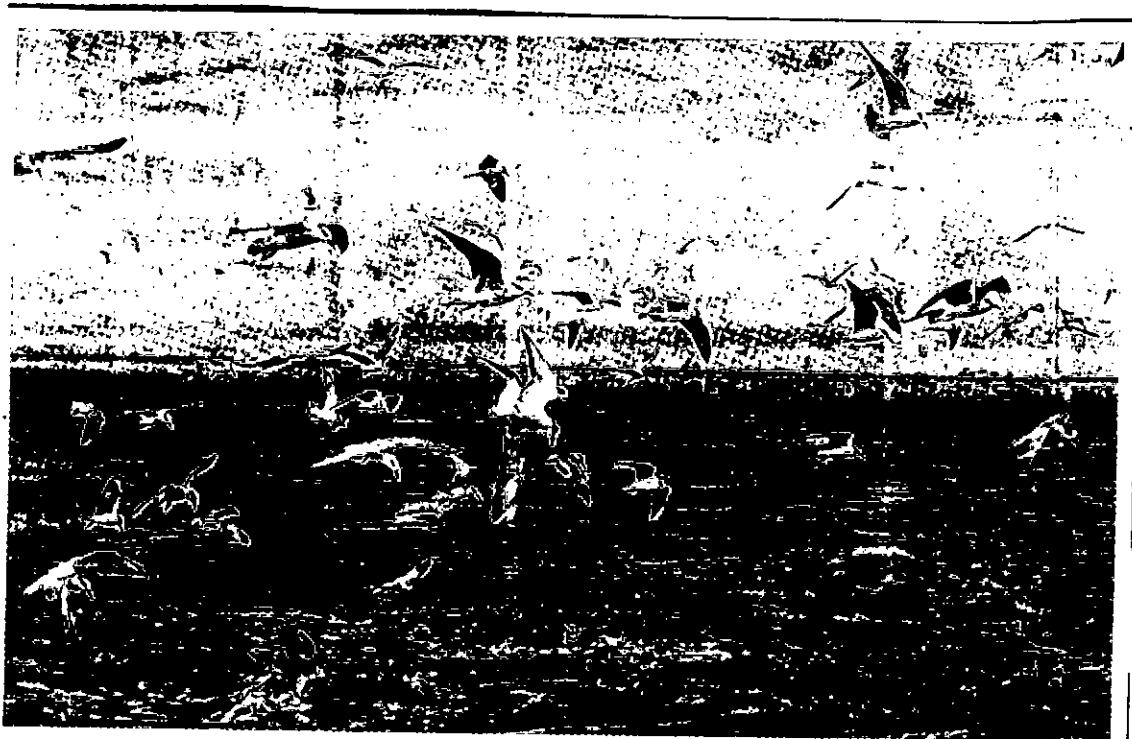
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EDITORIAL

CARTOON

14 JAN 2010

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MIGRATORY birds fleeing the harsh winter in the Northern Hemisphere wander on the Manila Bay for food before resuming their journey to the warmth and safety of the Southern Hemisphere. (Rio Leonelle Deluvio)



SPEAKING OUT

A sea of garbage



By **IGNACIO R. BUNYE**

THE recent Traslacion has established newer records of sorts – the longest procession, the best attended, the most organized, the least number of injured persons reported.

Inevitably, however, it also earned the unenviable record for the largest volume of garbage generated in a single public event.

Almost a half day after the procession officially ended, MMDA and even barangay brigades were still busy collecting garbage along the procession route causing not a few social media commentators to refer to the annual religious event as “Trash-lacion.”

The day after, comments in social media made for very interesting reading.

Basically, commentators analyzed the reasons for our propensity to wantonly throw garbage, not just in events like the Traslacion but even in ordinary outdoor public gatherings.

Here are a few comments which, to me, hit closest to home.

Basically, we have become spoiled both at home and in school. In general, there is always somebody at home, the *kasambahay*, who cleans up our mess. In school cafeterias, somebody else usually clears the table for us after we have left.

Another commentator explained it slightly differently.

Inside our own homes, we tend to be “garbage-free.” The problem, however, begins as soon as we leave home.

Either way, the situation appears to boil down to a breakdown in individual and community discipline.

How do we restore discipline?

It is easier said than done, but the textbook answer lies in the 3 E's – E-ducation, E-nforcement, and E-engineering. To these, I would add a fourth E: E-xample.

There is no dearth of materials on any and all of the foregoing aspects of solid waste management. In fact, a comprehensive plan based on solid waste management best practices is even available off the shelf.

What is just needed is political will. Read that as: E-xecution.

Garbage dumping

To further complicate our problems, we have had two episodes of garbage dumping originating from foreign countries.

6,500 tons of waste materials, originating from South Korea, somehow found their way into the Mindanao port in Misamis Oriental last year.

The materials were declared as “soft plastic” for furniture reprocessing but turned out to be medical and electronic waste.

The South Korean government has since agreed to take back the trash.

Not so, in the case of the Canadian government.

Between 2013 and 2014, private Canadian companies shipped to the Philippines 103 containers declared to contain scrap plastics for recycling. The containers turned out to be filled with municipal solid waste not fit for recycling.

During the 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila in November, 2017, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reportedly assured President Duterte that Canada is working on a solution to the garbage dumping controversy.

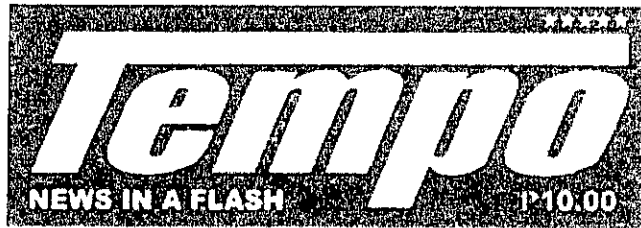
Not much has been heard from Trudeau since.

Former Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III ruefully commented that the two incidents sadly reflect how we are perceived abroad.

Note: You may email us at toting-bunye2000@gmail.com. You may also “like” us on Facebook at “Speaking Out.”



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Speaking Out

Atty. Ignacio R. Bunye

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Speaking... (From Page 7)

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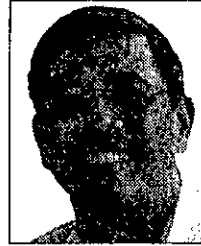
CARTOON

CTALK CITO BELTRAN

Cheaper gasoline

We can easily have gasoline that costs cheaper by 2 to 4 pesos per liter by simply removing ethanol from the gasoline sold at gas stations!

This was the revelation made by Chairman Sergio Ortiz Luis of the Philippine Confederation of Exporters when he recently guested on our show AGENDA



on Cignal TV. He pointed out that while everybody is talking about excise tax and foreign prices, no one has ever thought about revisiting the law that requires petroleum companies to infuse or blend Ethanol to their standard "gasoline." In addition, he pointed out that the basis or spirit of the law has turned out to be flawed or far from the intention. To begin with the "ethanol law" was meant to promote agricultural and commercial production of "grains" or plants that produce ethanol. This is generally corn and at one point some supporters said cassava also had potential. The law would then lead to prosperity for corn farmers who would become millionaires in no time. To further sugarcoat the law, the proponents even claimed that it would vastly improve air quality in support of the Clean Air Act.

Unfortunately, none of that happened. From what I've heard in the past we have never produced enough corn or ethanol in the Philippines. Fact of the matter is, corn is so short in supply that feed millers opt to import their corn for two reasons: imported corn is cheaper and is drier or has less water content because they are generally industrially dried instead of being dried in the open such as the national highways of the Philippines. In effect, the so-called expected boom never happened and we still have no corn farming millionaires. What we do have are millionaire importers of ethanol. As for helping improve the air quality, the Philippines cocktail of gasoline and ethanol can't possibly match the EURO 4 or EURO 5 fuel standards that have become more popular among motorists because many suspect that the Ethanol concoction is the culprit behind numerous problems that beset modern vehicles.

If consumers can save 2 to 4 pesos per liter by simply removing the law protecting ethanol merchants, then it is well worth the time and effort of the Department of Energy and Congress to investigate if the Spirit of the Law was actually achieved or if we can be spared the unnecessary cost that is nothing more than the failed attempt of a corporation in Mindanao to cash in on the potential of Ethanol that never took off except to line their pockets.

* * *

AS A MATTER OF FACT

SARA SOLIVEN DE GUZMAN

We have man-made disasters not natural ones

Tropical Depression Usman, which entered the Philippines on Christmas Day was said to be the second deadliest weather disaster for the country last year following Typhoon Mangkhut in September. It caused heavy flooding and landslide leaving 126 people dead, 26 missing and 74 injured (according to a Philippine Star report). It also brought damages to infrastructure and agriculture that reached P4.2 billion (according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council or NDRRMC).



What exactly worsened Usman's death toll? According to disaster scientist and Project NOAH Director Mahar Lagmay, it was a wrong forecast, late warnings and a lack of hazard awareness that caused the situation. According to Lagmay the forecast on December 28 to 29, 2018, was moderate (light blue) to heavy (dark blue) rainfall in Bicol. But what happened was the rainfall was intense (yellow) to torrential (red), the latter being the highest amount of rainfall.

Lagmay added that there is a big difference, especially since moderate rainfall measures 2.5 to 7.5 mm/hr; heavy rainfall 7.5 to 15mm/hr; intense 15-30 mm/hr; and torrential 30 mm./hr. At that time in Bicol, the intense and torrential rainfalls lasted for several hours. He pointed out that the warnings from NDRRMC on December 28 and 29 also came late. The orange alert rainfall warning was sent at 8 pm on December 28, then a red alert at 11 pm, and another red alert at 5 am on December 29 for possible landslides and possible flooding. By this time, it was too late.

In the past, there had been measures taken to avert disasters. In the study "Lessons from tropical storms Urduja and Vinta disasters in the Philippines," Project NOAH underscored the execution of Pre-Disaster Risk Management (PDRA) from 2014 to 2017 by the NDRRMC. These assessments prevented mass loss of lives in many severely-impacted areas because of hazard-specific, area-focused, and time-bound warnings.

The study also suggested that the PDRA must reinstate specific calls, where mayors of communities are informed by phone hours in advance of imminent danger, to prompt and ensure immediate action. The PDRA was institutionalized in June 2014 to provide risk analysis and constant monitoring of hydrometeorological hazards. These actions are supported by scientific information from PAGASA, Project NOAH, and the MGB. Unfortunately, Project NOAH was taken out of NDRRMC in mid-2017 before the 6 recent disasters happened. As a result, advisories became too broad and general.

People in Bicol may have thought that Usman would be low-impact after the state weather bureau raised storm signal number one. "Unfortunately, typhoon signal has nothing to do with rainfall amount because the signal numbers of PAGASA are based on wind strength," Lagmay said.

He also emphasized the importance of hazard maps in providing important information to help people understand the risks of natural hazards and to help mitigate disasters. Hazard maps indicate the extent of expected risk areas, and can be combined with disaster management information such as evacuation sites, evacuation routes, and so forth. "People and the LGU (local government unit) find it hard to use or interpret a hazard map without the identified safe places," he added. If safe places are identified, LGUs and the people can make the right decisions. This information cannot be found in the map of Mines and Geosciences Bureau but is covered by Project NOAH.

So, what do we do now? Do we just sit around and wait for another disaster to happen? This information is not new. We have been talking about this for quite sometime now. Yet, it seems that no one wants to listen. Or maybe no one wants to act on it because it would highlight the inefficiencies of the system. People are dying, properties are lost, families are buried in the ground and houses destroyed. These are disasters coming and going, year in and year out but to this day our leaders haven't seem to have gotten the right formula to protect the people. Talk about governance. *Susmariosep!*

Dr. Lagmay's record shows that on average, hydromet disasters happen once a year and at most twice per year. Now it's 6 in the span of one year! He said, "It can't be like this with us just waiting for the next disaster to happen. Something is wrong and it does not seem to be connected to Climate Change."

Come to think of it. Are all these national disasters natural or man-made? Dr. Lagmay, in his scientific report titled, *Lessons from Disasters in the Philippines*, wrote: "There's no such thing as a natural disaster because all disasters are caused by human error. All disasters are man-made; they are never natural. It is the people's poor understanding on how to address hazards and failure to use appropriate science and technology as well as hazard mitigation plans that create disasters."

Much of the responsibility for lowering disaster risk falls on LGUs. But we know how they are in the implementation of building codes and land planning. When the local government choose to ignore warnings on "no-build zones", disaster is sure to happen. When LGUs allow the so-called the "rape" of the environment in mining, illegal logging, dynamite fishing; and construction of structures in "no-build zones" then the problem begins. And guess what? Government officials easily get away from such crimes. No one is penalized or jailed. *Sanamagan!*

There are many structures in "no-build zones" that need to be demolished to the deaf ears of owners and city officials. This is also why political dynasties thrive in the country – to protect their structures, their mines, their kingdoms. But this is another story. *Abangan!*



Climate change: Complex challenges for agriculture

ZURICH, Switzerland—The unusually hot summer of 2018 showed that climate change affects a central part of our lives: agriculture. The severe drought in Liechtenstein led to large losses in the hay harvest.

causes additional problems, as well, including large-scale deforestation, immense water consumption, soil compaction and erosion, chemical pollution of the environment and biodiversity loss.

This exacerbates the overexploitation of natural resources and increases climate change vulnerability.

includes locally adapted and robust plant varieties and animal breeds. Efficiency-enhancing measures, such as irrigation systems, are becoming increasingly important.

At the societal level, fair-trade conditions and market access for all producers are important, as is responsible governance. The latter is necessary to coordinate and issue appropriate political policies.

Carrying on like in the past no longer an option

"INDUSTRIAL agriculture has reached a dead end—there is no option to continue as before," warned Hans Rudolf Herren, winner of the World Food Prize and longtime president of the Biovision Foundation.

The renowned agronomist and entomologist urges global agriculture to embrace organic, multifunctional, healthy and sustainable practices that take agroecological principles into account, rather than striving for the highest possible yields.

This option is now also re-organized by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization as a response to the many challenges of climate change.

Acting at all levels

A BREAKTHROUGH for agroecology principles will require dialogue between all actors involved. Only then can the course of agriculture change toward a joint sustainable future.

This is the aim of the Biovision Foundation's advocacy team. Together with an alliance of goal-oriented organizations and states, these agroecology advocates succeeded in establishing the demand for sustainable agriculture as part of the UN's 17 sustainability goals in New York in 2015.

The Biovision Foundation supports the achievement of these goals both for agriculture and for climate protection at three levels.

It focuses on raising public awareness for sustainable consumption and on establishing a network to implement sustainability goals.

At the international level, the advocacy team discusses agroecology with interested country representatives to position agroecology principles in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In the project "Advocacy for Agroecology," Biovision supports countries with concrete recommendations for action and a coordinated policy dialogue to plan climate-friendly agroecological measures.

Through various grassroots projects in Africa, Biovision has demonstrated various concrete examples of successful application of these measures. Liechtenstein Development Service's support to train and inform smallholders is of crucial importance for farmers to have the ability to prepare themselves for the consequences of climate change. *IPS*



In the project "Food security in rural Ethiopia" by Biovision and Caritas Vorarlberg, the villagers of Siraro district dig erosion control ditches, to preserve and enhance natural resources. PETER LÜTH/BIOVISION

In countries of the Global South, the consequences of climate change are already much more drastic. In Africa, for example, extreme weather conditions threaten food security for millions of people.

East Africa has encountered droughts at increasingly shorter intervals in recent years, most recently in 2005, 2006, 2009, 2011, 2014, 2015 and 2017.

Apart from drought, the conditions for agriculture are also becoming increasingly difficult due to the gradual rise in temperature, salinization and changing rainy seasons.

Serious consequences include decreasing availability of food and increasing conflicts over water—both obstacles to development opportunities of the affected states and possible triggers for migration.

system are not only victims but also causes of climate change. The term "food system" refers to the entire food cycle, from production to harvesting, storage, distribution, consumption and disposal.

This cycle produces significant amounts of greenhouse-gas emissions. Paradoxically, modern industrial agriculture aims to intensify operations to compensate for the loss of production caused by climate change.

However, using ever more fossil fuels, synthetic fertilizers and agrochemicals increases emissions of climate-damaging gases instead of reducing them.

Industrialized agriculture

Diversity increases resilience

CLIMATE change is a complex problem involving various factors. This calls for holistic solutions. These include agroecology adapted to the local political, social and natural conditions.

An important principle of agroecology is the promotion of diversity. The more diverse an ecosystem is, the more flexible it can react to changes, recover from disturbances and adapt to new conditions.

Diversified agroecosystems use synergies from mixed cultivation or agroforestry systems and rely on natural fertilizers from compost and manure.

Agroecology combines traditional and new knowledge. This

“Industrial agriculture has reached a dead end—there is no option to continue as before.”—HERREN

Agriculture is also the cause

AGRICULTURE and the food



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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Manila Standard

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BARNER STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOO

14 JAN 2018

DATE

SMC opens P24-b water project

THE Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System has cited San Miguel Corp's P24.4-Billion Bulacan Bulk Water Supply Project, a public-private partnership project of Luzon Clean Water Development Corp. and K-Water Resources Corp., as it starts commercial operations among selected and ready water districts under Stage 1 today, Jan. 14, 2018, following its milestone completion ahead of schedule.

MWSS Administrator Reynaldo V. Velasco lauded SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang for the speedy completion of the flagship project, the first major water project to be completed and inaugurated under the Duterte administration.

"We congratulate SMC, K-Water and Mr. Ang for the landmark completion of the BBWPS last December 17, one month ahead of its contracted completion," says Velasco. "This underscores the

good working relations between MWSS and Luzon Clean Water that will surely benefit the people of Bulacan. While the Bulacan Bulk water project was started by the Aquino administration in 2012, it is the first major water project to be completed during Duterte's term."

Luzon Clean Water President Ang says, "The BBWSP started its dry run operations last Dec. 17, initially giving free water

to four areas in Bulacan namely Obando, Meycauayan City, Marilao and Bocaue."

Ang said the water project is aimed at providing millions of residents from 24 localities in Bulacan ready access to fresh, potable surface water while balancing the competing needs of a growing population, industry, agriculture, and the environment in the province.

"The Bulacan Bulk Water is just one of the many projects that SMC has in store under the Duterte administration," says Ang adding that "with our financial resources and technical capabilities, we promise to deliver several projects that support our fast economic growth." One of SMC's new projects is a new international airport to be constructed in Bulacan.

The BBWSP consists of three

stages. Stage 1 covers six water districts consisting of San Jose del Monte, Marilao, Meycauayan, Bocaue, Obando and Balagtas while Stage 2 covers seven water districts consisting of Guiguinto, Calumpit, Bulakan, Plaridel, Sta. Maria, Paombong and Malolos.

Meanwhile, the construction of Stage 3 which covers the remaining 11 municipalities of Baliuag, Plaridel, Pandi, Hagonoy, San Rafael, San Miguel, Norzagaray, Angat, Dona Remedios Trinidad, San Ildefonso, and Bustos, has not yet started.

Before the construction of the BBWSP, the province of Bulacan sources water from deep wells provided by the water districts, which are government-owned and controlled corporation. In recent years, however, the deep wells are slowly running out of water.



Ownership over abandoned river bed

Dear PAO,
My family has been occupying a portion of land since 1996. We tried to apply for its registration; however, the government agency concerned informed us that the land cannot be registered because it is classified as a river. The subject land is actually an abandoned river bed. John, the owner of a titled land adjoining the old river, now claims that the land is an accretion; hence, he owns the same. Is he correct?

Carl

Dear Carl,
Accretion is governed by Article 457 of the *New Civil Code of the Philippines* which states that "to the owners of lands adjoining the banks of rivers belong the accretion which they gradually receive



DEAR PAO

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from the effects of the current of waters."

It is stated in the case entitled, *Republic of the Philippines vs. The Court of Appeals, et al.*, (G.R. No. L-61647, Oct. 12, 1984, Ponente: Honorable former Associate Justice Hugo Gutierrez, Jr.) that the article quoted above "requires the concurrence of three requisites before an accretion covered by this particular provision is said to have taken place. They are 1) that the deposit be gradual and imperceptible; 2) that it be made

through the effects of the current of the water; and 3) that the land where accretion takes place is adjacent to the banks of rivers."

However, if the land which is the subject of your dispute with John is really an abandoned river bed, the provision of Article 461 of the same code will apply:

"River beds which are abandoned through the natural change in the course of the waters ipso facto belong to the owners whose lands are occupied by the new course in proportion to the area lost. However, the owners of the lands adjoining the old bed shall have the right to acquire the same by paying the value thereof, which value shall not exceed the value of the area oc-

cupied by the new bed."

In the case of *Republic of the Philippines vs. Santos III, et al.* (G.R. No. 160453, Nov. 12, 2012), the Supreme Court through Chief Justice Lucas P. Bersamin stated:

"By law, accretion - the gradual and imperceptible deposit made through the effects of the current of the water - belongs to the owner of the land adjacent to the banks of rivers where it forms. The drying up of the river is not accretion. Hence, the dried-up river bed belongs to the State as property of public dominion, not to the riparian owner, unless a law vests the ownership in some other person."

Applying the above cited decision in your situation, John is

not correct if the subject land is an abandoned river bed. An abandoned river bed is not the same as accretion where John, being the riparian owner, can claim ownership. The ownership over the abandoned river bed will depend if the new course of the river occupied a portion of the land of John. If so, then John may own the abandoned river bed in proportion to the area of his property which was lost because of the natural change in the course of the waters. However, if the new course of the river did not occupy any portion of the property of John, then the state owns the abandoned river bed. This is in consonance with Section 2, Article XII of the

1987 Constitution which states that "all lands of the public domain, waters, minerals, coal, petroleum, and other mineral oils, all forces of potential energy, fisheries, forests or timber, wildlife, flora and fauna, and other natural resources are owned by the State."

We hope that we were able to answer your queries. This advice is based solely on the facts you have narrated and our appreciation of the same. Our opinion may vary when other facts are changed or elaborated.

Editor's note: Dear PAO is a daily column of the Public Attorney's Office. Questions for Chief Acosta may be sent to dearpao@manilatimes.net



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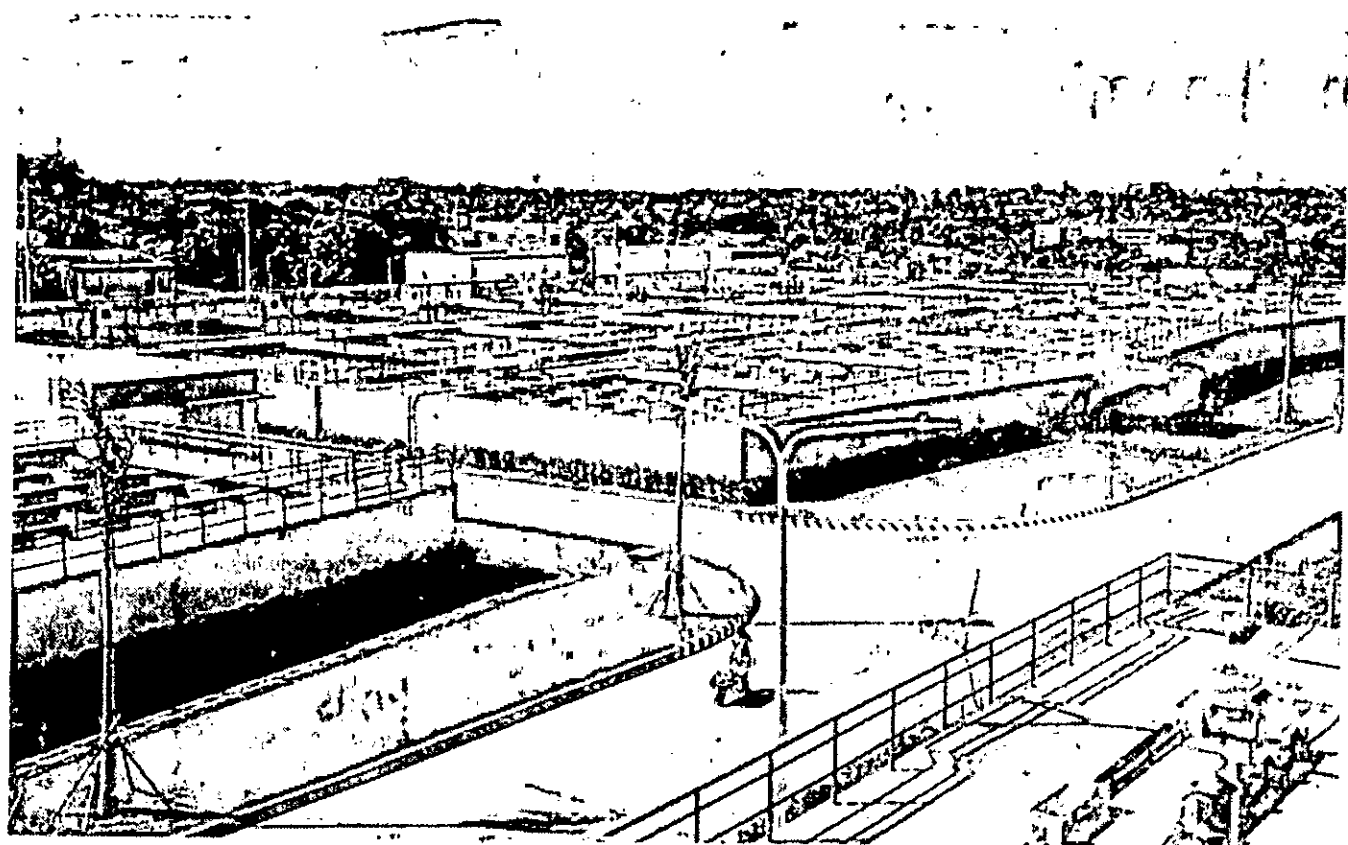
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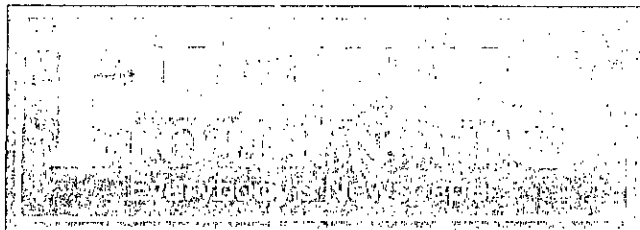
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14 JAN 2019

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BULACAN BULK WATER. San Miguel Corp's P24.4 billion Bulacan Bulk Water Project which starts operations today is featured in the cover page of the Water Environment Journal, the official publication of Philippine Water Works Association—the umbrella organization of the country's water supply in tandem with Media Touchstone Ventures Inc.



Renewed commitment for pawikan conservation

THE Aboitiz Group, through its social development arm Aboitiz

Foundation and Aboitiz-Power business unit Davao Light and Power Company, renewed its commitment to intensify conservation efforts for the marine turtle (pawikan) particularly the critically endangered hawksbill turtle in Davao City.

Aboitiz signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Davao City local government to establish a Pawikan Center, a rescue and hatchery facility at the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park.

The center has a temporary shelter, clinic, laboratory, observation deck, boardwalks, and other facilities for the rescue, rehabilitation, conservation, protection and care of marine turtles in Punta Dumalag. This sup-

ports the multi-sectoral effort of "pursuing sustainable development within the context of a balanced ecology."

"Davao is truly blessed to be a nesting site of marine turtles, which is a keystone specie in maintaining the balance in our ecosystem. It is clear that the government and the private sector must work together to protect these endangered animals before it becomes too late," said Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio.

As part of this project, Aboitiz will also continue to plant endemic trees to maintain biodiversity in the area.

"Today, after more than 13,000 mangrove seedlings planted and more than 3,000 hatchlings released, we renew our commitment," said Aboitiz Power Executive Vice President and

Chief Operating Officer for Distribution Group Jim Aboitiz who led the conglomerate's delegation to the MOA signing.

The DENR will provide technical assistance, facilitate information and education campaign on marine turtle conservation, and establish Punta Dumalag as critical habitat for marine turtles, among others.

On the other hand, the Davao LGU, through local ordinance, will strengthen the enforcement of existing laws relevant to the conservation efforts, assist the DENR in the establishment of Punta Dumalag as a critical habitat for the marine turtles, provide manpower support for the project, and furnish DENR with monitoring reports.



SAVE THE PAWIKAN. AboitizPower Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) for Distribution Group Jim Aboitiz (center, kneeling), leads last Jan. 10 the release of a hawksbill turtle (pawikan) on the grounds of the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park in Punta Dumalag, Davao City where a Pawikan Center (rescue and hatchery facility) is set to rise. He is joined by DENR Asec. Ruth Tawantawan (left, kneeling) and Davao Light COO Rodger Velasco (right, kneeling) while Aboitiz Equity Ventures Adviser for Mindanao Art Milan (2nd from left, standing) and Davao Light Community Relations Manager Fermin Edillon (2nd from right, standing) look on.



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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Bulacan water project to be launched

THE P24.4-billion Bulacan Bulk Water Supply Project (BBWSP) for Bulacan will be formally launched by President Duterte on January 28 this year.

The BBWSP aims to provide ready access to fresh, potable surface water to residents in 24 localities in Bulacan and help them meet the current water demand. It will also reduce the usage of deep wells to mitigate the adverse environmental impact of excessive groundwater extraction.

Luzon Clean Water Development Corp. — a consortium of San Miguel Corp. (80 percent) and Korea Water Resources Corp. (20 percent) — sealed the 25-year concession agreement to provide water to consumers at the rate of P8.50 per cubic meter. The project's construction started in 2012. Metropolitan Waterworks and

Sewerage System (MWSS) Administrator Reynaldo Velasco commended the companies for the "speedy completion" of the project completion. This development depicts the "good working relations between MWSS and Luzon Clean Water that will surely benefit the people of Bulacan," he said.

SMC President and Chief Executive Officer Ramon Ang said the BBWSP is one of the many projects the listed conglomerate has in store. With its financial resources and technical capabilities, Ang said their SMC promises "to deliver several projects that support our fast economic growth", such as the new international airport to be developed in the province.

Stage 1 of the project covers San Jose del Monte, Marilao, Meycauayan, Bocaue, Obando and Balagtas) while stage 2 has Guiguinto, Calumpit,

Bulakan, Plaridel, Sta. Maria, Paombong and Malolos. Stage 3 will serve Baliuag, Plaridel, Pandi, Hagonoy, San Rafael, San Miguel, Norzagaray, Angat, Dona Remedios Trinidad, San Ildefonso, and Bustos.

Commercial operations among selected and ready water districts under Stage 1 started on January 14. Dry run operations were held on Dec. 17, 2018, to initially provide free water to Obando, Meycauayan City, Marilao and Bocaue.

The BBWSP is the first major project under the Duterte administration's public-private partnership (PPP) scheme. It is one of the agency's two water projects under the program. The other projects is the P18.72-billion New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project which aims to meet the increasing water demand in Metro Manila.

JORDEENE B. LAGARE



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OPPO, Bantay Kalikasan launch charity photo contest

FOLLOWING its recent release of the F9 model in Jade Green, mobile leader OPPO partners with ABS-CBN *Lingkod Kapamilya's* environmental arm *Bantay Kalikasan* to launch its charity photo contest, benefiting the La Mesa Watershed Reservation, in Quezon City.

Through the F9's new, unique gradient of white and green, OPPO is celebrating the beautiful hues of white-sand beaches, clear waters, and the lush rainforests of the Philippines as its tribute to the beauty of the Philippine islands.

"OPPO is inspired to help work towards protecting and preserving the country's natural beauty,

and a partnership with Bantay Kalikasan brings us closer to that goal," said Jane Wan, OPPO Philippines VP for Marketing.

The contest brought together three photographers who had traveled across the Philippines to capture the islands' unique locales, cultures, stories and people using the OPPO F9 Jade Green:

From this date, the public can choose their favorite photos, vote for their choices, and share on their respective social media accounts until the end of the contest on Jan. 31.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/OPPOPH.



■ Along Diteki River shot on Oppo F9.



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VIZCAYA APPROVES REGULATION OF PLASTIC USE

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya: The provincial government approved the Plastic Regulation Ordinance of Nueva Vizcaya to reduce the use of plastic in the province in support of the Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP). Gov. Carlos Padilla said approval of the plastics ordinance is aimed to lessen plastics pollution and promote environmental protection for the benefit of public health and safety. Other than biodegradable, the ordinance covers all types of plastics that end up as residual waste. Padilla said the plastics ordinance does not cover those that have economic value through resource recovery and which can be re-used and recycled. These include those that form part of a product such as semi-conductors and electronic products, except as container or packaging material. A fine of P1,000 up to P5,000 plus imprisonment of not more than six months for individuals, and possible cancellation of business license or an institution to operate for one year, will be imposed against violators. Under the ordinance, those who will be found littering, illegally dumping and disposing of plastic wastes and other garbage will also be penalized with a fine or imprisonment or both.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO