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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Manila Standard

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BAY CLEANUP. Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu (second from right) stands with Manila Yacht Club Commodore Robert Lim Joseph (center) and former MYC Commodore Francisco Garcia in viewing the MYC's designated site for the proposed Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) beside the outfall (inset). With them are (from left) DENR Usec. Sherwin Rigor, Peter Tay of Skal International Makati, and Ralph Joseph of MYC.



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Manila Bay cleaner in 6 months – DENR

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Monday said the waters of Manila Bay would be cleaner in six months.

The bay's rehabilitation began in December last year.

Benny Antiporda, DENR undersecretary for solid waste management and local government units, told *The Manila Times* that while Manila Bay's full restoration would take about 7 to 10 years, "we can feel drastic change on water quality within 6 months."

Antiporda said the DENR would first focus on the cleanup of *esteros* by tracing the sources of untreated wastewater.

"We will stop and contain the adding of pollution by means of shutting down business establishments that causes the pollution. [Then], we will contain the waste water [from informal settlers] and at the same time treat it before releasing it to the sea," Antiporda explained.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu recently inspected the Estero de San Antonio de Abad in Malate, Manila. He had ordered establishments near the bay to put up their own sewage treatment plants

(SIPs) within three months or face sanctions.

The DENR earlier reported that fecal coliform level in Manila Bay was at 330 million most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100ml), way above the safe coliform level of 100mpn/100 ml.

It aims to reduce coliform level to less than 270 MPN/100ml by December this year.

Antiporda admitted it was "impossible" to fully rehabilitate Manila Bay by the end of Duterte administration in 2022 "because the main problem is the relocation of informal settlers [numbering] 232,000 families."

The DENR had begun discussions with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) for the relocation of the hundreds of thousands of people living in the areas close to Manila Bay.

Antiporda said cleaning Manila Bay would be more difficult than the rehabilitation of Boracay Island.

"We will be dealing with different local government offices unlike in Boracay [where] there is only one mayor and one governor. So, we expect different reactions in different areas," he said.

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ



DENR lists most polluted spots in Manila Bay area

By MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO [@akosistellaBM](#)
Special to the BUSINESSMIRROR

NINE out of 19 bathing beaches or stations along Manila Bay are considered to be among its most polluted portions, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

These areas include the waters off the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex, which was recorded as having a fecal coliform contamination of 1.6 billion most probable number (MPN) per 100 milliliters (ml) in the fourth quarter of 2015. Other dangerous areas for swimming and other forms of skin contact are the waters off the Mall of Asia with 850 million MPN/100 ml; Navotas Fishport at 2 billion MPN; Philippine Estates Authority Tollways Corp. with 1.1 billion MPN; and Luneta Park at 900 million MPN.

The other stations and beaches that registered coliform contamination above the acceptable standard of 1,000 MPN/100 ml were the waters off Mattel (close to 60,000 MPN/100 ml as of the first quarter of 2016); San Isidro (80,000 MPN); Celebrity Beach (50,000 MPN); and Villa Criselda (10,000 MPN).

President Duterte has announced a massive cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay, which will be spearheaded by the DENR and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The DENR is targeting to reduce the average coliform contamination in the bay to about 250 million to 270 million MPN/100 ml by the end of 2019.

In its presentation before the Cabinet meeting on January 7, a copy of which was obtained by the BUSINESSMIRROR, the DENR laid out the responsibilities of other government agencies included in the mandamus of the Supreme Court issued in 2008, ordering them to clean up the bay.

Aside from the DENR and DILG, other mandamus agencies are the departments of Education (DepEd), Health (DOH), Agriculture (DA), Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Budget and Management (DBM), the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine National Police-Maritime Group (PNP-MG), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA).

- DENR—Implement cleanup plan for Manila Bay and coordinate with mandamus agencies, and manage water quality;
- DILG—Direct all local government units in Metro Manila, Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga and Bataan to inspect all factories, commercial establishments and private homes along the banks of major and minor river systems in their areas that eventually discharge water into Manila Bay and the lands abutting the bay, and inspect whether these have wastewater treatment facilities or hygienic septic tanks;
- MWSS—Provide, install, operate and maintain the necessary adequate wastewater treatment facilities in Metro Manila, Rizal and Cavite where needed at the earliest time possible.

- LWUA—Through local water districts and in coordination with the DENR, provide, install, operate and maintain sewerage and sanitation facilities and ensure efficient and safe collection, treatment and disposal of sewage in Laguna, Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga and Bataan at the soonest possible time;
- DA through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources—Improve and restore the marine life of Manila Bay; and assist LGUs in developing the fisheries and aquatic resources in the bay;
- PNP/PNP-MG—Apprehend violators of PD 979 (revising PD 600 on marine pollution), RA 8550 (Development Management and Conservation of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources), and other existing laws and regulations designed to prevent marine pollution in the Manila Bay;
- PPA—Adopt measures to prevent discharge and dumping of solid and liquid wastes and other ship-generated wastes into Manila Bay from vessels docked at ports, and apprehend the violators;
- MMDA—Dismantle and remove all structures, constructions and other encroachments established or built in violation of RA 7279 (Urban Development and Housing Act) and other applicable laws along the Pasig-Marikina-San Juan Rivers, the National Capital Region (Parañaque-Zapote, Las Piñas) Rivers and connecting waterways and esteros in Metro Manila; as well as establish and maintain sanitary landfill within its territorial jurisdiction;
- DPWH—Remove and demolish all structures, constructions and other encroachment built in breach of RA 7279 and other applicable laws in rivers in Bulacan, Bataan, Cavite and Laguna de Bay and other rivers connecting waterways and esteros that discharge wastewater into the Manila Bay;
- DOH—Determine if all licensed septic and sludge companies have the proper facilities for the treatment and disposal of fecal sludge and sewage coming from septic tanks;
- DepEd—Integrate lessons on pollution prevention, waste management, environmental protection in school curricula of all levels to inculcate importance of achieving and maintaining a balanced and healthful ecosystem in the Manila Bay; and
- DBM—Consider incorporating adequate budget in the General Appropriations Act to cover expenses relating to cleanup, restoration and preservation of the water quality of the Manila Bay.

In an interview, DENR Undersecretary for Attached Agencies Sherwin S. Rigor confirmed about P46 billion is needed for the complete rehabilitation and cleanup of Manila Bay. "But we don't need this amount immediately this year," he said, even as Malacañang gave its nod to using the road user's tax to fund the cleanup.

While lawmakers have yet to approve legislation abolishing the Road Board, Rigor said, government agencies tasked to undertake the cleanup "can use our respective budgets." The DENR alone will be spending some P1.75 billion over three years to deploy silt curtains, install temporary sewerage treatment plants, and recharge aquifers. **(See, "Road funds also eyed for Manila Bay cleanup," in the BUSINESSMIRROR, January 9, 2019).**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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Help bay clean-up or else...

By **Sundy Locus**

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) intends to prosecute officials of local government units (LGU) who will not contribute to efforts to clean up Manila Bay of pollutants.

DILG Secretary Martin Diño noted that there are 5,500 barangays in the 178 cities and municipalities that surround Manila Bay, particularly those in Regions 4A and 3 and Metro Manila.

"If mayors and barangay captains will not cooperate, then we will file charges against them," Diño said, adding that San Juan, Quezon City, Manila and Pateros are among the biggest polluters.



The mayors of Manila and Pateros are non-compliant in waste management, he claimed.

President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the rehabilitation of Manila Bay with Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to spearhead a multi-government cleanup effort similar to what had been undertaken in Boracay Island.

A test of the water quality in Manila Bay conducted by the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) showed its waters are teeming with fecal coliform at about 330 million MPN (most probable number) per 100 milliliter.

An MPN of at most 400 is necessary for sea

water to be declared suitable for swimming.

DILG to prosecute LGU that will not toe the line.

Aside from fecal coliform, past studies had shown Manila Bay is also polluted with high levels of heavy metals, pesticides and solid wastes like plastics.

The pollution in Manila Bay results in an estimated P4 billion in damages each year, impacting



on fishery exports and mortality costs due to the spread of waterborne diseases.

An inspection by DENR showed that many establishments like restaurants and hotels dispose of their untreated sewage into creeks and rivers that feed into Manila Bay.

Among the establishments found to be without sewage treatment facilities is the Manila Zoo. The DENR had given said establishments three months to put up sewage treatment facilities or face closure.

Pollutants from both land and sea affect marine life because they throw off the balance

of marine ecosystems.

Manila Bay contributes about P8 billion to the national economy, with aquaculture accounting for P5.1 billion and tourism P2 billion, according to a 2006 study.

Diño added that the DILG has already identified at least 100 barangay captains who failed to comply with local waste management standards and gave the village officials two weeks to implement the law.

"We will give non-compliant officials two weeks to get things straight," said Diño. "If we don't see any improvement, then we will really file cases against them."

With Korlnah Saromines



Maynilad help sought for Manila Bay cleanup

By Victor V. Saulon *Sub-Editor*

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has asked Maynilad Water Services, Inc. to participate in the cleanup of Manila Bay, including the company's help in bringing quick results within the stretch of land facing the sea, the top official of the company said.

"They are seeking our assistance especially in the technical side. He wants to get immediate impact into the Manila Baywalk — the one kilometer from the Manila Yacht Club up to the [US] Embassy," Maynilad Chief Executive and President Ramoncito S. Fernandez said in an interview on Monday.

He was referring to Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, who has initiated the rehabilitation of the bay, similar to what his office had done to popular island destination Boracay.

"He's trying to find immediate solutions to prevent or to clean up the discharge of the three points — sa (at the) Manila Yacht [Club], sa may (near)

Malate Church, tsaka sa (and at the) US Embassy," he added.

Mr. Fernandez was answering questions on the sidelines of the 10th International Water Association three-day conference on efficient urban water management at the Marriott Hotel in Pasay City.

He said Mr. Cimatu had mentioned that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had assigned heads of specific *esteros* to monitor and "police" the creeks that lead to the Manila Bay.

"The secretary also recognizes that the informal settlers in the *esteros* are very significant contributors to the pollution. And we also emphasized to him and he saw it himself that the water discharged from our [Maynilad] wastewater treatment plants are clean but it is being thrown into a very, very dirty *estero*," Mr. Fernandez said.

Separately, Mr. Cimatu said in an interview that he had talks with local government units (LGUs), through the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, to address the issue.

"[This is] government-funded, but there will be some, like for example, there will be some companies that will be lending their equipment, providing some assistance to us, in terms of lending some of their experts," Mr. Cimatu said when asked about Maynilad's participation in the project.

"The accountability of the local government is they are allowing informal settlers to be staying in *esteros*," he said, adding that local officials had been allowing the structures in no-build zones such as *esteros*, "giving them electricity, giving them water."

Maynilad is the largest private water concessionaire in the Philippines in terms of customer base. It is the concessionaire of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for the west zone of the greater Manila area.

Manila Baywalk is within Maynilad's concession area, which is composed of Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon all in Metro Manila, and some

portions of the cities of Manila, Quezon and Makati.

The company also serves Cavite City, and the towns of Bacoor, Imus, Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario, all in Cavite province.

"*Ang sinasabi niya* (What Mr. Cimatu was saying is) since Roxas Boulevard is under Maynilad concession he is seeking our immediate help... But definitely *sabi namin sa kanya* (we told him), Manila Bay is coming from San Juan River, from Pasig, from Parañaque River etcetera, so he recognizes that both Manila Water and us are solution providers to the whole concession," Mr. Fernandez said.

Manila Water Co., Inc., the east zone concessionaire of Metro Manila, provides water and used water services to Mandaluyong, Pasig, San Juan, Marikina, Pateros, Taguig, Makati, the southeastern part of Quezon City and San Andres and Sta. Ana in Manila, including several towns of Rizal province.

"But he also recognizes that LGUs are also very, very important part of the cleanup of Manila Bay," Mr. Fernandez said.



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MAJOR BAY POLLUTANT

MANILA EYES 2 WATER TREATMENT PLANTS FOR ZOO

By Aie Balagtas See
@ABalagtasSeeINQ

own water treatment facilities," he said.

The Manila City government has announced plans to build two water treatment plants inside Manila Zoo which was earlier tagged by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as a major pollutant of Manila Bay.

To fast-track the project, city administrator Jojo Alcovendaz said that the local government might do away with the bidding process.

In a phone interview on Sunday, Alcovendaz told the Inquirer that the local government hoped to build the water treatment facilities within three to four months.

"I'm taking full responsibility for this. We didn't know that the zoo does not have its

Emergency case

He added: "I'm looking at this as an emergency case. Or maybe we will skip the protocol."

Last week, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu tagged the city government-operated zoo as one of the major pollutants of Manila Bay, which was set to undergo rehabilitation later this month.

During an inspection, Cimatu said that the zoo, which sits on a 5.5-hectare area, had been draining untreated sewage into one of the estuaries leading to the bay.

Estero de San Antonio Abad "registered the highest coliform level draining into the bay," he added. INQ



SHOOTING STRAIGHT BOBIT S. AVILA

Manila Bay cleanup ongoing

Over the weekend, I had fun watching the events posted on my Facebook page, with no less than Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu visiting the Manila Yacht Club for a look and see of the Manila



Bay accompanied by my good friend, MYC Commodore Robert "Bobby" Joseph. The beauty in that meeting is that it took some time for them to finish as the problem of Manila Bay is enormous to say the least. Because of that meeting the DENR Secretary decided to break up the cleanup of Manila Bay into four areas, which is for me the right approach as Manila Bay has a 200-plus kilometer roadway that passes along the bay.

Also we learned from Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Martin Dino that the mayors of Manila and Pateros are non-compliant in Manila Bay cleanup and this includes a hundred barangay captains whom Dino said that if these people do not deliver this time around, cases will be filed against them. Usec Dino is now a year in his position and with DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu and no less than Pres. Rodrigo Duterte already using the Manila Bay cleanup as their advocacy, I would like to believe that half the problem in this cleanup is already done.

No doubt New Year 2019 has truly begun with great strides when last week Pres. Duterte warned hotels operating along Roxas Blvd that he would shut them down if they continued to throw their waste into Manila Bay. Thus no less than the President has taken a role in the cleanup of Manila Bay. Now we learned that the DENR is now testing the quality of the water in Manila Bay before they do the rehab. I'm sure that quality would be close or worse than the toilet in your house. At this point, let me say that we are merely reporting the start of this cleanup... we shall continue writing on this issue until the day when Manila Bay will smell nice and sweet so we could all enjoy the famous Manila Bay sunset by the bay itself!

* * *



editorial

Let everybody help clean up Manila Bay

WE commend and support the Duterte administration's plan to implement a Boracay-like rehabilitation of Manila Bay, although we have to note that Boracay itself is far from being fully or successfully rehabilitated. There are still many establishments on the island that are not environmentally compliant, and work on the sewage system and road network is still ongoing.

However, just exercising the political will to clean our bodies of water is a big step in the right direction. Indeed, the government must stop the polluters first and enforce the law before any kind of cleanup can take place.

We made the same point about the Pasig River. Any kind of rehabilitation would not be successful if the government cannot relocate the factories and the squatters who keep dumping their waste in the river. For that matter, any kind of restoration project for Manila Bay will not succeed without cleaning the Pasig River, as the latter is a major tributary of the bay.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources warned it will close down hotels, condominiums and other establishments that are found polluting the Manila Bay. The DENR has started inspections along the bay area. For instance, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu inspected the government-run Manila Zoo on Friday and found it guilty of draining untreated sewage into one of the estuaries that lead to the Manila Bay.

While we support cleaning our bodies of water and stopping water pollution, we also wish to urge the government to involve the stakeholders in any kind of environmental policy-making, not only because our laws and regulations demand their participation but also because the increasing complexity of these issues need their involvement.

Obviously, the task of cleaning Manila Bay, the Pasig River, Boracay and other bodies of water becomes more challenging and complex because of the many groups that have a role in exacerbating environmental problems, the competing interests of stakeholders and the thick bureaucracy in government.

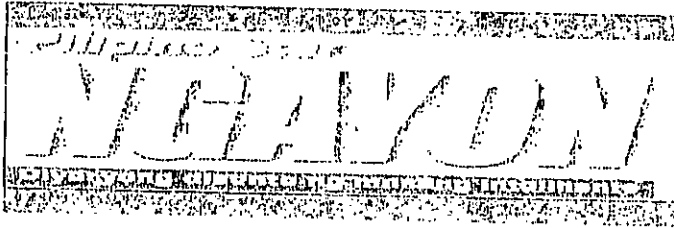
In Boracay, the government chose the immediate albeit temporary closure of the island after the President called it a cesspool. In the case of the Manila Bay, it is better to involve affected residents and the owners of malls, condos, hotels and other concerned establishments in the decision-making process and, ultimately, in the rehabilitation efforts.

The DENR, however, has to explain why these establishments were allowed to discharge untreated wastewater to the bay all these years. It's the DENR's job to inspect and approve their effluents. Here's the sixty-four-dollar question: Why didn't the DENR require these businesses to install wastewater-treatment facilities before they were allowed to operate?

The local governments also share part of the blame: Why did they allow squatter communities to rise along water tributaries that are considered danger zones? There are thousands of squatter families living along the banks of Metro Manila's main rivers and their tributaries, as well as the coastal communities of Manila Bay, who keep dumping garbage and human waste into our bodies of water.

The national government has its own sin of omission: It should have ordered the private water concessionaires—Maynilad Water Services Inc. and the Manila Water Co.—to carry out with dispatch, not in long-drawn fashion, the water-treatment part of their contracts. As House Senior Deputy Minority Leader Lito Atienza pointed out, "The real way to clean up the bay is to force the two water concessionaires to implement the wastewater-treatment facility. This will ensure that wastewater is already clean before being thrown out into the Manila Bay."

There are many organizations and people that are affected by government policies, and it is only fair to involve them in the decision-making process. This would help raise stakeholders' awareness of the problems and create support for solutions. Getting everybody to support the Manila Bay rehabilitation efforts will make the government's job easier.



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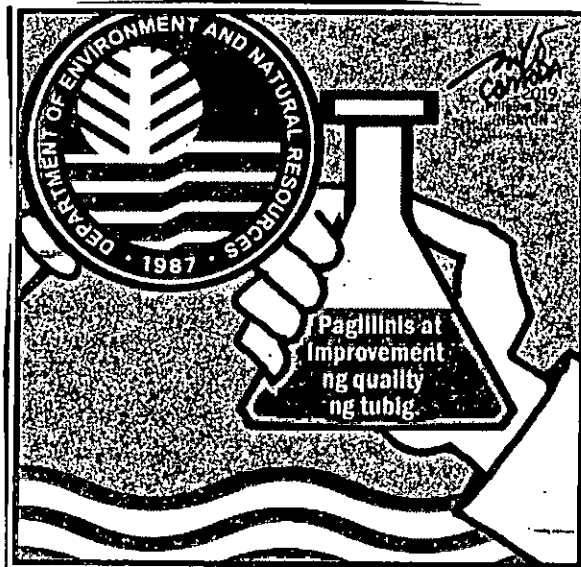
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Editorial

'Kamay na bakal' ng DENR, umubra kaya?

WALA nang makapipigil pa kay Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay. Tuluy-tuloy na umano ito at sisimulan na sa lalong madaling panahon. Noong Sabado, binisita na ni Cimatu ang mga estero na posibleng pinagmumulan nang maraming basura na iniluluwa sa Manila Bay. Una niyang ininspeksiyon ang Estero de San Antonio Abad sa Malate, Manila. Suspetsa ni Cimatu, dito nanggagaling ang mga basura na nakikita sa Manila Bay. Dito rin nagmumula ang maruming tubig na nanggagaling naman sa Manila Zoo. Direkta umano sa estero ang maruming tubig sa zoo dahil wala itong sewage treatment plant (STP).

Nagbabala si Cimatu sa management ng Manila Zoo na gumawa ng sariling STP o kasuhan sila ukol dito. Ayon kay Cimatu, nakasaad sa batas na dapat may sariling STPs ang lahat nang establimento. Sa ilalim ng Republic Act 9275 o ang Philippine CleanWater Act of 2004, nararapat na masiguro ang kalidad ng tubig at malutas ang iba pang environment problems sa makasaysayang lawa ng Maynila.

Hindi lamang ang Manila Zoo ang binalaan ni Cimatu kundi lahat nang mga establimentong nakapaligid sa Manila Bay. Binigyan ni Cimatu ng 3 buwan ang mga establishment para gumawa ng sariling STP. Mahigpit umano niyang ipapatupad ito. Ito aniya ang unang hakbang para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Tatlong phases ang gagawin para sa lubusang rehabilitasyon: una ang paglilinis sa mga basura at ang improvement ng kalidad ng tubig; ikalawa ang rehabilitasyon at ang ikatlo, protection at pagpapanatiling malinis ang makasaysayang Manila Bay.

Mukhang desidido si Cimatu na gamitin na ang "kamay na bakal" laban sa mga nagpaparumi ng Manila Bay. Mabigat ang mga kalaban niya sapagkat malawak ang Manila Bay. Maraming bayan at lungsod ang nakapaligid dito. Maraming malalaking pabrika na nagluluwa ng lason at iba pang nakasisira sa kapaligiran. Mabilis niyang nalinis at napabango ang Boracay sapagkat maliit lang ang isla at maliit lang ang establishments. Dito sa Manila Bay, marami siyang makakabangga.

Kallangang tulongan at suportahan si Cimatu sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay. Nararapat nang linisin ang maruming Manila Bay. May pagkakataon pa para ito malsalba at mapakinabangan sa hinaharap.



MALAKING trabaho ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay at tinataya ng mga eksperto na aabutin ng pitong taon bago ito ganap na malinis.

Kabilang sa mga dumi na kitang-kita sa Manila Bay ang mga dumi ng tao na direktang itinatapon sa dagat ng mga nakatira sa mga dalampasigan at ng mga gusali at establisimyento sa gilid ng Manila Bay mula sa mga lungsod ng Navotas, Malabon, Manila, Pasay, Parañaque at Las Piñas.

Siyempre pa, kasama sa mga basura ang mga kemikal, dumi mula sa mga kusina, plastik na iba't ibang klase gaya ng mga plastic bottle ng mga tubig at soft-drink, pang-iced water, diaper at iba pa.

Mga hindi nabubulok at nakalalasang basura ang dahilan kung bakit tatlong beses na mas marumi ang Manila Bay kaysa Boracay na kalilinis lamang sa loob ng anim na buwan makaraang isara ito bilang pangunahing panturistang lugar ng mahal kong Pinas.

40,000 PAMILYA IRE-RELOCATE

Tinatayang 40,000 pamilya ang natagpuan ng mga inspector o taga-monitor ng Department of Energy and Natural Resources, kasama ang iba pang mga ahensya ng pamahalaan, na nakatira sa dagat, dalampasigan at gilid ng Manila Bay sa nasabing mga lungsod.

Aminin man o hindi ng mga local government unit na nakasasakop sa mga ito, kabilang ang mga ito sa mga pangunahing nagtatapon ng basura sa lawa.

Para masawata ang pagtatapon ng mga ito ng basura, kailangan silang mailipat ng tirahan.

Hindi dapat na gawing laruan ng mga politiko bilang mga botante lamang sa bawat halalan ang mga mamamayang ito kundi ser-yosohin ang kanilang kalagayan.

Bukod sa pagiging source ng malaking basura, karaniwan ding sila ang biktima ng mga kalamidad gaya ng mga bagyo at habagat na sumisira ng buhay at ari-arian, maging ng kinabukasan nila.



RELOKASYON NG 40,000, MAYNILAD AT MANILA WATER

Itinuturing na danger zones ang tinitirhan ng mga ito at bawal na pagtaya ng anomang tahanan at iba pang klaseng istruktura.

Nakauubos din ang mga ito ng mga calamity fund ng mga local at national government dahil sa madalas na pinsalang tinatamo ng mga ito tuwing may masamang panahon.

LGU, DENR ATBP.

Napakalaking irabaho at gastos ng gobyerno ang relokasyon ng 40,000 pamilya.

Sa Marikina City, noong nag-relocate ang pamahalaan ni Mayor Bayani Fernando, pinairal ang "in city relocation."

Lahat na nakatira sa danger zones gaya ng tabing ilog, ilalim ng tulay at kalsada ay inilipat sa loob ng Marikina at walang inilagay sa ibang mga lungsod at bayan.

Swerte ang mga nakatira sa mga bakanteng lote na pinayagan ng mga may-ari na bilhin ng mga informal settler sa hulugan at sa pamamagitan ng pagtulong-tulong ng Marikina government at kaukulang mga pambansang ahensya ng pamahalaan.

Totoo na may mga nakatira pa sa ilang danger zone sa Marikina ngunit ang totoo, pagmamay-ari na ng mga mamamayan ang mga lote at hindi na sila turing na squatter.

Sana magawang "in city relocation" ang programa ng mga nasabing lungsod.

Ngunit kung walang paglalagyan sa mga ito sa loob ng kani-kanilang mga lungsod, dapat magtulong-tulong ang lahat na ilipat ang mga ito sa ibang mga lugar.

Ang ibang gustong umuwi ng kani-kanilang mga lalawigan, dapat na tutungan din ang mga ito sa gastos sa biyahe at kahit kaunting puhunan na pagsisimula ng bagong buhay at panlaban sa gutom.

Hindi'yung kaawaan lang sila dahil lamang sa pagiging botante sa panahon ng halalan.

MGA PAGTUTOL

Tiyak na may mga tututol sa programang relokasyon at pagkakaroon ng mga waste processing plant ng mga gusali, restoran, pabrika at iba pa.

Kabilang sa mga matinding tututol sa relokasyon ang mga biktima ng mga sindikato sa mga lupa at paupahan.

Nakapagbibitiw ang mga biktima ng malalaking halaga para sa palasak na bentahan ng "rights" na wala naman talagang basehan kundi lakas ng loob na mandugas ng mga sindikato.

Maaaring rason din nila ang mga hindi magandang relocation site na naranasan ng iba ngunit habang tuma-tagal ang panahon, nakatutulong ng malaki ang mga local at national government para matugunan ang mga ito.

Ang mga gusali na hotel, pabrika, restoran at iba pang mga establisimyento ay maaaring makipag-ugnayan sa mga pribadong kompanya sa paglilinis ng basura nila.

MAYNILAD, MANILA WATER

Pero dapat tandaan ng lahat na kasama sa mga binabayaran nating lahat sa Kamaynilaan sa tubig, partikular sa Maynilad at Manila Water, ang sewerage o basura sa mga poso negro.

Kaya dapat ra igiit ng mga mamamayan ang kanilang karapatan na tugunan ng Maynilad at Manila Water ang problema sa sewerage.

Maraming mamamayan ang hindi nakaaalam nito pero ngayon dapat na nilang malaman.

oOo

Anomang reaksiyon o reklamo ay maaaring ipa-aring sa 09228403333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.



SOLAR CITY-TIENG BARADO SA MANILA BAY RECLAMATION

BINIRA kahapon Climate Reality Project, isang Green Group ang ginawang pag-aaprubang sa dalawang reclamation projects sa Manila Bay sa gitna ng gagawing rehabilitasyon dito ng gobyerno.

Ayon kay Rodne Galicha, country manager ng Climate Reality Project na masisira ang natitirang biodiversity sa Manila Bay kung itutuloy pa rin ang reclamation project.

"Ang reklamasyong ito maapektuhan din pati ang biodiversity, isa diyang nanganganib ang Freedom Island, pati ang Mangroves natin diyang, Manila Bay rehabilitation ang i-prioritize natin, huwag muna nating dagdagan ng problema," dagdag ni Galicha.

Sa ngayon ay dalawang reclamation project ang planong gawin sa Manila Bay kabilang dito ang 148 hectare na Solar City Reclamation Project at isa pang reclamation project na nasa 318 hectares ng Manila Bay ang sasakupin.

Agad naman na dumepensa si Edmund Lim, vice chairman ng Manila Goldcast Development Corp na nasa likod ng Solar City Project, aniya, mayroon na silang nakuhang Environmental Compliance Certificate para sa nasabing proyekto dahil kanila nang natugunan ang mga posibleng maging problema kabilang dito ang pagbaha, basura at

sedimentation, sa katunayan umano malalaking international firms ang nag-review ng kanilang gagawing reclamation project.

Tanging notice to proceed na lamang umano ang kanilang hinihintay na mangagaling sa Philippine Reclamation Authority at maaari na nilang simulan ang proyekto.

Si Wilson Tieng na nagmamay-ari ng Solar Entertainment ang siya ring Presidente ng MGDC.

Samantala, unapela ang Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ideklarang 'reclamation-free zone' ang Manila Bay upang maibalik ang dating ganda ng lugar.

Sa isang statement, makakatulong aniya ang hakbang para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay na major fishing grounds na kasalukuyang nasa estado ng environmental degradation.

"While Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu blames Manila Bay residents of disposing garbage and domestic wastes in the sea, he failed to address on the other hand the lethal risk of massive reclamation projects to the marine environment and ecosystem," sabi ni Fernando Hicap, Pamalakaya national chairperson. **(Tina Mendoza)**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



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DAPAT ITULOY ANG PLANONG RECLAMATION SA MANILA BAY

NAGPAHAYAG kamakailan ang pamahalaang Duterte na bubusisiin nang husto ang planong reclamation, o pagdagdag ng lupain sa baybayin ng Manila Bay na isa sa mga solusyon sa paglilinis at pagsasaayos ng nasabing lugar.

Naiulat kamakailan ang pagbigay utos ni Pangulong Duterte sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) na pag-aralan kung papaano malinis ang Manila Bay na nagmistulang tapunan ng basura ng Metro Manila at mga lalawigan ng Cavite, Rizal at Bulacan.

Dahil sobrang dumi ng Manila Bay, ipinagbabawal ng mga lokal na pamahalaan na maligo sa dalampasigan dahil nakakasama na sa kalusugan ng tao dulot ng polusyon nito.

Ang matagumpay na paglilinis at pagsasaayos ng isla ng Boracay ay maaring hudyat sa desisyon ni Duterte na isunod ang paglilinis ng Manila Bay, subalit kung ihahambing natin ang hamon upang linis ang Boracay kontra sa Manila Bay, parang sinabi mo ang kaibahan

ng inter-barangay basketball tournament sa Philippine Basketball Association.

Opo, mabigat na proyekto ang paglilinis ng Manila Bay. Malaking pagpapalano, trabaho, gastos at political will ang kailangan upang masabi nating matagumpay ang nasabing proyekto.

Noong nakaraang taon na lamang, ang lungsod ng Maynila at Pasay ay lumagda sa isang Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) upang magtulungan sa proyektong reclamation sa mga lugar na sinasakop nila sa Manila Bay. Mukhang sumakto yata ang plano nila!

Kasama sa pribadong sektor sa reclamation project ay ang Manila Goldcoast Development Corp. (MGDC), SM Prime Holdings Inc., at ang Pasay Harbor City Consortium. Ayon sa MOA, ang MGDC ay magdadagdag ng 148 ektarya sa gawing Maynila na tatawagin na "Solar City Project". Samantala naman, ang SM Prime Holdings Inc., ay magre-reclaim ng 360 ektarya na joint venture sa pamahalaan ng Pasay City. Ang Pasay Harbor City consortium naman

ay maglalaan ng 265 ektarya na tatawagin naman nilang "Pasay Harbor City project". Kaya may kabuuan na 773 ektarya ang madadagdag sa dalampasigan ng Manila Bay.

Para mailarawan natin ang lawak ng madadagdag sa nasabing planong reclamation sa Manila Bay, parang may tatlong Bonifacio Global Center o BGC ang sasakupin na lupain. Ang kasalukuyang BGC ay may lawak na 240 ektarya. Kaya malaking proyekto ito.

Samantala, may tumututol naman sa planong reclamation dahil ito raw ay makasisira sa ating kalikasan. Ayon sa Climate Reality Project, ang reklamasyong

daw ay maapektuhan pati ang biodiversity nyan, isa sa nanganganib ay ang Freedom Island, pati ang mangroves natin diyan.

Hay naku! Heto na naman ang mga grupong walang magawa kundi tumutol sa pag-asenso ng ating bansa. Hindi ba nila nakikita na kapag gumawa ng isang reclamation ay mas mapalano ang waste management dito?

Ang mga pabrika at ilang mga illegal settler na naninirahan sa dalampasigan ng Manila Bay ay aalisin. Sila ang isa sa malaking sanhi ng pagdudumi ng Manila Bay. Papaano maitatapon ng mga pabrika na nasa dalampasigan ng Manila Bay

ang kanilang mga basura sa dagat kung ito ay lupa na?

Kung ang Freedom Island naman at mangroves sa Manila Bay ang pag-uusapan, sa lawak ng idaragdag sa Manila Bay, mas maganda pa na magplano ng isang lugar doon kung saan mas hihigit pa sa Freedom Island. Maari rin ilipat ang mga mangrove sa dulo ng reclamation site.

Isa sa pinakamatagumpay na bansa na nakinabang sa reclamation project ay ang Singapore. Dahil dito, bumulusok ang kanilang ekonomiya. Naayos nila nang husto ang mga sumunod na urban planning ng kanilang bansa. *(Sundan sa pahina 14)*

MAGKAPE MUNA TAYO ULIT...

(Mula sa pahina 5)

Kasama na rito ang mga makabagong highway at pampublikong transportasyon.

Noong 1981, gumawa sila ng reklamasyon upang palakihin ang kanilang paliparan. Ngayon ang nasabing Changi International Airport ay isa sa pinakamagandang airport sa buong mundo. Noong 1991, ang maliliit na isla sa distrito ng Jurong ang pinagsama

bilang isang malaking isla sa pamamagitan ng reclamation. Ang Jurong ay ang kanilang industrial estate.

Noong 1992, ang lugar ng Marina ay nagdagdagan ng 890 ektarya kung saan ito ay isa sa premyadong lugar sa Singapore. Nandito ang kanilang central business district, commercial, residential at lugar para sa turismo.

Kung tama at walang korupsiyon sa planong reclamation ng Manila Bay... aasenso ang ating bansa dahil dito.



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EAST ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY

RARE MIGRATORY BIRD SPECIES SIGHTED ON FLIGHT OVER PAMPANGA ISLET

By Lu-Ann Fuentes-Bajarias
Contributor

Three globally endangered black-faced spoonbills (*Platalea minor*) were seen flying over Bangkung Malapad islet in Sasman town, Pampanga province, on Jan. 12, more than 100 years after its last recorded sighting in Manila Bay.

The bird species is a rare migrant in the Philippines, which is within its confirmed wintering range along with coastal areas in China (including Hong Kong and Macau), Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.

"Philippine sightings of the black-faced spoonbill in the past decade have relied on citizen science," said Arne Jensen, an associate expert of Wetlands International and records committee chair of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP).

These are limited from one to three reports from Puerto Princesa City in Palawan province; Candaba in Pampanga; Bicol River Estuary; Olango Island in Cebu province; and Batan Island in Batanes province, according to the WBCP and the International Black-faced Spoonbill Working Group of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership.

The last recorded sighting of the black-faced spoonbill in Manila Bay was in 1914, according to "A Guide to the Birds of the Philippines," written by Robert S. Kennedy, et al. (Oxford, 2000).

WBCP members Amado Bajarias Jr., Maia Tañedo, Don Geoff Tabaranza and this writer reported the three black-faced spoonbills as circling thrice at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, the first on their list as part of assisting with the 2019 Asian Waterbird Census and site assessment.

Jensen assigned the team to Bangkung Malapad as part of a multisite count program, in collaboration with Wetlands International Philippines, Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau, and the WBCP.

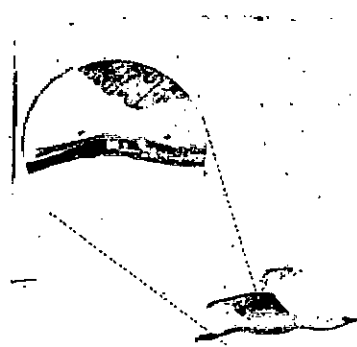
Multicountry effort

One of the sighted birds has two colored bands on its right leg.

"They appear to be either orange or red and yellow or white," said Desmond Allen, author on Philippine avifauna.

"The black wing tips of the bird indicate that it is not an adult bird and less than 5 years old," he said.

According to Allen, the Black-faced Spoonbill Conservation Network, an online platform launched by the Taiwan Black-



ID BAND Bird census volunteers note the two-colored bands on one of the three black-faced spoonbills to indicate that it was tagged in Korea in 2017. Reporting on the identification bands contributes to understanding the migration and population distribution of the endangered bird species.

—DON GEOFF TABARANZA/WILD BIRD PHOTOGRAPHERS OF THE PHILIPPINES

face Spoonbill Conservation Association, lists details of all individuals of this species that have been banded with colored rings, so that individual birds can be recognized and reported by bird-watchers and bird photographers throughout the region.

"This information is crucial to understanding the migratory routes and stopover locations

that are essential for the conservation of this beautiful, endangered species," he said.

Land use conversion

The black-faced spoonbill is the only spoonbill species that remains categorized as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.

Its migration route along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway means that concerted multicountry effort is needed to guard against indiscriminate land use conversion for commercial and residential purposes, Jensen said.

"Some 60 percent of around 150 migratory bird species recorded in the Philippines are associated with water. Habitat conversion, however, has led to over 77 percent loss of our mudflats, shell banks and sandbars in Manila Bay from 1977 to 2017," he said.

Jensen said protecting migratory bird populations and their habitats needed implementation of policy agreements among governments.

Over the past two years, the Philippine government has been at the forefront to increase protection and restoration of intertidal and other coastal habitats through new agreements among member states of the Convention for Migratory Species and of



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Rare migratory Bird Species sighted on flight over Pangasinan ISET

the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially for waterbirds.

"A habitat that sustains wildlife and ecosystems is ultimately best for people. Healthy wetlands not only protect shorelines and millions of migratory waterbirds, but also mitigate flooding, absorb excess rainwater, filter pollution and replenish groundwater supply," Jensen said.

Life-saving decisions

Ongoing interventions that include coastal preserves for the black-faced spoonbill have helped increase global numbers from under 300 in the 1980s to 3,941, based on the 2018 International Black-faced Spoonbill Census.

Yu Yat-tung, Hong Kong Bird Watching Society research manager who coordinates the annual nationwide census, said these gave grounds for optimism for people still working toward doubling the numbers for a viable population.

The birds' concentration in a few sites also makes them vulnerable. Taiwan, for example, accounts for nearly 60 percent of the sightings, the largest number recorded in any country.

"The involvement of volunteers who help count is a good example of how citizen science and researchers join together for surveying a globally threatened

bird," said Yu, who is gearing up for the 2019 Black-faced Spoonbill Census on Jan. 25 to 27.

"Tracking to inform decisions that preserve wintering and nesting habitats benefits not only a charismatic species but all wetland birds and marine birds, and people just as much," Yu said.

Not too late

Jensen noted that Manila Bay was suffering irreversible damage to its ecosystems and biodiversity in most of the bay areas, "but it is not too late to restore some of the coastal wetland while improving the bay's water quality."

He said 70 percent of around 200,000 waterbirds found in the winter months in the coastal part of Manila Bay survive in just 10 smaller areas at river mouths and coastal mudflats.

Jensen cited the "immediate and urgent need" to protect and restore these areas of around 10,000 hectares.

"Reclamation and other development of these areas will have a further, dramatic negative impact on the populations of these waterbirds, of which an increasing number of species are threatened with global extinction. If they are to survive, every hectare of protected wetlands counts," he said. INQ



Carcass of rare dolphin found

By MARK GARCIA

BACOLOD CITY – An Irrawaddy dolphin, a critically endangered species, was found dead at its decomposition stage along the nearshore of Sitio Can-itung, Brgy. Sampinit in Bago City, Negros Occidental on Sunday.

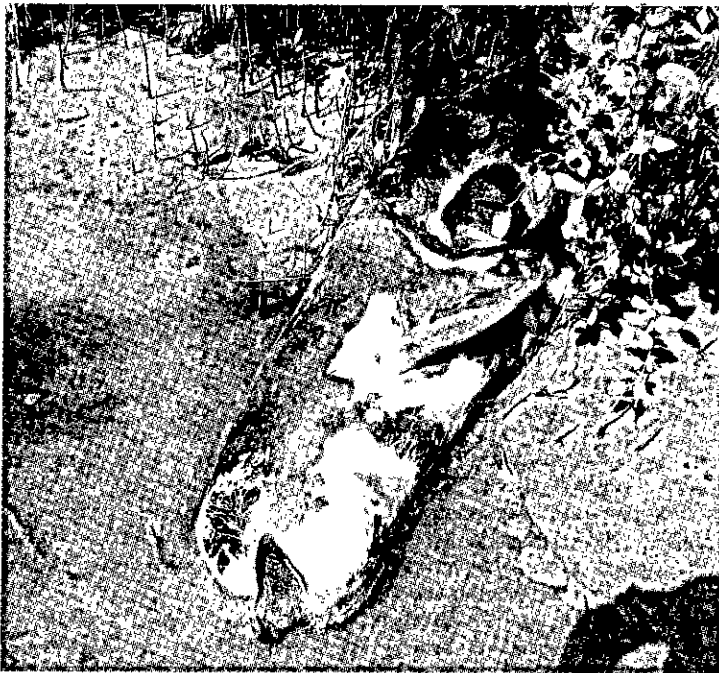
Marine biologist Mark de la Paz of University of St. La Salle Center for Research and Engagement, one of the first responders at the site, said that they found a carcass of Irrawaddy dolphin, in which identified in an advanced state of decomposition in the mangrove area of Purok Batad in Sitio Can-itung.

He said that Antonio Guaro, found yesterday the carcass and immediately reported it to Bantay Katunggan responder Rex Magbanua.

On January 3, Bantay Katunggan has already received a report from fishermen Edwin Flores and Gerome Salay that there was a dead dolphin with puncture wounds reportedly found floating in the area.

But when Magbanua tried to retrieve the carcass, he was not able to find it until Guaro reported it again yesterday, de la Paz said.

The marine biologist said that the carcass was already being eaten by maggots and already at the



THE DEAD Irrawaddy dolphin found in the mangrove area of Sitio Can-itung, Brgy. Sampinit, Bago City. (Contributed by Mark de la Paz)

advanced state of decomposition, which they referred to as "code 4 stranding" or badly decomposed:

This kind of stranding is described to have obvious signs of bloating, decomposition, skin, and blubber peeling off, holes in the carcass, internal organs ruptured or protruding from orifices or holes caused by decomposition or other animals feeding on the carcass.

De la Paz also said that it had a punctured wound on its right lumbar side but cannot be determined if it was caused by injury or by the maggots.

The carcass was left to rot in the mangrove area as may be hazardous

to move it, he said, adding that it might cause any infections if it will be moved by the respondents in the area.

It was identified as an adult dolphin and the marine biologist was not able to identify its sex because of decomposition.

De la Paz said that approximately, there are only 9 to 19 species of Irrawaddy dolphin found in the Bago-Pulupandan area, making it a critically endangered species.

With this, he reminded the public to observe the ordinance on the Marine Protected Areas of Bago and Pulupandan, especially the no-fishing, slow-boat zones.



Partnership focuses on pawikan conservation

THE Aboitiz Group, through its social development arm Aboitiz Foundation and AboitizPower business unit Davao Light and Power Company, renewed its commitment to intensify conservation efforts for the marine turtle or *pawikan*, particularly the critically endangered hawksbill turtle in Davao City.

Aboitiz recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources 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 supports 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.

“We commend the Aboitiz Group, Davao Light and Power Co., and the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park,” she added, noting that over 3,000 *pawikan* hatchlings have been released from Cleanergy Park.

With the signing, the Davao City government reiterated its commit-

ment to the protection of various *pawikan* species.

“We look forward to the creation of the Pawikan Rescue Center in Punta Dumalag, which will aim to protect the plant and animal life thriving in the marine eco park,” said Duterte-Carpio.

“Thank you to Aboitiz. DENR is very blessed to have you. Truly,

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu will be grateful,” said Ruth Tawantawan, DENR assistant secretary for Eastern Mindanao.

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 re-

new our commitment,” said AboitizPower executive vice president and chief operating officer for distribution group Jim Aboitiz who led the conglomerate’s delegation to the MOA signing.

Aboitiz added, “All over the country, the Aboitiz Group’s response to the DENR’s lead in environmental preservation demonstrates our sus-

tainability mindset. Through the projects we implement together, we ensure that we head full-speed towards our promise of advancing business and communities.”

Apart from protecting the nesting areas at the park, the Pawikan Center aims to identify, document, and address threats to marine turtles and their habitats in Punta Dumalag; promote research, monitoring, and information exchange; enhance public awareness on the conservation initiatives in the area; and fortify the collaboration between the public and private sectors for the long-term recovery of *pawikan* population in the area.

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.

Meanwhile, 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.

In 2007, the Sangguniang Panglungsod of Davao City declared the shoreline extending 300 meters seaward in Punta Dumalag as a Marine Protected Area. In 2015, Aboitiz inaugurated the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park to serve as an example of an urban-based habitat conservation initiative in the area.

page 1: Partnership focuses on pawikan conservation



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AboitizPower executive vice president Jim Aboitiz (center, kneeling) leads the release of a hawksbill turtle on the grounds of the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park.

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'NO GRAY AREA'

RETURN ALL TRASH TO SOUTH KOREA, SAYS MISAMIS SOLON

TAGOLOAN, MISAMIS ORIENTAL—Rep. Juliette Uy on Monday demanded that the remaining 5,100 metric tons of mostly plastic trash from South Korea be returned to that country before the end of this month.

While expressing elation over the return on Sunday of 1,400 MT of the garbage in 51 containers to South Korea, Uy said what was shipped back was but "just a small part of the biggest waste dumped in this country."

"All, not just part or some of the total garbage shipments stored at Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT), should be returned. All of it. There should be no gray

area in this regard," she said.

The plastic trash, imported by a company whose business is into recycling, arrived last year at the MICT in Tagoloan town, Misamis Oriental province.

The shipments were held by authorities after the Bureau of Customs and the Environmental Management Bureau allegedly found Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp. to have violated the laws when it imported the plastics from Pyeongtaek City, South Korea.

Accountability

After a meeting last month, Philippine and South Korean government officials agreed to return the trash to its country

of origin.

Uy also said she would "pursue accountability and address problems in our government policy, operations and procedures that allow the importation of solid waste."

She joined another lawmaker, Rep. Frederick Siao of Iligan City, in calling for a congressional investigation of the garbage shipment.

She also asked Customs District Collector Floro Calixihan to explain why he approved its unloading in Misamis Oriental.

Earlier, Siao said the dumping violated the laws on solid waste management, customs tariff and the international agreement known as the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-

boundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal.

Strong message

The international environmental group Greenpeace said the return of the garbage to South Korea sent "a very strong message to the world that the Philippines is not a dumping ground, and together, Filipinos are fighting plastic pollution."

It also sent a message to developed countries "to stop putting their responsibility onto other nations for their own plastics problem," said Angelica Pago, media campaigner of Greenpeace Southeast Asia-Philippines. —REPORTS FROM DIVINA SUSON AND JIGGER JERUSALEM INQ



JIGGER JERUSALEM

FINAL INSPECTION A Bureau of Customs official in Misamis Oriental province inspects one of the containers loaded with trash before it is shipped back to South Korea.



Closure of controversial dumpsite looms

By Kuhlin Ceslie Gacula

Operators of a controversial dumpsite in Barangay Kay-anlog, Calamba, Laguna, face charges of violation of environmental laws, after it was caught operating Monday during a surprise inspection, despite an existing suspension order from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The SB Hain dumpsite owned by

Severiano Hain, was suspended by the DENR Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) CALABARZON last October 2018.

The EMB insisted that the suspension order against the dumpsite was still in effect and the entry of garbage trucks was still not allowed.

DENR CALABARZON Regional

Executive Director Ipat Luna who conducted the surprise visit, said they are studying the possibility of filing charges against the owners which could include permanent closure of the dumpsite.

It was gathered that on May 2018, residents complained that it was undertaking illegal quarrying operations that prompted Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Samuel Paragas, to issue a cease and desist order the

following month.

The environment officials reportedly personally witnessed the arrival of dump trucks containing waste materials from the provinces of Cavite, Laguna and Batangas.

The EMB insisted that the suspension order against the dumpsite was still in effect and the entry of garbage trucks was still not allowed.

The environment officials said aside from being suspended, operators could

also face charges for the damages caused in the environment particularly in the water table, for allowing the entry of the garbage trucks.

The subject dumpsite was just 200 meters away from a school, barangay hall and the residential area.

It was also a subject of complaint for emitting foul odor and was discovered that it is also near San Juan River that traverses Laguna Lake and Manila Bay.



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FROM THE STANDS DOMINI M. TORREVILLAS



Garbage in, garbage out

While we are desperately looking for effective garbage management systems in our country, foreign countries are settling theirs by dumping their garbage in our country. This is an insult to our people. Foreign governments should be ashamed of private garbage disposal companies shipping their residents' mess and dumping it in our shores. So far Canada and South Korea have been found committing such a pernicious act.

According to media reports, last Sunday the Bureau of Customs held formal ceremonies marking the return of some of the garbage imported by Verde Soko from South Korea in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

Rep. Juliet Uy (Mis. Or. 2nd District) witnessed the "turnover" rites, saying the invitation to be present at the scene gave her the opportunity, on behalf of her district constituents to thank the government of South Korea, the Bureau of Customs, the DENR, environmental NGOs, and others who have addressed the solid waste management issue.

The volume of garbage from South Korea dumped in Tagoloan is 6,500 metric tons according to Simon. Of that volume, 1,500 tons were contained in 51 containers that constituted the first batch transported back to South Korea on Sunday.

BOC collector John Simon of the Mindanao International Container Port said that the scheduled Jan. 9 shipping out of the 51 containers of garbage was delayed for a few days because the container ship (MV "Kalliroe V852S") that would return the container vans to South Korea would be arriving only on Sunday.

Rep. Uy is vice chair of the committee on small business and entrepreneurship development, and a member of the trade and industry, appropriations, and 15 other committees. The Congresswoman made clear her opposition to any move, plan, or proposal to keep the garbage in Tagoloan and recycle it.

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

Some 5,000 metric tons of garbage still have to be shipped back to South Korea on or before the end of this month, according to the Bureau of Customs.

Uy also said she will "pursue accountability and address problems in our government policy, operations, and procedures that allow the importation of all solid wastes."

Witnessing the ceremonial departure of the unwanted vans containing garbage, Aileen Lucero, national coordinator of EcoWaste Coalition, was quoted as saying "the waste shipments violated Korean and Philippine customs and environment laws, as well as the Basel Convention."

The first shipment of garbage from Korea is an initial victory for environmentalists. But they still have another battle to wage: getting Canadian trash out of the country.

On the 17th anniversary of the country's Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, the Coalition sent Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau a letter via email reminding him of his promise to take back the trash-filled container vans in Philippine ports as they continued to pose "health hazards" to people.

"We ask PM Trudeau to expedite the re-importation of their garbage, settle all necessary obligations and put the festering dumping scandal to rest," Aileen Lucero said.

The letter was signed by over 100 Filipinos attending a Zero Waste conference organized by the EcoWaste Coalition.

During the 31st Asean Summit in November 2017 Trudeau assured President Rodrigo Duterte that Canada was working on a solution to the garbage dumping controversy.

Soon after Trudeau left Manila, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority announced the urgent need to remove the Canadian trash-filled containers from the Subic port as the stench had become "unbearable" and posed "health hazards."

Some 103 shipping containers of garbage described as scrap plastics for recycling were sent to the Philippines in 2013-2014 by private Canadian companies.

Sixty-four percent of the shipments



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Garbage in, Garbage out

were solid waste or garbage destined for immediate local disposal and cannot be recycled as per waste analysis and characterization study in 2014 by the Department on Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Such garbage shipments, according to the DENR, "are strictly prohibited to be exported and are classified as Waste No. Y46 listed in Annex II of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal."

Importer Adelfa Eduardo and customs broker Sherjun Saldon were subsequently charged in court for violation of Republic Act 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990) and tariff and customs laws.

PDI internet reporter JPV wrote that in June 2016, Judge Tita Bughao-Alisnag of the Regional Trial Court of Manila (Branch 1) ordered the return of the 50 containers covered by Criminal Case No. 143-11191, emphasizing that the Philippines is not a "trash bin" and that the dumping incident "should not be made a precedent for other countries to follow." The court order has yet to be complied with.

It has been five years since the waste from Canada arrived in Manila and about half of it has already been dumped in Capas, Tarlac.

The good news is that a city in the Philippines is a model in trash management. This is San Fernando City in Pampanga.

The fault about the horrible garbage situation is not to be blamed on the countries, plastic pollution expert Stiv Wilson says in his "Story of Stuff Project" in Berkeley, California. The fault lies with corporations.

"International companies are selling more and more plastic to Southeast Asia, even in places without basic waste management. In the absence of familiar municipal waste systems, like citywide trash trucks and trash cans, most trash gets thrown outside. Plastic piles up under houses and in streets, then wash into rivers, onto beaches and out to the sea in seasonal rains.

"If a company opens a new market, knowing there is nowhere for their waste to go other than the environment, and then we blame the people for that, that's criminal," according to Wilson.

"Our solution is to address the source," said Froilan Grate, who spearheaded San Fernando's trash transformation. Grate heads the nonprofit Mother Earth Foundation, which helps cities develop programs to manage their waste. For Grate, stopping ocean pollution means keeping plastic trash out of the environment in the first place. And that means rethinking waste management.

"San Fernando used to compost or recycle just 13 percent of its trash. It relied on garbage trucks to collect waste house-by-house, as is the case in North America and Europe. But hauling and transporting waste is expensive, and Southeast Asian cities have heavy traffic and high population densities. These places often can only afford to dispatch garbage trucks to a fraction of households. San Fernando was servicing just half the city."

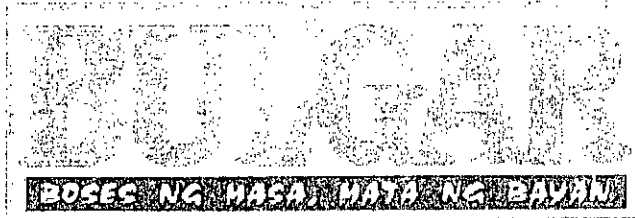
Grate suggested to San Fernando government executives that instead of sending trash trucks to every house, the poor can make a living by picking through trash for recyclables to sell. He suggested hiring them as civil servants. The trash pickers collect food scraps and recyclables from every house daily and bring it all to one of 35 waste warehouses throughout San Fernando. Then garbage trucks haul them from hubs.

The new system, according to Grate, is much cheaper because it's more efficient, costing about 80 percent less, while dramatically reducing litter and pollution. More than 75 percent of waste gets composted or recycled, now, and San Fernando ultimately aims to hit 93 percent.

What happened in San Fernando, said Grate, could be duplicated in other parts of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and India. All these countries have densely populated urban areas, and plenty of poor waste pickers can earn money as litter-fighting civil servants.

Email: dominitoyrevillas@gmail.com





15 JAN 2010

DATE

Editorial **EDITORIAL** *Editorial*

Kung galit tayong tinapunan ng basura ng ibang bansa, 'wag din tayong magtapon kung saan-saan

H INDI tapunan ng basura ang Pilipinas!

Kaya dapat lang na maibalik na ang mga basurang galing sa South Korea na ipinuslit noon sa ating bansa.

Nitong Linggo lang naibalik na sa SoKor ang 51 containers na puno ng tone-toneladang basura.

Ito ang unang batch ng kabuuang 200 containers ng basura habang ang natitirang mga container ay ipatatapon pabalik ngayon ding buwan.

Matatandaang, Oktubre 21, 2018 nang dumating sa Mindanao International Container Terminal Port ang nasabing 51 containers ng basura.

Maaari umanong nakalusot sa Bureau of Customs dahil iba ang nakadeklarang laman nito.

Hanggang sa nabuking na walang import permit mula sa environment department ang consignee ng naturang kargamentong basura at idineklara lamang itong "plastic synthetic flakes".

Laman nito ang ilang gamit tulad ng dextrose tubes, gamit na diaper, baterya, bumbilya at kung anu-ano pa.

Sana nga lang, kung galit tayo na ginawa tayong basurahan ng ibang bansa, tayo mismo sa sarili nating bayan ay maging responsible sa pangangalaga sa kalinisan.

'Ika nga, sobrang basic na 'yung huwag magkalat at itapon nang wasto ang basura.

Ito lang ang bansa na matatawag nating atin kaya huwag babuyin!



Majority leaders to resolve abolition of Road Board

By **Camille A. Aguinaldo** Reporter

SENATE MAJORITY Leader Juan Miguel F. Zubiri on Monday said he plans to meet with House Majority Leader Rolando G. Andaya, Jr. to agree on the "parameters of amendments" before the Senate decides on a proposal for a bicameral conference committee to resolve the Road Board abolition.

In an interview with reporters after a caucus by the senators on Monday, Mr. Zubiri said some senators wanted to maintain the Senate position on the issue — which is to adopt the House bill on the abolition of the Road Board — while he and Senate President Pro-Tempore Ralph G. Recto, among others, wanted amendments to the bill to make it more transparent.

For the Senate to adopt the House bill means there would be no need for a bicameral committee, which Senate President Vicente C. Sotto III said is his chamber's stand.

"Generally, the sentiment was there is no need for a bicam because we have adopted the House version. We tasked Senator Zubiri, the Majority Leader, to talk to the Majority leader of the House, Congressman Andaya, to find out their reasons why there is a possibility that we can go into a bicam....Nothing official, it's just talk," Mr. Sotto III told reporters. — **with Charmaine A. Tadalán**

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link
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The Manila Times



15 JAN 2019

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Senate rejects bicam on Road Board abolition

THE SENATE on Monday virtually rejected the call by the House of Representatives for a bicameral meeting to iron out "remaining" issues on a bill seeking to abolish the graft-ridden Road Board.

Emerging from a two-hour caucus of all senators, Senate President Vicente Sotto 3rd told reporters that the sentiment of his colleagues was that there was no need for a bicameral meeting because the Senate had adopted in toto the House version of the bill seeking the abolition of the Road Board.

"We tasked Sen. [Juan Miguel] Zubiri, the majority leader, to talk to House Majority Leader Rolando Andaya Jr., to find out their reasons why there is a possibility that we can go into a bicam, but nothing official," he said.

"At the moment we still stand on the issue that it has been adopted, so whatever the outcome of the talks between the two majority leaders, we will take it up again," Sotto said.

The Senate and the House of Representatives resumed regular sessions on Monday after a month-long Christmas break.

Sotto warned the House that it would be going against the position of President Rodrigo Duterte if it insisted on both chambers meeting in a bicameral conference committee.

Duterte had said he was for the abolition of the Road Board.

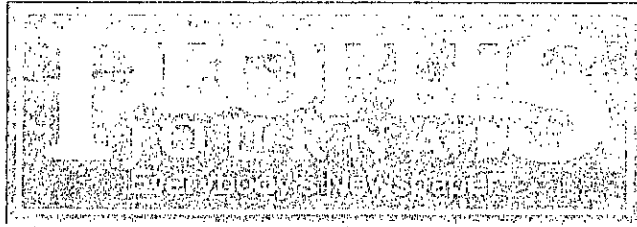
The board's P42-billion motor vehicle tax collection is temporarily frozen, while both chambers are locked in battle.

The House, under Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez had passed a bill seeking to abolish the Road Board. The Senate decided to adopt the House version of the bill shortly before the new House majority, under Speaker Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, rescinded its approval.

Andaya confirmed that he would meet soon with Zubiri on Tuesday to settle their differences on the measure.

"We will talk about whether we agree to change both our versions and come up with a common version in accordance with the wishes of the President," Andaya told reporters in a briefing at the House.

**JAVIER JOE ISMAEL
AND GLEE JALEA**



115 JAN 2013

DATE

Senate open to bicam meeting on Road Board

By Marlon Purificacion

THE Senate has opened a window for a bicameral conference committee meeting with the House of Representatives provided that both Congress leaderships will agree on simple amendments to the bill which seeks to abolish the Road Board as ordered by President Rodrigo Duterte.

"Ang usapan namin dyan dapat mag-agree kami, dapat mabilisan kami. Dapat paper bicam lang so it is just one day if magkaroon ng agreement ng parameters," Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri said.

Zubiri was tasked by

the Senate to meet with his counterpart House Majority Leader Rolando Andaya to discuss the parameters of the bicam.

"In the discussion on the roadboard magkakaroon kami ng mini caucus with majority leader Andaya as soon as possible," Zubiri said.

But the senator maintained that the stand of the Senate is to realize the abolition of the Road Board and transfer its fund to the national treasury.

"Kapag collect ng MVUC (Motor Vehicle Users Charge) diretso na sa national treasury and to be discussed every budget hearing where you appropriate during the NEP (National Expenditure Program)," he added.

He explained that while the Road Board is not yet abolished, its fund is supposed to be used in the construction, upgrading, repair, rehabilitation of roads and drainages, pollution control, solid waste management programs and facilities, and vehicle pollution control.

Agencies supposed to handle the budget item of the Road Board are the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation.

"Ang gusto ni Sen. (Ralph) Recto together with myself is dapat yang budget na yan lahat ng kinokolekta to the last cent

be given to the national treasury to be used for any purpose," Zubiri stressed.

It is imperative to have a meeting with Andaya to see if the House's plans to amend the bill will run contrary to the goals of the Senate.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Senate to meet with House leaders on Road Board abolition

The measure that seeks the abolition of the Road Board appears to be in limbo after Senate leaders offered different takes on how they would go about discussing their stand on the issue with their counterparts at the House of Representatives.

Senate President Vicente Sotto III said that as far as the Senate is concerned, the "general sentiment" is that there is no need for a bicameral conference committee on the Road Board abolition bill but they have tasked Majority Leader Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri to hear what the House wants with the measure.

In separate interviews, Sotto and Zubiri said that there remains a possibility of a "paper bicam" if both agree to a set of amendments.

"Generally, the sentiment was there is no need for a bicam because we have adopted the House version. We tasked Senator Zubiri, the Majority Leader, to talk to the Majority Leader of the House, Congressman (Rolando) Andaya (Jr.) to find out their reasons why there is a possibility that we can go into a bicam," Sotto said in an interview.

"But nothing (is) official, that was our agreement with (Senate) minority leader Frank Drilon," Sotto said in an interview.

The Senate chief said they have

tasked Zubiri to find out what the House leaders believe should be done to the management of the motor vehicle users' charge (MVUC) also known as the road users' tax which the Road Board collects:

"Nothing official, talk lang. Ano ba yun? Ano ba ang pwedeng (gawin) pa dito? Is there an issue on how to utilize the budget, on what we should do with the budget, kung public works, kung whatever... that was one of the suggestion of the President, remember? To use the funds for the Manila Bay clean up. Yun lang, talks lang yun," Sotto said.

Last September 2018, the House of Representatives rescinded its approval of House Bill No. 7436, just a few minutes after the Senate adopted the House version of the measure that seeks to abolish the Road Board.

Drilon reiterated that when the Senate moved to adopt the House version there are no more disagreeing provisions and thus, there is no need to convene a bicam.

"Look, our problem is, if we convene the bicam, the preliminary step to take is to rescind our position that we have adopted the House version. In other words, the parliamentary situation is, the Senate having adopted the House version, then there are no disagreeing provisions," (Hannah L. Torregoza)



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Balita

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANGSA

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15 JAN 2013

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GAGAWING TOURIST HUB?

Subic beach, ide-develop nang husto

SUBIC BAY - Nais ngayon ng pamahalaan na paunlarin pa nang husto ang mga coastal area ng Subic sa Zambales at Morong sa Bataan upang dagsain pa ng mga turista, ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ayon kay Provincial Environment and Natural Resources officer Raul Mamac, naka-usap na nila ang mga opisyal ng Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) at ang alkalde ng Morong kaugnay ng usapin.

Agad na nilinaw ni Mamac na hindi isasailalim sa clean up operation ang mga

beach ng Subic at Morong at sa halip ay pagagandahin pa ito upang makaakit din ng mga foreign at investor.

Si Mamac ay isa mga opisyal ng DENR na nanguna sa anim na buwang clean up sa Boracay Island, nitong nakaraang taon.

Mar T. Supnad



PHILSTAR

MIMAROPA: EL NIDO, PALAWAN

El Nido is one of the popular tourist destinations currently undergoing rehabilitation work.

DENR says rehabilitation plan for other tourism sites on track alongside Manila Bay repair

ILOILO CITY — While the spotlight has recently been trained on the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, work on improving other popular tourism sites after Boracay is continuing, according to a Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) official. "This is the best time to build on what we have done in Boracay. Right now, we are working with different tourism sites like El Nido (Palawan), Panglao (Bohol), Siargao (Surigao del Norte), Puerto Gallera (Mindoro)," DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations Juan Miguel T. Cuna said last week here during the turnover ceremony for the new Western Visayas regional executive director.

— **Emme Rose S. Santiagudo**

>> See full story on <https://goo.gl/EdGL4j>



World Bank doubles disaster, climate risks insurance coverage to PHL

THE World Bank has doubled its disaster risk insurance for the Philippines with the renewal of its insurance program to respond to losses from climate and disaster risks.

The Washington-based lender, in a news statement, said it is extending \$390 million in insurance against major typhoon and earthquake events in 25 provinces.

Under the program, the World Bank enters into an agreement with private reinsurers to provide coverage against disaster and severe weather impacts for national government agencies and participating provinces.

"This initiative demonstrates the Philippines's strong commitment to continue investing in innovative financial

solutions that will mitigate the impacts of major earthquakes and extreme climate and weather-related events," said Mara K. Warwick, World Bank country director for Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. "The program complements the country's overall strategy and efforts in ensuring resilience against natural disasters and climate change impacts."

The renewed policy is facilitated by the World Bank through a catastrophe swap that provided the Philippine peso equivalent of \$206 million in insurance.

The panel of risk-takers, selected through a competitive bidding process, also doubled under the renewed policy. Risk-takers were able to participate in the transaction either through a derivative contract or a retrocession agreement.

The World Bank said insurance payouts are made when predefined parametric triggers are met. The Government Service Insurance System provides the parametric catastrophe insurance coverage.

The insurance policy is designed to provide rapid liquidity in the face of disasters to the government, to enable rebuilding and recovery to commence.

The World Bank is also supporting the Philippines in preparing a sovereign catastrophe bond to complement the existing insurance program by providing cover for more extreme events.

"Today's announcement marks another milestone in our partnership with the Philippines, and in our joint pursuit of leveraging capital market instruments to prevent the human and

financial tolls of disasters. We look forward to deepening this partnership as we work together to harness innovative financial solutions to boost the country's resilience against unforeseen events," World Bank Director for Capital Markets George Richardson said.

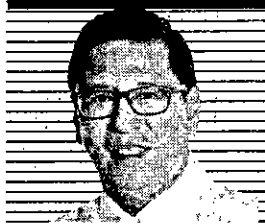
The Philippines is among the world's most vulnerable countries to natural disasters. The country is expected to incur, on average, \$3.5 billion in asset losses each year due to typhoons and earthquakes.

Since 2008 the World Bank has issued, hedged or facilitated over \$4.3 billion in transactions to transfer earthquake, wind, drought-related and pandemic risks from its borrowing member countries to the capital markets. *Cai U. Ordinario*



Department of Disaster Resilience dapat nang gawin

SANDIGAN, SANDALAN



Ni Cong. RICKY SANDOVAL

HINDI ganun ka-happy ang new year ng ilan nating kababayang naapektuhan ng Bagyong Usman. Kung marami ang nadismaya sa atin dahil hindi masyadong

nagliwanag ang langit gawa ng mga paputok dahil inulan ang bisperas ng 2019, mas marami tayong kababayan ang nalagay sa peligro dahil sa bagyo.

Ayon sa tala ng pamahalaan, aabot na sa 126 na katao ang nasawi dahil sa hagupit ni Usman. Wala pa sa numerong ito ang bilang ng mga nasugatan o hanggang sa ngayon ay pinaghahanap pa.

Aabot naman sa halos apat na bilyon ang pinsalang natamo sa agriculture at infrastructure. 126,000 na pamilya naman ang naitalang naapektuhan ng bagyo.

Marami tuloy ang nagtatanong kung sapat ba ang paghahandang ginagawa ng pamahalaan pagdating sa mga sakuna.

Sa aking opinyon, sapat ang ating paghahanda pero may room for improvement pa.

Dito papasok ang mahalagang papel ng isang Department of Disaster Resilience.

Sa ngayon kasi, meron lamang tayong National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council o NDRRMC. Isa itong konseho kung saan nakaupo ang mga pinuno ng iba't ibang ahensya gaya ng DILG, DSWD, DENR, DND atbp.

Sa isinulat nating House Bill 8165, bubuo tayo ng isang independent na departamento na tutukok lamang sa disaster preparedness, mitigation, at response.

Ang DDR ang siyang magiging pangunahing ahensya sa preparation, implementation, monitoring, at evaluation ng disaster at climate change resiliency plans, programs, projects, at activities.

Ito ang magbibigkis sa lahat ng plano ng iba't ibang sangay ng pamahalaan pagdating sa sakuna para masiguro ang whole of government approach. Sa madaling sabi, ito lamang ang ahensya na magbibig-

ay kumpas sa kung ano ang dapat gawin ng bawat opisina ng gobyerno pagdating ng bagyo, lindol atbp.

Dahil marami rin ang mga NGOs at private organizations na may ginagawa tungkol sa disaster preparedness and response, magiging mandato rin ng DDR ang pagharmonize sa kanilang mga efforts para masigurong tugma ang galaw ng private at public sectors.

Sa ilalim din ng panukala natin, gagawa tayo ng Climate and Disaster Research, Education, and Training Institute para masigurong patuloy ang pag-aaral ng bansa sa iba't ibang sakuna. Magiging

katuwang natin dito ang mga state universities and colleges.

Minsan, may mga lokal na pamahalaan na aktibo pagdating sa disaster response. Kaya para tularan ang kanilang best practices, bibigyan natin ng incentive ang mga ito para pamarisan ng ibang LGUs.

Ililipat naman natin ang PAGASA sa DDR mula sa DOST para masigurong napapakinabangan ng marami ang mga pagsusuri ng mga sayantipiko.

May mga reports kasi tayong natanggap na marami ang nabigla sa lakas ng Bagyong Usman dahil kahit Signal #1 lang ang kanilang

lugar, hindi nila inakala na sobrang dami ng tubig ang ibabagsak ng ulan.

Magtatatag tayo ng Preventive, Mitigation, and Preparedness Fund na siyang pwedeng itulong sa mga 3rd to 6th class na probinsya at munisipyo sa kanilang mga programa para labanan ang epekto ng mga sakuna.

Mahirap labanan ang pwera ng kalikasan. Pero sa ganitong klase ng mekanismo, mas masisiguro natin na mababawasan natin ang masamang epekto nito.

(I-follow sa Twitter si Cong. Ricky Sandoval: @Rep_Sandoval o i-like sa Facebook: @RickySandoval-Malabon)



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Truck driver Ronald Cantado's body is slumped in the driver's seat after a log pierced his vehicle's windshield in Valenzuela City yesterday. Images courtesy of Fhamil Francisco and Samcha Love Vidal.

Log crushes truck driver's head in Valenzuela

A truck driver met a grisly death after his head was crushed by a log that was loaded on a trailer truck in a freak road accident in Valenzuela yesterday.

The trailer truck that was loaded with uncut logs was stopped at a traffic light on McArthur Highway when Ronald Cantado, 38, who was driving an Elf truck, hit the protruding log that pierced the windshield at around 7 a.m.

Cantado apparently had not noticed the uncut log that was protruding from the trailer truck when he hit the brakes, according to case prober Senior Police Officer 1 Hannibal Pariñas.

The trailer truck driver, Dickson Libante, will face a charge of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and damage to property.

— Marc Jayson Cayabyab