

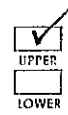
DATE : 17 JAN 2010

DAY : **Thursday**

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**



17 JAN 2013

DATE

# Manila bay reclamation projects in limbo?

**By Elmer N. Manuel**

An official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) yesterday warned that several proposed reclamation projects in Manila Bay may be rejected if they would prove to be environmentally unsound.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said while there is no ban on reclamation projects per se, their proponents should apply for all the necessary permits while keeping in mind the government's thrust to rehabilitate the polluted bay.

## **Not so as long as they do not hinder rehab, says DENR official.**

"There is no ban to applying; we are not saying that it is prohibited. We just want all of them to comply with standards," said Antiporda on a radio interview.

"Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu will not allow the projects if they would impact on the environment (negatively)," the DENR official added.

Earlier, Antiporda had said the DENR had already identified several establishments - hotel and restaurants, among them - that were dumping untreated sewage into Manila Bay.

At least five firms are seeking government approval to reclaim 1,854 hectares from the bay, roughly the size of Pasay City.

The impact of the reclamation projects on the bay's rehabilitation was discussed Tuesday during a meeting of government agencies overseeing the bay clean-up.

Water concessionaires, which charge their customer environmental fees to take care of their sewerage, will also pass by a review of the DENR, Antiporda said.

Water quality testing by the DENR showed fecal coliform in Manila Bay to be about 330 million to over a billion MPN (most probable number) per 100 milliliters vis-à-vis the acceptable standard of 100MPN/mL.

Revenue from the road user's tax totaling some P47 billion is being eyed by government to fund the rehabilitation which, according to one urban planner, said could take four years.



## Manila Bay squatters may have their own ideas on proposed relocation

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
@jonlmayuga

**T**HE Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said the Duterte administration should not make haste in relocating squatter families as it embarks on an ambitious project to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

In a telephone interview, Fernando Hicap, national chairman of Pamalakaya, said relocating squatter families should be carefully planned so as not to waste government resources.

A former Anakpawis Party-list congressman, Hicap said fishermen living along the coast of Manila Bay will be

severely affected by the plan to relocate squatter residents.

The official was reacting to the plan of the government to relocate around 300,000 squatter families to pave the way for the cleanup of Manila Bay.

The massive rehabilitation will affect residential, commercial and other establishments along a 194-kilometer coastline from Cavite to Bataan; a total of 128 local government units in eight provinces in Central and Southern Luzon and the National Capital Region.

"If they will relocate informal settlers away from their place of work, where there is no job, no water or electricity, it will be a waste. They will only go back to where

they used to live," Hicap said.

According to Hicap, most of the 300,000 squatter families targeted for relocation as part of the Manila Bay rehabilitation are fishermen and communities who depend on fishing.

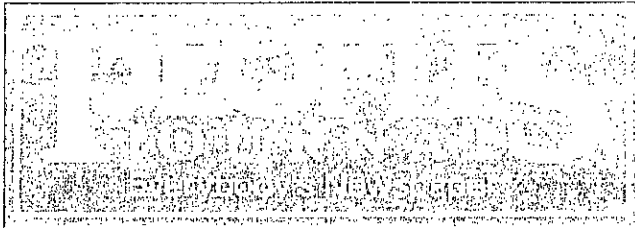
"If they want to relocate fishermen and their families, the relocation site should be an on-site or in-city relocation," he said.

Hicap said that if the Duterte administration is serious in rehabilitating Manila Bay, it should first address the garbage problem, move away landfills from rivers and creeks; prevent the indiscriminate dumping of toxic wastewater by industries in rivers and river tributaries that lead out to Manila Bay,

stop destructive development projects such as those that would involve land reclamation or dump-and-fill.

Hicap also rejected the justification that the relocation of squatters is intended to address the indiscriminate dumping of garbage along Manila Bay, saying the poor solid waste management in many areas should not be blamed on informal settlers alone.

"The rehabilitation of Manila Bay should not be a reason for the massive relocation of informal settler families to pave the way for multibillion-peso development projects and land reclamation activities that will only cause further destruction of our coastal and marine environment," he said.



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## MISSION NOT IMPOSSIBLE **Cimatu asks stakeholders' help to rehab Manila Bay**

**By Joel  
dela Torre**

**THE Manila Bay rehabilitation is set to kick off on January 27, which according to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, is a much bigger challenge compared to just-concluded Boracay rehabilitation.**

Thus, Cimatu urged all stakeholders to support the rehab efforts and be part of the history in bringing back Manila Bay to its old pristine condition.

"Nothing is impossible if all hands are on the deck for the project to succeed. I wish you to join us in making history in our country," Cimatu told some 200 represen-

tatives of the 12 mandamus agencies and other government agencies, local government units and the civil society during the stakeholders' meeting.

He said this mission is not impossible. "This mission calls for dedication and hardwork from all those who will help us in this operation," Cimatu said.

DENR personnel will be the frontliners in making the coastal waters of Manila Bay fit for swimming again.

Manila Bay, known for having one of the most beautiful sunsets, is also most polluted body of waters in the country due to domestic sewage, toxic industrial effluents

from factories and shipping operations, and leachate from garbage dumps.

Malacañang has approved a budget amounting to P42.95 billion for three years. This amount will cover clean-up of priority waterways, relocation of informal settler families (ISFs), and implementation of temporary sanitation facilities in ISF communities prior to relocation.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año, who was also personally hand-picked by President Rodrigo Duterte to undertake the rehabilitation, will join

Cimatu in the mission.

## Ang pagdumi ng Manila Bay at ang paggamit natin ng plastik

### MAGKAISA PARA SA BAYAN



**ATTY. JAY DE CASTRO**

**HANGAD** ng pamahalaan na malinis ang Manila Bay, na kilala sa buong mundo dahil sa napakaganda nitong sunset. Ito'y pinupuntahan hindi lang ng ating mga kababayan, kundi ng mga dayuhan at sa pagtanaw rito ay maraming mga pangarap ang nabubuo.

Sayang nga lang at ngayo'y naging marumi na ito at hindi na mapaglanguyan at may amoy pang nakasusuklaw at nakaduduwal, dahil ang mga dumi ng tao ay matagal nang napupunta at dumad-aloy rito.

Ito ang nais malinis ng ating pamahalaan sa Manila Bay. Sa ganang atin ay makatutulong tayo sa Manila Bay bilang karagatan sa pamamagitan ng paggawa ng simple subali't mabuting bagay, ang pag-iwas sa paggamit ng plastik.

Ito ay sa kadahilanan ng plastik ang isa sa pinaka-

malaking salot sa kalikasan ngayon. Sa katunayan, ang krisis ng polusyon ng plastik ay ang pinakamalalang krisis sa kalikasan ngayon. Hindi lamang sa ating kapaligiran nag-uumpaw ang plastik.

Ang ating karagatan ay punung-puno na rin ng plastik. Ang mga katawang tubig ay magkakarugtong. Kung titingnan pa lang natin ang Ilog Pasig ay maiintindihan natin na ang basura dito ay umaabot sa ating mga karagatan.

Lingid sa ating kaalaman, kumakain tayo ng plastik. Bumabalik sa atin ang ginamit at itinapon natin na plastik. Paano? Subukan natin sundan ang "life cycle" ng plastik.

Halos lahat ng bilhin, kainin, at gamitin natin ay nababalutan parati ng plastik packaging. Pag bumili ka ng tubig, juice, prutas, gulay, biskwit, damit, kompyuter, o cell phone, mapapansin natin na parati itong nakabalot sa plastik. At kung hindi man ito nakabalot ng plastik ay gagamit pa din tayo ng plastik bag para sa mga ito. Pagkatapos natin bilhin, kainin, o gamitin ang mga ito, ano na ang mangyayari? Para hindi makalat, itatapon natin ang plastik sa basurahan.

Ang tawag sa ganitong klaseng plastik na isang

gamitan lamang saka itatapon ay "single-use" plastics. Ang ilang halimbawa ng single-use plastics ay ang mga "sando" bags na ginagamit sa pamimili, plastic straw, plastik na kutsara't tinidor, plastik na plato at baso, cling wraps na pinambabalot sa pagkain, at plastik na bote ng tubig, juice, o soft drink. Single-use plastics din ang mga selyo ng mga bote ng mga inumin, gamot, at shampoo. Ganon din ang mga bubble wraps na nakabalot sa cell phone o kahit na anong elektronikong gamit. Ang toothpaste, sachets, at panlinis ng tainga ay madalas gawa din sa plastik kaya ang mga ito rin ay isang halimbawa ng single-use plastics.

Ang mga ito ay tinawag na single-use dahil isang gamitan lang natin sila ginagamit saka itatapon sa basurahan. Ngunit hindi sa basurahan ang huling hantungan ng mga plastik na ito.

Ayon sa Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, ang koleksyon ng basura ay magmumula sa lebel ng barangay na dapat ay may kaniya-kaniyang MRF or materials recovery facility kung saan ihihiwalay ang mga nakolektang basura sa dalawang kategorya: compostable (nabubulok) at recyclable. Ang mga basurang

hindi pasok sa kategoryang ito ay dinadala sa isang sanitary landfill, tulad ng Payatas dumpsite.

Ngunit hindi lang din sa tambakan ng basura o landfill ang huling hantungan ng plastik. Sa katunayan sa landfill nagsisimula ang matinding salot na dulot ng plastik.

Ang halu-halong basura sa mga landfill ay naglalabas ng mga nakalalason na kemikal sa hangin at sa tubig. Kapag inulan, maglalabas ito ng katas o leachate na makakarating sa groundwater o tubig sa ilalim ng lupa. Kapag nakaabot sa groundwater ang katas na ito, makakaabot din ito sa ating mga katawang tubig at karagatan. Ang leachate mula sa basura ay nagiging sanhi ng maruming tubig.

Ang ibang plastik na basura naman ay hindi na umaabot sa basurahan at landfill, kundi direcho sa mga katawang tubig tulad ng Ilog Pasig at mga karagatan, tulad ng Manila Bay, kung saan lalo silang naghahasik ng panganib sa kalikasan at sa kalusugan ng tao. Halimbawa, nakakain ng mga isda at ibang nilalang sa dagat ang mga plastik na lumulutang sa dagat. Marami nang nado-kumentong mga kaso kung saan ang mga patay na balyena, ibon, at pawikan

ay nakitaan ng plastik sa loob ng tiyan. Isa pang halimbawa: dahil ang plastik ay hindi nabubulok at nadudurog lamang hanggang maging "microplastic," nakakain ng isda ang mga plastik sa dagat. Ang mga microplastics na ito ay hindi ikinamamatay ng isda kundi ay naiipon lamang sa katawan nila. Ngayon, kapag nakain natin ang mga isda, ay nakakain din natin ang mga microplastics na ito.

Samakatwid, hindi sa landfill o dagat ang huling hantungan ng mga plastik na ginamit at itinapon natin, kundi sa atin. Bumabalik sa atin ang ating

mga itinatapon.

Paano ngayon sosolusyunan ang problema ng plastik? Simple lang. Iwasang gumamit ng plastik. Kapag wala tayong ginamit na plastik, wala tayong itatapon na plastik.

Kaya naman ang panawagan noong Earth Day ay wakasan ang polusyon na dulot ng plastik. Magagawa lamang ito kung babawasan -- o mas mabuti, titigilan -- natin ang paggamit ng mga single-use plastics. Ang mga simpleng gawain tulad ng hindi paggamit ng plastic bag, plastic straw, at plastic utensils ay makatutulong. Sa pamamagitan ng pagtang-

gi sa mga single-use plastics ay maipaparing natin sa mga gumagawa ng plastik na ayaw na natin ng plastik sa ating buhay.

Sa susunod na tayo ay mamimili magdala na lamang tayo ng reusable bag o "eco-bag" na maaaring gamitin nang paulit-ulit at hindi kailangang itapon pagkatapos ng isang gamitan. Huwag na rin tayong gumamit ng straw kapag iinom.

Subukan natin magbawas ng plastik sa ating buhay. Gawin natin ang ilang maliliit na hakbang na ito para sa ating kalusugan at sa kalikasan, tulad ng Manila Bay.

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Posaway sa Manila Bayilalantad sa Enero 27

Papatawan ng P20,000-P200,000 multa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DNER) ang mga establishment sa Manila Bay na walang tamang sewerage treatment plants (STPs) at lumalabag sa Clean Water Act.

Ayon kay Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, sa Enero 27 ilalabas ng ahensiya ang listahan ng mga lumabag kasabay ng pagsisimula ng rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay.

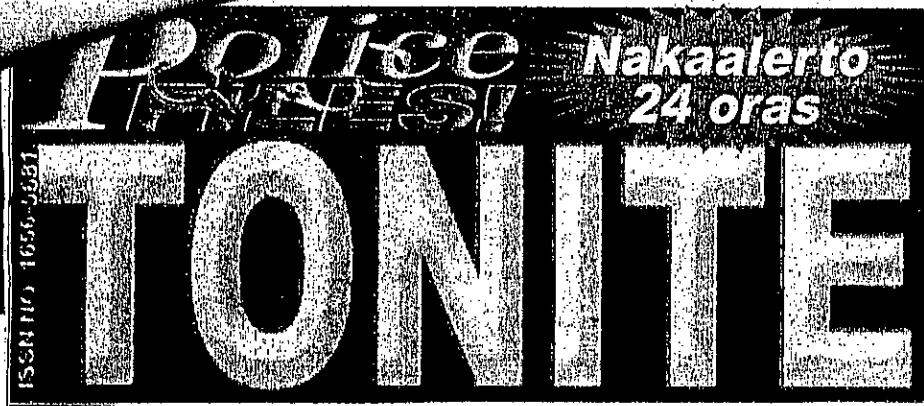
Sinabi pa ni Cimatu na bukod sa multa ay aatasan din na ayusin ang kanilang STPs at kung hindi makakatalima ay maaaring bawiin ang kanilang Environmental Compliance Certificates at tuluyang ipasasara ang negosyo.

Maliban sa STPs ay uunahin din na resolbahan ng DENR ang mga squatter na naninirahan sa paligid ng Manila Bay, sa kabuuan umano ay aabot sa 220,000 informal settler ang kanilang ire-relocate sa labas ng Metro Manila na pangangasiwaan ng DILG at National Housing Authority (NHA).

Target ng DENR na magkaroon na ng pagbabago sa Manila Bay sa loob ng susunod na 6 na buwan.

Aminado si Cimatu na mahirap ang gagawing rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay na may 190 kilometers coastline kumpara sa 1,000 hectares ng Boracay.  
**(Tina Mendoza)**

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### **Local officials na nagpapabaya sa pagdumi ng Manila Bay, kakasuhan ng gobyerno**

SASAMPAHAN ng kasong administratibo at kriminal ang lokal na opisyal na nagpapabaya sa tungkulin sa tamang waste disposal at waste management sa kanilang lugar na nagresulta sa polusyon sa Manila Bay. Babala ito nina Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu at Interior Secretary Eduardo Año bago ang nakatakdang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay sa January 27 kung saan gagastos ang gobyerno ng P47 bilyon. Iginiit ni Cimatu na ang lokal na opisyal ang dapat na nagpapatupad ng environmental laws.

Pero sa kabila anyang naturang mandato ay hindi masyadong natutukan ang programa para sa mga estero.

Malinaw anyang may kapabayanan dahil hindi sana dumating sa punto na kailangang linisin ang Manila Bay.

Sinabi naman ni Año na magkakaroon ng Inspection and Investigation Committee na mag-iimbestiga sa pananagutan ng local government unit (LGU) sa pagkakatatag sa Manila Bay.



## 'Battle for Manila Bay' began 20 years ago

**Y**es, the battle in court began 20 years ago. The legal battle was, in fact, won 10 years later. It was a lonely battle, from the trial court to the Court of Appeals and finally with the Supreme Court no less ordering about 13 defendant government agencies to do a cleanup of Manila Bay.

The high court even gave its order a threatening ring to it—continuing mandamus, which means that the sued government agencies should report to the Supreme Court every three months until the bay was back to its fit-for-swimming state. Well, it's been 10 years since that mandamus was issued. Was the "continuing" discontinued?

Today, what do we have here? A Manila Bay filthier than ever, its waters unfit for habitation by sea creatures and unhealthy for humans to swim in or gather food from. In other words, Manila Bay is in the throes of death, if it's not already dead.

Site of historic epic battles, this body of water west of the Philippines has been defiled, befouled, turned into a septic tank, if not a toilet bowl (it is shaped like so). The world-famous sunset reflected on its waters since time began should take a leave or shroud itself in mourning.

Not that nobody cared. In January 1999, a group of concerned citizens, led by University of the Philippines law students and their teacher, environmental lawyer Antonio Oposa Jr., then fresh from Harvard masteral law studies, filed an ambitious lawsuit in a regional trial court. Oposa, a maverick lawyer who thought out of the box, included among the petitioners the *tahong* (mussels) and *talaba* (oysters).

"It is a lonely journey to have as clients the sea and the fish, that do not pay attorney's fees," he mused then.



### HUMAN FACE

MA. CERES P. DOYO

"We sued practically the entire government," recalls Oposa, a mutiawarded defender of Mother Nature and author. I spoke with Oposa the other day and he sounded gung-ho about the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, which he refers to as the Philippines' "toilet bowl that has not been flushed."

Talking to Oposa is always invigorating because of his no-holds-barred, out-of-the-box pronouncements, and also because he walks his talk. (I've written several articles on his quixotic pursuits. For his work, Oposa received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2009.)

The daunting cleanup of Manila Bay is scheduled to begin on Jan. 27. Metro Manila and several provinces—Cavite, Laguna, Bataan, Bulacan and Pampanga—have areas along the coast and have tributaries that flow into Manila Bay.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has not yet revealed the names of establish-

ments by the bay that have been releasing pollutants into Manila Bay. Resettling some 200,000 informal settler families that defecate, urinate and dump their garbage into the bay would be a nightmare. The task is not for one government agency alone, but for the 13 that had been previously sued and more. Private citizens, business, the Church and nongovernment organizations better enlist in the cleanup and rehab.

In his paper, "In Defense of Manila Bay," Oposa notes: "In January 1999 when the case was filed, the fecal bacteria in Manila Bay was 1 million units per cubic meter. Twenty years after, in January 2019, one would expect it to be a little lower. But guess what? It is now 330 MILLION UNITS... In some parts of Manila Bay, it is 1 BILLION. Wow, that is pure S\*\*T. So much for the triumph of the Rule of Law. It is said that in the Philippines, laws are only suggestions."

Oposa adds that the narrative of the law should change from being an enforcer to being an enabler.

Oposa offers three "practical pathways" where the cleanup could begin: solid waste or garbage that is the most visible, sewage/septage from humans which is the primary source of fecal bacteria, and relocation of informal settlers.

He cites models for the relocation of settlers, like the one in Puerto Princesa City in Palawan; he cites the Iloilo River restoration that took only about 1,000 days.

"Maybe there will be an alignment of stars," he muses. "Emperors come and go, empires rise and fall, but a story lives forever. A story of the Sea."

Send feedback to [cerespd@gmail.com](mailto:cerespd@gmail.com).





## SHOOTING STRAIGHT

BOBIT S. AVILA

### Manila Bay cleanup starts Jan. 27

As we literally restarted the talk about the cleaning up of Manila Bay when my good friend, Robert "Bobby" Joseph was given the title of Commodore of the Manila Yacht Club, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu attended this historic meeting... but as my readers know, kidney transplant patients have to have a lesser workload to stay healthy. So instead I would ask Commodore Bobby Joseph for his comments on the Jan. 15 meeting. This is a series of texts sent by Commodore Bobby Joseph on my question how was the meeting?



*"The Secretary (Cimatu) conveyed to the group a no nonsense approach and he cannot accept excuses. He has presented a comprehensive action plan and the launching of the Manila Bay cleanup will start at the Manila Yacht Club on Jan. 27 at 9 a.m. I hope you can come and attend this."*

Commodore Bobby Joseph sent me another text to answer the question on how was the meeting in DENR? His text message, *"Super great and amazing day. Seeing all the top honchos of government agencies supporting the action plan for immediate, short and medium up to long term plan of seven years with P47 billion and around P36 billion going to the housing and allowance and transfer of dwellers along waterways. We expect in three months a dramatic cleanup of all esteros."*

*Ten thousand men will be assigned in designated esteros with proper equipment and logistics to take out all the silt, mud and waste. Construct steps in government buildings, hospitals, Manila Zoo and the rest of Metro Manila and the suburbs. All buildings, malls, warehouses and factories will be inspected thoroughly. Those who refuse to implement will be fined daily from P20,000 to P200,000! Coliform level has reached over a billion plus while the normal level should only be 100!"*

In Bobby Joseph's Facebook page he posted what the DENR presented as their charts for all who attended the meeting to evaluate. For instance, they had a chart on the Supreme Court's Mandamus G.R. No. 171947 dated Dec. 18, 2008 directing 13 government agencies to clean up Manila Bay and restore its water to safe levels. This was the Mandamus that Sec. Roy Cimatu talked about in the media presentation.

Then the DENR presented a chart that revealed the DENR tasks... to implement components of the Operational Plan for Manila Bay Coastal Strategy (OP-MBCS) within its mandate. Then to coordinate with all mandamus agencies and other agencies involved in management of Manila Bay on effective implementation of OP-MBCS. Then DENR would manage water quality standards for Manila Bay through standard setting, regular monitoring and determination of Water Quality Management Areas (WQMA).

Thanks again Sir Bobby for posting those 35 charts presented by the DENR during the Jan. 15 meeting. It was as if I was really in that meeting. At this point let me say that thanks to the legal cases filed by my good friend and fellow Cebuano Atty. Antonio Oposa Jr. our Supreme Court (SC) finally woke up to the reality that as far back as year 2008, the waters of Manila Bay was already seriously contaminated. It needed national government agencies to implement a cleanup drive. But it was not implemented at all by the 13 government agencies. I guess they had other better things to do.

Then came the six long years of the Aquino Presidency that even stopped the Laguna Bay development by a Netherlands company... it then worsened things in Manila Bay. Well, it took an 11-year slumber for Manila Bay to continue suffering due to the neglect of government agencies. I also blame the SC for not punishing the 13 government agencies for disobeying a SC mandamus. At this point, I would like to believe that some of the charts that the DENR presented were already done a long time ago. But since the DENR did not push through with the Mandamus order, they just kept those charts in storage until there was a reason to bring them out.

Enter the participation of Pres. Rodrigo Duterte last Tuesday when he warned hotels along Roxas Blvd. that they would be closed if the regulators found out that they were dumping their waste into Manila Bay? Suddenly the 13 Mandamus agencies sprang back to life and prepared what they must have earlier prepared to clean up Manila Bay. With the participation of Pres. Duterte, everyone knows that he has the political will to implement what he wants to be implemented.

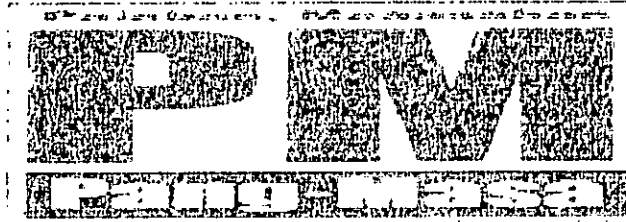
So come Jan. 27 the DENR would do the formal launching of the cleanup of Manila Bay at the Manila Yacht Club at 9 a.m. and change the course of Philippine history. A wonderful and historic Manila Bay where once people came to view the sunset and take a nice swim deteriorated due to human abuse. Now

finally the national government has taken cognizance of Manila Bay's environmental protection and restoration!

\* \* \*

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17 JAN 2013

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Editorial

## Babala sa mga nagpaparumi sa Manila Bay

**T**ULUY-TULOY na ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay. Wala nang makapipigil pa kay Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu sapagkat sobra nang dumi nang makasaysayang Manila Bay. Ayon kay Cimatu, sisimulan na sa lalong madaling panahon ang paglilinis dito.

Bilang pasimula, binisita na ni Cimatu noong nakaraang linggo ang mga estero na hinihinalang pinagmumulan nang maraming basura na bumabagsak 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. Ayon kay

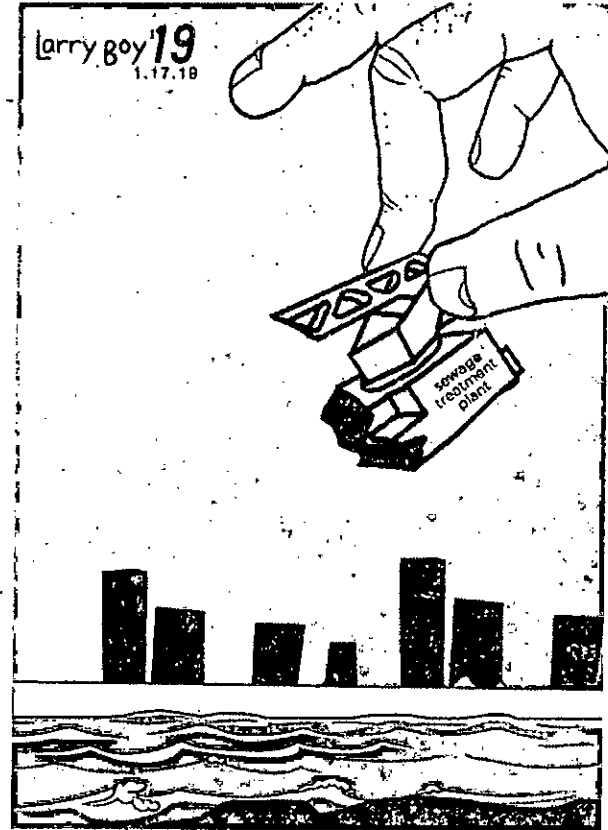
Cimatu, nakasaad sa batas na dapat may sariling STPs ang lahat nang establimento. Sa ilalim ng Republic Act 9275 o ang Philippine CleanWater Act of 2004, nararapat na masiguro ang kalidad ng tubig at malutas ang iba pang environment problems sa Manila Bay.

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 maliliit lang ang establishments. Dito sa Manila Bay, marami siyang makakalaban.

Kailangang tulungan at suportahan si Cimatu sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay. Maililigtas pa ang makasaysayang lawa kung magkakaisa at magtutulungan.





**SEÑOR  
SENADOR**  
Erik Espina

## Patung-patong na problema

**T**UMITINDI ang kalagayan ng pambansang suliranin. Lumalala na raw ang estado ng pangkalahatang problema sa ating republika. Bawat administrayong nahahalal ay may kanya-kanya at pangunahing isinusulong na programa upang maibsan ang namumutakteng kakulangan, butas,

sindikato, palusot, gera, at iba pa sa ating lipunan.

Sa kasalukuyan, nabibigyan ng pangunahing pansin at lunas ang droga at kurapsyon. Kasunod nito ang "Build, Build, Build" program ni Presidente Rodrigo Duterte na mahigpit kong sinasang-ayunan bilang mabilis na paghabol sa mga hindi nagampanan ng nakaraang mga pangulo, at epektibong pamamaraan bilang dagdag trabaho, kasabay ang tuluy-tuloy na pag-usbong ng ekonomiya.

Ang magandang balita sa umiitim na kalangitan, may solusyon ang lahat ng ito. Kailangan lang talagang matutukan ang bawat isa, at higit na mahalaga ay tumpak ang polisiya at hakbangin na patutunguhan upang mabawasan (kung

'di man maibsan) ang paghihirap ng sambayanan. Halimbawa ang kaguluhan sa Katimugang Mindanao, 'di ba nga tapos na ang MILF noong panahon pa ni Presidente Erap? Subalit binigyan ito ng bagong pagkakataon sa administrasyon ni dating Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. 'Di ba nga sa panahon ni Marcos, nakakulong na si Misuari at Jose Ma. Sison. Bakit pinakawalan ni Cory Aquino? Dahil ito sa hindi matapus-tapos na pangungulimat sa Bureau of Customs (BoC) na ilang dekada nang kanser sa gobyerno. Lomobo ang smuggling sa bansa. 'Di lang mamahaling kotse, bagkus droga na ang pinapasok sa ating lipunan.

Nagtaasan na rin ang presyo ng bigas, gulay, asukal at iba pa. Bakit

nagkaganyan? Dahil may mga sindik ng mga negsoyante na nais solohin a pag-aangkat sa ibayong dagat.

Nangyari rin ang agawan sa teritor sa Sabah at West Philippine Sea.

Kung tutuusin, may magaga namang paraan para mapigilan a riding-in-tandem. Imbes na maramihan patrol cars ang igawad sa pulis, bakit hi mga motorsiklo na lang, nang sa gay ay nagkalat ang mga naka-motor na p sa lansangan. Ang presyo sa kuryer tubig at gasolina, ay maiibsan kung n tamang batas lang na maipatutup Ang polusyon sa Manila Bay ay d sa kapabayaang lokal at pambans gobyerno. Huwag pa nating kaligtaan sektor ng sining, kultura, at kasaysay na dapat ding palakasin.



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## Firing Line

Robert B. Roque, Jr.

### Trash in Manila Bay

**A**PART from its captivating multicolored sunsets and being considered as one of the world's greatest harbors, Manila Bay has been known historically for being the site of the naval battle of the Spanish-American War in May 1898.

However, its natural beauty and historic importance has been ruined in the past years by the sight of plastic and all kinds of garbage in its waters plus the unpleasant smell of sewage in its surroundings.

President Duterte has threatened to close the establishments in the vicinity of Manila Bay if they continue doing nothing to stop its seemingly never-ending pollution. Everyone knows the President has done it before with the tourist destination Boracay which he called a cesspool and was closed for six months last year while undergoing a major cleanup.

For the poor, Manila Bay is their own version of Boracay where they can spend their afternoons and evenings

swimming like the rich and famous, totally unmindful of the diseases they can acquire due to its unsanitary waters.

If Duterte truly wants to improve and rehabilitate the quality of Manila Bay's water, the government should not only concentrate on establishments in the area but relocate about 40,000 informal settler families living along the shores.

According to Senate inquiry reports, fecal coliform levels increased from one million MPN/100 ml (most probable number/100 milliliters) to 5 MPN/100 ml since 1999. It added that about 90 percent of the pollution is from domestic waste which comes not only from nearby areas but from 16 major river systems that drain into the bay.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) intends to reduce the coliform level to less than 270 MPN by December 2019. Environ-

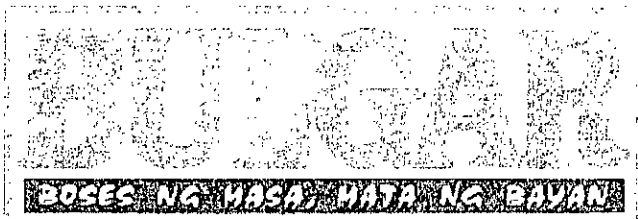
ment Secretary Roy Cimatu said they are giving establishments three months to put up their own sewage treatment plants (STPs) and cannot discharge their wastewater in the esteros.

Cimatu was disappointed to learn that the water sample from Estero de San Antonio, one of the dirtiest esteros connected to Manila Bay, contained 1.3 billion MPN/100 milliliter. They also discovered that the Manila Zoo, which houses more than 600 animals, was discharging its waste water in that estero.

It would be hard to expect that people who spent most of their lives treating Manila Bay like their own private toilet could change their ways in an instant. Relocate them first and teach them discipline later. On the other hand, establishments would easily follow what the government tells them if they want to continue operations.

\*\*\*

**SHORT BURSTS.** Allow me to sincerely greet each and everyone a Happy New Year. For comments or reactions, email [firing-line@ymail.com](mailto:firing-line@ymail.com) or tweet @Side\_View. Read current and past issues of this column at <http://www.tempocom.ph/category/opinion/firing-line/>



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**PUNO ng basura at halos hindi na makita ang ganda ng Manila Bay.**

Nakalulungkot na sa paglipas ng panahon, imbes na gumanda ang ating kapaligiran ay lalo pa itong nasisira at napababayaan.

Ngunit, sino ba ang dapat sisihin sa mga ganitong kaganapan, ang taumbayan o ang mga kinaaukulan?

Gayunman, sa ngayon ay magsasagawa ng rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay sa darating na January 27 kung saan gagastos ang gobyerno ng P47 bilyon, pero bago maganap ang muling pagpapaganda nito, nagbabala sina Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu at Interior Secretary Eduardo Ayo na mahaharap sa kasong administratibo at kriminal ang ilang lokal na opisyal na nagpabaya sa kanilang tungkulin sa tamang waste disposal at waste management sa kanilang lugar na nagresulta sa polusyon sa Manila Bay.

Dagdag pa ni Cimatu, ang mga lokal na opisyal umano ang dapat nagpapatupad ng environmental laws, subalit, mukhang hindi itong nagampanan at hindi natutukan ang programa para sa mga estero na pinaniniwalaang pinagmumulan ng mga basura na napupunta sa nasabing dagat.



# BOSES

NI RYAN B. SISON

## **Mga lokal na opisyal na nagpabaya sa kalinisan ng Manila Bay, kakasuhan!**

Napakalaking halaga ng P47 bilyon, kaya nakapanghihinayang, kung hindi sana natin pinabayaan ang Manila Bay, marahil, maaari pang magamit ang halaga ng pera para sa ibang mga programa na malaki ang maitutulong para sa lahat.

Samantala, huli na ang lahat para magsisi tayo, ang dapat nating gawin ngayon ay makipagtulungan sa pamahalaan para sa mas maayos, mapayapa at malinis na bayan.



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# Daily Tribune

[www.DailyTribune.com](http://www.DailyTribune.com)

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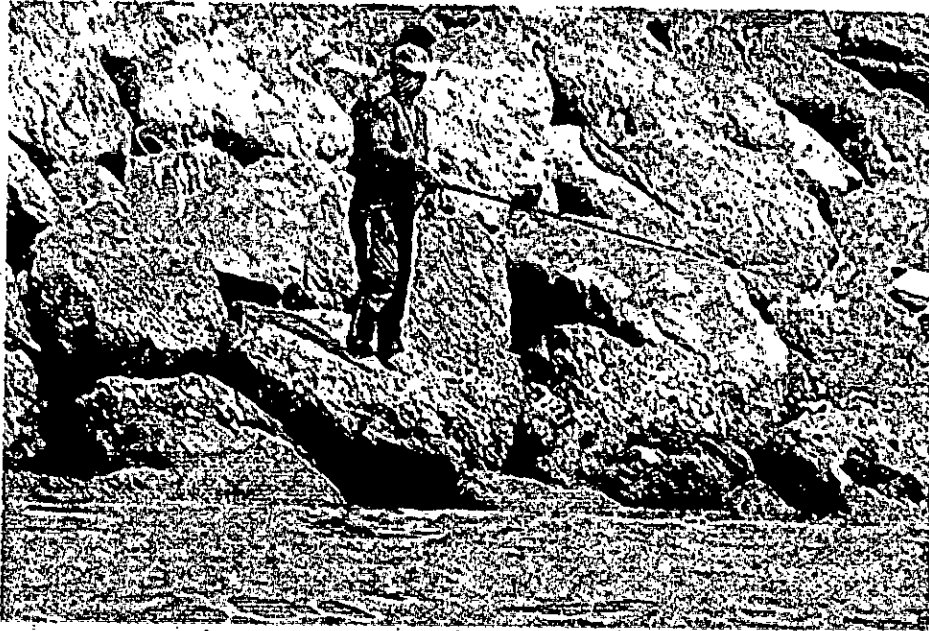
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A MAN fishes in Manila Bay which can hardly sustain marine life with fecal coliform levels of 330 million to a billion MPN (most probable number) per 100 milliliters. BOB DUNGO JR.



Trusted Since 1938

# The Manila Times

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## Customs official threatened as SKorea trash sent back

**MISAMIS ORIENTAL:** An official of the Bureau of Customs (BoC) is receiving threats as repatriation to South Korea of 6,300 tons of garbage started this week.

John Simon, the collector at the BoC's sub-port in the Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT) at the Phividec Industrial Estate in Tagolo-an, Misamis Oriental, said he has been receiving calls and text messages warning him to be careful.

"I don't give a damn about the threats for as long as I believe that what I am doing is for the country," Simon told *The Manila Times*.

He said the South Korean government had started shipping back 51 container vans of garbage to South Korea on Sunday after a formal send-off ceremony.

The *MV Kalliroe*, of the Maersk Shipping Lines was the official cargo vessel hired by the South Korean government to bring back the garbage to South Korea, Simon added.

According to him, the 51 container vans, which were estimated to contain 1,200 tons of garbage, were shipped to the MICT port in Tagolo-an, Misamis Oriental late October last year.

Simon said the remaining 5,100 tons of garbage, now in the stockyard of the Verde Soco, would be repacked and "hopefully" shipped back to South Korea by the end of the month.

The Phividec Industrial Estate-Misamis Oriental (PIE-MO) and the Verde Soco

signed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU), which allowed Verde Soco, a South Korea-based company, to construct a factory that recycles raw materials for the manufacture of plastic pellets and other plastic products.

Verde Soco was the consignee of the first shipment of 5,100 tons of garbage disguised as plastic raw materials in July 2018 from Pyeongtak, South Korea which were unloaded at the MICT sub-port in Tagolo-an.

The shipment was declared illegal when Verde Soco failed to show importation documents and proper documentation for it.

Simon said the successful repatriation of the garbage to South Korea was the triumph of Filipinos.

"We have shown to the whole world that our country is not a dumping site of foreign countries," he added.

"The National Bureau of Investigation is handling the investigation in order to possibly identify the people behind the illegal shipment," Simon said.

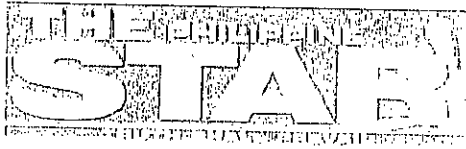
"The media has played a critical role when the BoC in Tagolo-an, Misamis Oriental started to [expose] the illegal garbage shipment," he said.

The story about the shipment of the garbage from South Korea to the MICT port in Tagolo-an in July 2018 first came out in *The Manila Times*.

**CRIS DIAZ**



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## FROM THE STANDS

DOMINI M. TORREVILLAS

### Celebration with Will Graham



Manny Calonzo of EcoWaste Coalition wrote to thank me for my column last Tuesday which mentioned the group's efforts at denouncing the dumping of garbage at Philippine ports by private companies of foreign countries like Canada and South Korea.

Manny wrote that the Coalition is urging the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to ban plastic waste importation to prevent dumping and pollution. He pointed as good examples countries banning plastic waste imports, such as China, Vietnam, and Malaysia.

Aileen Lucero, EcoWaste Coalition national coordinator, wrote DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu "to impose tough measures that will prevent discarded plastics that could no longer enter China from being diverted into the Philippines due to loopholes in existing regulations."

John Simon of Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT) echoed the Coalition's call for "stringent policy measures," and Zero waste advocate Noli Abinales, founder of Buklod Tao, said, "We should send a clear message to waste traders and traffickers that our country is not a dumping ground for the world's trash."

\* \* \*

Email: [dominitorrevillas@gmail.com](mailto:dominitorrevillas@gmail.com)





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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## 50 eco-stations set up for trash-free Sinulog

CEBU CITY - The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) here teamed with the Cebu City government in installing 50 eco-stations around the city for a waste-free Sinulog celebration.

EMB Central Visayas Director William Cuñado said eco-stations are areas where the public can throw their garbage in disposal sacks according to wastes' types - biodegradable, recyclable, or residual.

"These eco-stations are found along the Sinulog grand parade routes for

the public's convenience in disposing trash," Cuñado said.

He said it is very difficult to have a totally garbage-free Sinulog, but the volume of garbage produced during the celebration could be minimized.

EMB personnel will be deployed at the eco-stations on Jan. 19 and 20 to see to it that trash is placed in the right trash bins, Cuñado said.

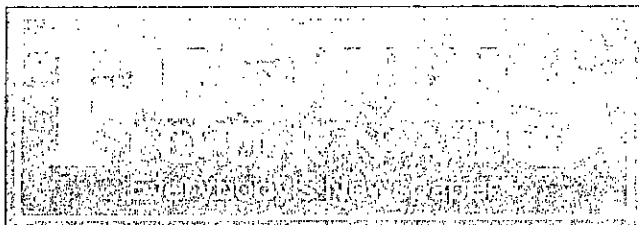
The project is in partnership with the city government and Guun corporation, a waste plastic recycling company

that will collect all the wastes disposed at the eco-stations, Cuñado said.

The Cebu City Public Services (DPS) will take charge in collecting the biodegradable, non-biodegradable and recycle wastes materials.

January of every year is observed as National Zero Waste Month, and what better way to observe it by reducing the use of plastics and other wastes, Cuñado said.

He urged Sinulog revelers to bring with them reusable bottles. (Minerva BC Newman)



## Stop importation of plastics

**CHINA stopped importing plastics from other countries to protect their environment and health. Vietnam followed suit. Malaysia is phasing out.**

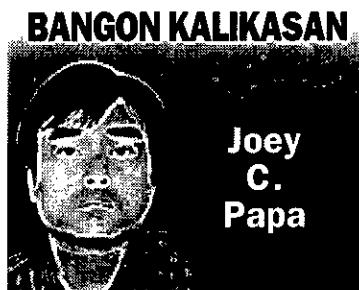
Thus, exporters needing to dump their plastic wastes are now looking for other countries with no strict rules against accepting such.

EcoWaste Coalition is urging the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to likewise ban plastic waste importation following the dumping here of toxic waste from Canada in 2013 and South Korea last year.

The Coalition is requesting DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu to "impose tough measures that will prevent discarded plastics that could no longer enter China from being diverted into the Philippines due to loopholes in existing regulations" in anticipation of possibly increased dumping of more wastes from South Korea to the Philippines.

Data from the Korea Customs Service quoted by the Coalition from a reference published in November last year shows that "2017 waste exports from South Korea to Philippines rose from 4,398 tons to 11,588 tons after China closed the door for plastic waste and other waste imports from overseas. Waste exports from South Korea to Indonesia, Thailand and Taiwan also increased. On the other hand, South Korea's waste exports to China dropped from 119,575 tons in 2017 to 9,379 tons in 2018."

Representative Juliette Uy (Second District, Misamis Oriental) also conveyed her support for "stringent policies" to deter plastic waste dumping into the country, according to the Coalition, citing her statement at the Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT) during the ceremonial send-off rites for 51 containers of the South Korean garbage. "We 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," the Coalition quoted Uy.



MICT Port Collector John Simon, according to the Coalition, also said that "it's our shared responsibility to proactively prevent plastic wastes, which often come unsorted and contaminated with hazardous materials, from entering our ports. Stringent policy measures should be adopted, including banning the importation of waste plastics, which should be treated at source and not sent to developing countries like ours."

The dumping of garbage in our country has been going on even much earlier than 2013. Many countries may look at us as an attractive "alternative" for garbage dump-

ing because of our own gross mismanagement of our wastes which turn into garbage. Until now, after Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 was passed in January 2001, about 1,000 dumpsites still remain, many of which are now called "sanitary landfills" but which are garbage dumpsites just the same. The law says only residual wastes should be consigned to the landfills, which should last for only five years to give just enough time for the communities to refine best practices for ecological solid waste management.

However, all sorts of mixed waste---biodegradable and non-biodegradable--- are dumped into landfills while only token efforts have been evident to follow the law. When the DENR closed the Payatas dumpsite in 2017, after residents filed a Writ of Kalikasan at the Supreme Court, the local government of Quezon City looked for other areas to dump the garbage, such as Montalban, instead of mandating its barangays to do as the law says: compost and recycle most of the waste within the barangay while the city would get only the special waste for special recycling. Hence, there would be no need at all for landfills.

By the way, in my last column on Monday, I inadvertently wrote "North" Korea instead of South Korea, with reference to the same issue of hazardous plastic waste dumped in our country. My sincere apologies to the North Korean government

(bangonkalikasan@yahoo.com).



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## 70% of voters support candidates against single use plastic

By HELEN FLORES

Seven out of 10 Filipino voters will support candidates who will ban single-use plastic across the country, according to a recent Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey released by the environmental group Greenpeace on Tuesday.

"The voters have spoken, and they want candidates who will address the issue of plastic pollution with true and lasting solutions," Abigail Aguilar, campaigner for Greenpeace Southeast Asia-Philippines, said.

Results of the SWS survey showed a strong clamor for regulating or banning single-use plastics, Aguilar said.

The nationwide poll also showed that eight out of 10 Filipinos will vote for a candidate who will advocate for the strict implementation of solid waste management laws.

Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Law provides for solid waste reduction through proper waste segregation, recycling, composting and other ecological methods before disposal in the appropriate facilities.

The implementation of the 18-year-old law has suffered from lack of political will, alleged corruption by local government officials and contradicting policies from agencies involved in waste management.

"We are hearing a lot now on how politicians want to solve this crisis, but sadly these are band aid solutions that are mostly done for show," Aguilar said.

"Our voters are looking at the midterm elections to choose candidates who will present a vision and see that vision translate into action," she added.

Aguilar said the SWS findings proved that plastic pollution has become an important issue for Filipinos.

The survey also found that eight out of 10 Filipinos support prohibiting groceries, public markets, fast-food chains and other similar establishments from using or providing non-biodegradable plastic bags, with a net approval rating of "extremely strong."

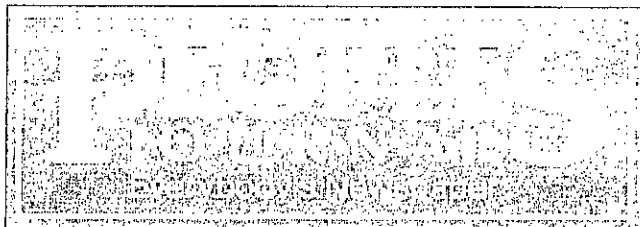
Aguilar urged corporations producing plastic to be more responsible and show their willingness to solve the problem of plastic pollution.

The survey was conducted from Sept. 15 to 23 last year, with 1,500 respondents nationwide.

The European Union is expected to launch this year a program that aims to help countries in East and Southeast Asia, including the Philippines implement better plastic waste management in the region.

Last year, the EU adopted a Circular Economy Action Plan, which aims to ensure that all plastic packaging in the European market would be recyclable by 2030, the consumption of single-use plastic significantly reduced and the intentional use of micro plastic restricted.

- With Rhodina Villanueva



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## Dual action vs single-use plastics urged

**ENVIRONMENT** advocates are calling for a two-pronged approach to addressing the nationwide problem on waste.

Greenpeace Philippines and Break Free From Plastic Movement said a legislation banning single-use plastics should be passed as these are mostly thrown away afterwards -- polluting the environment and increasing volume of waste for disposal.

In a press conference in Quezon City Tuesday, Greenpeace campaigner Abigail Aguilar said corporations have funds to innovate. From production of single-use plastics, companies could shift to alternative packaging and product delivery systems.

She said results of the third quarter 2018 Social Weather Stations survey, which indicated rising public awareness about the country's waste prob-

lem, calls for the need for environment-friendly alternatives to disposable plastics.

Product delivery systems like installing and operating refilling stations instead of packing goods in single-use plastics would help address the country's waste problem, she added.

The idea is not new as some stores refill the customers' own reusable containers.

"That old system can be brought back and mainstreamed - it's the way to go," she said.

The same survey showed that seven out of 10 Filipinos will support electoral candidates who will ban establishments from using single-use plastics. It also showed that eight of 10 Filipinos will vote for candidates who will advocate the strict implementation of solid waste management laws.

Results of the survey reflect the global trend favoring alternatives to single-use plastics.

"Such results validate Filipinos' clamor for addressing the waste problem," Break Free From Plastic Movement coordinator Von Hernandez said.

Hernandez debunked claims that many plastics can be recycled.

"Most plastics aren't recyclable - these disintegrate into microplastics instead and end up in the environment," he said.

He noted that microplastics are tiny plastic particles which animals can easily ingest thus, harmful to health.

Single-use plastics account for most of the residual waste that must be disposed and efforts to reduce volume of single-use plastics in the country are still fragmented, Hernandez said.



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**PEOPLE'S MINING ZONE**

## SECOND 'MINAHANG BAYAN' OPENS IN BENGUET TOWN

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—A 64-hectare "Minahang Bayan" (people's mine) in the gold-rich town of Itogon in Benguet province was opened for pocket mining after the provincial mining and regulatory board (PMRB) on Tuesday signed a resolution giving clearance to the area.

The land was mostly owned by Benguet Corp., one of the pioneer mining firms, in Barangay Loacan here.

It was the second Minahang Bayan opened for pocket miners, after a 1-ha area, also in Itogon, was given clearance for mining late last year.

### Regulated conditions

Fay Apil, Cordillera director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and PMRB chair, said mining contracts approved by the board give pocket mining groups the right to extract mineral ores for commercial purposes on regulated conditions.

According to Lomino Kaniteng, president of the Benguet Federation of Small-Scale Miners, four groups operate within

the Minahang Bayan, aside from Loacan Itogon Pocket Miners Association.

Of the total area, 56.2 ha are patented mining claims of Benguet Corp.

### Small-scale mining

Gov. Crescencio Pacalso, who cochairs the PMRB, directed a technical working group to finalize the guidelines on processing contract applications.

"Miners are eager to get their livelihood back but we need to follow the legal processes to avoid problems in the future," Pacalso said.

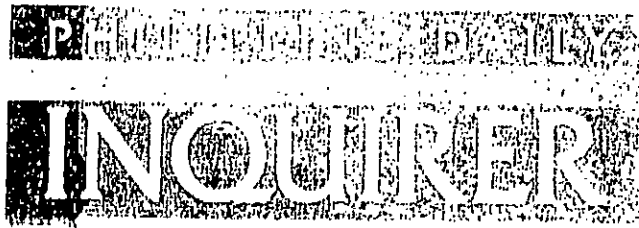
In September last year, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu banned small-scale mining activities in Cordillera after a massive landslide triggered by Typhoon "Ompong" (international name: "Mangkut") killed more than 100 people, mostly pocket miners, in Itogon.

Before the ban, pocket mining in Benguet operated illegally but was tolerated for many years by local authorities. —KARL-

STON LAPNITEN INQ



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Robert Jaworski L. Abaño

**LOOKING FOR GOLD** Small-scale miners take out sacks of gold ore from a tunnel at Acupan mines in Itogon, Benguet, in this file photo. mining zone in Itogon to sustain the livelihood of pocket miners. —RICHARD BALONGLONG



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## Anay makatutulong vs epekto ng tagtuyot

SA unang pagkakataon, lumabas sa isang bagong pag-aaral mula sa mga international researchers na malaki ang naitutulong ng mga termite o anay sa pagbawas ng epekto ng tagtuyot sa mga kagubatan, patunay na maging ang pinakamaliliit na nilalang ay may malaking ambag sa ecosystems.

Ang mga anay ang "most abundant animals" sa mga tropical rainforests at isa sa mga buhay na organism na kayang i-break down ang cellulose ng isang halaman.

"The sheer quantity of termites suggests these insects have important roles to play in rainforest ecosystems, however what that role is has never been understood up until now," paliwanag ni co-leader ng pag-aaral at University of Western Australia Associate Professor Theodore Evans.

Upang maisagawa ang pag-aaral, tinanggal ng grupo ang mga anay sa isang lugar sa Malaysian Borneo, gamit ang baiting techniques, saka ipinagkumpara na ang patch sa isang hindi apektado ng termite noong 2015-16 El Niño.

Natuklasan nilang ang bilang ng mga anay sa isang 'unsuppressed area' ay lumaki sa panahon ng tagtuyot, at sa panahon iyon ay nakalikha ng mas mataas na bilang ng leaf litter decomposition at nutrient heterogeneity, gayundin ang pagtaas ng soil moisture at seedling survival kumpara sa panahong wala ang tagtuyot.

Kinakailangang mabuhay ng mga anay sa mga mamasa-masang konsdiyong, na nangangahulugang sa panahon ng tagtuyot inililipat ng mga ito ang ground water surface soil, na nagpapataas ng 36 porsiyento ng soil moisture, at seedling survival sa 51%.

"What we found was the termite activity doubled during drought with them eating up to 40 percent more leaf litter," ani Evans.

"The digested leaf litter was then returned to the soil as nutrients, with termites affecting the distribution of several soil nutrients, including nitrogen compounds, potassium and other metals."

Sa panahon ngayon na nagbibigay ng mataas na pressure ang climate change sa kasalukuyang ecosystems, ipinapakita ng resulta ng pag-aaral kung paano nakikiangkop ang biological na sistema upang mapunan ang panglabas na kakulangan.

"The study provides further evidence about the importance of conserving important natural ecosystems by understanding their biology so we can protect them in a time of rapid environmental change," paliwanag pa ni Evans.

Xinhuanet/PNA

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\*\*\*  
**PANALANGIN NA LAMANG ANG PIPIGIL SA KORAPSIYON SA GOBYERNO:** Matindi talaga maraming mga opisyal sa gobyernong Pilipino, sa kahit na anong administrasyon. Isipin ninyo, sa isyu ng mga tone-toneladang basurang nagbabanta sa kalusugan natin na mula sa South Korea, ni wala man lamang opisyal o empleyado ng Bureau of Customs, ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources, at pati na sa lalawigan ng Misamis Oriental, ang pinapatalsik o iniimbestigahan.

Aba eh, papasok ba sa Pilipinas, at sa Misamis Oriental, ang mga basurang iyon kung walang taga Customs, o DENR, o taga Misamis Oriental, ang nagbigay ng pahintulot sa kung sino man ang nagpasok noon sa Pilipinas? Tapos, ang maririnig lamang natin mula kay John Simon, ang Port Collector sa Mindanao, "this is very disturbing" (o, "nakakaistorbo ang pagpasok ng mga basura")?

Kung wala na nga tayong aasahan sa gobyernong Duterte o maging kay Pangulong Duterte mismo upang mapatino ang mga nagtatrabaho sa pamahalaan, ang pinakamabuting dapat lapitan natin sa ngayon ay ang Diyos—at ipanalangin natin ang lahat ng mga tiwaling opisyal at empleyado, at maging ang kanilang mga pamilya, ay parusahan na ngayon agad ng Diyos, at lipulin o di kaya ay wasakin agad.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# ANDAYA: TRY TO DUPE DU30 FOILED!

## House, Senate to OK genuine Road Board abolition bill

HOUSE of Representatives and Senate leaders have reached a consensus to approve a genuine Road Board abolition bill, preventing a supposed attempt to hoodwink President Rodrigo "Rody" Duterte from signing a defective measure. /Page 7

### ANDAYA

From Page 1

House Majority Leader and Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando "Nonoy" Andaya, Jr., who chairs the House committee on rules, led the introduction of the new measure with "perfecting amendments" to the original House Bill (HB) No. 7436 of the Road Board bill.

In an earlier press conference, Andaya announced that the measure will be sent to the Senate next week for their approval.

This developed as the House of Representatives and Senate leaders have reached a consensus to pass a legitimate measure for the aboli-

tion of the Road Board.

"The House-Senate consensus spared the President from signing a defective bill, which some powerful interests wanted him to. The attempt to hoodwink the President has been foiled," said House Majority Leader and Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando "Nonoy" Andaya Jr. as the House plenary was scheduled last night to approve a new bill on genuine Road Board abolition to be sent to the Senate either Monday or Tuesday next week for their approval.

Camarines Sur Rep. LRay Villafuerte has welcomed the decision by congressional leaders to go ahead with the Road Board abolition, but appealed to the bicameral (bicam) conference that

would be convened to tackle this proposal to set aside a share of the multibillion-peso motor vehicle user's charge (MVUC) collections for flood mitigation projects, particularly in Bicol, as earlier committed by Duterte.

Villafuerte recalled that during Mr. Duterte's visit to Camarines Sur early this month following the onslaught of typhoon "Usman," the President reiterated his desire for Congress to abolish the Road Board and committed the use of MVUC funds to solve the perennial flooding in Bicol.

"This reported decision by congressional leaders-- as disclosed by Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri-- for

both chambers to convene a bicam panel that would make "short" amendments on the bill abolishing the Road Board and reverting the MVUC funds to the national treasury certainly is a welcome development," said Villafuerte.

"However, I am appealing to the would-be bicam panel to consider in its upcoming deliberations the President's directive and set aside a share of the multibillion-peso collections from the MVUC for flood mitigation projects in the Bicol River and elsewhere in the flood-prone region," he added.

To guarantee transparency, Andaya said he and Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri and Senate

Pro Tempore agreed Tuesday night to junk the fake Road Board abolition measure.

"We are glad that, finally, a bill which will genuinely abolish the Road Board, and treat MVUC (motor vehicle user's charge collections) as part of the general fund, under the one fund concept, is now on the way to the President. Common sense and real reform are winners in the agreement to genuinely abolish the Road Board. It is a victory for transparency too," said Andaya, explaining that the MVUC proceeds will be itemized for roads maintenance under the national budget.

Andaya said proceeds from the MVUC will go to the general fund to

also ensure its use for the reconstruction of calamity-hit areas upon the approval of President Rodrigo "Rody" Duterte.

"We have long advocated for a real, and not the fake abolition of the Road Board. The version that was pushed by the previous House leadership merely created Three Powerful Road Kings. The present House leadership, on the other hand, insisted in treating MVUC collections as part of General Fund, and not as an off-budget, hidden account, controlled by a few, a status retained by the previous bill. We have also stood our ground in earmarking MVUC collections for transport-related activities. The spurious Road Board aboli-

tion bill inserted a provision that would have diverted funds to waste segregation," said Andaya.

Earlier, Andaya said the previous approved version merely transfers the management and control of Road Board funds from seven man to three departments, namely the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Transportation (DOTr), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The Road Board controls funds collected from the MVUC solely for road maintenance and drainage improvement, the installation of traffic lights and road safety devices, and monitoring air pollution.



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## House, Senate okay Road Board abolition

**BY WENDELL VIGILIA  
and RAYMOND AFRICA**

THE House of Representatives and the Senate have agreed to abolish the graft-ridden Road Board and remit the revenues in the Motor Vehicles User's Charge (MVUC) to the National Treasury, instead of treating it as a special or off-budget fund.

This was the agreement among Senate majority leader Juan Miguel

Zubiri, House majority leader Rolando Andaya, Jr., and Senate President protempore Ralph Recto Tuesday night.

Zubiri said the senators offered no objection.

He said he will have a paper bicam" with Andaya next week.

Zubiri defined "paper bicam" as a meeting to sign the amendments.

"We have agreed on the two amendments. So, we will just sign,

no need to debate," he added.

The House yesterday approved on second reading the perfecting amendments to House Bill No. 7436 so that it could be approved on final reading by Monday next week.

Andaya said the plenary will take cognizance of the bill as a tax measure, noting that the abolition of the Road Board is just "incidental"

to its intent which is to change the status of MVUC.

Andaya said the bill does away with the original proposal to just transfer the powers of the Road Board to the secretaries of the Departments of Public Works and Highways, Transportation, and Environment and Natural Resources.

"The House-Senate consensus spared the President of signing a defective bill, which some powerful interests wanted him to. The attempt to hoodwink the President

has been foiled," he said.

Rep. Luis Raymond Villafuerte (NP, Camarines Sur) welcomed the decision but appealed that part of the multibillion-peso MVUC collections had been committed by the President for flood mitigation projects, particularly in Bicol.

Villafuerte recalled that during Duterte's visit to Camarines Sur early this month following the onslaught of tropical depression Usman, the President reiterated his desire for the Congress to abolish the Road Board and committed the use of the MVUC fund to solve the

perennial flooding in Bicol.

Andaya clarified that motorists will still have to pay the MVUC, the proceeds of which can be used to repair calamity-stricken roads and bridges upon the President's approval.

"If there's none (presidential approval), then it (MVUC) will be exclusively used for road maintenance," he said.

The President has said the fund can be used to help calamity-ravaged areas and in the government's efforts to rehabilitate the heavily polluted Manila Bay.



## Manila Water continues to expand sewer connections in east zone

AYALA-LED Manila Water Co., Inc. said it had installed 5,135 sewer connections within Metro Manila's east zone concession as of November last year, bringing the total to 191,784 since the time it took over the service from the government.

"The target for the company in terms of used water services is full sewer and sanitation coverage of its entire concession area by 2037," the company said on Wednesday.

The statement comes after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced

that it had started a project to clean up the Manila Bay using government funds but with the technical help of stakeholders including the water concessionaires.

DENR had said that the polluted water in the bay came mostly from *esteros* that are inhabited by informal settlers. It also put some of the blame on the lax application of laws by local government units.

Manila Water said it "consistently intensifies its campaign towards proper wastewater management" in its coverage area through its "Used Water

Master Plan." It said the total connections serve up to 191,784 households, including the 5,849 homes added during the January-November period last year.

It also said a total of 855 kilometers of sewer pipes had been cleaned within the same 11-month period.

The company said it operates and maintains 38 sewage treatment plants and two septage treatment plants, to ensure that used water collected from its customers is treated and cleaned before being discharged back into Metro Manila's waterways.

Manila Water said the discharge from these treatment plants have consistently passed the DENR effluent quality standards, averaging 99.8% compliance over that past five years as against the required 95% compliance set by the department.

"More treatment plants are being constructed and more sewer networks are being laid to further increase sewer coverage within its concession," the company said.

It is currently building the Ilugin sewage treatment plant in Barangay

Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City, which it described as "the centerpiece" of the north and south Pasig sewer system project.

All three plants have a combined capacity of treating up to 275 million liters per day (MLD) of used water, which is meant to benefit up to 1.6 million people.

The latest addition to the company's wastewater facilities are two of its largest sewage treatment plants to date: Taguig north and Marikina north sewage treatment plants.

The Taguig north plant has a capacity to treat up to 75 MLD of used water from communities in Taguig and the Makati central business district. The Marikina north plant has the capacity of cleaning up to 100 MLD of used water. It was constructed to withstand flooding as it sits at the banks of Marikina River.

Both plants use "sequence batch reactor" biological treatment process, an innovation which enables facilities built on limited land areas to treat larger volumes of used water, Manila Water said. — **Victor V. Saulon**



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## Poe: Time to create disaster resilience agency

Sen. Grace Poe reiterated her call for the immediate passage of the bill that would create the Department of Disaster Resilience and Emergency Management, saying the people's safety needs cannot wait.

Poe made the statement in the wake of Tropical Depression Usman, which hit the Bicol region and Samar provinces late last year and claimed more than 100 lives.

Poe said she received text messages from people trapped in their homes and seeking help. She bewailed a seeming lack of coordination between the national government and local government units, "because there is really no point person at NDRRMC," Poe said in a radio interview.

She was referring to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

Poe filed Senate Bill 1735 in March 2018, seeking the creation of a new agency which will have the authority in the policymaking, planning, coordination, implemen-

tation and evaluation of programs relating to disaster risk reduction and management.

Poe had filed the bill as early as 2013, saying that the government should not just sit and wait for disasters to happen given the frequency of extreme weather situations being experienced by the country.

The House of Representatives earlier approved its version of the bill on final reading.

Poe said the NDRRMC is technically under the Department of National Defense, which is also addressing many concerns. She also observed that the council is almost powerless because it is not headed by an official with Cabinet rank.

- Cecille Suerte Felipe



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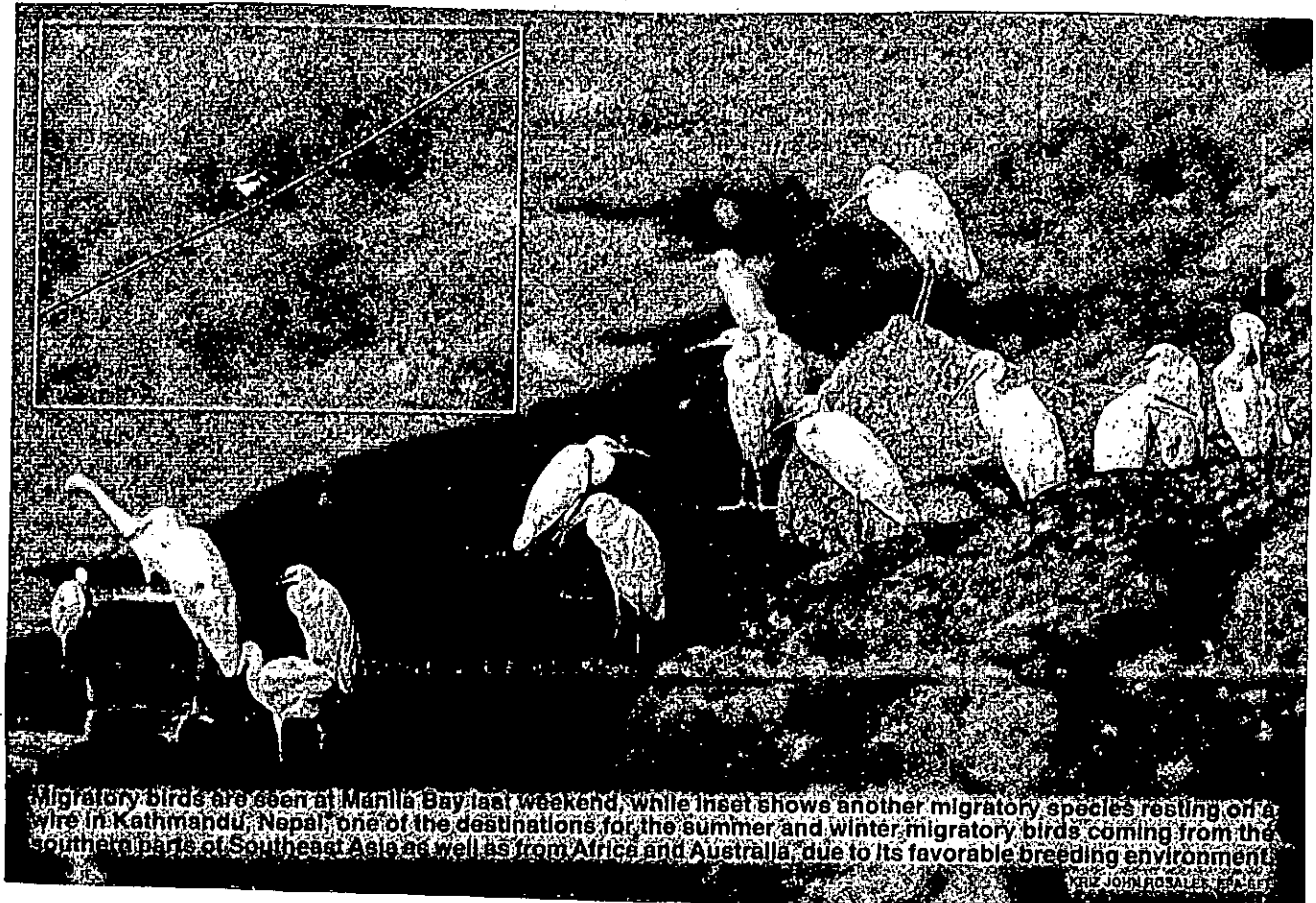
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Migratory birds are seen at Manila Bay last weekend, while inset shows another migratory species resting on a wire in Kathmandu, Nepal, one of the destinations for the summer and winter migratory birds coming from the southern parts of Southeast Asia as well as from Africa and Australia due to its favorable breeding environment.

BY JOHN ROSALES/ENR



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# The Manila Times

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**ABOITIZ RECOMMITTS TO SAVE THE PAWIKAN** AboitizPower Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) for Distribution Group Jim Aboitiz (center, kneeling) leads last January 10 the release of a *pawikan* (hawksbill turtle) 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 was joined by Department of Environment and Natural Resources Assistant Secretary Ruth Tawantawan (left, kneeling), and Davao Light COO Rodger Velasco (right, kneeling). Looking on are Aboitiz Equity Ventures Adviser for Mindanao Art Milan (second from left, standing) and Davao Light Community Relations Manager Fermin Edillon (second from right, standing). **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



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Twisted Story 1998

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## Trials and triumphs of a 'Bantay Dagat'

BEING a protector of the environment is never an easy feat. The crusade is paved with enormous challenges and sometimes threats from people and groups intending to advance their self-interest. For Vicente "Enteng" Mahinay, the cause of protecting the seas and its precious resources as a *Bantay Dagat* (sea patrol) for over two decades has proven to be as demanding and audacious, however, rewarding after all the toiling come into fruition.

Enteng is a resident of Barangay Nurcia in Lanuza, Surigao del Sur, and started his advocacy to protect the Marine Protected Area (MPA) in 1997 when the Lanuza Marine Park and Sanctuary was established.

"There was no guardhouse back then," Enteng recalled. He said that only a *trapal* or waterproof sheeting would protect them from the cold wind and rains, and scorching sun. During that time, however, there were uproars from the *barangay* (village) that the marine protected area (MPA) was too big that the *Bantay Dagat* or sea patrols could only carry out their tasks for three months.

From the intended 155 hectares, the MPA in Lanuza Bay was reduced to 111 ha. While their patrolling operations were postponed at that time, Enteng pressed on with his cause to protect the seas by educating local fishers and their children on the importance of marine protected areas.

Enteng also recalls being offered P3,000 per night by illegal fishers, so that they could take advantage of the resources of the MPA, he was

tasked to guard. Turning down the encroachers was risky. Enteng, however, rejected the proposal without second thoughts. "I won't exchange my dignity for a couple of thousands and sully my name," he said.

By 2011, Enteng stepped into the Nursiha Enforcement Team and has since been serving as the treasurer. The Nursiha Enforcement Team is the MPA management body of the Lanuza Marine Park and Sanctuary, composed of representatives from Barangay Nurcia, Sibahay and Habag. It is one of the partner beneficiaries of the SMARTSeasPh Project that is currently implemented by Haribon Foundation and the Lanuza Bay Development Alliance (LBDA) in Lanuza Bay.

### The SMARTSeas Project

Enteng recounted that before being part of the SMARTSeas project, he only focused on patrolling and apprehending violators in the MPA. But after a series of trainings, he also learned about the importance of proper solid waste management, especially that the Lanuza sanctuary is frequented by sea turtles including green sea turtles, hawksbills and leatherback turtles. Trash is collected every time they conduct sea-borne patrols.

Being part of the project, his appreciation on corals and reefs has become greater. "I only knew that corals are where fish hide and take shelter," he said. Enteng explained that he was unaware that fish eggs are also deposited



■ Vicente 'Enteng' Mahinay has been protecting the waters of Lanuza Bay as a *Bantay Dagat* for over two decades. HARIBON PHOTO

in corals wherein fish also feed. He then realized that caring for the corals and making sure they were not ruined could assure a stable fish catch.

At some point, however, Enteng and his team got discouraged by people who insisted that their work was futile as fish could no longer be found in the sanctuary. Through the open water scuba diving and coral reef monitoring trainings, they discovered a new-found drive for guarding the MPA and defending their efforts. Enteng also said that their training greatly improved their knowledge and

skills in biophysical monitoring.

Enteng was one of the *Bantay Dagat* deputized after the coastal law enforcement training sponsored by the project. He proudly said that before turning violators over to the police, they educate them on the importance of marine conservation. During school breaks, Enteng also teaches children and the youth from fishing families.

For Enteng, it is vital to start young in instilling proper values and love for the environment to the community. "I am not doing this for my own benefit. My efforts are not for myself; I am doing it for the generations to come. So they will have the freedom to enjoy what the ocean can give them, their children and their children's children," Enteng in his local dialect.

Enteng's information campaign also extends to non-fishermen by encouraging them to monitor MPA portions near their homes.

After over two decades of patrolling, Enteng realized that marine protected area management is more than just enforcement and apprehending violators. It is a full circle of efforts that include educating the young, habitat management, biophysical monitoring, and regular evaluation of activities.

Haribon Foundation, the country's pioneer environmental organization, is implementing the SMARTSeasPh Project in Lanuza Bay, funded by the United Nations Development Program with the support of the Global Environment Facility. JOSEL-AN E. DUA



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**Huge hurdle** The tough task of persuading informal settlers in Baseco, Tondo to vacate the shoreline faces the Manila Bay cleanup program. BOB DUNGO JR.





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# HATAWA!

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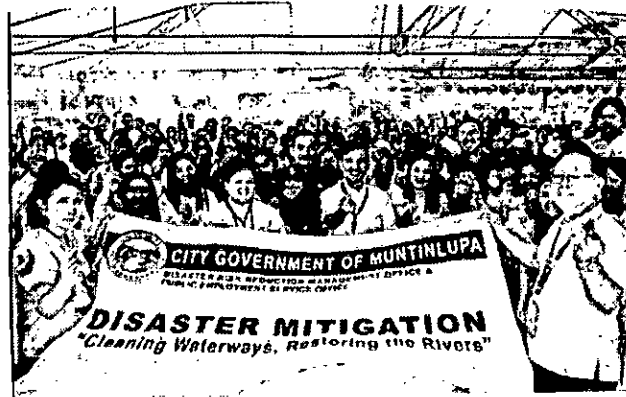
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**TUPAD PARA SA DISASTER MITIGATION:** Pinangunahan ni Mayor Jaime Fresnedi ang pamamahagi ng mga kagamitan sa mga benepisaryo ng TUPAD mula sa walong barangay sa lungsod noong 14 Enero. Ang TUPAD o Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers ay isang programa upang mabigyan ng oportunidad na makapagtrabaho ang mga seasonal workers sa loob ng sampung araw o higit pa. Inaasahang makatutulong ang TUPAD workers sa paglilinis ng mga ilog at iba pang waterways sa lungsod para sa disaster mitigation. Isinagawa ang programa sa pamamagitan ng Public Employment Service Office, sa pakikipagtulungan ng local Environmental Cluster at Muntinlupa City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office. Makikita sa larawan sina PESO Muntinlupa chief Glenda Anifon, dating vice mayor Temy Simundac, Brgy. Poblacion Kgd. Alexson Diaz, at Ms. Paty Katy Boncayao. (MANNY ALCALA)



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## Subic, Morong beaches to be developed further

By **MART T. SUPNAD**

**SUBIC BAY** – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will further develop the coastal areas of Subic and Morong town to attract more tourists and investors.

This was learned from Raul H. Mamac, Provincial Environment and natural resources officer, who clarified that there was no massive clean up to be conducted in Morong "but the DENR will just initiate further development and beautification along the beaches of Subic and nearby Morong town."

Mamac was one of the DENR offi-

cialists who led the clean-up of the resort island of Boracay in Aklan.

"Nagpeprepara na kami ng action plans and I had already coordinated with SBMA and Mayor Cynthia Estanislao about the development and beautification program for Morong town. Magandang programa ito kaya we need the media's support and of course our governor Abet Garcia," pointed out Mamac.

Morong and Subic have beautiful beaches but tourists have long complained about the resort owners' sky-rise rental and room rates of the hotels operating here.

Newsmen suggested that the local government unit should regulate, through an ordinance, the hotel and resort rates to further attract more tourists and customers to come here.

Some of the resort and hotel workers were found to be underpaid but overworked.

Right after reassuming his post as Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) in Bataan, Mamac noted that there are companies and business firms openly dumping wastes into the Manila Bay, prompted him to act with dispatch on it.

Mamac initiated and intensified crackdown on pollution not only in Manila Bay but also along rivers and major water ways in Bataan, a move lauded by Gov. Abet Garcia and the local media.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu wanted to bring down coliform level in Manila Bay, after noting that the level has surged to over 300 million most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100 ml).

He added that Manila Bay is unfit for swimming at present unless the coliform level is down to 100 mpn/100ml only.

Environmentalists claim that coliform bacteria are commonly used as indicator of water pollution.



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**Sea change** President Rodrigo Duterte's determined effort to clean major waterways benefits both the fisherman and his children who reach out to their future.

ROMAN PROSPERO



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## Sigaw ng mga netizen: Boykot Jollibee, Coke!

IMBES na pumatok, sumabog sa pagmumukha ng Jollibee ang gimik nitong magbenta ng Coke in Can na may logo ni Jollibee sa halagang P45 at muling binuhay ang tawag ng pagboykot sa kompanya dahil sa hindi pag-regular ng empleyado. At, nadamay pa ang Coke na may panawagan ding iboykot.

Tweet ni @kybaldo: "boy-cott Jollibee. Boycoke."

Tweet ni Pat Teves, boycotting may not be the best solution for the workers problems but let's support their

fight against contractua-lization by refusing to buy coca-cola and Jollibee products... not every coca-cola plantation has regularized their workers yet. Meanwhile, Jollibee has neither regularized their workers... this has got to be the most ambitious crossover of two of the world's greedy companies."

Tweet naman ni @anxieties, "lol how about regularizing your workers first, sis. This aint it. Boycott Jollibee pa rin."

Tweet naman ni @

pandesel, "Jollibee ta-pos coke pa??? ABAY DOBLE BOYCOTT NA YAN!!"

Sabi naman ni @kdmæee, "others may say the boy-cott won't do anything but I'm still doing it... I don't feel like giving my money to a business that can't even regularize their workers despite having income at millions."

Sabi pa ni @stephjaurigue, "Jollibee, coca-cola not regularizing their workers and engaging in use-less campaigns instead... hindi

po basta-bata dapat na traba-ho lang ang ibinibigay ng mga kompanya. Dpat po ay trabahong disente, ay karampa-tang sahod, safe, may security of tenure, at tamang benepisyo na hindi naibibigay ng Jollibee at coke."

Nauna rito ay pini-tik ng mga netizen ang promo ng Jollibee dahil tali-was ito sa kampanya hing-gil sa zero waste. Ang Jol-libee ay pagmamay-ari ng negosyanteng si Tony Tan Cak-tiong. **(Eileen Mencias)**



## Proposed solar farm in Sarangani gets CEPNS

A PROPOSED solar farm in Sarangani province has been added to the Department of Energy's (DoE) list of energy projects of national significance, making it eligible to all the perks that come with the certification.

The Energy Investment Coordinating Council (EICC), which the DoE leads, has informed Total Power, Inc. that its 100-megawatt (MW) peak TPI Sarangani Solar Power Project has been granted the certificate of energy project of national significance (CEPNS).

The solar farm, which is in the pre-development phase, is set to benefit from the rights, terms and conditions extended to those with a CEPNS, including action on the project application within 30 working days.

The EICC sent the written notification to Jack Tan, Total Power president and chief executive officer, on Dec. 20, 2018. The company becomes the 10<sup>th</sup> project to be issued the certificate.

Patrick T. Aquino, one of the DoE's directors and head of the EICC secretariat, told Mr. Tan that

the project would also enjoy presumption of prior approval, which means that it is presumed to have already complied with the requirements and permits from other government permitting agencies.

The EICC was created pursuant to Executive Order 30, which was issued on June 28, 2017, in order to spearhead and coordinate efforts to harmonize, integrate and streamline the regulatory processes and relevant forms in the development of nationally significant energy investments.

The council is chaired by a representative from the DoE and is composed of representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Electrification Administration, National Grid Corporation of the Philippines, and National Power Corp.

It is also comprised of the Department of Finance, Department of Justice, Department of Transportation, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board and other agencies whose participation may be deemed necessary by the council.

Mr. Aquino informed Total Power that the project is deemed approved if no action was made five days after the lapse of the 30-working day period for processing of the application.

Mr. Tan was required to submit a CEPNS monitoring document every 10<sup>th</sup> of the succeeding month to the EICC secretariat detailing the progress of the implementation of the project with respect to its permitting requirements.

Mr. Aquino said the DoE in the exercise of its supervisory power has the right to amend, alter or revoke the CEPNS for the pre-development phase in cases of irregularity and violations in the conditions for which the certificate was issued.

The DoE previously said that the attributes of a nationally significant project include a capital investment of P3.5 billion; contribution to the country's economic development; economic impact; and potential contribution to the country's balance of payment, among others. —  
**Victor V. Saulon**