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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



₱47B ng Manila Bay rehab, ilaan sa mangrove restoration

Hinimok ng isang lokal na grupo ng mga mangingisda ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na gamitin ang P47-bilyon Manila Bay rehabilitation fund para i-restore ang mangroves at coral reefs.

Ipinunto ng Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) na ang P47-B pondo ay magiging kapaki-pakinabang para maibalik sa dating kondisyon ang mangroves, sea grasses at coral reefs na winasak ng mga nakaraan at kasalukuyang "projects for development aggression."

Iilunsad ng DENR ang cleanup campaign sa Manila Bay sa Enero 27, ngunit binatikos ng mga mangingisda ang isa sa unang yugto nito na kinabibilangan ng demolisyon sa halos 300,000 settlers, kabilang ang fisherfolk na nabubuhay sa pangangisda sa Manila Bay.

Iginiit ng grupo na suportado nila ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay "to restore its traditional use as fishing grounds for small fisherfolk. But ejecting us out from the coastal areas only to give way to reclamation projects will be met with strong resistance from the fishing and coastal sector," sinabi

ni Pamalakaya national chairperson Fernando Hicap.

"Rehabilitation should benefit us, not violate our socio-economic rights, it should restore Manila Bay's ecosystem, not further destroy," ipinunto niya.

Ayon sa Pamalakaya sobra-sobra pa ang P47B budget para magtayo ng mangrove forests na nagsisilbing tirahan ng mga isda at pollution filter.

Sinabi ng grupo na libu-libong mangroves ang winasak noon para bigyang daan ang commercial at industrial hubs.

Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz



SA darating na Linggo, Enero 27, kung walang aberya, sisimulan na ang paglilinis ng Manila Bay.

Hindi pang-consuelo de bobo ang paglilinis at hindi rin pakita lamang.

Seriyosohan dahil sobra na ang dumi ng lawang ito.

Kung tinawag noon na isang pusali ang kapaligiran ng Boracay, mas matindi ang Manila Bay dahil triple ang dumi nito kumpara sa una.

Bukod sa tapunan ng lahat ng dumi ng tao ng nasa 15 milyong residente ng Metro Manila, tapunan din ito ng dumi ng mga hayop.

Hindi lang 'yan, mga Bro.

Tapunan din ito ng mga kemikal.

Kasama ng Manila Bay ang Laguna de Bay na tapunan ng mga dumi ng tao, hayop at kemikal.

ERAP AKSYON AGAD

Makaraang ianunsyo ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay, walang nakaaalam na pinaslip na pala ni Mayor Joseph "Erap" Estrada ang Manila Zoo.

Ito ang kilalang kauna-unahang parke ng mga hayop sa ating bansa at pamoso itong pasyalan ng lahat ng mga Filipino basta't nasa Metro Manila sila.

Dito kasi makikita ang mga lokal at dayuhang hayop na gustong-gusto makita, mahipo, masakyan at makasalamuha ng mga Pinoy.

Klaro ang nakita nina Mayor Erap: walang maaayos na tapunan ng dumi ng buong Manila Zoo at direktso ang lahat ng dumi ng hayop at tao sa Manila Bay.

Kaya naman, ipinasara na ni Mayor ito sa kawalan ng sewage treatment plant o plantang panlinis muna ng mga nasabing dumi bago itapon ang tubig sa Manila Bay.

Kahapon ito ipinasara ni Mayor ang zoo bilang pakikiisa ng Manila government sa pamahalaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa puspusang paglilinis sa Manila Bay.

LAHAT KASALI

Magsasama-sama ang pamahalaan at lahat ng mamamayan na gusto ang



MAGTULONG-TULONG SA PAGLILINIS SA MANILA BAY

Pangungunahan ang paglilinis ng pambansang pamahalaan, partikular na ang Palasyo at DENR, at mga local government unit ng Manila, Malabon ni Mayor Antolin Oreta III, Navotas ni Mayor John Rey M. Tjanco, Pasay ni Mayor Antonino Calixto, Parañaque ni Mayor Edwin Olivarez at Las Piñas ni Mayor Imelda Aguilar ang paglilinis.

Sasali rin ang mga grupong environmentalist, civic organizations at concerned individuals ang panimulang programa.

Dahil sa pagsali ng mga environmentalist at civic organization at concerned individual, masasabing lahat ng uri at antas ng lipunan ay sasali at may manggagaling maging sa mga lugar na malalayo sa Manila Bay.

Isa sa magiging sentro ng pagtitipon ang Rizal Park na inaasahang dadagsain ng libo-libong tao.

Kasama sa mga sasali ang mga organisasyon o civic club na Lions, kabilang na ang Lion District 301-A na binubuo ng mga maraming Lions Club mula sa Manila, Pasay, Laguna, Batangas at Palawan na pinamumunuan ni Gov. Manny Rosales at First Vice Gov. Wennie Bico.

Siyempre pa, kasali rin ang inyong abang lingkod bilang Second Vice President at si Zeny Chingkiat na pangulo ng Pasay City Host Lions Club na kinapapalooban natin.

UTOS NI DIGONG

Matagal na, halos 10 taon nang nakabinbin ang kautusan ng Supreme Court para linisin ang Manila Bay sa mga kasoong GR Nos. 171947-48 na may petsang Pebrero 15, 2011.

Ang totoo, Enero 29, 1999 pa nagsimula ang kaso na isinampa sa regional Trial Court ng Imus, Cavite nina Divina Ilas, Sabiniano Albarracin, Manuel Santos Jr., Dina dela Pea, Paul Dennis Quintero, Ma. Victoria Llenos, Donna Caloza, Fatima Quitain, Venice Segerra, Fritzie Tangkia, Sarah Inelle Intard, Hannihal

tiaguel at Jaime Agustin.

Hiniling nila sa hukuman na linisin ang Manila Bay ng mga ahensya ng gobyerno na DENR, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Departments of Education, Culture ang Sports, Health, Agriculture, Public Works and Highways, Budget and Management, Interior and Local Government, Philippine Coast Guard at Philippine National Police Maritime Group.

Nanalo ang mga sibilyan sa kaso mula sa RTC hanggang Court of Appeals at SC makaraan ng halos 10 taon.

Halos 10 taon na rin mula nang lumabas ang pinal na desisyon ng SC, walang nangyari, walang kumilos na pambansang pamahalaan mula noon.

Pero ngayong dumating ang administrasyon ni Pang. Digong, simulan na natin ang paglilinis na totohanan at kasali pa rin ang nasabing mga ahensya sa paglilinis.

Isa sa mga pinakakritikal na parte ng desisyon ang pag-alis ng lahat ng informal settler 40,000 pamilya o 200,000 katao na nagtayo ng kanilang mga bahay sa mismong ibabaw o gilid ng Manila Bay.

Ang totoo, kritikal din ang pag-aalis ng lahat ng informal settler sa lahat ng ilog ng Metro Manila na naglalabas ng tubig sa Manila Bay.

Kasamang gigibain o isasara maging ang mga istraktura ng mga mayayaman na wala ni anomang sewage treatment plant at pangangalanan ang mga ito sa darating na Linggo, Enero 27.

Sana, maging matagumpay ang proyektong ito at sa katapusan ng taong ito, babalik ang kalidad ng Manila Bay na pupwedeng pagswimmingan at paghanapbuhayan sa pangangisda.

oOo

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



Saving Manila Bay

The Manila Bay of my childhood was a vast expanse of blue seen from the glass elevator of the then famous Silahis International Hotel along Roxas Boulevard. My brothers and I used to spend some weekends in that hotel during summers of decades ago, thanks to our dad who had an office there.

The view from the famed elevator was always spectacular. Roxas Boulevard, formerly called Dewey Boulevard in honor of American Admiral George Dewey, was lined with coconut trees that swayed with the breeze.

EYES WIDE OPEN



IRIS GONZALES

Manila Bay was picture perfect as the setting sun glimmered on the waters like thousands of diamond studs.

Today, Silahis Hotel no longer exists after it was closed years ago because of tax problems. The building still stands, but there's nothing but a vibe so eerie that Carlos Celdran stopped short of describing it as ghostly: "Its round darkened windows now stare upon its neighbors like hundreds of

dead eyes."

Just like the hotel, Manila Bay, too, went from good to bad, from breathtaking to ugly, from livable to eerie. Today, the once famous Manila icon has become a giant garbage dumpsite with tons and tons of trash dumped into it every day.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu is right in saying that Manila Bay is in critical condition.

"Manila Bay is in critical condition and proper wastewater discharge and solid waste disposal play a key role to reviving it," he said.

I am actually pleased to know that the government is determined to rehabilitate Manila Bay starting on Sunday, Jan. 27. It will cost roughly P45 billion.

Cimatu said establishments, including government offices near Manila Bay, must ensure that they are connected to sewer lines or have their own sewage treatment plants (STP) for proper wastewater disposal.

He reminded them to manage their solid waste to minimize garbage that end up in landfills or oceans.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Cimatu warned, would clamp down on all establishments discharging untreated wastewater either directly into the Manila Bay or into esteros and rivers leading to the bay.

Turn to B4



CONT. SAVING MANILA BAY FROM PAGE B3

EYES WIDE OPEN... From B3

"We will issue notices of violation to non-compliant establishments or we will shut them down. Until they comply, they cannot operate," he said.

Education

Cimatu said that by properly educating the public, the rehabilitation of Manila Bay may actually succeed.

He said the 2,000-square kilometer bay has been found to have extreme levels of coliform. The bacteria came from waste spilled by the *esteros* or estuaries in Metro Manila.

The long-term goal is to reduce the coliform level to 100 most probable numbers per 100 milliliters (MPN/100ml) or low enough for the bay to be safe for swimming.

Currently, the level is at an alarming level of 333 million MPN/100 ml.

Ecosystem Technologies

The government will spend a whopping P45 billion for the massive rehabilitation. It could be more.

For the plan to succeed, however, it is indeed important for establishments to have a treatment plant as Cimatu said.

A well designed STP requires space, but one company – Ecosystem Technologies International Inc. – said it can construct an underground STP.

For the STP to be viable, it must not emit toxic fumes.

Ecosystem Technologies has pioneered this approach in over 600 completed projects over the last 23 years.

Some of the projects are located along the Manila Bay, these include STPs in the City of Dreams, in Okada Manila, SM Mall of Asia, and the US Embassy Manila in Roxas Boulevard.

Ecosystem, which is part of the MVP Group, said its STPs perform better than other STPs, allowing the developers to recycle the water for non-potable application use such as rest rooms, firefighting, plant care or landscape maintenance.

The technology is based on a proprietary technology, the so-called Sequence Bio Reactor of Ecosystem.

It is a technology acknowledged by the Department of Science and Technology in the 2018 Technology Fair as a viable solution for water security and sanitation.

Now on its third generation, the technology has been deployed by Ecosystem in over 600 projects in the property development as well as the industrial sectors all over the Philippines.

Major corporations in the Philippines have benefitted from Ecosystem's proprietary water recycling and reuse technologies, the company said.

I am sure that Manila Bay and the establishments around it would greatly benefit from whatever help in can get.

It is important to recycle so that Manila Bay becomes a sustainable ecosystem.

Who knows, maybe someday we can see the Manila Bay of the olden days once again and enjoy a cleaner bay without the tons of garbage and bacteria filled water.

I am dreaming, yes I am. But isn't our country worth fighting for? Isn't Manila's iconic natural harbor, the one with the world famous view of the iconic sunset, worth dreaming of?

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Manila Bay rehabilitation

THE
Department
of Environment
and Natural Resources



FELINO A. PALAFOX

(DENR) is preparing to rehabilitate the Manila Bay — one of the best news we must all pay attention to.

► PalafoxA6

This project is long overdue, for 10 years as a matter of fact, because it was on Dec. 18, 2008 that the Supreme Court issued a mandamus ordering 13 government agencies to clean up and protect Manila Bay. With the support and confidence he gained during Boracay's clean-up, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu is determined to rehabilitate Manila Bay by all means necessary.

Considered as one of the best natural harbors in the world, Manila Bay has been our country's premier gateway to the West and to neighboring countries in Asia. It holds much significance in our history, and it has played a vital role in shaping our nation and our identity as it has witnessed countless momentous events dating as far back as 9th century A.D. such as the commencement of trade with China, the arrival of the Spaniards, the Galleon Trade, and the Battle of Manila, among others.

In 1975, my colleagues and I from the Planning and Project Development Office of the Department of Public Works, Transportation, and Communication published the Manila Bay Metro-

politan Region (MBMR) Strategic Plan. We emphasized the importance of not only focusing on the metropolitan area but targeting the provinces and cities beyond. This is why the MBMR comprises Manila and the provinces of Rizal, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna, Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan, and Zambales. The coastline from Cavite to Bataan is 190 kilometers; the surface water is 180,000 hectares, and the land area of the watershed catchment area is 1,700,000 hectares — equivalent to 24 Singapores and 1,700 Boracays. As early as 1975, we identified how economic development and social uplift must transpire simultaneously with environmental protection and cultural advancement. Until today, Manila Bay holds a primary role in our economic growth as the area, including NCR and Regions 3 and 4, contributes approximately 55 percent of our GDP. Despite its economic and cultural endowment, Manila Bay's environment has been deteriorating at an alarming rate. It is severely polluted with marine, domestic, industrial, and commercial waste — threatening marine life and the livelihoods

primarily dependent on the bay's resources. According to the most recent water samples and laboratory tests conducted by the DENR, Manila Bay's coliform level is 330 million MPN — exceptionally way beyond the acceptable level of less than 100 MPN! Last January 15, I was invited to attend the stakeholders' meeting that took place at the DENR office in Quezon City. An endeavor of this magnitude would take at least five years, and the government agencies and LGUs tasked with rehabilitating Manila Bay would need all the help they can get from the private and social sectors.

As an urban planner, I strongly support the revitalization and conservation of Manila Bay. I believe this wide-scale project presents numerous opportunities for waterfront development from which we can all reap long-term benefits. During a recent TV interview, I shared several ideas on how to clean up Manila Bay. First of all, the formulation of a comprehensive master plan (CMP) is immensely crucial. Rehabilitation plans must be cohesive in an integrated overall framework. Focusing

on the metropolitan region alone would be disadvantageous because this would not address the root causes of environmental degradation in adjacent areas. To expound on this a little further, stricter environmental regulations must also be implemented on the Pasig River, Laguna Lake, San Juan River, Marikina River, and Pampanga River because a great number of violators can be found there, and waste disposed on these bodies of water flow into Manila Bay.

Because the waterfront is a major community resource, I highly recommend designing urban waterfront developments that can enhance people's quality of life in all aspects. Esplanades, promenades and linear parks are great waterfront public spaces that have an invigorating effect on a city's image and sense of place. These should be designed to be walkable, bikable, and well-lit with minimal environmental impact, ultimately enhancing community health and development while interconnecting our fragmented metropolis. Remarkable public spaces are what make cities great. Famous illustrations



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Manila Bay rehabilitation

are the Central Park in New York, Eiffel Tower in Paris, Las Ramblas in Barcelona, and Trafalgar Square in London. Among the world's best waterfronts are Amsterdam's and Denmark's picturesque waterways, Venice's famous canals, Sydney Harbor, the Bay of Naples, Dubai's waterfront developments, and the French Riviera's famous beachfronts. We should follow best practices abroad where waterfronts, including inland waterways, are treated as prime locations and can be enjoyed by all — not as places for waste disposal.

Based on the principle of triple bottom line — people first, planet Earth, and then the economy — informal settlers near the waterfront of Manila Bay and other waterways should be relocated and provided with decent housing. Once the waterfront is cleared, standard easements should be strictly applied: 50 meters for the coastline of Manila Bay, 10 meters for all rivers, and 3.5 meters for *esteros* or estuaries. Sewage treatment plants and sewer interceptors can lower the coliform level, and establishments must be connected

to sewer pipelines that will collect sewage before reaching the waterways. In terms of connectivity, the Manila Bay Metropolitan Region has high development potential. Establishing a more efficient water transportation system can improve accessibility and linkage between regions. Pasig River and Pampanga River can be re-dredged, so they can be made more navigable. Well-known major waterways that were dredged to improve navigation of commercial shipping are the Thames River, Dubai Creek, and Suez Canal. The aforementioned recommendations that we at Palafox have put forward, among others, can help Manila Bay's rehabilitation to become more sustainable well into the future for the present and coming generations to enjoy.

As custodians of Manila Bay and its immense resources, we are at a crucial point wherein we must renew and act upon our ecological concern for it. Aligned with our President's strong political will and DENR's determination, let us all help in restoring Manila Bay to its former glory.



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GOOD RIDDANCE

ni ARLIE CALALO

Set good example to private establishments, DENR Sec. Cimatu

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has called on all government offices around the Manila Bay region to ensure their compliance with the country's clean water and solid waste management laws in line with the upcoming rehabilitation of the heavily polluted water body.

He said that government

buildings should set a good example to commercial and residential establishments surrounding Manila Bay and its tributaries in complying with environmental laws, particularly the Clean Water Act of 2004 and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"Manila Bay is in critical condition and proper wastewater discharge and solid waste disposal play a key role to reviving it," Secretary Cimatu said.

The environment chief made the remarks as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other government agencies are set to begin rehabilitation works at Manila Bay on January 27.



MANILA BAY CLEAN-UP, TIME NA!

SA Enero 27, sisimulan na ang paglilinis ng Manila Bay at sinabi ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na kanyang ihahayag ang mga pangalan ng mga establisimyento na pinagmumulan ng dumi ng lawa.

Bukod dito, may 200,000 pamilya ng informal settlers na palangiang ginagawang "kubeta" o "CR" ang Manila Bay.

Ang paglilinis at paglipat ng mga naninirahan sa tabi ng Manila bay ay isang bangungot ng maituturing, ngunit mas nakadidiri rito ang ebak o fecal bacteria na noong 1999 ay tinatayang nasa 1 million unit kada cubic meter.

At matapos ang dalawang dekada, alam n'yo bang 330 MILLION UNITS na ito? Yaki! Kadiri!

Sa ibang parte pa nga ng Bay, 1 BILLION ang fecal bacteria. Naku poh!

Dalawang dekada lang ang sinample ko dahil sa aking pagkakaalala, dalawang dekada na rin ang kasong isinampa para parusahan ang mga humalay at nang-aalipusta sa Bay.

Isang maambisyosong kaso ang inyong masasabi nang isampa ang demanda ng isang abogado na ang tinaguriang kliyente o kanyang mga petitioner para sa kanyang demanda laban sa mga humalay ng Manila Bay ay ang mga tahong at talabang dati nang namumuhay rito.

Huwag kayong magtaka, totoo ito, at pagtapos ng 10 taon matapos isampa ni Atty. Antonio Oposa Jr. (isang award winning na environmentalist lawyer) sa Regional Trial Court hanggang umabot sa Court of Appeals at Supreme Court, ang final decision ay atasan ang 13 ahensya ng pamahalaan na linisin ang



Manila Bay.

Kasama sa desisyon na ang 13 ahensya ay babalik sa SC kada tatlong buwan hanggang sa ang Manila Bay ay ideklara nang pwede ng paliguan o paglanguyan.

10 taon ang nakalipas ang kautusang ito ng Korte Suprema, patuloy na naging kautusan lamang.

Kataka-taka! Hindi po ba?

At ngayon nga, ang Manila Bay ay muling napansin, dahil palaia na nang palala ang tubig nito at naging 'pambansang kubeta' nang maituturing.

Kung ang Boracay beach ay nalinis sa loob lang ng 6 na buwan,

aabutin ng mas matagal ang Manila Bay.

Marahil, magsimula tayo sa paglilinis ng mga sewage o septage at sa mga solid waste o basurang itinatapon ng mga tao na dahilan ng paglaki ng bilang ng fecal bacteria.

Isama na rin ang agarang paglipat ng informal settlers sa mas permanenteng lugar at pagbabawal na manirahan sila sa tabi ng Manila Bay.

Pag-isipan din natin na ang Metro Manila at mga baybayin ng Cavite, Laguna, Bataan, Bulacan at Pampanga ay may mga daluyan din ng tubig papunta sa Manila Bay.



TANGGAPAN NG GOBYERNO NA NASA PALIGID NG MANILA BAY TIYAKING KONEKTADO SA "SEWER LINES"

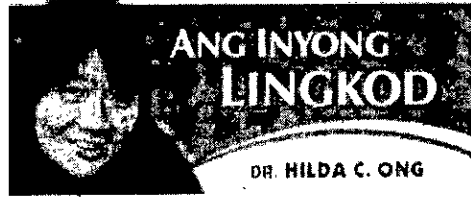
NANAWAGAN si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa lahat ng tanggapan ng gobyerno na nakapaligid sa Manila Bay na maging modelo sa pamamagitan ng pag-sunod sa clean water and solid waste management laws sa pag-sisimula ng nalalapit na rehabilitasyon sa napa-karuming tubig ng natu-

rang karagatan.

Ayon kay Cimatu, nararapat lamang na tumutapad ang mga tanggapan ng gobyerno na nakapaligid sa Manila Bay at mga ilog na nakasanga rito sa Clean Water Act of 2004 at sa Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 upang gawin silang modelo ng mga commercial at residential establishments.

"Manila Bay is in critical condition and proper wastewater discharge and solid waste disposal play a key role to reviving it," sabi pa ni Cimatu.

Ang pahayag na ito ni Cimatu ay patungkol sa gagawing rehabilitasyon ng DENR at iba pang ahensiya ng gobyerno sa Manila Bay na sisimulan sa Enero 27 ng kasa-



lukuyang taon.

Aniya, importante sa mga tanggapan ng gobyerno, partikular na ang mga nasa paligid ng Manila Bay na tiyaking konektado sila sa "sewer lines" o kaya naman ay may sarili silang sewage treatment plans para sa tamiang wastewater disposal.

Pinaalalahanan din ng kalihim ang mga ito na ayusin ang kanilang mga basura upang hindi mapunta at maging basurahan ang mga karagatan.

Sabi pa ni Cimatu, malaking problema ng bansa ang solid waste dahil na rin sa hindi tamang segregasyon, walang humpay na paggamit ng "single-use plastic products at hindi tamang

pagtatapon ng basura.

Sa darating na Enero 27 ay ihahayag na ng DENR ang mga establisimyentong direktang nagtatapon ng kanilang wastewater sa Manila Bay, esteros at ilog na nakakonekta sa naturang dagat.

Ang mga establisimyentong mapatutunayang lumalabag at bumabalewala sa environmental laws ay maaaring malpasara o kaya naman ay pagmultahin ng hanggang P200,000 kada araw.



Manila Zoo, sarado muna

Ni Ria Fernandez

Sa kuhang video ng isa sa mga photographer ng *BALITA*, mapapanood ang pag-iyak at pagwawala ng isang batang lalaki habang karga ng kanyang ama makaraan silang pagbawalang pumasok sa Manila Zoo, na pansamantalang isinara simula kahapon.

Marinig ang bata na sumisigaw ng, "Papasok! Papasok!"

Gayunman, sumagot ang staff ng zoo na sila ay sarado.

Nagpaskil din ang zoo management sa kentrance gate, na nagsasabi sa publiko na pansamantalang sarado ang pasyalan simula kahapon, Enero 23, 2019, sa utos ni Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada.

Ngunit hindi nakalagay sa memorandum ni Estrada kung kailan muling bubuksan sa publiko ang naturang zoo.

Sa ngayon, kumpirmadong isasailalim ito sa rehabilitasyon para sa pagsisimula ng paglilinis sa Manila Bay

sa Linggo, Enero 27.

"The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) tagged Manila Zoo as a major pollutant of Manila Bay," pahayag ni Estrada.

"According to Sec. Roy Cimatu, the zoo had been draining untreated sewage into one of the estuaries leading to the bay."

Ipinag-utos ng alkalde sa Department of Engineering and Public Works (DEPW) at Department of Public Services (DPS) ng lungsod na magsumite ng program of work para sa pagkakabit ng sewage treatment plants (STPs) hindi lang sa Manila Zoo kundi maging sa iba pang pasilidad na nasasakupan ng siyudad.

Magtatagal ang konstruksiyon ng tatio hanggang apat na buwan, ayon kay Atty. Jasyrr Garcia, OIC ng Public Recreations Bureau ng lungsod.

Siniguro naman ni Garcia na hindi maaapektuhan ang hanapbuhay ng mga empleyado sa pagsasara ng zoo.

PASOK TAYO, PAPA!
Nagwala at umiyak ang bata, habang karga ng kanyang ama, nang hindi sila papasukin sa Manila Zoo, kahapon.
ALI VICOY





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IPINASKIL ng mga tauhan ng *Department of Engineering and Public Works* ng lungsod ng *Manila* ang signage na nagpapaalala sa pansamantalang pagsasara ng *Manila Zoo* para isailalim ito sa rehabilitasyon. Nauna nang tinukoy ng *Department of Environment and Natural Resources* ang *Manila Zoo* bilang isa sa mga pangunahing pollutant ng *Manila Bay*. Kuha ni **NORMAN ARAGA**



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Manila Standard

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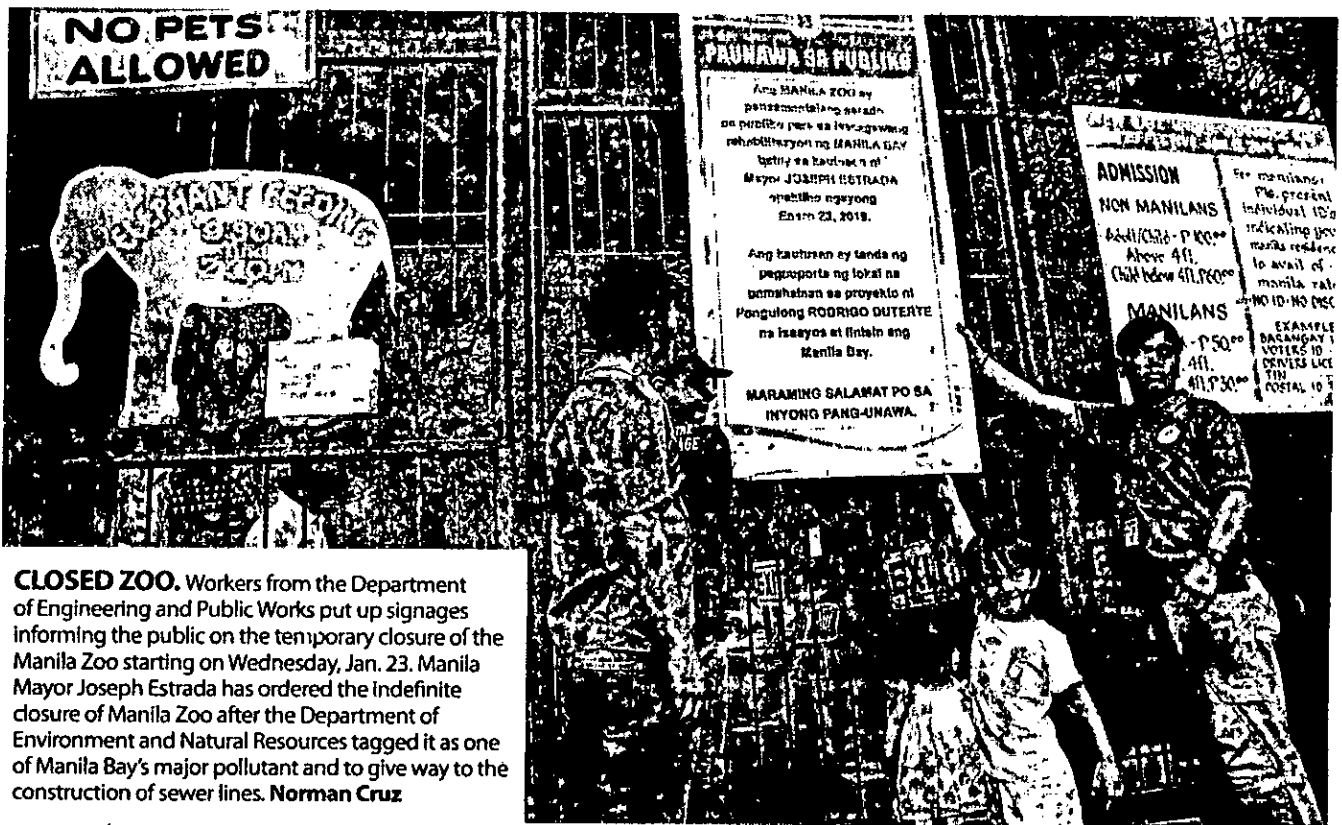
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CLOSED ZOO. Workers from the Department of Engineering and Public Works put up signages informing the public on the temporary closure of the Manila Zoo starting on Wednesday, Jan. 23. Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada has ordered the indefinite closure of Manila Zoo after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources tagged it as one of Manila Bay's major pollutant and to give way to the construction of sewer lines. **Norman Cruz**



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Balita

ANG NANGSISIDLA NG PAHAYAGANG TAGA-OG SA BAYAN

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'TIL WE MEET AGAIN, MALII Pinalliguan ang 43-anyos na elepanteng si Mali sa Manila Zoo nitong Martes, isang araw bago pansamantalang isinara ang sikat na-pasyalan simula kahapon, Enero 23. Ipinag-utos ni Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada ang temporary closure ng zoo makaraang tukuyin ito bilang pangunahing nagpapadumi sa Manila Bay.

JANSEN ROMERO



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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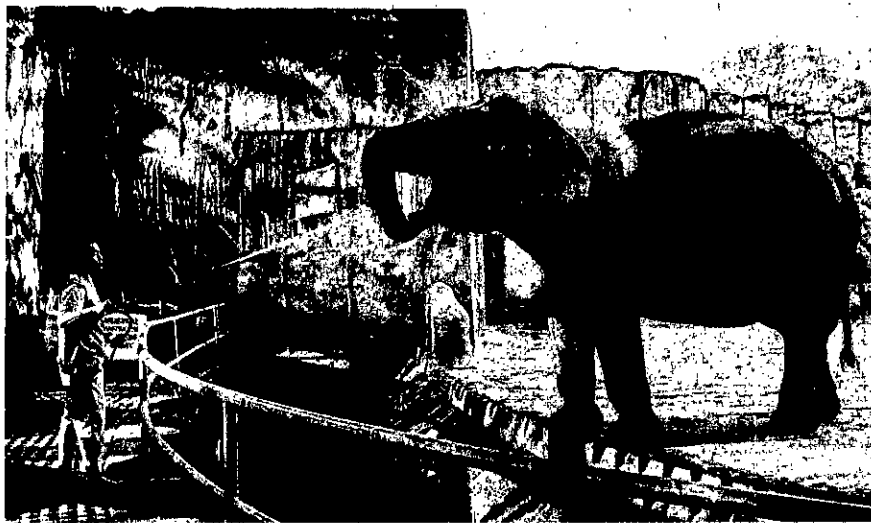
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CLOSED ZOO— A zookeeper gives Mall, the 43-year-old elephant who is one of the main attractions of the Manila Zoo, a bath Wednesday. Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada ordered the zoo temporarily closed Tuesday after it was identified as one of the major polluters of Manila Bay. (Jansen Romero)



Poll bets warned on environmental violations

SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) warned all candidates in the May 2019 midterm election to strictly observe environmental laws to avoid violations when posting election materials and related matter.

Juan Miguel Cuna, DENR Undersecretary for field operations, told **The STAR** that the DENR and local government units will strictly enforce all environmental laws in connection with the election period to penalize those who violate the rules.

“They (candidates) should follow all ordinance on solid waste management; according to the law those who put up posters will also be the ones to remove them. This hasn’t been followed in past elections but should be strictly enforced now by the DENR and

local government units. LGUs should ensure that if the violation is in their jurisdiction they should enforce the law,” Cuna said during an interview at the DENR regional office here recently.

Senatorial and party-list candidates will start campaigning on Feb. 12 while congressmen, provincial and municipal candidates begin their campaign on March 30, 2019.

Cuna said the nailing of posters and election materials on trees is strictly prohibited and violators face corresponding criminal charges.

“Give value to our trees. There are candidates and their supporters who nail posters on trees but this is in violation of our laws,” Cuna said during turnover ceremonies for the new DENR regional director where he was guest speaker.

– Jun Elias



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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24 JAN 2010

Sierra Madre, Cordillera need reforestation

BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

TUGUEGARAO CITY: In a move to address Cagayan River basin's continued siltation, the provincial government of Cagayan has urged the public to take responsibility in bringing back the forest cover along Sierra Madre and the Cordillera mountain ranges.

Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba said that the heavily silted Cagayan River bed had also caused the recent flooding, particularly in low-lying areas because the river could no longer contain the excess water from the mountains every time there was a heavy downpour or typhoon.

"We need to dredge the Cagayan River because it is already heavily silted. This way, we can address the problem of floodings in Cagayan Valley (Region 2) which affect greatly the lives, properties and economic activities of the people," Mamba said.

The Cagayan Valley comprises the island province of Batanes, Cagayan and Isabela, and the headwaters of the Cagayan River that are in the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino.

Recently, the provincial government of Cagayan created a task force in collaboration with the Cagayan Valley offices of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to take an action plan in protecting the environment and agricultural lands in the region.

"The task force will craft plans and programs on the protection, preservation and conservation of the Cagayan's forest cover in coordination with other concerned government agencies in the Cordillera region," Mamba added.

Impact of farming

He said farmers and other sectors should to lessen or avoid the use of pesticides in their farms that cause the loosening of soil, particularly those along the riverbanks and in the upland areas.

Mamba added that huge areas in the region's forest cover had been converted to agricultural areas.

"We have noticed that more and more farmers have been converting forests into cornfields and vegetable areas. These practices have adverse impacts on the local environment, including land degradation, soil erosion, and increased flooding," he said.

Mamba said they were also expecting the neighboring provinces of the Cordillera region for the reforestation of the mountain ranges.

The Cagayan River is the longest and largest river in the Philippines. It is located in the Cagayan Valley Region in northeastern part of Luzon Island and traverses the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Isabela and Cagayan.

The river's headwaters are at the Caraballo Mountains of Central Luzon at an elevation of approximately 1,524 meters. The river flows north for some 505 kilometers to its mouth at the Babuyan Channel near the town of Aparri in Cagayan Province.

The river drops rapidly to 91 meters above sea level some 227 kilometers from the river mouth. Its principal tributaries are the Chico, Siffu, Mallig, Magat and Ilagan rivers.

According to the DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in the region, portions of the Cagayan river in the towns of Amulung, Alcala, Gattaran, Lallo and Camalaniugan, among others, are the most heavily silted.

Engineer Mario Ancheta, DENR-MGB Cagayan Valley director, said a geo-hazard mapping and study was conducted by the bureau that recommended the dredging of the "heavily silted" Cagayan River "to avoid further erosions."

He said the river's siltation had been preventing the flow of water when there are flashfloods.

"There are islet formations in the middle of the river which usually alter the direction of the flow of water, thereby, causing continuous erosions along the Cagayan

River banks," Ancheta explained.

In the study, the MGB also recommended some measures to avoid any disorder during calamities, and advised communities and local officials to relocate to safer grounds or establish a resilient evacuation centers during calamities.

The University of the Philippines has also conducted a bathymetric study in the lower Cagayan River and recommended to the provincial government the need to dredge the silted parts of the river.

Fernando Siringan, a marine geologist from the university, said they discovered constriction of channel from a sand bar growth that causes severe flooding during the rainy seasons.

"Dredging will lessen flooding problem and reduce river bank erosion. The geomorphic study of the Cagayan River also helps evaluate potential sites for the establishment of a port in the mouth of the river," he explained.

Siringan said a large area of the lower part of the Cagayan River was prone to rapid geomorphic changes "which was why dredging is very necessary to remove siltation and to eventually help solve flooding in some parts of the province."

But dredging cannot be a long-term solution on the flooding problem and there is a need for local officials to associate some programs that can help prevent soil erosion, such as tree-planting in the uplands and mangrove planting along the seashores.



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24 JAN 2010
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Fewer birds spotted in Cagayan wetlands

RECENT bird monitoring of water birds in Palau Island and Buguey wetlands in Cagayan Province revealed lower population compared to the previous year.

According to environmental group Haribon Foundation, one plausible reason for the decrease in population is the habitat change of birds in Buguey wetlands from the recent monocropping of mangroves in the area.

However, the number of bird species spotted this year increased compared to 2018. 27 species of birds were sighted in Buguey wetlands and 15 species were recorded in Palau Island, among which were the vulnerable Chinese Egret and the near-threatened Northern Lapwing.

The bird monitoring activity was conducted as part of the annual Asian Waterbird Census held this month by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-Centro) Aparri, assisted by the Haribon Foundation. Led by Haribon

wildlife biologist David Quimpo, members of Haribon visited Buguey wetlands and Palau Island in Cagayan Province to count water birds as part of a global monitoring program on water bird population. The census aims to record the changing trends of water bird count, monitor the status and condition of wetlands, and to generate interest on water birds and wetlands among the public.

Every year thousands of migra-

tory birds visit the Philippines. As the habitat up north freezes during the winter season, birds travel to warmer places such as the tropics to find food. The Philippines is part of the East Asian/Australasian Flyway where various migratory bird species from China, Japan, Siberia and other countries take course during the months of September to April. As these birds fly thousands of kilometers to cross countries, they

look for good places to rest and eat, including the wetlands.

Wetlands are frequented mostly by water birds or waders because it gives sufficient food. Water birds are mostly distinguished with their long legs that they use for wading in the water and their long beaks to pick up fish and crustaceans. Common water bird species include egrets, herons, plovers and sandpipers.

Haribon Foundation urges the public to keep these wetlands in good condition as the survival of migratory birds depends on it. To raise awareness in the locality, DENR-Centro Aparri and Haribon also conducted a learning session in three schools in Buguey, wherein grade school students learned about migratory birds and the importance of conserving their habitats. This learning session is part of a series of information and education campaigns led by Centro Aparri in preparation for the World Wetlands Day on February 2.

PRINCESS DEL CASTILLO



Members of Haribon Foundation conduct water bird census in the shoreline of Palau Island. HARIBON PHOTO



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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24 JAN 2019

DATE

4 miners die, 3 missing in Agusan del Norte landslide

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

BUTUAN CITY - Four miners died, three others were missing, while one survived when the makeshift hut where they were resting was hit by a landslide in Mount Manhupaw area located in the mountain municipal border of Santiago and Jabonga, in Agusan del Norte province.

The incident was reported to the regional command of Northeastern Mindanao Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) at Camp Col. Rafael C. Rodriguez here late Tuesday afternoon, as the incident area can only be reached after more than a day of walking as no transportation is available in the landslide area.

The identities of the four victims are still being gathered by the investigators of the Santiago Municipal Police Station (MPS). Families and relatives of the victims reportedly arrived in Santiago town to claim the bodies of their kin.

The identities of the three other missing miners are still not known as of press time.

Only the lone survivor of the incident, identified as a certain Allan Daging, a resident of Barangay Hinapuyan, Carmen, Surigao del Sur, is still recuperating at the Agusan del Norte Provincial Hospital at Barangay Libertad here where he was rushed after the landslide. Daging, however, could not give any details regarding the incident due to the severe injury he sustained.

In their initial report to PRO 13 Regional Director Chief Supt. Gilberto DC Cruz, the Agusan del Norte Police Provincial Office (PPO) and Santiago MPS said the victims, residents of Surigao del Sur, were allegedly involved in treasure hunting in Mount Manhupaw area.

The landslide happened on Sunday at the height of tropical depression "Amang."



HINDI SUPERMAN SI MAYOR ERAP

IMPOSSIBLE yata na balikating mag-isa ni Manila Mayor Joseph "Eráp" Estrada at isisi sa kanya ang problema sa mga tambak na basura at mabigat na daloy ng trapiko sa lungsod.

Ika nga natin, hindi naman "Superman" si Mayor Eráp para mag-isa niyang ayusin ito kaya, bilang isang Manileno, dapat nating pairalin ang tamang disiplina lalo na ang pagsunod sa simpleng ordinansa na ipinatutupad sa ating lungsod.

Hindi naman lingid sa ating kaalaman na mga kapwa ko Manileno, sa kabila ng pinaigting na clean-up operation ng Manila Task Force Clean-Up at ng Department of Public Services, may tambak ng basura pa rin sa ilang kalsada, kalye at eskinita..

Huwag nating ibuhos ang sisi sa ating alkalde dahil hindi naman lingid sa ating kaalaman na ginawa ni Mayor Eráp ang kanyang trabaho bilang Ama ng lungsod. Ang napapansin ko na problema, tayo mismong residente ng Maynila ang walang disiplina at walang tamang pagtatapon ng basura.

Simulan natin ito sa ating tahanan at sundin ang pinaairal na RA 90003 o "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000" na nagsasaad ng waste segregation scheme. Bago natin ilabas sa ating bahay ang ating mga basura, dapat na nating naihiwalay ang mga nabubulok sa hindi nabubulok na basura.

Sa oras na magawa natin ito, maaari nating i-recycle o ibenta ang mga maiipon nating plastic, bote, atbp. habang ang mga nabubulok ay maaaring gawing pataba o itapon sa tamang ba-



surahan na kokolektahin ng mga trak ng basura.

Simulan natin ito sa ating tahanan at sa ating barangay, mapapansin ninyong kaunti na lang ang basura na maitatapon at ma-rerecycle pa ang mga pwede pang mapakinabangan.

Sa daloy naman ng trapiko, makatutulong tayo sa ating lokal na pamahalaan basta't sumunod tayo sa mga simpleng batas trapiko, bukod pa ang pagpapairal ng ugaling Filipino tulad ng pagbibigayan sa daan at iwasan ang pagiging mainitin ang ulo.

Nagiging-sanhi rin ng trapiko ang mga pasaway na pedestrian dahil kahit may nakalaan ng "footbridge" para sa mga tumatawid, mas pinipili pa nilang makipag patintero sa mga sasakyan hanggang sa madisgrasya.

Matatandaang umapela si Mayor Eráp sa publiko, lalo na sa mga Manileno, na laging pairalin ang disiplina sa lahat ng oras. Simulan dapat ito sa loob ng bahay at ituro ito sa mga anak habang bata pa upang sa kanilang pagtanda ay bitbit nila ang magandang asal.



Environmental threats dominate global risks landscape

(First of two parts)

ENVIRONMENTAL threats dominate our global risks' landscape, according to the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2019. Other risks include economic vulnerabilities, geopolitical tensions, societal and political strains, and technological instabilities.

Global risk, as defined by the report, "is an uncertain event or condition that, if it occurs, can cause significant negative impact for several countries or industries within the next 10 years."

These environmental threats include extreme weather events (floods and storms, among others), failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation, major natural disasters (earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions, among others), man-made environmental damage and disasters (oil spills and radioactive contamination, among others), and biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse.

For the third year in a row, these environmental threats dominate the report accounting for three of the top five risks by likelihood and four of the top five by impact. Extreme weather is again out on its own as a high-likelihood, high-impact event.

Extreme weather events

The year 2018 was characterized with extreme heat, extreme cold, storms, floods, droughts and wildfires. "Of all risks, it is in relation to the environment that the world is most clearly sleepwalking into catastrophe," the report said. Even now, at 1 degree Celsius (C) of warming, the world's climate is already entering dangerous territory.

"Human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0 C of global warming above pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8 C to 1.2 C. Global warming is likely to reach 1.5 C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate," reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate



ALL ABOUT CHOICES

LUDWIG O. FEDERIGAN

Change (IPCC) in October 2018. We have 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe and make the drastic and unprecedented changes needed to prevent average global temperatures from rising beyond the Paris Agreement's 1.5-C target.

According to the data from the Centre of Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters based in Brussels, Belgium, in 2018 so far approximately 5,000 people died and 28.9 million needed emergency assistance or humanitarian aid because of extreme weather. Scientists say these types of events are becoming more frequent and intense as emissions rise and the planet heats up. "A warming Earth is continuing to send us new and more extreme weather events every year. The message of this science is that our civilization is increasingly out of sync with our changing climate," Jeff Rosenfeld, editor in chief of *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, said during the release of the research report titled "Explaining Extreme Events in 2017 from a Climate Perspective" in December 2018.

"Increasing levels of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are key drivers of climate change and atmospheric concentrations reflect a balance between emissions due to human activities and the net uptake by the biosphere and oceans," according to The State of the Global Climate in 2018 by the World Meteorological Organization. Further, a consortium of researchers known as the Global Carbon Project finds that global carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from burning fossil fuels are likely to have increased by about 2.7 percent in 2018, after a 1.6-percent increase in

2017. The rise comes after a three-year period in which emissions remained mostly flat — providing hope to some climate activists that global carbon emissions had reached their peak. The increases in 2017 and 2018 seem to suggest otherwise.

There seems to be some worry on environmental policy failure: having fallen in the rankings after Paris, "failure of climate-change mitigation and adaptation" jumped back to number two in terms of impact this year. And the most frequently cited risk interconnection was the pairing of "failure of climate-change mitiga-

tion and adaptation" and "extreme weather events."

Ten of the most expensive climate-change driven weather events of 2018, according to the report "Counting The Cost: A Year of Climate Breakdown" published by Christian Aid in December 2018, include hurricanes "Florence" and "Michael" in the United States; typhoon "Mangkhut" ("Ompong") in the Philippines and China; wildfires in California; droughts in Argentina, Australia, Europe and Cape Town, South Africa; and floods in China, Japan and Kerala, India. The executive summary concluded that "all of these disasters are linked with human-caused climate change. In some cases scientific studies have shown that climate change made the particular event more likely or stronger, for example with warmer oceans supercharging tropical storms. In other cases, the event was the result of shifts in weather patterns — like higher temperatures and reduced rainfall that made fires more likely — that are themselves consequences of climate change."

One of the strongest storms of recent years that hit the Philippines was typhoon Mangkhut that had gusts of up to 330 kilometer per hour and was the equivalent of a Category 5 hurricane. The typhoon killed 127 people in the Philippines and destroyed 10,000 homes (MapAction, 2018) with an estimated damage to agriculture and infrastructure in the Philippines of about \$644 million, according to the Philippines' National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council.



CONT: ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS NOMINATE GLOBAL RISKS LANDSCAPE

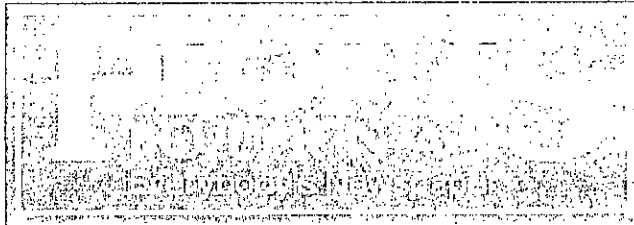
Storms like Mangkhut are made more destructive by climate change. Warmer atmospheres and seas increase wind speeds and rainfall levels (World Weather Attribution, 2018). Oceans are becoming steadily hotter, with global ocean heat content in recent years regularly breaking records. Two weeks ago, a study confirmed that the oceans are warming 40 percent faster than many scientists had previously estimated. By measuring the oceans more directly, scientists again came to a now-familiar conclusion: "Yes, things really are as bad as we feared" (Eric Holthaus, 2019). "Rising sea levels also mean that storm surges from tropical storms will cause increasing damage. Storms hitting the Northwest Pacific have increased in frequency and intensity over the last four decades, and storms in the region could increase in intensity by another 14 percent by the end of the century, with devastating impacts," the Christian Aid report said.

"The Global Risks Report demonstrates how high the stakes are — my hope is that this year's report will also help to build momentum behind the need to act," said Børge Brende, president of the World Economic Forum. "It begins with a sweep of the global risks landscape and warns of the danger of sleepwalking into crises. It goes on to consider a number of risks in depth: geopolitical and geo-economic disruptions, rising sea levels, emerging biological threats, and the increasing emotional and psychological strain that many people are experiencing," he continued.

* * *

The 14th Edition of The Global Risks Report is published by the World Economic Forum (WEF) with the Marsh & McLennan Companies and Zurich Insurance Group as strategic partners; and the National University of Singapore; Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford; and the Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center, University of Pennsylvania, as academic advisers.

The Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland is currently ongoing until the Jan. 25, 2019.



Mga puno sa Doña Carmen Park sa Q.C., sinira ng Maynilad

MAGKAIISA PARA SA BAYAN



ATTY. JAY DE CASTRO
NITONG nakaraang Oktubre 4, 2018 ay ipinagdiwang ng kapatirang Tau Gamma Phi (TGP) ang ika-50 taong anibersaryo nito sa pamamagitan ng pagtatanim ng 50 puno sa iba't ibang

bayan, syudad at probinsya sa buong Pilipinas.

Dito sa Quezon City, ang mga miyembro ng aming kapatiran sa ilalim ng Triskelio ng Council of Quezon City ay nagtanim ng 100 indigenous trees, tulad ng narra, yakal at maging mga puno ng manga sa Doña Carmen Park, East Fairview, Quezon City.

Kinunan namin ng larawan ang mga puno naming itinanim kasama ang president ng Doña Carmen Homeowners Association na si Engr. Flor Garcia.

Matapos ang aming pagtanim sa mga nasabing

puno, bilang adviser ng TGP, inutusan ko ang aming mga kasapi na balikan at bisitahin ang aming itinanim upang ito'y hindi masira at masiguro ang paglaki.

Ako mismo ay bumabalik sa Doña Carmen upang personal na makita at masiguro na walang sumisira sa aming mga itinanim.

Subalit nitong ikalawang linggo ng Enero, lakang sama ng loob ko sapagka't nakita kong ang mga puno na itinanim namin sa Doña Carmen Park ay wala na, sapagka't ang mga ito'y binunot at sinira ng Maynilad at con-

tractor nito na di-umano'y may project sa La Mesa Dam.

Ang mga punong mangga pa mismo na personal kong itinanim ang nakita kong wala na sa bahagi ng parke na aming tinamnan.

Dahil sa walang pakundangang pagsira ng Maynilad sa mga tinanim naming puno sa Doña Carmen, pinuntahan ko si Engr. Garcia sa kanilang tahanan at niyaya ko siyang tingnan ang bahagi ng parke kung saan sinira ng Maynilad at contractor nito ang mga punong aming itinanim.

Personal na nakita ni

Engr. Garcia ang lugar sa parke kung saan kaming dalawa mismo ang magkasamang nagtanim ng mga puno noong nasabing anibersaryo ng aming kapatiran.

Sa karatulang inilagay ng Maynilad na may nakalagay na logo ng MWSS ay nakasulat: "Permanent Restoration Works On-going. Appurtenance Installation /Replacement On-Going. Paumanhin sa abala. Salamat sa inyong pag-unawa. Maynilad Hotline 1626."

Nang tanungin ko si Engr. Garcia kung alam niya ang nasabing pagsira

at pagbunot sa mga punong aming itinanim ay sinabi niyang hindi.

Napag-alaman namin na wala palang project sa loob mismo ng Doña Carmen Park ang Maynilad. Ang mga puno rito ay sinira upang gawing paradahan ng mga truck at tambakan ng equipment ng contractor na nakakuha ng project sa La Mesa Dam at upang lagyan ng mga portable toilet para sa kanilang mga manggagawa.

Napakawalang pagpapahalaga sa kalikasan ng Maynilad at kung sino mang contractor nito na sumira sa mga nasabing

puno na aming itinanim.

Hindi man lang nila inisip na ang punong kanilang binunot at sinira ay nasa loob ng Doña Carmen Park, kaya't hindi nila dapat sinira.

Sa halip na manguna sa pangaingalaga ng kalikasan, ang Maynilad pa mismo ang nangunguna sa pagsira at paglapastangan rito.

Kinukunsinti nila ang kanilang mga contractor na wasakin ang kalikasan. Ang itinanim ng mga batang miyembro ng kapatiran ay kanilang sinisira.

Nakakahiya. Peste kayo sa kalikasan.