

DATE : 16 APR 2019

DAY : Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



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Bataan's Manila Bay coast 'clean' — DENR

By Butch Gunio

PILAR, Bataan—Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has declared three sitios here and Agwawan Beach in Barangay Sisiman in Mariveles town as “free for swimming” as he visited the province to monitor the implementation of the “Battle of Manila Bay” cleanup program.

Accompanied by Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Director Paquito Moreno and Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Raul Mamac, Cimatu inspected the coastline of Barangay Sisiman, Mariveles. Other local environment officers also joined the tour.

They said the fecal coliform level in the area dropped significantly to less than 10 most probable number (mpn). The normal coliform level is 100 mpn and below.

Cimatu commended the PENRO and

Mariveles local government's effort to rehabilitate the waters in Sisiman, as piggeries and sewers that were dumping wastes in the coastal water have already been removed.

Mamac had led DENR workers, barangay personnel, and volunteers in the successive cleanup of the Lucanin coastline.

Mariveles Vice Mayor Lito Rubia and other local officials also joined Cimatu in the inspection.

Bataan has a 77.79-kilometer stretch of Manila Bay, from the shores of Her-

mosa in the north of the province to Mariveles in the south.

Meanwhile, the seven oldest churches in this province have become yearly pilgrimage sites for busloads of visitors from various provinces in Luzon for their Visita Iglesia every Lenten Season.

These religious sites now collectively known as the 7 Pilgrim Churches can be found in seven out of 11 towns and a city in the peninsula.

Visita Iglesia is a Lenten tradition among the Catholic faithful where they visit seven churches to pray and reflect on the sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The devotees' first stop for their Visita Iglesia in Bataan is the 263-year-old St. Peter de Varona Church in the town of Hermosa, followed by the 309-year-old Virgen Milagrosa del Rosario Church in Orani and the 423-year-old St. Catherine of Siena Church in Samal. **With PNA**



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NCMF, sumuporta sa Pasig River rehab

Nagkasundo ang Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) at National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) para makiisa sa kampanya upang makontrol ang polusyon sa Ilog Pasig.

Pinangunahan ni PRRC Executive Director Jose Antonio "Ka Pepeton" E. Goitia at ni NCMF Secretary Saidamen B. Pangarungan ang paglagda sa memorandum of understanding.

"With the Memorandum of Understanding that we are about to approve, I foresee the dawning of a prosperous, peaceful and enduring community relationship among Christians and Muslims, a relationship characterized by fairness, industry, and synergy in all worthwhile endeavors," pahayag ni Goitia.

Ikinasa ang makasaysayang pagkakaisa ng PRRC at NCMF upang matiyak ng pamahalaan ang kapakanan ng komunidad ng mga Muslim nating kapatid, lalo na ang mga resettlement program simula sa unang bahagi ng operasyon hanggang sa tuluyang nailipat na ang mga ito, sa pangunguna ng PRRC at pakikipagtulungan ng National Housing Authority (NHA) at iba pang local inter-agency committee.

Ayon kay Pangarungan, titiyakin niyang makikipagtulungan ang lahat ng kanilang komunidad, na matatagpuan sa Pasig River System, kagaya ng Estero de Quiapo at Estero de San Miguel sa Maynila, upang makamit ang tunay na rehabilitasyon ng ilog.



Observe a trash-free Holy Week

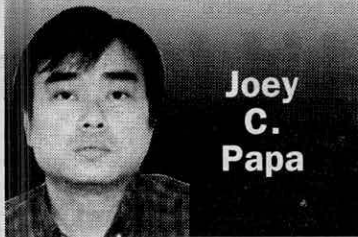
THE EcoWaste Coalition is calling on the Christian faithful to observe a greener Holy Week by helping prevent garbage and pollution.

"The Holy Week is a perfect time to reflect on our wastefulness that is consuming lots of finite resources and creating huge quantities of garbage that often end up in the streets, dumps and the oceans, or as feedstocks for cement kilns and incinerators," the group said.

Citing government estimates that 40,000 tons of garbage is generated per day throughout the country and that 9,872 tons of these are produced in Metro Manila alone, the group urged the faithful "to reflect on our wastefulness that is consuming lots of finite resources. . . . and ask all to perform acts of kindness and mercy toward Mother Earth," such as the following:

1. Abandon acts that defile and pollute the environment such as littering, dumping and burning of discards.
2. Keep all activities lead-safe: shun candles with lead-cored wicks and paints with lead content.
3. Cut emissions by taking public transport, biking or walking for the seven churches visitation, or Visita Iglesia, on Maundy Thursday.
4. Use recycled materials for the makeshift huts for the traditional Pa-

BANGON KALIKASAN



Joey
C.
Papa

basa (Reading of the Passion of Christ).

5. For the traditional giving or sharing of food called Caridad, shun disposable paper or plastic and opt for reusable containers.
6. Ensure a litter-free pilgrimage to the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Cathedral in Antipolo City, the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in San Jose del Monte City and other shrines.
7. Green the Via Crucis (Way of the Cross) by collecting litter along the way.
8. Decorate the floats for the Santo Entierro (Holy Interment) on Good Friday with energy-efficient and mercury-free LED lamps and with locally-produced flowers and plants.
9. Welcome the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday without lighting fire-crackers and fireworks and without releasing balloons.

10. Keep Easter fun games and activities for kids simple and not wasteful.

11. Donate used clothes and other items of service to the Segunda Mana charity program of Caritas Manila.

12. Quiet down and opt for "staycation" at home for a meaningful bonding time with family members.

13. For those going out of the city for their summer vacation, make your trip plastic-free, trash-free: "take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time."

I will add to that: avoid trash language.

The group brought up Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical on the environment "Laudato Si" in which he decried that "each year hundreds of millions of tons of waste are generated, much of it non-biodegradable, highly toxic and radioactive, from homes and businesses, from construction and demolition sites, from clinical, electronic and industrial sources."

"As faith without works is dead," the EcoWaste Coalition added, "we ask all to perform acts of mercy and kindness toward Mother Earth that will prevent and reduce the generation of wastes and other pollutants, especially during the holy days and beyond."

(bangonkalikasan@yahoo.com)



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BATANGAS MAYOR SINILIP SA QUARRYING

NASA mainit na kalagayan ang alkalde ng Lian, Batangas na si Mayor Isagani Bolumpo matapos maghayag ng saloobin ang mga residente ng Lian Batangas ukol sa mga nagaganap na illegal quarry operations at hindi makatwirang paniningil ng P25 environmental fee sa lahat ng nagpupunta sa kanilang beaches.

Ito ay makaraang kwestyunin ng grupo ang iginawad na development permit ng alkalde sa ilang korporasyon kahit wala naman itong environmental compliance certificate.

Ayon kay Dennis Ilagan, tumatayong representante ng mga magsasaka, nakipagsabwatan ang alkalde sa ilang negosyante upang mai-develop

ang ekta-ektaryang lupain na pag-aari ng daan-daang magsasaka.

"Dinedevelop nila na walang environmental compliance certificate pero meron sila Mayor's permit...Illegal nya ibinigay ang permit kasi walang ECC, walang conversion, wala ring HULRB pero meron silang development permit," diin ni Ilagan.

Ibinigay anya ang permit sa kabila ng kanilang babala dahil nanalo na ang mga magsasaka sa kaso at naglabas ng order ang DAR na ang lupain ay pag-aari ng mga magsasaka.

"Sinabi na namin na huwag bigyan ng permit kasi we won the case in 2016, binigyan pa rin nila because of money and we know that kasi nagsasalita

ang mga konsehal na nakatanggap sila," dagdag pa nito.

Noong Enero 21, naglabas ng cease and desist order ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources upang itigil ng kompanya ang development project.

Ito ay dahil sa paglabag sa Republic Act 7492 o Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

"In view hereof, you are hereby issued this Cease and Desist Order to immediately refrain from such illegal operation and non-compliance with this Order shall compel this office to file appropriate charges against you in accordance with the pertinent provisions of the existing mining and environmental law, rules and regulations" saad sa kautusan ng DENR. **RNT**



Sa Lian, Batangas

MAYOR INIREKLAMO VS DEV'T PERMIT NA WALANG ECC

HATAW News Team

NASA mainit na kalagayan ngayon ang alkalde ng Lian Batangas na si Mayor Isagani Bolumpo matapos maghayag ng saloobin ang mga residente ng Lian, Batangas ukol sa mga nagaganap na illegal quarry operations at hindi makatuwirang paniningil ng P25 environmental fee sa lahat ng nagpupunta sa mga dalampasigan na kanilang nasasakupan.

Ito ay makaraang kuwestiyonin ng grupo ang iginawad na development permit ng alkalde sa ilang korporasyon kahit walang environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

Ayon kay Dennis Ilagan, tumatayong kinatawan ng mga magsasaka, nakipagsabwatan si Mayor Bolumpo sa ilang negosyante upang 'makopo' ang ekta-ektaryang lupain na pag-aari ng daan-daang magsasaka.

"Idine-develop nila na walang ECC (environmental compliance certificate) pero mayroon silang Mayor's permit... illegal na ibinigay ang permit kahit walang ECC, walang conversion, wala rin HULRB pero may development permit," diin ni Ilagan.

Ibinigay aniya ang permit sa kabila ng kanilang babala dahil nanalo ang mga magsasaka sa kaso at naglabas ng order ang DAR na ang lupain ay pag-aari ng

mga magsasaka.

"Sinabi na namin na huwag bigyan ng permit kasi we won the case in 2016, binigyan pa rin nila because of money and we know that kasi nagsasalita ang mga konsehal na nakatanggap umano sila," dagdag ng lider.

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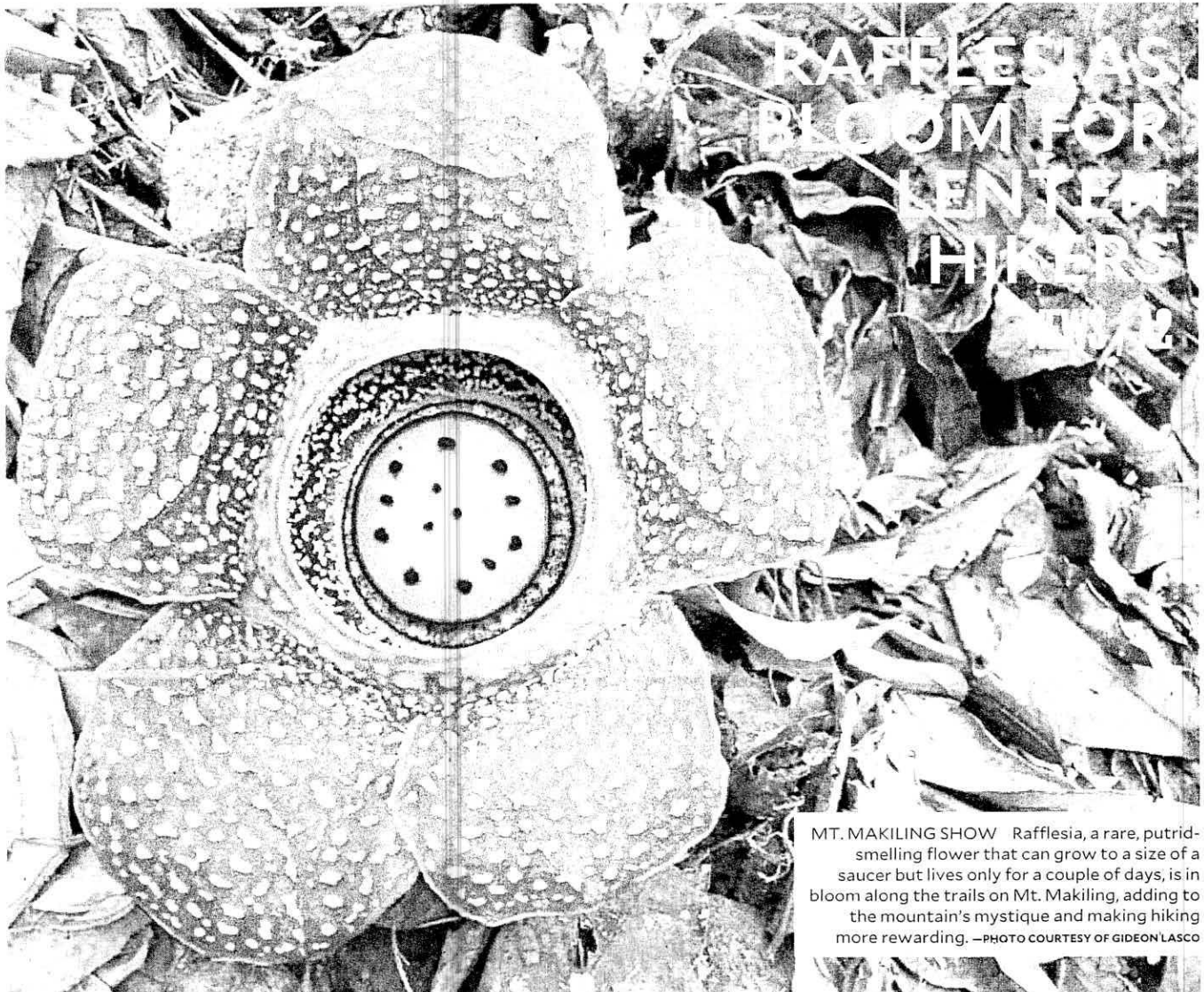


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RAFFLESIA'S BLOOM FOR LENTEN HIKERS

MT. MAKILING SHOW Rafflesia, a rare, putrid-smelling flower that can grow to a size of a saucer but lives only for a couple of days, is in bloom along the trails on Mt. Makiling, adding to the mountain's mystique and making hiking more rewarding. —PHOTO COURTESY OF GIDEON LASCO



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Rafflesia blooms greet Lent hikers

By Maricar Cinco
@maricarcincoINQ

As if conquering Mt. Makiling's peaks is not rewarding enough, hikers return to the trails through the tropical rainforest in Los Baños, Laguna province, to catch the "elusive" *Rafflesia* in bloom.

Commonly called the "malaboô," *Rafflesia* is a parasitic plant that grows within the body of the *Tetrastigma* vine.

Its flower, the world's largest, belongs to the *Rafflesia arnoldii* species as it could grow to as much as 1.5 meters in diameter, and blooms only from February to June.

Each flower lives for only a couple of days, though.

"They say it blooms these months, but we're not even sure when exactly," said Gideon Lasco, a medical anthropologist and hiker.

In recent weeks, however, several *Rafflesia* flowers, particularly those of *Rafflesia lagascae* (synonymous to *Rafflesia panchoana*) that is found on Makiling, were sighted by some along the trail.

Luck

The flowers were found close to the trail's jump-off point on the campus of the College of Forestry of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

Lasco said his group saw at least seven during a hike last week.

About 4,000 hikers climb Makiling, a 9-kilometer trek (average of four hours) during Holy Week.

Roberto Cereno, director of the UPLB Training Center for Tropical Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, encourages hikers to bring cameras as the *Rafflesia* is "in its annual grandeur."

People say it's luck when they come across the rare flower.

"I have friends hiking on Sunday just to see the *Rafflesia*," Lasco said in a phone interview on Monday.

He said he himself grew up in Los Baños but never saw one on Makiling until recently.

'Scientific penitence'

Even UPLB scientists are taking advantage of the *Rafflesia* bloom, calling their hikes to observe the flower a part of their "scientific penitence."

Ireneo L. Lit Jr. and Aimee Lynn B. Dupo, curators of the UPLB Museum of Natural History, say it's a penitence because not enough research is being done to know the floral biology of *Rafflesias*, especially on Mt. Makiling.

R. lagascae is one of the 14 *Rafflesia* species known in the Philippines, according to Lit.

It is endemic to the Philippines, although its DNA and other data gathered so far showed it is "most widely dis-

tributed" in Luzon.

Saucer size

A bloom of Makiling's *Rafflesia* can grow to a size of a saucer, Lit said. But the ones which Lasco, for instance, saw in Iloilo and Mindanao, were as big as a plate.

But what is notable among *Rafflesia* flowers is the presence of flies.

"Scientists, and even hikers, have observed since the early 1990s that flies are present on the blooming malaboô," Lit says.

People have also observed the flower's scent as something close to "decaying meat or putrescent fish."

Scientists say the scent attracts carrion flies, which in turn pollinate the flowers.

Seven fly species

An article of Lit's account of at least seven fly species that commonly "visit" *Rafflesia* was published in the scientific journal *The Philippine Entomologist*.

"We do really hope to learn more about the ecology of the malaboô . . . Spread the word that not all things with flies are rotten," Lit said.

Lasco, who reminded hikers not to touch or pick the *Rafflesias*, said he hoped the "interest" could trigger an advocacy to preserve natural heritage. INQ



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MAKILING COME-ON A flowering Rafflesia appears along the hiking trails of Mt. Makiling in Los Baños, Laguna province, this Lenten season. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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PANGINGISDA NG TAWILIS PAPAYAGAN NA SA MAYO

BUBUKSAN na ang pangangisda ng tawilis sa Taal Lake pagpasok ng buwan ng Mayo.

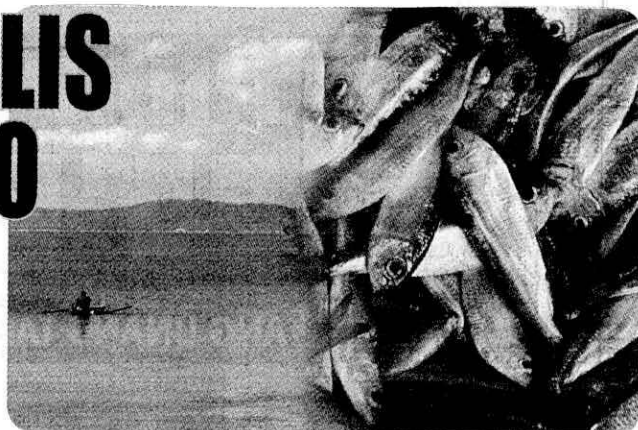
Ayon kay Director Wilfredo Cruz ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources sa Calabar-

zon, matatapos na sa Mayo ang pangangitlog ng tawilis na nasa kasagsagan tuwing Marso at

Abril.

Tiniyak ni Cruz na mahigpit na nilang binabantayan ang kalidad ng tubig sa Taal Lake upang maparaming muli ang populasyon ng tawilis at mailigtas ang mga ito sa tuluyang pagkaubos.

Ang tawilis ang tanging freshwater sardine sa buong mundo at matatagpuan lamang ito sa



Taal Lake.

Una nang inilagay ng International Union for

the Conservation of Nature ang tawilis sa talaan ng endangered species

matapos bumagsak ng limampung porsiyento ang populasyon nito.



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Laggard ERC sparks outages

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PSA shelved, move slowly

The 27 PSA have undergone hearings but are still without ERC decision with contracted capacity of about 2,050 MW where 2,000 MW are in Luzon

**By Alvin Murcia
and Kristina Maralit**

The intermittent power outages affecting Metro Manila and some parts of Luzon the past few days could have been avoided had the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) acted with a sense of purpose in resolving power supply agreement (PSA)

petitions.

ERC data showed that eight PSA are under process since 2016 that would have provided 1,802 megawatts (MW) of additional electricity to Luzon, while 27 similar deals are undergoing public hearings that has 2,051 MW potential electricity supply.

In total, the pending PSA could have added 3,853 MW

to the power grid that far exceed the 1,500 MW highest supply shortfall during peak demand period.

The volume of electricity in the ERC pipeline is equivalent to electricity supplied by 10 major power plants.

Industry officials said the increasing number of unscheduled power plant outages

may indicate that most plants had become old and unreliable, with 70 percent of them at least 15 years old.

The 27 PSA have undergone hearings, but are still without ERC decision, with contracted capacity of about 2,050 MW where 2,000 MW are in Luzon.

PSA whose proceedings have been suspended involved generating companies (gencos) that had yet to secure environmental compliance

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No lights out Department of Energy officials led by Undersecretary Felix William Fuentesbella (center) gave the public an assurance of earnest efforts being done by government to prevent widespread and long outages during the main Easter season and in the critical election period next month. AL PADILLA



'Water is Life' camp

The Climate Science Youth Camp (CSYC), one of the science promotion projects of the Department of Science and Technology-Science Education Institute (DoST-SEI), tackles the theme: H2O: Highlands to Oceans "Water is Life" on 24 April to 3 May at the Island Garden City of Samal, Davao del Norte.

The basic concepts of the hydrological cycle and climate change will be taught using fun, interactive learning modules.

The participants – 40 high school students and 20 science teachers from various high schools in Region XI (Compostela Valley, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Occidental, Davao Oriental and Davao City) – will experience "camp life" in the hills and beaches of the island while learning about the hydrological cycle and climate change.

The basic concepts of the hydrological cycle and climate change will be taught using fun, interactive learning modules prepared by some of the country's top young scientists

from the University of the Philippines-Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) and the National Institutes of Geological Sciences (NIGS) who will also act as camp facilitators.

Topics ranging from basic properties of water to global distribution of water, tracing the water cycle and watersheds, as well as issues in climate change such as the climate of the Philippines and global warming, will be emphasized in the event. Participants will undertake actual community-based research, make their own assessments and formulate recommendations on possible measures for disaster mitigation and adaptation purposes based on the knowledge they gained from the camp.

DoST-SEI director Dr. Josette Biyo is confident that CSYC will once again contribute to SEI's vision of developing a pool of highly competitive S&T workforce in the country.

"The science camp perfectly complements our S&T scholarship programs. It's always a delight to see our students' interest in science ignited after their immersion in the camp and to see them inspired in starting their S&T careers with the challenges of their own communities on top of their minds,"

Dr. Biyo said.

Since its 2013 run, the science camp has been bridging the basics of climate science and the technology of hazards assessment and reduction with the concepts of innovation and leadership among public high school students.

ADC





Earth Day Jam 2019

concert advocates wildlife preservation

By **STEPHANIE MARIE BERNARDINO**

Pop rock musician-turned-environmentalist Lou Bonnevie promises feel-good trip down memory lane at “Earth Day Jam 2019” on April 26 at Tomas Morato Circle, Quezon City.

The founder and chairman of Earth Day Jam Foundation said that they celebrate the 19th anniversary of the “biggest free musical tribute to Mother Earth” at the venue more than a decade since they last performed there, particularly on the streets of Scout Madriñan and Scout Borromeo.

This year’s Earth Day Jam theme is wildlife preservation. Throughout the show the guest performers would

talk briefly about issues affecting wildlife animals as climate change, habitat loss, animal trafficking and poaching, unsustainable agriculture, pollution and pesticides.

The performers this year are Abra, Autotelic, Chicosci, Gracenote, Itchy-

worms, Kjwan, Lou, Mayonnaise, Moonstar88, Noel Cabangon, Nyoy Volante, PI Jazzfest, Rouge, Sandwich, Tanya Markova, The Joyrides, and more.

“Earth Day Jam” will also have interactive contests where informa-

tive topics on the environment will be given. There will also be art sessions, film showing, and recyclable trading wherein concertgoers could exchange a kilogram of PET bottles (bottles made of polyethylene terephthalate) for reusable water bottle. The last

activity is part of Quezon City Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department’s advocacy to reduce plastic use.

The Gaia Awards, with the trophy designed by sculptor Agnes Arellano, will be held there too. Recognitions will be given to environmental luminaries, to foundations, and to most environment-friendly artists. This year’s recipients are Former President of the Philippine

Rural Reconstruction Movement and

President of Earth Day Network Philippines late Isagani R. Serrano and Goldman Prize winner Von Hernandez; Foundation for the Philippine Environment, Winner Foundations, and Forest Foundation Philippines; Moonstar88 and Mayonnaise, respectively.

Asked how her advocacy for the environment started, Lou said it began with music.

“I was influenced greatly by a lot of artists from the ’70s who write songs with meaning and purpose,” she told **Bulletin Entertainment**. “I ended up realizing that if there is something I should prioritize in my career, it has to be bigger than Lou Bonnevie.”

The artist added: “And I think taking care of the world and the Philippines — our place; our home — is much bigger than Lou Bonnevie. I’m glad to give to something worth it.”