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**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**



# Water hyacinth: Bane or boon?

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

**W**ITH the onset of the rainy season, the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) is anticipating anew the proliferation of water hyacinth, an invasive alien plant species, which usually covers the surface of large water bodies like the Laguna de Bay and Pasig River.

A free-floating perennial aquatic plant native to tropical and subtropical South America, water hyacinth is considered a pesky plant, especially because of its broad, thick, glossy ovate leaves that sometimes rise above the surface of the water as much as 1 meter.

As the plant has now started to spread across the Pasig River all the way from Laguna de Bay, also known as Laguna Lake, the feeling of anxiety persists.

The penetration of water hyacinth into Pasig River is an indication that the water level in Laguna Lake is getting higher than Manila Bay's mean sea level (MSL).

This is expected because the Pasig River is a tidal estuary, which means that the flow of its direction depends on the water level difference between Manila Bay and Laguna de Bay.

During the dry season, the water level in Laguna de Bay, the country's largest freshwater lake is low, with the river's flow direction dependent on the tides.

But come June, with the onset of the wet season, when the water level of Laguna de Bay rises, the flow is reversed toward Manila Bay.

## Algal bloom

AT the same time, besides water hyacinth infestation, the natural beauty of Laguna de Bay, has been marred lately by algal bloom—a rapid increase in the algae population in freshwater systems.

There are two telltale signs of an algal bloom gone wild: one, the discoloration of the water from their pigments, turning it to mossy green; and two, the foul odor wafting from the lake, reaching as far as the posh, gated villages in Barangay Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

The city of Muntinlupa has released a health advisory: The presence of "liya" in Laguna de Bay is a natural part of the aquatic ecosystem and is not a threat to public health.

Wilfredo Pereyra, Lake Guard of the Muntinlupa Lake Management Office (MLMO) in Barangay Bayanan, said they hope the southwest monsoon will come soon so the rains can sweep away the algal bloom that has been dried up by the long summer.

Wilfredo and his team from MLMO take turns cleaning their side of the lake of water hyacinth and other garbage covered with dried green algae.

He said the right amount of algae can serve as food for the fish.

He said: "The liya does not affect the taste of the fish, it remains fresh. Look, we're having it for lunch now."

Still, some fishermen in the area would rather harvest their fish early, to avoid a fishkill.

Prices of fish have gone down as people become more picky with buying it.

Fish vendor Imelda Eborda said the price of fish she sells has gone down because of the smell.

"Some people are afraid to buy fish because they worry it might have a bad taste," she said.

The result of that caution: before, people usually buy 5 kilograms of tilapia in one trip to the fish market. Now, they buy only 1 kg.

Residents in the area also hope the rains would come soon—to wash away not only the algal bloom, but the worries of the vendors and fishermen, as well.

## Managing water hyacinths

TO address the problems brought about by the proliferation of water hyacinth in the Pasig River, the PRRC has reactivated its special task force and issued a statement allaying fears brought about by the creeping of the water hyacinth all over the Pasig River.

"We would like to educate the public that water hyacinth is a blessing from God. We use them in removing heavy metals from the Pasig River and its tributaries," PRRC Executive Director Jose Antonio "Pepeton" E. Goitia said in a statement.

According to Goitia, water hyacinth can be managed, and in fact, provide livelihood opportunities for communities near Pasig River.

Its stems are used as raw materials for handloom weaving livelihood program of the PRRC.

"We use them [water hyacinths] as raw materials in our handloom weaving livelihood program. We help poor families in Baseco [Bata-



Water hyacinth: Bane or boon?

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an Shipping and Engineering Co. in Manila's Port Area] convert water hyacinth into table runners, fans, slippers and bracelets," he added.

In fact, the PRRC is more concerned of the huge volume of garbage flowing into the Pasig River from Manila Bay says Goitia.

### Harvesting

ALYSSA CHRIZELLE N. MICLAT, PRRC's information officer III, said since the task force's revival on June 1, monitoring and harvesting of the invasive plant in Pasig River has began.

Good quality plants that will be harvested will be brought to Baseco for processing, while those that are of poor quality will be properly disposed of, she said.

Miclat also said she suggested to do an accounting of daily harvest as a step in building a data base.

In the past two months that the lake level in Laguna fell below the MSL, PRRC has hurdled controlling, not the intrusion of the seawater, but the backflow of more than 300,000 kilograms of garbage from Manila Bay.

This, Miclat said, is because harvesting goes on daily.

PRRC is a government agency conferred by the International River Foundation with the Inaugural Asia River Prize, the highest award for river restoration efforts in the Asia Pacific.

### Invasive alien species

WATER hyacinth infestation of water bodies is dreaded not only in the Philippines but in other Southeast Asian countries, said Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim.

"Since it is not native in Asean, its invasiveness is also creating problems in other natural water bodies in the region, such as in the Mekong river," Lim said.

"Water hyacinth is not a native species. It was introduced in the Philippines. Originally, it can be seen in Brazil and other countries in South America," said Lim, a former director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources's Biodiversity Management Bureau.

"It is an invasive alien species in the Philippines. Ideally speaking, it should have no advantage to the natural ecosystems in the Philippines. But the condition of our waterways is no longer the same as it was, say, a hundred years ago," she said.

According to Lim, water hyacinth can filter impurities in the water so they can be useful in helping cleanup polluted waterways.

However, Lim cautioned that water hyacinth can be a pollutant and pest plant, with all the dirt and toxins it absorbs plus its ability to over grow and clog tributaries and water inlets and outlets, ways should be found to manage them.

Hence, Lim said other uses of water hyacinth should be explored and be promoted so that there is a motivation for its harvesting to control its growth.

She said the same strategy being adopted by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to control knife and janitor fish populations in Laguna de Bay might work—such as for raw materials for handicrafts, like bags and slippers.

According to Lim, what makes the plant pesky is that they compete with other natural freshwater vegetation, and if it starts covering the entire surface of the body of water, it can choke out the oxygen, which means bad news for the fish and other aquatic life. *With a report by Nonie Reyes*

**THE Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission river warriors remove heavy metals and other solid waste suspended in the water hyacinth floating wetland, a phytoremediation system to improve the water quality of Estero de Binondo. PRRC PHOTO**





# Longer water service interruptions as allocations reduced further

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has further reduced water allocation to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS)'s concessionaires after Angat Dam's water level yesterday dropped below the critical 160-meter mark.

Dam information update provided

by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) showed that as of 6 a.m. yesterday, the dam's water level was 159.78 meters or 0.5 meter less than Friday's 160.28 meters.

NWRB executive director Sevilla David said the allocation for Metro Manila's water concessionaires is now 36 cubic meters per second (CMS), 4

CMS less than the previous allocation of 40 CMS.

"So the 36 CMS allocation for Maynilad and Manila Water is now effective. At the same time, the Angat Dam Low Level Outlet (LLO) is now operational," David added.

The NWRB said it has placed the dam on LLO mode, which involves

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opening the dam's bottom channel.

"We have to monitor developments next week until July since it is expected that rains will come," David said. "The decision if there will be further reduction in water allocation from the 36 CMS being implemented now will depend if there will be rains in the next couple of weeks."

The insufficient rainfall over Angat watershed is compounded by the monsoon breaks, which PAGASA said is a shift between weather systems that results in short breaks to no rainfall for several days or weeks.

The 4 CMS reduction translates to a deficiency of 350 million liters per day equivalent to

the daily water consumption of almost 700,000 people.

Manila Water said it is constrained to effect a new scheme of rotational water service interruptions for the entire east zone at an average of 12 to 17 hours per day.

"These are being implemented to equitably distribute the limited supply to all customers so that they will have at least several hours of water from their taps during the day to allow them to store water," Manila Water corporate communications head Jeric Sevilla said.

Manila Water added that while the latest schedule of water service interruptions took effect yesterday, fine-tuning of operations may take around three

days from reduction of supply to be able to achieve greater accuracy and reliability of published schedules, as the distribution of limited water supply needs to be balanced across the entire east zone.

The rotational water service interruption may be implemented until a sustainable safe water level in Angat Dam is achieved, Sevilla said.

He added that Manila Water will continue to provide regular updates regarding changes to the schedule of rotational water supply in the east zone.

The cut in water allocation is said to affect 80 percent of Manila Water's customers in the east zone and 75 percent of the customer base of west zone concessionaire Maynilad.

The water in Angat Dam, which supplies 96 percent of

Metro Manila's tap water needs for its 12.8 million residents, comes from the watershed's river basin that straddles the towns of Doña Remedios Trinidad, Norzagaray and San Jose Del Monte in Bulacan.

As this developed, senators are seeking an explanation from officials of the MWSS and the two concessionaires why they have failed to make sufficient preparations for the reduced water supply in Angat Dam.

Sen. Grace Poe, who led the inquiry into the recent water shortage in Metro Manila as chair of the public services committee, lamented that the water crisis appeared to have worsened despite lessons learned as well as assurances from the MWSS and its concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad.

- With Paolo Romero



# Angat Dam breaches 160-meter critical level

By **ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ**

The Angat Dam, which is Metro Manila's main supply of water, has breached its 160-meter critical level for domestic water supply on Saturday morning, prompting the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) to further reduce allocation sourced from the reservoir to 36 cubic meters per second (cms) from 40 cms, previously.

Based on the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration's (PAGASA) monitoring as of 6 a.m. Saturday, the water level at Angat Dam has further declined, hitting past its critical mark for domestic supply at 159.78 meters.

NWRB Executive Director Sevilla David Jr. said they are now implementing additional cut in the water allocation for Metro Manila's domestic water requirements, which is being sourced from Angat Dam.

From the previous 40 cubic meters per second (cms), water allocation is now down to 36 cms, which translates to a deficiency of 345 million liters per day.

Earlier, Manila Water pointed out that the 4 cms additional reduction in water allocation is already equivalent to the consumption of almost 700,000 consumers per day.

The current water allocation "will continue until rains will pour into the Angat watershed that could result in

increase of the level of the dam," David said.

"We will closely monitor the level of the dam as well as the (PAGASA) climate projections to determine possible adjustments for July," he added.

PAGASA has officially declared the start of rainy season in the country last June 14 but sufficient rain remains elusive in watershed areas.

The whole country, except Caraga and Davao regions, will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers due to localized thunderstorms this weekend, the weather bureau said.

While rainfall activity remains low over Luzon and Visayas, some parts of Mindanao are experiencing rain showers and thunderstorms due to the extension or trough of a low pressure area (LPA).

According to PAGASA weather specialist Meno Mendoza, the advancing clouds of the LPA will bring cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms over Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Compostela Valley, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Davao del Sur and Davao Occidental.

The LPA, which was estimated about 1,220 kilometers east of Mindanao around 2 a.m. Saturday, is still outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR).

Mendoza said the LPA will likely enter the PAR on Sunday, but may not make landfall over any part of the country.



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## Be warned: you'll have less water

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) further reduced water allocation to MWSS and its concessionaires by four cubic meters per second (cms), from 40 to 36 cms.

This was brought about by the continued depletion of the Angat Dam water level which has already breached the critical 160-meter mark as of yesterday.

The additional four cms reduction

translates to a deficiency of 350 million liters per day (mld) equivalent to the daily water consumption of almost 700,000 people.

Manila Water is therefore constrained to enforce a new scheme of rotational water service interruptions for the entire East Zone at an average of 12 to 17 hours per day.

These are being implemented to equitably distribute the limited supply to

all customers so that they will have at least several hours of water coming from their taps during the day to allow them to store for their needs.

While the latest schedule of water service came into effect yesterday, fine tuning of operations may take around three days from reduction of supply to be able to achieve greater accuracy and reliability of published schedules.

**Alvin Murcia**

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## Water lack to hit 7M users, Angat level

### critically low

ALL 6.8 million customers of Manila Water will be affected by a water shortage that may last for 17 hours daily, as water level at the Angat Dam had dropped below the critical level on Saturday.

Manila Water spokesman Jeric Sevilla said rotational service disruption would include "100 percent" of its customers,

regardless of their location.

Last Friday, the water concessionaire announced the implementation of the water interruption schedule for Saturday.

The water crisis will also affect customers of Maynilad, which would also impose its own service interruption schedule.

Residents of Metro Manila and the

provinces of Rizal and Cavite will have no water for 7 to 17 hours because the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) had further reduced the amount of water to be released for the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

From 40 cubic meters per second (cms), the MWSS is now getting 36 cms.

Sevilla said its customers would feel the reduced water allocation.

Some customers would experience longer water interruptions, from the previous 8 to 12 hours to 12 to 17 hours a day, he added.

Sevilla also said Manila Water needed

three days to shorten the service-disruption period.

He explained that most of Manila Water's pipelines lie on rolling terrains where the pipes were structured upward.

The water level at Angat Dam reached 159.58 meters on Saturday, which is lower than the critical level of 160 meters.

Jennifer Rufo, Maynilad Corp. Communications head, said Cavite province would be most affected and might experience water service interruption lasting for several hours.

Rufo added that Maynilad had deployed mobile tankers and stationary water tanks to augment water supply in some areas.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said the minimum operating water level of the Angat Dam is 180 meters.

NWRB Executive Director Sevilla David said the water interruptions could last until July or until heavy rains fall over the dams.

**FRANCIS EARL CUETO  
AND JAIME R. PILAPIL**



## WATER FIRMS RESORT TO SERVICE CUTS

WATER allocation for Metro Manila and its environs has been reduced from 40 cubic meters per second to 36 CMS as the water level at Angat Dam continues to plunge, the National Water Resources Board announced Saturday.

Jeric Sevilla Jr., a spokesperson of Manila Water, one of the concessionaires of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, said the company had been constrained to adopt rotation of water to its customers for the entire East Zone at an average of 12 to 17 hours per day.

The additional four CMS reduction translates to a deficiency of 350 million liters per day (MLD), equivalent to the daily water consumption of almost 700,000 people.

Sevilla said water level at Angat Dam had breached the critical 160-meter mark as of June 22.

While the latest schedule of water service interruptions is effective June 22, fine-tuning of operations may take around three days.

The rotational water service interruption is undertaken until a sustainable safe water level in the Angat Dam is achieved.

Sevilla said Manila Water would continue to provide regular updates regarding any changes to the schedule of rotational water supply in the East Zone. *Turn to A2*

Maynilad, on the other zone, said it was "constrained to implement new rotational water service interruptions, throughout our concession area to maximize the limited supply and ensure that all customers will have some water supply daily," the company said in a statement.

In a statement, Maynilad said "Our customers in portions of Brgys. Bagbag (Callejon Compound), Bagong Silangan, Batasan Hills, Commonwealth, Holy Spirit, Nagkaisang Nayon, Payatas, San Bartolome, Sauyo, Talipapa and Ugong, Quezon City will have low pressure to no water supply daily, starting June 22 between 04:00 pm and 05:00 am (next day) until rains replenish the Angat Dam, and allocation for Maynilad is restored."

Maynilad said customers should store water when available.

"We apologize for the inconvenience," it said.

Maynilad customers in Cavite, meanwhile, will be most affected and may experience water service interruption lasting several hours, Jennifer Rufo, Maynilad corporate communications head, said in an interview, heard nationwide, on Dobol B sa News TV on Saturday.

NWRB director Sevillo David said the NWRB had yet to determine how much longer residents in Metro Manila would have to experience service interruptions due to the low water supply. **PNA**





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## Interruption ng tubig dadalas

By JUN LEGASPI

ASAHAN pa ang mas madalas na water interruption matapos bawasan ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ang alokasyon nito sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) at sa kanilang concessionaires na Maynilad at Manila Water dahil sa pagsadsad sa critical level ng imbak na tubig sa Angat Dam.

Ayon kay NWRB Executive Director Seville David, binawasan nila ng four cubic meters kada segundo ang alokasyon sa tubig o mula sa 40 CMS sa 36 CMS na.

Aniya, magtatagal ang water interruption hanggang Hulyo o hangga't wala pang dumarating na mga pag-ulan para maibalik sa normal ang water level sa Angat Dam.

Tiniyak naman ni David na sapat pa ang supply ng tubig hanggang Hulyo at kanila itong pinangangasiwaan sa pamamagitan ng pagbabawas ng water allocation.

Kasunod nito, muling nagpaalala si David sa mga consumers na magtipid sa tubig at ipunin ng mabuti ang mga tubig na makokolekta mula sa mga manakanakang pag-ulan sa Metro Manila.



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# PAGBAWAS SA ALOKASYON NG TUBIG PATULOY

**I**PINATUPAD kahapon, araw ng Sabado, ang kargadagang pagbabawas sa alokasyon ng tubig na nanggagaling sa Angat

dam matapos itong umabot sa critical level.

Ayon kay Dr. Seville David Jr., executive director ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB)

dakong alas-6 ng umaga ay 159.78 metro ang level ng tubig sa dam, na ibig sabihin ay patuloy siyang bumababa kaya ang pagbabawas natin ng alokas-

Ang normal na alokasyon mula sa Angat dam patungong Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) at concessionaires nito ay 46 cubic meters per second.

Nitong mga nakaraang araw, 40 cubic meters per second na lang kaya hindi na normal ang serbisyo ng water supply sa Metro Manila.

Sa panibagong pagbabawas sa alokasyon na 36 cubic meters per second, inaasahang magkakaroon ng panibagong pagbabago sa serbisyo at posibleng dumami pa ang mga lugar na maaaring maapektuhan ng hindi normal na supply ng tubig.

Dahil dito ay suspendido ang pagbibigay

ng alokasyon para sa irigasyon ng mga magsasaka sa Bulacan at Pampanga dahil priority sa pagkaloob ng supply ang mga kabahayan.

Umaabot sa 0.4 meters hanggang 0.5 meters ang pagbaba ng tubig sa Angat dam kada araw lalo na't wala pang pag-ulan para mapunan muli ito.

Ang pinakamababang antas ng lebel ng tubig na inabot ng Angat dam ay noong taong 2010 na panahon din ng El Niño.

Halos 96 porsiyento ng tubig sa Metro Manila ay sa Angat nanggagaling.

Ipinapayo naman ang pagtitipid at pag-recycle ng tubig.



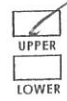
Angat dam

yon mula 40 cubic meters per second hanggang 36

cubic meters per second simula kahapon.



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## Tubig sa Angat Dam "below critical level" na

MAS bumaba pa mula sa critical level ang antas ng tubig sa Angat Dam.

Sa huling pagtaya kaha-po ng alas-6:00 ng umaga, nasa 159.58 meters ang water level ng dam.

Mas mababa ito sa critical level na 160 meters.

Dahil dito, sinabi ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na mas ba-

bawasan pa nila ang alokasyon na sinu-supply sa Metro Manila mula sa Angat Dam.

Sinabi ni Maynilad Corporation Communication head Jennifer Rufo na pangunahing maapektuhan ng kakapusan ng tubig ang lalawigan ng Cavite na makararanas ng mas mababang water interruption.



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## Angat Dam breaches 160-meter critical level

The Angat Dam, which is Metro Manila's main water supplier, breached its 160-meter critical level for domestic water supply yesterday morning, prompting the National Water Resources Board to further reduce allocation sourced from the reservoir to 36 cubic meters per second from 40 cms.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration monitoring as of 6 a.m. yesterday bared the water level at Angat Dam further declined and hit its critical mark for domestic supply at 159.78 meters.

NWRB Executive Director Sevilla David Jr. said they are now implementing additional reduction in the water allocation for Metro Manila's domestic water requirements which is being sourced from Angat Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

From the previous 40 cms, water allocation is now down to 36 cms, which translates to a deficiency of 345 million liters per day.

Manila Water had earlier pointed out that the four cms additional reduction in water allocation is equivalent to the consumption of almost 700,000 consumers per day.

The current water allocation "will continue until rains will pour into the Angat watershed that could result in increase of the level of the dam," David said. "We will closely monitor the level of the dam as well as the climate projections to determine possible adjustments for July," he added.

PAGASA officially declared the start of rainy season in the country last June 14 but sufficient rain remains elusive in watershed areas.

The whole country, except Caraga and Davao regions, will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers due to localized thunderstorms this weekend, the State weather bureau said.

While rainfall activity remains low over Luzon and Visayas, some parts of Mindanao are experiencing rain showers and thunderstorms due to the extension or trough of a low-pressure area.

According to PAGASA weather specialist Meno Mendoza, the advancing clouds of the LPA will bring cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms over Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Compostela Valley, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Davao del Sur, and Davao Occidental.

The LPA, which was estimated about 1,220 kilometers east of Mindanao around 2 a.m. yesterday, is still outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility.

Mendoza said the LPA will likely enter the PAR today, but may not make landfall over any part of the country.

Should it become a tropical depression inside the country's area of responsibility, the weather disturbance will be given a local name "Dodong." (Ellalyn Ruiz)



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### **Tubig sa Angat dam mas mababa na sa critical level**

BUMABA na sa critical level ang tubig sa Angat dam, ayon sa datos ng Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

Kahapon ng umaga ay naitala sa 159.78 metro ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat, mas mababa na sa 160 metrong critical level

nito.

Noong Biyernes ng umaga ang lebel ng tubig ay 160.28 metro o bumaba ng .50 metro.

Ang normal high water level ng dam ay 210 metro.

Dahil dito ay asahan na ang mas matagal na oras na walang suplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Noong 2010 naitala ang pinakamababang lebel ng dam na umabot sa 157 metro.

Nagdadala naman ng pag-ulan sa Mindanao ang Low Pressure Area na inaasahang papasok sa Philippine Area of Responsibility ngayong araw.  
— *Leifbilly Begas*



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## ANGAT DAM, MAS MABABA NA SA CRITICAL LEVEL

SUMADSAD pa ang antas ng tubig sa Angat Dam na nagpalala sa ipinatutupad na water interruptions sa Metro Manila.

Sa huling monitoring ng PAGASA Hydrometeorology Division, alas-6:00 ng umaga kahapon nang umabot na sa 159.58 meters ang water level sa dam.

Mas mababa na ito sa critical low level na 160 meters.

Sa kasalukuyan, nasa 36 cubic meters per second (CMS) ang alokasyon ng Angat Dam para sa Metropolitan Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System

(MWSS) na ipinamamahagi sa mga water concessionaire sa Metro Manila.

Aabot sa 6.8 milyong kostumer ng Manila Water ang apektado sa kakapusan ng suplay ng tubig o nangangahulugan ito ng 100-porsiyento ng mga siniserbisyunan nito.

*"100 percent ang apektado. Yung ating rotational service interruption ay ipinatutupad natin concession wise; kumbaga, sa buong nasasakupan ng Manila Water: Kaya essentially lahat ng customers ng Manila Water ay apektado,"* ayon

kay Jeric Sevilla, tagapagsalita ng Manila Water.

Posible umanong tumagal pang 12 hanggang 17 oras kada araw ang water interruptions.

Samantala, nabatid naman kay Jennifer Rufo, Maynilad Corp. Comm head, ang lalawigan ng Cavite ang pinakaapektado sa kanilang siniserbisyuhan dahil sa layo nito. Asahan na rin aniya na malabo ang tubig dahil nagmumula na sa ilalim ng Angat Dam ang kanilang inilalabas.

(V. Reyes)



# Water level sa Angat Dam bumaba pa sa critical level **12-17 oras na walang tubig ipapatupad**

**NI ANGIE  
DELA CRUZ**

Magpapatupad ulit ang Manila Water ng panibagong schedule ng 'rotational water service interruptions' sa buong East Zone na tatagal nang mula 12 hanggang 17 oras bawat araw.

Ang mga 'service interruptions' na ito ay ginagawa para maipamahagi ang limitadong suplay ng tubig sa lahat ng mga customers upang mabigyan ang lahat ng pagkakataon na makapag-ipon ng tubig araw-araw.

Isinagawa ang naturang hakbang dahil sa

nakitang lalong hihina at patuloy na makakaranas ng pagkawala ng suplay ng tubig ang maraming residente ng Metro Manila.

Ito ay dahil binawasang muli ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ang alokasyon ng tubig para sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) at sa concessionaires na Maynilad at Manila Water ng 4 cubic meters per second (CMS) mula 40 CMS pababa hanggang 36 CMS.

Ayon sa NWRB, ibinaba ang water allocations sa mga nabanggit bunsod ng patuloy

na pagbaba ng antas ng tubig sa Angat Dam na mas mababa na sa critical level na 160 meters kahapon, Sabado, Hunyo 22, 2019. Ang 4 CMS na ibabawas ay katumbas ng konsumo ng halos 700,000 na katao kada araw.

Bagama't ang bagong schedule ng mga interruption ay nagsimula na kahapon Hunyo 22, kinakailangan pa ng mga tatlong (3) araw pagkatapos ng pagbabawas ng alokasyon bago tuluyang maisaayos ang operasyon para makamit ang tamang schedule sa 'pagtitimpla' o pagbabalanse ng distribusyon ng limitadong suplay ng tubig sa ka-



File photo ng Angat Dam. (Kuha ni KJ Rosales)

buuan ng East Zone.

Ang 'rotational water service interruption' ay mananatili hanggang makabawi ang water level ng tubig sa Angat Dam.

Kahapon, Sabado, ang Angat Dam ay lu-

mampas na sa critical level na 160 meters. Ang water level ng Angat Dam kahapon ay umaabot sa 159.78 meters kahapon ng umaga na mababa sa 160.28 meters noong Biyernes ng umaga.



## MAS MAHABANG ORAS ANG IPATUTUPAD NA WATER SERVICE INTERRUPTION

NAKATAKDANG magpatupad muli ang Manila Water ng panibagong 'rotational water service interruptions' sa buong East Zone na tatagal mula 12 hanggang 17 oras sa loob ng buong araw. Ito ay dahil sa pagpapatupad ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ng higit na pagbabawas ng alokasyon sa mga konsesyunaryo mula 40 cubic meters per second (CMS) hanggang 36 (CMS) sa pag-sapit ng tubig sa Angat Dam sa kritikal na lebel na 160-meters.

Ang karagdagang 4 CMS pa na ibinawas ay katumbas ng supply ng tubig para sa halos 700,000 na populasyon sa isang buong araw.

Ayon kay Dr. Seville David, Jr. Executive Director ng NWRB, ang lebel ng tubig

as of June 22, 6am (Sabado ng umaga) ay nasa 159.78, below 160 kritikal lebel. Kahapon ipinatupad ang karagdagang pagbabawas sa alokasyon sa MWSS, mula sa 40 metro kubiko bawat segundo, ibaba na sa 36 cms.

Dahil dito, kinakailangan palawigin at palawakin ng Manila Water ang mga 'service interruption' para maibahagi ang tubig sa lahat ng mga customer, kahit lamang sa loob ng ilang oras sa isang araw, upang mabigyan ng pagkakataon na makapag-apon ng tubig sa loob mismo ng kanilang mga bahay.

Bagama't nailathala na namin ang iskedyul ng mga interruption sa aming mga social media platform, aabot ng 'di kukulang sa tatlong araw pagkatapos ng pagbabawas

ng alokasyon bago namin tuluyang maisaayos ang operasyon ayon sa aktwal na karanasan ng aming mga customer.

Ang rotational water service interruption ay maaaring ipatupad hanggang makabawi ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam.

Ang Manila Water ay patuloy na magbibigay ng mga update hinggil sa kalagayan ng supply ng tubig.

Para sa detalye, maaaring tawagan ang Manila Water's Customer Care Hotline 1627 o bisitahin ang aming Facebook ([www.facebook.com/manilawater](http://www.facebook.com/manilawater)) at Twitter ([www.twitter.com/ManilaWaterPH](http://www.twitter.com/ManilaWaterPH)) accounts.

-ooOoo-  
**'TEAM PHILIPPINES'  
KAMPEON SA INTERNA-**



**ANG INYONG LINGKOD**

**DR. HILDA C. ONG**

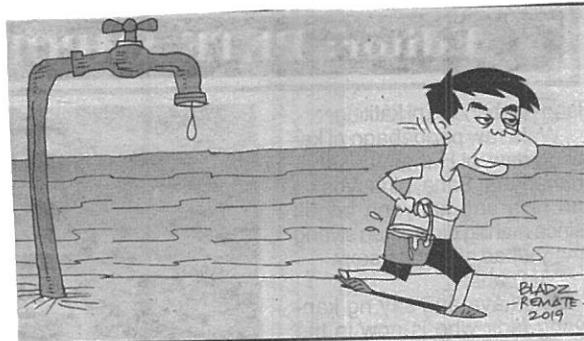
**TIONAL DRAGON BOAT TOURNAMENT SA CHINA**

Itinanghal na kampeon sa 2019 Beijing International Dragon Boat Invitational Tournament kasabay ng Dragon Boat Festival sa China ang Team Philippines sa Open Category na five hundred (500) meters at two hundred fifty (250) meters.

Nakasungkit din ng silver medal ang Team Bakunawa mula sa Iligan City sa two hundred (200) meters sprints.

Nauna rito, nag-kampeon din sa DBS Marina Regatta 2019 na ginanap sa Singapore ang koponan ng Pilipinas sa kapwa Premier Mixed at Premier Women categories. Ang all-women team ay nagtapos din ng first runner-up sa Premier Open kontra sa mga kalaban na pawang mga lalaki.





## EDITORIAL

### TUBIG MULA SA DAGAT, ATBP.

PWEDENG pagtiisan ng mga tao ang kawalan ng kuryente ngunit hindi ang tubig.

Ito'y dahil katumbas ng tubig ang halaga ng pagkain.

Kung walang tubig, gaya ng kawalan ng pagkain, mamamatay o magkakasakit nang malubha ang tao.

Mamamatay ang tao sa pagkatuyot ng kanyang katawan o magkakasakit sa balat kung walang tubig na panghugas dito.

Mamamatay rin ang tao sa mga hilaw na pagkain nang hindi hinuhugasan bago ito kainin.

Wala ring mabubuhay na pananim, maging hayop, kung walang tubig.

Kapag namatay ang mga pananim at hayop sa kawalan ng tubig, mamamatay sa gutom ang tao o magkakasakit nang malubha.

Mamamatay o magkakasakit din ang tao sa dumi sa kapaligiran at loob ng mga tahanan kung walang tubig na panlinis dito.

Kaya naman, sa gitna ng krisis sa Metro Manila, dapat nang mag-isip nang husto ang lahat para mapigilan o mabawasan man lang ang iba pang mga krisis na nililikha ng labis na kawalan o kakulangan ng tubig.

Ang isang mahalaga ngayon na sangkap ng pagkakaroon ng krisis ay ang lumalaking populasyon sa Metro Manila na nangangailangan ng tubig.

Nangangahulugan na hindi na sapat ang mga dam, lalo na ang Angat dam na pagkukunan ng tubig bagama't sobra-sobra ang suplay mula sa mga ito sa panahon ng tag-ulan.

Napalilibutan ang Pilipinas ng dagat at may mga malalaki itong lawa.

Paano ba lilikha ang pamahalaan at mamamayan ng paraan o teknolohiya para gawing malinis na tubig ang matatagpuan sa mga ito para maibsan ang krisis sa tubig?

## DENR moves to rehab Aparri town river

**APARRI, Cagayan:** In a move to rehabilitate the 18-kilometer Apagonan River, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) warned establishments and households along the riverbank to comply with environmental laws or face charges.

Antonio Abawag, DENR Region 2 executive director, said they were giving the establishments and households six months to comply with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and Clean Water Act.

"If they fail to comply, we will issue a notice of violation and file cases against those who are discharging waste directly to the river," Abawag said.

Abawag also appealed to local government officials to pass ordinances in support of the rehabilitation of the Apagonan River.

He said he had ordered the Cagayan Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (PENR) Office to meet with village officials to remind them of the prohibited acts and penalties under Republic Act (RA) 9003 and RA 9275, and to attend municipal council sessions.

On June 17, more than 300 volunteers participated in a river cleanup activity as the DENR launched the Apagonan River Reha-

bilitation Project here.

Volunteers collected 102 sacks of solid waste from different government agencies, nongovernment organizations, the business sector, media and DENR employees.

Tributaries of the Apagonan River, classified as Class C covering 10 *barangay* (villages), were used for irrigation and transportation and not much else.

Class C, according to DENR's water and usage classifications, refers to "fishery water," which may be used for "the propagation and growth of fish and other aquatic resources."

Ismael Manaligod, PENR officer, said the river is now also used for fish production by fisherfolk, in partnership with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Region 2.

He said the river was a breeding ground of both freshwater and marine species as it is connected to the estuary of the Cagayan River and the Babuyan Sea.

**LEANDER C. DOMINGO**



## Lupa para 215 residente ng Tarlac

**I**PINAMAHAGI ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) provincial office ng Tarlac nitong Lunes ang mga titulo ng lupa para sa mahigit 200 residente ng Cristo Rey resettlement area sa bayan ng Capas.

Sinabini Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) Celia Esteban nitong Martes na 70 miscellaneous sales patents na sumasakop sa 7,102 square meters at 215 residential patents na sumasakop ng higit dalawang ektarya ang ipinamahagi sa mga residente at kanilang pamilya sa O'Donnell resettlement site sa Capas.

Ang Cristo Rey ay dating sitio (sub-village) ng Arangoreng at idineklarang O'donnell resettlement site sa ilalim ng Presidential Proclamation No. 813 noon Oktubre 11, 1991 para sa mga biktima ng Pinatubo.

Kalaunan ay nilikha ito bilang isa sa mga barangay ng Capas, Tarlac na may 13,000 na residente.

"Providing families ownership over the land they occupied in the form of land titles or patent is government modest contribution in promoting social justice and alleviating poverty in the rural sector," ani Esteban.

Aniya, ang land administration and management ang isa sa mga prayoridad na programa ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, na nakaangkla sa 10-point socio-economic agenda ni President Rodrigo Duterte na pagsisiguro sa seguridad ng land tenure upang mahikayat ang mga mamumuhunan at negosyante sa land management at titling agencies.

Samantala, pinayuhan naman ni Capas Mayor Reynaldo Catacutan ang mga residente ng panatilihing naka-update ang kanilang tax declaration sa municipal assessor at bayaran ang kanilang buwis sa lupa upang makalikom ng dagdag na kita ang barangay para pagpapaunlad ng lugar.

Mula taong 2003 umabot na sa mahigit 9,000 titulo at patents ang naipamahagi ng DENR-Tarlac sa mga residente ng Cristo Rey.

Sa Central Luzon, nakapamahagi ang DENR ng kabuuang 427 agricultural land titles noong nakaraang taon, na sumasakop sa 308 ektarya at panibagong 3,035 residential land titles na sumasakop sa 76 ektarya, na nagbibigay ng benepisyo sa mahigit 15,000 magsasaka at kanilang mga pamilya sa rehiyon.

Simula noong 2011, nasa 305,000 magsasaka na ang nabigyan ng benepisyo ng DENR land distribution program kasama ng kanilang mga pamilya mula sa naipamahaging 61,132 titulo ng lupa na sumasakop sa 19,452 ektarya sa mga rehiyon.



# Isko: Manila Zoo won't become mall or casino

Manila Mayor-elect Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso has assured that the Manila Zoo will remain in Malate, Manila and rejected turning the zoo into a mall or a casino.

Domagoso said the botanical area of the zoo will undergo renovation to be consistent with its name "Manila Zoological and Botanical Garden."

"Andun pa rin 'yung mga hayop pero dadagdagan ko, 'yung

something na puwedeng mapag-aralan ng mga estudyante para maging mas kapaki-pakinabang," he said.

"Nakakaawa na kasi 'yung elepante. Tsaka kailangan merong bago like plants, birds, flowers," he added, noting that the elephant named "Mali" might be older than him.

Moreno also said that plans to privatize the zoo last year had been rejected by the Manila City Council.

The Manila Zoo, which was built in the 1950s, used to home at least 90 animal species.

It was ordered closed by outgoing Manila Mayor Joseph E. Estrada in January this year to give way to the assessment and study after Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu called out its management for being a major pollutant of Manila Bay due to lack of sewerage treatment plant.

**(Erma Edera)**



## Manila Bay reclamation barado kay Isko

HINDI umano prayoridad ni Manila Mayor-elect Francisco 'Isko Moreno' Domagoso ang reklamasyon ng Manila Bay area na nasa hurisdiksyon ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

Sa halip, sinabi ni Moreno na mas gusto niya na magpokus sa land development.

"Reclamation is not my priority. We will focus on in land development. Meron na kami diyan, payayabungin na lang," ayon kay Moreno.

"One thing is for sure, while we are making Manila vibrant, may oras din for peace and order. We will respect human rights on both sides,

enforcers and suspects. It goes for everybody. May pagpapahalaga sa buhay," dagdag pa ni Moreno.

Ayon kay Moreno, mas gusto niya na pagtuunan muna ng pansin ang peace and order.

Magugunita na noong bumisita siya kay dating Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim ay humingi siya ng payo kung papaano mapanatili ang peace and order sa Maynila.

Nalaman na sa administrasyon ni outgoing Mayor Joseph 'Erap' Estrada ay isinusulong nito ang multi-billion reclamation area sa Manila Bay. **(Juliet de Loza-Cudia)**



## Manila Zoo 'di gagawing casino o mall

Tiniyak ni Manila Mayor-elect Isko Moreno na hindi mawawala ang nasa 60-taong gulang na Manila Zoo sa lungsod sa kabila ng umugong na balita na gagawin isang mall o casino ang lugar.

Sa pahayag ni Moreno, sa halip ay mas pagagandahin pa ito at dadagdagan ng maraming halaman at mga ibon para maging makatotohanan ang pangalan nitong Manila Zoological and Botanical Garden.

"Andun pa rin 'yung mga hayop pero dadagdagan ko, 'yung something na puwedeng mapag-aralan ng mga estudyante para maging mas kapaki-pakinabang," ani Moreno.

Isa sa nakakaawa aniya, ang elepanteng si 'Mali' na mas matanda pa sa kaniya.

Bukod sa mas kapaki-pakinabang pa ang mga halaman sa pag-aaral ng mga estudyante ay mahalaga na mas dumami ang halaman na tulong din para makabawas sa air pollution.

Itinayo ang Manila Zoo noong 1959 na nag-alaga sa may 90 ibat-ibang uri ng hayop kabilang ang kilalang si 'Mali'. (Ludy Bermudo)



**AbanteMO** **Plastic palit bigas patok sa Cauayan**

KLIK ngayon sa Cauayan City ang programang 'Basura mo, Papalitan ng Bigas' project na naglalayong maturan ang mga residente sa tamang pagtatapon ng basura na kung saan ay mapalitan ang mga plastik na basura ng bigas.

Ayon kay District 2 village head Paolo Eleazar Delmendo, hinihikayat nila ang lahat ng mga kabarangay at kalapit na barangay na itabi at huwag itapon ang mga boteng plastik at iba pang plastik na basura na kung saan ay maaari itong kilohin at palitan ng bigas.

Sa dalawang kilo ng plastic bottle o tatlong kilo ng assorted plastic o isang kilong plastic wrapper ay maaaring mapalitan ng isang kilo ng bigas.

Magandang ideya umano ang kanilang programa dahil natututo ang mga residente na mag-ipon at naisasantabi pa ang mga basura sa bulok at nabubulok na basura na kung saan ay makakaing bigas ang kapalit ng kanilang pagsisikap. **(Vick Aquino)**



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## Pay it with plastic

Dear Abante Tonite,

Natatandaan ko na kamakailan ay naibalita na maaaring makabili ng saging kapalit ang isang plastic sa bayan ng Siargao, ngayon naman ay maaari na ring ibayad ang plastic kapalit ang bigas sa Cauayan City, Isabela. Patunay lamang na lumalaganap na ang adhikaing naglalayon na isalba ang kalikasan. Nakakatuwang isiping nagsisimula ang kilusang ito sa mga LGU sa mga lalawigang ito. Dahil sa kanilang ganitong proyekto ay nahihikayat nila ang kanilang mga kabaranggay na matutong itabi ang mga plastic. Ang dating ibinabasura na agad ay kanilang iipunin upang makabuo ng sapat na timbang upang maipalit sa bigas.

Ang mga ganitong proyekto ay nagpapakita na ang henrasyong ito ay hindi papayag na tuluyang bumigay ang kalikasang kumukupkop sa ating. Damang dama nga natin ang nakakapasong init, mainit ng buga ng hangin at mga basurang gabundok. Kung mananatiling walang pakialam ang nakararami ay tuluyang maninigil ang kalikasan. Buti na lamang at may mga lalawigang naglulunsad ng ganitong mga programa.

Nawa ang mga ganitong proyekto ay hindi lamang manatiling kahanga-hanga sa kanilang lalawigan kundi maging sa mga lungsod at kung papalarin ay sa buong Pilipinas. Naniniwala akong nagsisimula ang lahat sa konting kurot ng malasakit sa kalikasan hanggang sa mabuo ang isang layunin at simulant ang pagkilos. Maraming proyektong tunay na epektibo at kapaki-pakinabang hindi lamang sa tao kundi sa kapaligiran.

Gelhyn Orolfo ng Looban





## DND reaffirms commitment in securing PH waters

By **MARTIN A. SADONGDONG**

The Department of National Defense (DND) remains committed in ensuring the Philippines' maritime security amid multifaceted challenges and competing interests in the regional waters.

This was emphasized by Defense Undersecretary Cardozo Luna in his speech at the 146th Maritime Forum at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City.

However, the official said the Philippines will need the help of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member-countries in dealing with its maritime issues.

Luna, who represented Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in the forum, said the country needs to pursue a "calibrated, comprehensive and constructive" approach which "espouses peace and diplomacy" in coping up with the vulnerabilities of our maritime security.

"We need to acknowledge that our country cannot do it alone as

maritime security is innately transnational and cross-jurisdictional," Luna said.

The competing claims in the West Philippine Sea, primarily between the Philippines and China among other claimants, are undeniably a top maritime concern.

Thus, the official said the Philippines is prompted to "pursue functional cooperation with China and other claimant-countries while securing our national territory, sovereign rights over our maritime claims and entitlements."

With this, he stressed the relevance of multilateralism through the ASEAN in the negotiation of the Declaration on the Code of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea [West Philippine Sea] and the strengthening of the Trilateral Cooperative Agreement with Malaysia and Indonesia.

"Our country is capitalizing on the strong alliance of the ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations], which consistently espouses regional and multilateral cooperation and discussions," Luna said.

Luna's statements came in the wake of the sinking of local fishing boat Gem-Ver1 after it was hit by a Chinese-flagged vessel.

The 146th Maritime Forum, hosted by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), continues to remain as a platform for the Maritime League's "timely, collaborative and productive" session on the country's maritime concerns.

The Maritime Forum was institutionalized in 1995.



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# Miyembro ng gabinete kanya-kanya ng posisyon JOINT INVESTIGATION SA RECTO BANK INCIDENT

**MAGKAKAIBA** ang posisyon ng mga miyembro ng gabinete ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa panukalang magsagawa ng joint investigation kasama ang China hinggil sa insidente sa Recto Bank.

Ayon kay Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, bukas ang pamahalaan sa lahat ng mga posibleng paraan para maresolba ang usapin at kabilang aniya rito

ang isang joint investigation.

Dagdag ni Nograles, makatutulong rin ang pakikipag-usap ng Filipinas sa China para matukoy kung paano makakakuha ng hustisya ang mga mangingisdang Pinoy na sakay ng lumubog na bangka sa Recto Bank.

Taliwas naman dito ang naging posisyon ni Foreign Affairs Secretary Teddy Locsin Jr.

kung saan sinabi nito na walang mangyayaring joint investigation sa pagitan ng Filipinas at China.

Sinabi ni Locsin, binanggit na niya kay Executive Secretary Salvador ang kanyang opinyon na sinuportahan ng Malakanyang.

Iginiit pa ng kalihim, sakop ng hurisdiksyon ng Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) ang usapin sa nangyaring pagbangga ng isang Chinese vessel sa bangkang pangisda ng mga Pinoy sa Recto Bank.

Samantala, tumanggi nang magkomento si Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra at sinabing ipinaubaya niya na lamang kay Pangulong Duterte ang pagpapasiya hinggil sa panukalang joint investigation.

**DWIZ 882**

**RESULTA NG  
IMBESTIGASYON  
NG PCG AT MARINA  
NAISUMITE NA SA  
MALAKANYANG**

NASA tanggapan na

ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang report ng Philippine Coastguard at MARINA kaugnay sa imbestigasyon ng banggaan ng isang Chinese vessel at bangkang pangisda ng mga Filipino sa Recto Bank.

Ito ang kinumpirma ni Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade sa isang panayam sa Bangkok, Thailand noong nakaraang Huwebes na naisumite na ng PCG at MARINA ang resulta ng kanilang imbestigasyon.

Subalit hindi na nagbigay pa ng komento si Tugade sa nilalaman ng report at hahayaan na lamang si Pangulong Duterte na magsalita ukol dito.

Gayundin, hindi pa alam ng kalihim kung nabasa na ito ng Pangulo.

Binigyang diin naman ni Chief Presidential Legal Counsel at Presidential Spokesman Secretary Salvador Panelo na magtutulongan ang Filipinas at China sa imbestigasyon upang mailabas ang tunay na

nangyari.

**SENADO PABOR  
SA JOINT  
INVESTIGATION  
NG CHINA  
AT FILIPINAS**

PABOR si Senate President Tito Sotto III sa hirit na joint investigation ng China at Filipinas kaugnay sa pagbangga ng isang Chinese vessel sa bangkang pangisda ng mga Filipino sa Recto Bank.

Ito ang naging tugon sa mungkahi ni Chinese Foreign Ministry Lu Kang na magkatuwang na sisiyasatin ng dalawang bansa ang insidente kung saan inabandona ang 22 mangingisdang Pinoy sa karagatan.

Pero ayon kay Sotto, dapat ay magkaroon muna ng magkahiwalay na imbestigasyon ang Filipinas at China bago ang joint investigation.

Anang senador, ang pagsisiyasat ay maaring magkatuwang na gawin ng Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Natural Resources (DENR) at ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).



# Gov't urged to install vessel monitoring system

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

Oceana Philippines reiterated its call for transparency at sea to protect the lives of fishermen amid the recent sinking of a Filipino boat by a Chinese ship in the West Philippine Sea.

It asked the government to adopt a vessel monitoring system to track the behavior of fishing vessels within and outside the country's territorial waters.

"Our fisheries laws are clear on requiring tracking device for commercial fishing vessels, but if we continue to ignore its importance in deterring illegal fishing and

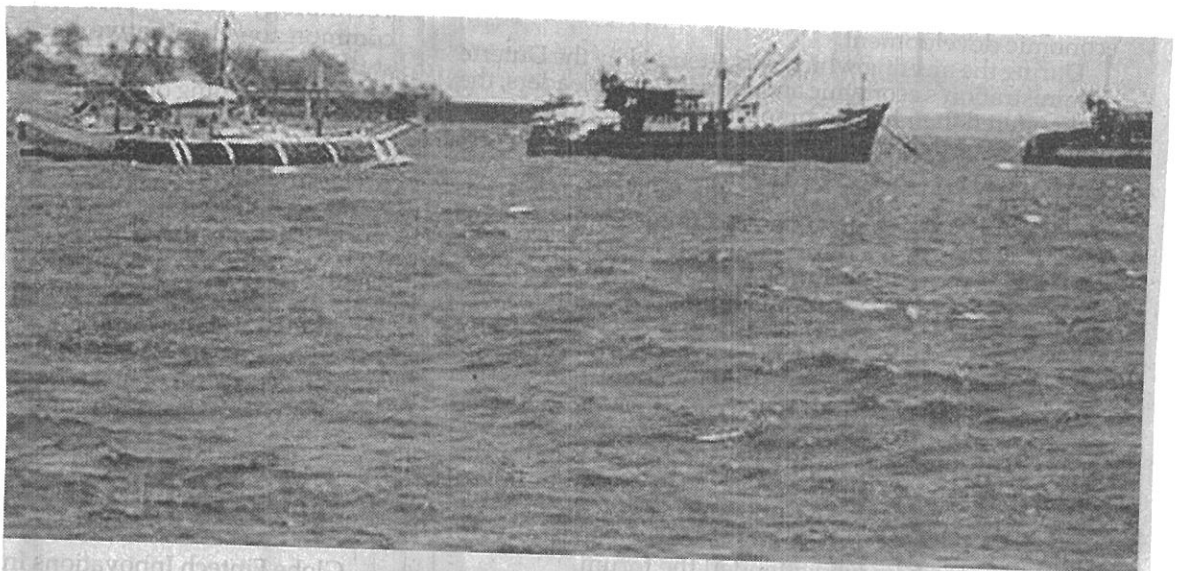
possible human rights abuses, and take the business-as-usual mindset, our own people will face the grave consequences," Oceana Philippines vice president Gloria Ramos said.

The monitoring system for all commercial fishing vessels is required under the amended Fisheries Code.

"We need to be firm in

ensuring transparency and accountability in ocean governance if we are to eradicate the continuing plunder on our oceans and assault on our honor and integrity as a nation, apart from pushing us on the edge on the issue of food security," Ramos said.

According to a report, "poor oversight, weak regulations and lack of trans-



parency make commercial fishing a vulnerable sector for illicit activity like illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, human trafficking and forced labor."

To deter and stop illegal fishing in the Philippines, Oceana is in the forefront of a campaign to mainstream the use of commercial fishing vessels as required by the law.

This involves installation of monitoring device that transmits location, speed and tracks in real time, either through satellite or non-satellite-based mechanism in every fishing boat over three gross tons.

"The incident in the Recto Bank may not be the last if we will continue to ignore the safeguards that legally should be in place to protect our ocean

and our people," Ramos said.

Ramos underscored the need to strengthen the monitoring and surveillance system, coupled with science-based and participatory decision-making in the newly designated 12 fisheries management areas in the country.

The sinking of the Filipino boat happened within Fisheries Management Area 5.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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# Balita

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BAYSA

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## 11 huli sa illegal quarrying

Labing-isang katao, kabilang ang dalawang Chinese, ang inaresto ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) dahil sa umano'y illegal quarrying operations sa Pampanga.

Ayon kay NBI Director Dante Gierran, ang mga inaresto ay nagtatrabaho para kay Riah Yuan Vibro.

Sila ay inaresto nitong Hunyo 19, matapos na mahuli ng mga tauhan ng NBI's Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) at Mines and Geosciences

Bureau (MGB) na sangkot sa illegal quarrying operations sa Floridablanca, Pampanga.

Matapos ang pag-aresto, ininquest ang mga ito sa Office of the Prosecutor General at the Department of Justice (DOJ) para sa theft of minerals na paglabag sa RA 7942 (Philippine Mining Act of 1995).

Kinilala ni Gierran ang dalawang inarestong Chinese na sina Geng Ping at Ge Wei Chen.

Ang iba pang Pinoy na inaresto ay sina Jiemvo Cadorna, Dranreb Gegante, Joey Espanola, Ruben Garcia, Danilo Carida, Erik Quiambao, Wilfredo Gonzales, Mary Jane Nuguid, at Antonio Buyson.

Ayon kay Gierran, kumilos ang NBI sa reklamo ng Palakol Quarry and Development Corporation hinggil sa illegal quarrying operations sa Floridablanca.

**Jeffrey G. Damicog**



## MMSU LAUDS BALIK SCIENTIST INTERVENTIONS ON ITS CLIMATE-CHANGE RESILIENCY PROGRAM

**T**HE Ilocos region is vulnerable to the effects of climate change, such as drought. To be resilient to the situation, the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) started its food-water-renewable energy self-sufficiency efforts and got a big boost through the guidance of Balik Scientist Guillermo A. Mendoza.

Mendoza first came to MMSU in 2010 as a Balik Scientist. Together with other Balik Scientists—Drs. Josefino C. Comiso, Catalino A. Blanche and Terry I. Sarigumba—Mendoza assisted in establishing the university's baseline information that eventually led to the development and application of climate-change information systems for agriculture, forestry and natural resources.

These initial efforts helped propel MMSU as front-runner in climate change in the Ilocos region. The university now houses the Regional R&D Center for Climate Change Studies.

This year, MMSU re-engaged Mendoza to help enable the university in different dimensions of climate-change resiliency. This was done through trainings on suitability assessment for locating small farm reservoir, diversion dams and small water impoundments using various computational models, and on watershed hydrologic modelling.

MMSU President Dr. Shirley C. Agrupis also asked Mendoza to look into MMSU's mapping of nipa plantations, in connection with a bioethanol project, which is an offshoot of another Balik Scientist engagement with Dr. Fiorello B. Abenes and Dr. Sergio C. Capareda.

In this activity, Mendoza assisted MMSU in obtaining high-resolution planet data from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) through the coordination with the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority.

Mendoza gave advice, as well as developed mapping protocol and sampling design, for the

field survey of nipa plantations using statistical tools, and joined in the actual field survey.

He recommended that MMSU pursue the establishment of Geomatics Center and proposed a web-based application of small-scale irrigation system in Ilocos region.

Agrupis said the Balik Scientist Program (BSP) greatly contributed in the development of MMSU.

She said the university was able to receive more grants in renewable energy from the DOST, Department of Energy and the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the DOST (DOST-PCAARRD) on climate change.

Likewise, the MMSU was able to network with various universities abroad because of the interventions made by the Balik Scientists.

"I am personally very satisfied with the contributions we made in this BSP stint. I am sincerely hopeful that the initiatives we started can be continued and brought to fruition," Mendoza said during the recent Exit Report Presentation of his accomplishments at PCAARRD in Los Baños, Laguna.

"I can't think of better way of spending my 'retirement' as emeritus professor of the University of Illinois than to be a Balik Scientist working with colleagues in the Philippines in advancing S&T in agriculture, forestry and natural resources," he added.

BSP is being implemented by DOST-PCAARRD together with DOST-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development, which covers in the health industry, and the DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development for engagements in the industry, energy, emerging technology and special concerns.

*Michelle P. Caparas/S&T Media Services*



## EVERYMAN RENEWABLES ARE BOOMING BUT COAL IS STILL KING IN PH

By Imelda V. Abano

(First of two parts)

THE Philippines, along with other countries in Asia, can meet its power needs with the plummeting costs of renewable energy technologies while reducing emissions and addressing the climate crisis.

Just over the week, the German-based Climate Analytics released its latest analysis on decarbonization of South and Southeast Asia pointing out that renewable energy (wind, solar, geothermal, biomass) is now cheaper than fossil-fueled generation in most of the world.

However, coal is still king in the Philippines. Last year, coal-fired power plants provided the largest generation share in the country with a whopping 51,932 gigawatt hours (Gwh) from 23,301 Gwh power generated in 2010, according to the 2018 Power Statistics report of the Department of Energy. Looking at the statistics, coal use in the country continues to increase, followed by the use of oil, natural gas and renewable energy.

In fact, the DOE's latest data show that between last year and 2019, the Philippines may expect 5,687.53 megawatts of new capacity, at least 63 percent of which will be provided by coal-fired power plants.

Around half of the Philippines' electricity generation is provided by the 8 GW of operating coal power plants. The government is planning to keep the

dominance of coal in the energy mix and is promoting new coal exploration and development contracts, as started in Coal Roadmap 2017-2040 of the Department of Energy.

The Energy Plan also stated that by the end of that period over 35 percent of energy will be sourced from oil, almost 30 percent from coal, 12 percent from gas, 9 percent from biomass, and only 13.7 percent from renewable energy sources. The total energy production for 2040 is predicted to be 137.8 millions of tons of oil equivalent (Mtoe). To satisfy the fast-growing electricity demand, the Plan assumes that almost 44 Gigawatts of new generation capacity would be needed—almost three times the existing installed capacity.

Based on the latest analysis of the Climate Analytics, the lack of access to modern energy remains a problem in the Philippines. Overall, 91 percent of the population had access to electricity in 2016, with about 97 percent in urban areas compared to only 86 percent in rural areas, leaving about 9 million people without access.

"The Philippines is planning to build new coal power plants. This is worrying as it would lock it into a carbon-intensive pathway for decades, and would be a huge missed opportunity to build a carbon-free, climate-resilient energy system," said report author Paola Yanguas Parra, policy analyst at Climate Analytics.

She said that national energy planning should factor-in other national priorities, such as energy independence, reliability

and affordability of power supply, and sustainable development goals. "The current expansion of coal is at odds with these priorities but scaling up its renewable energy targets would go a long way to address this," Parra said.

The Climate Analytics analysis also said that Philippines' coal-fired expansion plans amount to nearly 78 percent of the current capacity. This accounts for nearly 3 percent of the global expansion plans. All of the existing capacity, and a large proportion of the planned capacity is sub-critical. These plants have relatively high emissions intensity; despite the shift to super—an ultra super—critical power plants with low emissions intensity, the coal-fired expansion has significant emission implications.

"The Philippines has a huge potential for developing renewable energy sources. Their low, and ever decreasing, costs and distributed character is the best way to provide electricity even to the most remote islands. If the coal expansion plans go ahead, the Philippines government would need to consider the cost of reducing emissions in other sectors to compensate for the new coal emissions, to meet its national climate pledge under the Paris climate agreement," Parra explained.

### Rapid shift

A transition to renewable energy, according to the Climate Analytics report, could contribute to reducing energy security concerns and public expenditures on fossil fuel imports, freeing resources for other investments. The increasing reliance

on fossil fuel imports comes at a significant cost—3.5 percent of the country's GDP or US\$11 billion in 2017 were spent on fuel imports.

The report also mentioned that the Philippines can benefit substantially from a rollout of renewable energy also in terms of reducing air pollution and related health impacts. The Philippines could benefit from reducing external costs from air pollution with annual average air pollution cost savings in 2025 amounting to about US\$1.1 billion with regard to reduced outdoor air pollution.

Francis dela Cruz, partnerships and advocacy advisor of the international policy group Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (iCSC), said that the new report confirms that shifting from coal and diesel to renewables can provide not only more affordable and more reliable energy but also lead to more jobs and savings.

"Our government must take developed countries to task for their failure to provide leadership on climate action, but it must also walk the talk on renewable energy and energy efficiency," Dela Cruz said. "With a greater sense of urgency, Philippine economic managers can and should bake into our long-term development plans the country's climate vulnerabilities as well as our wealth of clean energy sources."

(Continued tomorrow)

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