

DATE : 16 SEP 2019

DAY : Monday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

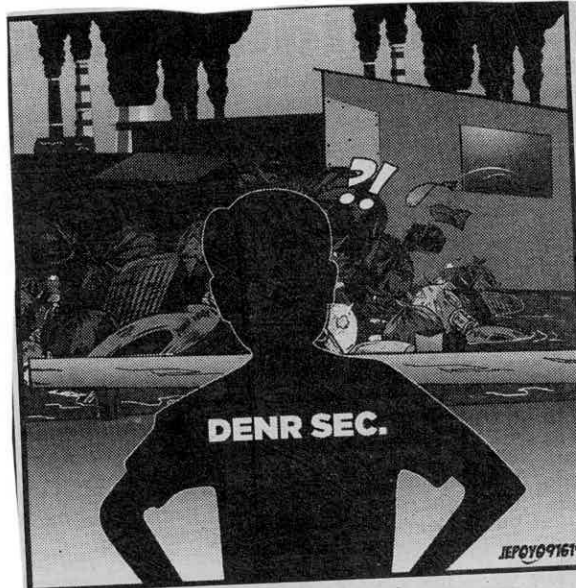
Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



### METRO BRIEFS

#### **Cimatu wants to ban parked vessels on Pasig River**

Aside from illegal structures built beside the Pasig River and its tributaries, Environment Secretary and now Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) Chair Roy Cimatu will also address yet another "eyesore:" illegally berthed vessels. In his first visit to the PRRC office last week, Cimatu said that the parked vessels were also contributing to pollution, considering the waste that the crew of the vessels may be dumping in the body of water. "The Pasig River is not for parking," he said. "They cannot park there. [Removing them] will be our first operation." Cimatu clarified that during inclement weather, vessels would be allowed to dock in the river. Once the weather clears, however, they should head back to their designated harbors. Last week, the environment official said that under his leadership, the agency would strengthen its crackdown on illegal structures built on the riverbanks as well as the connecting tributaries. —JHESSET O. ENANO



*Editorial*

**Hamon kay Cimatú:  
Linisin ang Pasig River**

**NILINIS** ni Environment Sec. Roy Cimatú ang Bora-cay at sa kasalukuyan, nililinis niya ang Manila Bay. At dahil pawang tagumpay ang kanyang mga sinimulan, sa kanya na rin ipinangangasiwa ni President Duterte ang paglilinis sa maruming Pasig River.

Umaalingasaw sa baho ang dating malinis na ilog na madalas sabihin ng mga matatanda na pinaglalabahan nila at hinuhulihan ng mga isda. Ngayon ay makapal ang burak sapagkat dito isinusuka ang mga dumi ng pabrika at basura ng mga irresponsableng mamamayan. Malayung-malayo sa dating ilog noon na puwedeng manalamin sa tubig. Ngayon wala nang makikita dahil maitim ang tubig. Hindi na isda ang mahuhuli kundi mga basurang plastic na itinapon ng mga walang pakialam na mamamayan.

Lalo pang umalingasaw ang Pasig River nang kumalat ang balitang may anomalya sa Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC). Lalo pang bumaho nang sibakin ni President Duterte si PRRC Executive Director Jose Antonio Goitia noong nakaraang Lunes dahil sa corruption. Gayunman, itinanggi ni Goitia ang paratang at hindi na nagkomento pa ukol sa isyu. Sinabi lang niya na patuloy niyang susuportahan ang Presidente. Nagpapasalamat umano siya rito dahil sa pagbibigay ng pagkakataon na maglingkod.

Noong nakaraang Hunyo, naging kontrobersiya ang PRRC nang mapabalita na hindi naisakatuparan o hindi natapos ang rehabilitation projects ng Metro Manila waterways sa kabila na may budget itong P107 milyon para sa 2018. Inaasahang matatapos ang rehabilitasyon subalit hindi umano ito nagkaroon ng katuparan. Ang paglilinis sa mga waterways ay mahalaga sapagkat ito ang dahilan kaya may mga pagbaha sa Metro Manila. Marami sa mga estero at kanal ang barado sa basura kaya walang pagdaanan ang tubig-baha.

Makaraang sibakin si Goitia, inatasan ng Presidente si Cimatú na ipagpatuloy ang paglilinis sa Pasig River. Nangako naman ang DENR Secretary na lilinis niya ang ilog.

Makakaya ito ni Cimatú sapagkat marami na siyang pinatunayan. Una niyang gawin ay pagbawalan ang mga pabrika at mga taong nasa pampang ng ilog na huwag magtapon ng kanilang basura. Sa pagtutulongan kayang linisin ang Pasig River.



# Bulacan mayor dedma sa ARTA DENR 'WAG IDAMAY SA PAMUMULITIKA --ANTIPIORDA

**"KUNG kumpleto ang mga dokumento at nakasunod sa mga pamantayan ng DENR, mabibigyan ng permit. Kung kulang o may paglabag, bibigyan natin ng parusa kung kinakailangan at ito'y 'pagsunod' ng lahat sa mga batas at regulasyon hinggil sa kapaligiran bilang mandato ng departamento."**

Ito ang maring pahayag ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management Benny Antiporda kaugnay ng hindi pagbibigay ng business permit ng pamahalaang Norzagaray, Bulacan sa Wacuman sanitary landfill na nakatayo sa nasabing bayan.

Sinabi rin ni Antiporda na walang katotohanan ang lumbas na ulat sa ilang pahayagan na nagbigay ng Notice of Violation ang DENR sa Wacuman na tila pumapabor sa pagpapasara ni Norzagaray Mayor Alfred DG Germar.

Ang Wacuman ay pag-aari ni Matilde Legaspi na naging kalaban ni Germar sa pulitika nitong nakaraang halalan at si

Arthur Legaspi, na anak ni Matilde ang presidente ng Wacuman.

"Hindi dapat idinamay ng ilang grupo o sektor ang DENR sa pulitika," diin pa ni Antiporda.

Nagsimula ang sigalot nang ipasara ni Germar ang Wacuman sa kasagsagan ng kampanya nitong halalang Mayo dahil naging kalaban nito sa pagkamayor si Matilde sa rason ng kulang umano ito ng mga papeles o dokumento.

Sa kabilang banda, binig-

yan si Germar ng tatlong araw noong Agosto 15, 2019 ng Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) sa pamumuno nina ARTA deputy director general, Atty. Ernesto Perez at director general, Atty. Jeremiah Belgica para magpaliwanag sa pagtanggap nitong magbigay ng business permit at muling buksan ang 'Waste Custodian Management, Inc.' (Wacuman) sa Sitio Tiakad, Bgy. San Mateo, sa kabila ng pagtupad nito sa lahat ng mga kailangang rekisitos ng batas.

Napag-alaman ding pinaki-

usapan na rin ni dating Bulacan Governor Willy Sy-Alvarado si Germar para maiwasan ang krisis sa basura sa Bulacan ngunit nabigo ito at ipinaabot din ito ng ARTA sa mayor.

Sa kasalukuyan, hindi pa rin umano sinasagot ng alkalde ang ARTA habang nananatili pa ring sarado ang landfill ng Wacuman sa Norzagaray.

Nagbabala rin ang ARTA na sakaling mapatunayan ang reklamo laban kay Germar, may posibilidad na masuspinde ito ng anim na buwan sa unang paglabag at pagkabilanggo ng hanggang anim na taon at multang P2 milyon sa susunod na paglabag.

REMATE NEWS TEAM



## “DENR huwag idamay sa pamumulitika” — Antiporda

# BULACAN MAYOR ‘DEDMA’ SA ARTA?

P. 2



## “DENR huwag idamay sa pamumulitika” — Antiporda

# BULACAN MAYOR ‘DEDMA’ SA ARTA?

**IPINANGANGAMBA** ang patuloy na paglubha ng problema sa basura ng lalawigan ng Bulacan at mga karatig-lugar dahil sa patuloy na pagtangi ni Norzagaray mayor, Alfred DG Germar na bigyan ng ‘business permit’ at muling buksan ang lisensiyadong ‘landfill facility’ na nasa kanyang nasasakupan sa kabila ng babala mula sa ‘Anti-Red Tape Authority’ (ARTA).

Sa mga dokumentong nakalap ng media, nabatid na noong Agosto 15, 2019, binigyan lang ng tatlong araw nina ARTA deputy director general, Atty. Ernesto Perez at director general, Atty. Jeremiah Belgica, si Germar upang ipaliwanag ang kanyang patuloy na pagtangi na bigyan ng business permit ang ‘Waste Custodian Management, Inc.’ (Wacuman) at muling buksan ang sanitary landfill nito sa Sitio Tiakad, Bgy. San Mateo, sa kabila nang pagtupad sa lahat ng mga kailangang rekisitos ng batas. Ang ARTA ay isang bagong ahensiya na nilikha sa bisa ng RA 11032 at may mandato na ipatupad ang ‘ease of doing business policy’ ng administrasyong Duterte at labanan ang katiwalian hanggang sa antas ng mga LGUs. Nabigyan naman ng awtoridad ang Wacuman bilang isang sanitary landfill batay sa ‘Presidential

Proclamation 1655’ na nilagdaan ni Pang. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo noong 2008 upang kolektahin at i-proseso ang mga basura sa buong Bulacan at mga karatig-lugar. Ayon naman sa mga impormante, ‘political vendetta’ ang anila’y ‘runay na dahilan’ sa desisyon ni Germar matapos maging kalaban sa eleksyon noong nakaraang Mayo si Matilde Legaspi, ang ina ni Arthur Legaspi, na presidente ng Wacuman. Agaran umanong ipinasara ni Germar ang landfill sa kasagsagan ng kampanya noong Mayo at tumanging magbigay ng business permit sa dahilang ‘kulang’ umano ang mga papeles at dokumento ng kumpanya. Matapos naman ang halalan, maging si dating Bulacan governor, Willy Sy-Alvarado ay nabigo umanong ‘mapakiusapan’ si Germar na bigyan ng business permit ang Wacuman at muling buksan ang landfill para na

rin maiwasang magkaroon ng krisis sa basura sa lalawigan. Ang pangamba ni Alvarado ay ipinaabot din ng ARTA sa liham nito kay Germar, matapos matanggap ang kumpletong mga dokumento ng Wacuman. Kabilang sa mga ito ang environmental compliance certificate (ECC) mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa nakaraang tatlong taon. Ayon naman kay DENR spokesman at undersecretary for solid waste management, Benny Antiporda, ang ‘pagsunod’ ng lahat sa mga batas at regulasyon hinggil sa kapaligiran ang mandato ng departamanto. “Kung kumpleto ang mga dokumento at nakasunod sa mga pamantayan ng DENR, mabibigyan ng permit. Kung kulang o may paglabag, bibigyan natin ng parusa kung kinakailangan,”

paglilinaw pa ng opisyal. Itinuwid din ni Antiporda ang ulat sa ilang pahayagan noong nakaraang linggo na naglabas ng “NOV” (notice of violation) ang DENR laban sa Wacuman kamakailan na lumikha ng impresyon na may “batayan” ang desisyon ni Germar. “Wala itong katotohanan at hindi dapat idinadamay ng ilang grupo o sektor ang DENR sa pulitika,” dagdag pa ni Antiporda. Sa kasalukuyan, hindi pa rin umano sinasagot ng alkalde ang ARTA habang nananatili pa ring sarado ang landfill ng Wacuman sa Norzagaray. Nagbabala rin ang ARTA na sakaling mapatunayan ang reklamo laban kay Germar, may posibilidad na masuspinde ito ng anim na buwan sa unang paglabag at pagkabilanggo ng hanggang anim na taon at multang P2 milyon sa susunod na paglabag.



# Don't involve DENR in politics **BULACAN MAYOR DEFYING ARTA?**

**THE province of Bulacan continues to battle a "garbage crisis" over the alleged continued refusal of Norzagaray Mayor Alfred DG Germar to issue a business permit and immediately move to close the lone accredited sanitary landfill facility located in his municipality.**

**By PAUL M. GUTIERREZ**

/Page 12

## **BULACAN** From Page 1

Documents provided to the media disclosed that last August 15, 2019, the 'Anti-Red Tape Authority' (ARTA), thru deputy director general, Atty. Ernesto V. Perez and director general, Atty. Jeremiah B. Belgica, gave Germar three days to explain his refusal to issue the business permit to Waste Custodian Management, Inc. (Wacuman), "despite compliance with all the requirements."

ARTA is a new office created under Republic Act (RA) 11032 to monitor compliance with President Rodrigo Duterte administration's 'Ease of Doing Business' policy while also combating instances of corruption down to the local level.

For its part, Wacuman was given presidential authority to service the garbage needs not only of Bulacan but nearby areas as well thru Presidential Proclamation 1655 signed in 2008 by then Pres. Gloria

Macapagal Arroyo.

Informed sources claimed Germar's motive is "purely politics" and "political vendetta" since Matilde Legaspi, mother of Wacuman president, Arthur Legaspi, ran against him during the May 13 midterm elections.

Germar allegedly ordered the closure of the landfill located in Sitio Tiakad, Bgy. San Mateo, just before the May 13 elections. The mayor allegedly refused to reconsider his position of not giving a business permit to Wacuman, despite the request of outgoing governor, Willy Sy-Alvarado, right after the elections to prevent a garbage crisis in the province.

In refusing to give a business permit to Wacuman, Germar cited the former's alleged "insufficient and (lack) of requirements" in the processing of its business permit, according to the report reaching ARTA and the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC).

ARTA has reminded Germar the continued clo-

sure of Wacuman's facility "will inevitably result in a garbage crisis not only in your city but in the neighboring cities and municipalities of the province of Bulacan as well."

Documents submitted to ARTA and the PACC showed Wacuman had complied with all requirements, including a clearance from the regional office of the Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR) for the last three years.

DENR spokesman and undersecretary for solid waste management Beny Antiporda said that while his office flagged Wacuman last October 2018 due to some complaints they received against the facility's operations, these have all been addressed by the company that resulted to its being issued a clearance by the EMB last March 19.

Antiporda also described as "erroneous" a news report last week claiming the DENR recently issued a "NOV"

(notice of violation) against the company, thus creating the impression that Germar was justified in denying a business permit to the company.

"The DENR's main concern is compliance by everyone to our environmental laws. If the requirements have been complied with as in this case, a permit is given. If not, a warning or a sanction, as the case may be, is given," Antiporda explained.

"People should not involve the department to political issues or political intrigues," Antiporda added.

ARTA had also warned Germar that if the allegation against him is proven, he could be suspended for at least six months for the first offence or face imprisonment of up to six years plus a P2 million penalty for a subsequent offence.

Since then, sources said Germar is yet to answer ARTA's demand for an explanation while Wacuman's facility remains close as of this writing.



PAGE



UPPER  
LOWER



PAGE 1  
STORY



BANNER  
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

16 SEP 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 17

DATE

# BULACAN MAYOR DEFYING ARTA?

By Paul M. Gutierrez

**THE province of Bulacan continues to battle with a "garbage crisis" over the alleged continued refusal of Norzagaray Mayor Alfred DG Germar to issue a business permit and immediately moving to close the lone accredited sanitary landfill facility located in his municipality.**

Documents provided to the media disclosed that last August 15, 2019, the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), through deputy director general Atty. Ernesto V. Perez and director general Atty. Jeremiah B. Belgica, gave Germar three days to explain his refusal to issue the business permit to Waste Custodian Management, Inc. (Wacuman), "despite compliance with all the requirements."

ARTA is a new office created under Republic Act (RA) 11032 to monitor compliance with the Duterte administration's "Ease of Doing Business" policy while also combating instances of corruption down to the local level.

For its part, Wacuman was given presidential authority to service the garbage needs not only of Bulacan but nearby areas as well through Presidential Proclamation 1655 signed in 2008 by then Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Informed sources claimed Germar's motive is "purely politics" and "political vendetta" since Matilde Legaspi, mother of Wacuman president Arthur Legasp, ran against him during the May 13 midterm elections.

Germar allegedly ordered the closure of the landfill located in Sitio Tiakad, Bgy. San Mateo, just before the May 13 elections. The mayor allegedly refused to reconsider his position of not giving a business permit to Wacuman, despite the request of outgoing governor Willy Sy-Alvarado right after the elections to prevent a garbage crisis in the province.

In refusing to give a business permit to Wacuman, Germar cited the former's alleged "insufficient and (lack) of requirements" in the processing of its business

permit, according to the report reaching ARTA and the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC).

ARTA has reminded Germar that the continued closure of Wacuman's facility "will inevitably result in a garbage crisis not only in your city but in the neighboring cities and municipalities of the province of Bulacan as well."

Documents submitted to ARTA and the PACC showed that Wacuman had complied with all requirements, including a clearance from the regional office of the Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR) for the last three years.

DENR spokesman and undersecretary for solid waste management Benny Antiporda said that while his office flagged Wacuman last October 2018 due to some complaints they received against the facility's operations, these have all been addressed by the company that resulted in its being issued a clearance by the EMB last March 19.

He also described as "erroneous" a news report last week claiming the DENR recently issued an "NOV" (notice of violation) against the company, thus creating the impression that Germar was justified in denying a business permit to the company.

"The DENR's main concern is compliance by everyone with our environmental laws. If the requirements have been complied with as in this case, a permit is given. If not, a warning or a sanction, as the case may be, is given," Antiporda explained.

"People should not involve the department in political issues or political intrigues," he added.

ARTA had also warned Germar that if the allegation against him is proven, he could be suspended for at least 6 months for the first offence or face imprisonment of up to 6 years plus a P2 million penalty for a subsequent offence.

Since then however, sources said that Germar is yet to answer ARTA's demand for an explanation why Wacuman's facility remains close as of this writing.



1/2

# Swine raisers told:

# Let vets do their job

By **LOUISE  
MAUREEN SIMEON**

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is appealing to backyard swine raisers to report sick and dead pigs and let the experts do their jobs in their proper disposal.

Agriculture Secretary William Dar called on raisers to report any illness or death to their respective municipal or city veterinarians, who will, in turn, coordinate with the DA's Bureau of Animal Industry to determine the cause.

His appeal came after dozens of pigs were found floating along the Marikina River and a creek in Quezon City, amid the increase in cases of African swine fever (ASF).

"It was utterly irresponsible on the part of backyard raisers as they did not only violate current laws, but their misdoing also spread the disease pathogens much faster," Dar said. "They violated the Animal Welfare Act, as they deprived their dead pigs of adequate care, maltreating

them in the process."

Violators could be imprisoned from six months to two years or fined P1,000 to P5,000.

"Also, the suspected backyard raisers violated the Solid Waste Management Act as they brazenly and irresponsibly dumped dead pigs in public places like waterways," Dar added.

Violators of the Solid Waste Management Act can be punished with a fine of P300 to P1,000 or tasked to render community service from one day to 15 days.

Dar maintained that sick animals deserve proper care and adequate treatment. Should they die, there are strict protocols on how they should be disposed of.

"The DA through the BAI and the National Meat Inspection Service – in partnership with the private sector particularly with commercial hog raisers' groups, local government units (LGUs), and military – has taken all the necessary measures to manage, control and contain the

possible spread of ASF and major swine diseases," Dar said.

"The irresponsible dumping of dead pigs simply adds scare to the public, and this should not be tolerated. The perpetrators must be punished in accordance with the law," he added.

The Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. has called on the DA and LGUs to ensure the strict implementation of protocol to dispose of dead pigs. Recently, the DA announced the result of the confirmatory polymerase chain reaction test on the swine blood samples collected from small backyard farms in Rizal.

It is still awaiting the results of the viral isolation test, which is seen to be more definitive in terms of identifying the nature of the virus detected.

The PCR test result from the World Reference Laboratory in Pirbright in England, which is also the World Organization for Animal Health Reference Labora-





tory for ASF, confirmed that majority of the blood samples were ASF-positive.

According to the European Union Reference Laboratory for ASF, the PCR amplifies small fragments of viral DNA to detectable quantities, enabling rapid diagnosis of ASF. The PCR test result serves as basis for authorities to perform necessary measures.

### Culled pigs

The Quezon City government has assured that it is taking all precautionary measures necessary to prevent the spread of ASF following the confirmation that some of those grown by backyard hog raisers tested positive for the disease.

It also requested the police to set up checkpoints within a one-kilometer radius where some dead pigs were found.

Mayor Joy Belmonte confirmed over the weekend that 11 pigs in Barangay Bagong Silangan tested positive for ASF.

Hogs within the infected zone and within the one-kilometer radius are to be automatically culled as part of the standard protocol to control a possible outbreak.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, almost 50 pigs were culled from Bagong Silangan's backyard raisers.

Belmonte earlier ordered the gradual phaseout of piggeries within the city as it was an illegal practice, it being contrary to a zoning ordinance. The city government assured financial aid and livelihood assistance for affected piggery owners.

The City Veterinary Office said it will also intensify its monitoring of major public markets and slaughterhouses to prevent the entry of ASF-infected meat and double-dead meat.

"We assure residents that the local government is on top of the situation and doing everything it can to ensure that the pork being sold in our markets are safe for human consumption," the city government said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Marikina City Mayor Marcelino Teodoro has given the DA information that could possibly point to the persons who dumped 56 dead pigs in the Marikina River last week.

"We are serious in filing cases against the culprit, whoever would be found in violation of clean water act and sanitation law. We would file a civil case for us to claim damages for the man-hours, equipment, manpower the city has consumed in clearing the Marikina River of the dead swine and in our effort to bury them...Both civilly liable and criminally accountable. It can be considered as illegal dumping of pollutant," Teodoro, a lawyer, stressed.

He expects the DA-BAI to send a team to Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) in Rizal to investigate where the dead swine originated.

Noverlee Calub of the BAI promised to furnish the mayor the results of the investigation. - With Paolo Romero, Non Alquitran



# 11 dead pigs with ASF found in QC

## DA warns irresponsible swine raisers

By **CHINO S. LEYCO,**  
**ALEXANDRIA SAN JUAN,**  
and **ANALOU DE VERA**

**T**he Department of Agriculture (DA) has reminded backyard swine raisers that improper disposal of dead pigs is punishable by law, reiterating government's call to report all suspected African swine fever (ASF) cases to the local veterinary office following the discovery of dozens of dead pigs floating in Marikina River, a creek in Quezon City (QC), and a transport terminal in Nueva Vizcaya.

Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar renewed his appeal yesterday to hog raisers to report sick and dead pigs to their respective municipal or city veterinarians.

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte said 11 hogs infected with the virus were found in Barangay Bagong Silangan. They also received reports of dead pigs in Barangay Payatas, also in Quezon City, but experts have yet to confirm if they also died due to ASF pending laboratory test results from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).

Belmonte assured residents that they have established checkpoints to closely monitor and inspect markets, supermarkets, and slaughterhouses in the city.

At least 12 pigs were also reportedly dumped in a transport terminal in Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya.

Dar said the local veterinary services office will coordinate with the DA's BAI to determine the cause of the pigs' sickness or death.

"It was utterly irresponsible on the part of the backyard raisers as they did not only violate current laws, but their misdoing also spreads the disease pathogens much faster," Dar said in a statement.

"They violated RA 8485, the Animal Welfare Act, as they deprived their dead pigs of adequate care, maltreating them in the process," the agriculture chief pointed out.

According to Dar, violators are punishable by imprisonment of not less than six months and not more than two years or a fine of not less than ₱1,000 and not more than ₱5,000.

"Also, the suspected backyard raisers violated RA 9003, the Solid Waste Management Act, as they brazenly and irresponsibly dumped dead pigs in public places like waterways," Dar said.

Violators of RA 9003 are punished with a fine of not less than ₱300 but not more than ₱1,000 or render community service for not less than one day to not more than 15 days.

Dar said that sickly animals deserve proper care and adequate treatment. Should they eventually die, there are strict protocols on how they should be disposed of.

"The DA through the BAI and the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) has taken all the necessary measures to manage, control, and contain the possible spread of African swine fever and major swine diseases," Dar said.

The DA has partnered with the private sector, particularly with commercial hog raisers' groups, local govern-

ment units, Philippine National Police, and the military in an effort to control the spread of ASF to other areas.

"The irresponsible dumping of dead pigs simply adds scare to the public, and this should not be tolerated. The perpetrators must be punished in accordance with the law," Dar said.

The Department of Health (DOH) reiterated on Sunday that the ASF does not pose any health risk to humans.

"Ito lang gusto natin ipaalala, wala itong harm sa tao, walang threat to human health, ang talagang naapektuhan ay yung swine population and yung food security ng bansa," said Health Undersecretary Rolando Enrique Domingo.

According to the World Organization for Animal Health, African swine fever is a highly contagious hemorrhagic viral disease of domestic and wild pigs but it is not a risk to human health.

"Actually, hindi transmissible ang virus to humans. Kaya lang hindi mo naman ma-eencourage yung tao na kainin yun dahil lahat naman ng baboy kapag may sakit hindi dapat kainin pero anyway hindi naman sya nakakaffect sa humans (The virus is not transmissible to humans. But of course, we cannot encourage people to consume infected pigs)," Ana Cabel, city chief veterinarian, explained.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has confirmed that ASF was the

cause of swine deaths in Rizal, the first in the Philippines.

Agriculture Secretary William Dar said 14 out of the 20 blood samples of dead pigs from some backyard farms in Rizal tested positive for ASF virus based on laboratory tests conducted in the United Kingdom.

Recently, the DOH advised the public to cook pork thoroughly and to purchase pork meat only from reliable sources.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said that ASF is a "severe and highly contagious viral disease among domestic and wild pigs."

The DOH said that pigs infected with the ASF virus experience high fever, depression, loss of appetite; vomiting, diarrhea; and redness of ears, abdomen, and legs.

The health department advised hog raisers not to feed "raw or undercooked pork products (swill, garbage, or waste) to pigs." They should also monitor the pigs daily and check for signs of illness.

Pig handlers were also advised to wash their hands after coming from a farm or market, and clean their shoes and tires of vehicles used in the pig farm.

"The DOH urges the public to support measures being implemented by the DA and to work closely with concerned agencies in monitoring and responding to significant health events," the health department stated.



# 'Raisers dumping dead pigs in creeks face jail time'

BY CAI U. ORDINARIO [@cauordinario](#)  
& CLAUDETH MOCON-CIRIACO | *Correspondent*

**T**HE Department of Agriculture (DA) and the local government of Marikina City warned hog raisers dumping dead pigs in creeks, rivers and other public places that they face jail time.

Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar said the improper disposal of dead pigs is punishable under Republic Act 8485, or the Animal Welfare Act, and RA 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act.

"The irresponsible dumping of dead pigs simply adds scare to the public, and this should not be tolerated. The perpetrators must be punished in accordance with the law," Dar said in a statement.

The DA chief also said raisers have maltreated animals by throwing the dead pigs in the Marikina River and a creek in Quezon City.

Those found guilty of violating RA 8485 face imprisonment of not less than six months, or a fine of not less than P1,000, but not more than P5,000.

Further, the DA said the act of dumping animals in the river violates RA 9003 which is punishable with a fine of not less than P300, but not more than P1,000.

Violators may also be required to render community service for not less than a day to not more than 15 days.

Dar said sickly animals deserve proper care and adequate treatment. Should they eventually die, there are strict protocols on the disposal of the dead animals.

"It was utterly irresponsible on the part of the backyard raisers, as they did not only violate current laws, but their misdeed also spread the disease pathogens much faster," he said.

Dar appealed to hog raisers to report sick and dead pigs to their respective municipal or city veterinarians instead of just dumping dead animals in waterways and other public spaces.

The veterinarians will coordinate with the DA's Bureau of Animal Industry to determine the cause of sickness or death.

DA Spokesman Noel O. Reyes earlier told the BUSINESSMIRROR

that the agency has yet to determine whether the dead hogs were infected by the African swine fever (ASF) virus.

If it were true, Reyes said throwing the dead animals in a creek was simply "irresponsible." He reminded the public that there are protocols for the disposal of the dead pigs.

Reyes said it usually takes two weeks for the results from the national laboratory to arrive while the international testing, conducted by the United Kingdom-based Pirbright Institute will take longer.

The discovery of the dead animals in a Quezon City creek and in Marikina River came days after the DA announced that ASF killed hogs in Bulacan and Rizal.

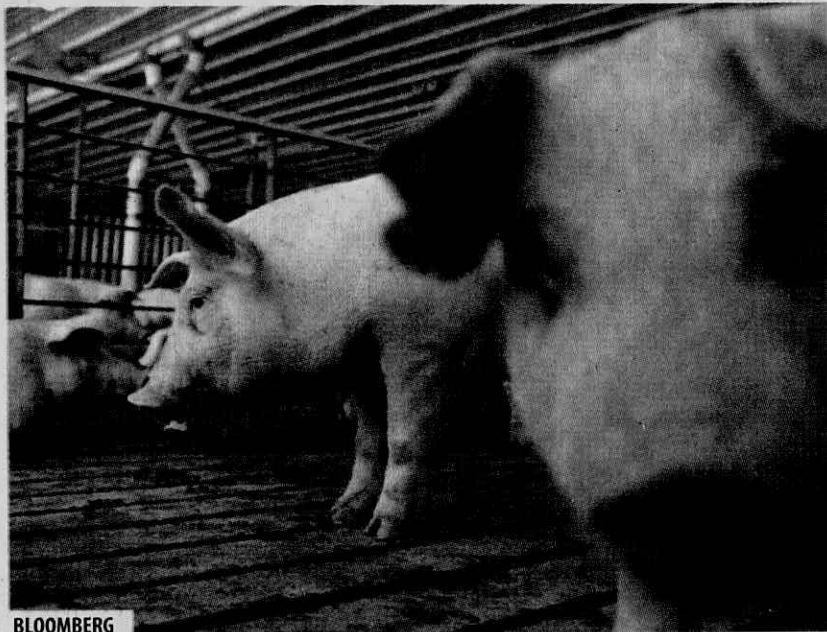
## 'Pollutants'

MARIKINA City Mayor Marcelino Teodoro on Sunday said civil and criminal cases await those people responsible for improperly dumping dead pigs in Marikina River last week. Teodoro also said he has given the DA a lead about the source of the 56 pig carcasses found floating in the river.

"I already gave lead information for the possible place or location, material information that could possibly point to the source," said Teodoro.

He said the city government is "serious" in filing cases against those who will be found violating the Clean Water Act and the sanitation law.

"Violators are civilly liable and criminally accountable. [The



BLOOMBERG

## Biosecurity measures

THE Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. (PCAFI) urged the DA and local government units to intensify the implementation of protocol in disposing of dead hogs. This as some of the dead hogs suspected of having been infected by ASF have been found floating in the Marikina River.

“Offenders should be prosecuted as this is apparently a violation of certain memorandum act of DA regarding the disposal of dead hogs,” said PCAFI President Danilo V. Fausto in a statement. “Stricter implementation of biosecurity procedures should be observed.” At the same time, Fausto said the government must also step up its information campaign to allay fears that the consumption of pork will adversely affect human health.

Edwin Chen, president of PCAFI member Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines, said backyard hog raisers should be advised to observe the proper disposal of dead hogs.

“If the farm is in the backyard, the hogs [affected by the disease] should be culled first then buried immediately outside the farm at a depth [that may not be disturbed by other animals]. Depending on the number, it should be within a certain depth, maybe 2 meters if there are only a few.”

“In commercial farms or in a locality, DA people have designated areas for burying these. The site should not be near a waterway or a creek,” he added.

disposal of dead animals in the river] can be considered as illegal dumping of pollutant,” Teodoro said.

According to the mayor, the Chapter 5 of the Civil Liability Section 27 strictly prohibits discharging, depositing or causing to be deposited material of any kind directly or indirectly into the water bodies or along the margins of any surface water, where, the same shall be liable to be washed into such surface water, either by tide action or by storm, floods or otherwise, which could cause water pollution or impede natural flow in the water body.

“I discovered that anything which alters the water’s condition, that is considered pollution,” the mayor noted.

As the city government awaits the results of the test on the water quality of the Marikina River, Teodoro said fishing, swimming and any other water-related activities are still prohibited.

Teodoro also said the local government of Marikina continuously monitors and inspects pork products being sold in the city to ensure that all meats are safe to eat.

Since Thursday, 56 pig carcasses were retrieved in the Marikina River. The Marikina City Veterinary Services Office immediately buried the dead animals, per the advice of the DA. They were buried 10 feet under the ground to ensure that possible diseases brought by carcasses will not spread.



NEWS

## Pig dumpers face charges

The local government of Marikina will prosecute the people who dumped 56 dead pigs on the Marikina River, according to Mayor Marcelino Teodoro. City officials, however, have yet to establish the origin of the carcasses. The Bureau of Animal Industry is helping, and has sent a team to the Marikina River's headwaters in Montalban, Rizal, to see if the place where the pigs had died can be established. —STORY BY MATTHEW REYSIO-CRUZ

A8

By Matthew Reysio-Cruz  
@MatthewINQ

The culprits behind 56 dead pigs found floating on the Marikina River are facing a slew of civil and criminal charges.

But first they must be identified—and arrested.

Marikina City Mayor Marcelino Teodoro said in a statement on Sunday that regardless of whether the pigs were thrown in the river or were just washed into the waterway by flood, those who disposed of the carcasses would be held accountable for violating the Sanitation Code and the Clean Water Act.

"We are going to file a civil case to claim damages for the equipment and manpower [used] by the city for the clearing and burial of those pigs," Teodoro said.

### Maltreatment of animals

Agriculture Secretary William Dar on Sunday warned hog raisers to immediately report disease in their livestock and properly dispose of dead animals or they will be prosecuted.

Hog raisers who do not follow proper disposal methods, like those who dumped dead pigs on the Marikina River and on a creek in Quezon City, violate the Animal Welfare Act "as they deprived their dead pigs of adequate care, maltreating them in the process," Dar said in a statement.

Marikina officials have yet to identify the origin of the dead pigs, several days after the first carcasses were found floating on the river.

There are no piggeries or slaughterhouses in Marikina so the carcasses could have only come from another municipality upriver.

Noverlee Calub of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) said a team had been dispatched to Montalban, Rizal province, where the Marikina River has its headwaters, to investigate how the dead pigs ended up floating on the 27-kilometer waterway.

The Rizal provincial veterinary office and the Department of Agriculture in Calabarzon are also involved in the investigation, Calub said.

### Carcasses buried

The first carcasses were seen on the river in Barangay Santo Niño on Thursday morning. More carcasses were found the following days in the downriver villages of Nangka and Kalumpang.

One of the carcasses was sent to the BAI for testing for African swine fever on Friday.

The rest were immediately buried on advice from the agriculture department, which had confirmed an outbreak of African swine fever in the Philippines.

African swine fever cannot be transmitted to humans, but Manuel Carlos, head of veterinary services in Marikina, said other diseases could arise from the river if its waters had been contaminated by the dead pigs.

The city government banned fishing, swimming and other water-related activities after the first carcasses were found.

Samples of water from the river have been sent in for testing.

In Quezon City, the local government said on Sunday that it had killed 50 pigs belonging to illegal backyard raisers in Barangay Bagong Silangan, where 11 pigs had been found positive for African swine fever.

In a statement, the city also said it had asked the police to set up checkpoints within a kilometer radius of Oriole Extension and Area 5 of Barangay Silangan—ground zero for the African swine fever outbreak in the village—to prevent meat traffic.

The veterinary office also said it was strictly monitoring the markets in the city to ensure no meat from infected pigs would be sold to the public.

### Demand falls

In Bulacan province, where pigs had died from African swine fever, demand for pork has dropped since the outbreak in August.

Local officials, however, assure the public that it is safe to eat pork from Bulacan.

In Nueva Ecija province, local officials in Bongabon town have intensified a watch on pork in public markets.

Bongabon Mayor Allan Gamilla on Sunday led market inspections to make sure vendors had veterinary certificates and other permits required to sell pork.

In Iligan, health officials are requiring hog dealers to secure veterinary certificates from their own local governments before allowing them to bring their livestock into the city.

City veterinarian Dhalia Valera has also warned restaurants, hotels, eateries and other food outlets against providing swill to hog raisers.

Iligan City is known for its delicious roast pig. It will celebrate the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel on Sept. 29. —WITH REPORTS FROM ANNELLE TAYAO-JUEGO, CARMELA REYES-ESTROPE, ARMAND GALANG AND RICHELUMEL INQ



WASHED UP Workers from Marikina City's veterinary office have retrieved 56 pig carcasses from Marikina River as of Sunday. —LYN RILLON

# Marikina readies raps vs pig dumpers



## NAGTAPON NG MGA PATAY NA BABOY SA MARIKINA RIVER, KILALA NA

Kilala na umano ng mga otoridad kung sino ang nagtapon ng mga patay na baboy sa Marikina River, kamakailan.

Sinabi ni Marikina City Mayor Marcelino Teodoro, na may lead na sila kung sino ang nagpaanod ng nasa 56 patay na baboy at sampahan nila ito ng mga kasong kriminal at sibil.

"Binigay ko 'yung lead of information for the possible place or location, a material information that could possibly point to the source. Ang city naman, we are serious in filing cases against the culprit who ever would be found in violation of clean water act, and sanitation law,"

ani Teodoro. "Magpa-file kami ng civil case para makacclaim ng damages for the manhour, equipment, manpower na consume ng city sa pagcle-clear at paglilibing ng mga baboy na 'yan," aniya pa.

Matapos na matanggap ang tip mula sa lokal na pamahalaan, nabatid na nagpadala naman na ang DA, sa pamamagitan ng Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), ng team sa Montalban, Rizal upang maimbestiga sa insidente -**Mer Layson-**



## Magtatapon ng patay na baboy kakasuhan – DA

UMAPELA si Agriculture Secretary William Dar sa mga nag-aalaga ng baboy na dumulog sa mga municipal o city veterinarian sakaling magkasakit o mamatay ang kanilang mga alaga.

Nag-apela si Dar matapos maiulat ang mga insidente ng pagtatapon ng patay na mga baboy sa Marikina River at sa iba pang mga ilog.

Ayon sa Department of Agriculture, ang mga municipal at city veterinarian ang makikipag-ugnayan sa DA-Bureau of Animal Industry para matukoy ang sanhi ng sakit o ang ikinamatay ng kanilang mga baboy.

Sabi ni Dar, napaka-iresponsible ng mga nagtatapon ng mga patay na baboy sa ilog dahil hindi lang sila lumalabag sa batas, nagiging sanhi pa sila ng pagkalat ng sakit.

Babala ni Dar, ang mga nagtatapon ng kanilang mga patay na baboy sa ilog ay maaring makulong ng anim na buwan hanggang dalawang taon at pagmultahin ng P1,000 hanggang P5,000.

Sa ngayon, ilang bayan sa Rizal na ang tinamaan ng African Swine Fever at umabot na rin ito sa Guiguinto, Bulacan.

Sinisi ng DA ang ASF sa bansa sa pagpapakain ng mga tiratirang pagkain mula hotel at restaurant sa mga alagang baboy.

Mabilis makasalanta ng kabuhayan ang ASF. Pag tinamaan ang isang baboy nito, tiyak na ang kamatayan dahil 100% ang mortality rate sa mga baboy na tinatamaan ng virus.

Sa Vietnam kung saan unang tumama ang ASF noong Pebrero lamang, 4.7 milyong baboy na ang kanilang pinatay at inilibing.

Sa China, Agosto 2018 pa nagka-ASF at 1.17 milyon pa lamang ang mga pinatay na baboy.  
**(Eileen Mencias/Prince Golez)**



# Ecija governor warns poultry, piggery owners

**By Steve  
A. Gosuico**

**CABANATUAN City --** Nueva Ecija Governor Aurelio M. Umali ordered the local Department of Environment and Natural Resources, with the help of the Philippine National Police, to immediately inspect poultry and piggery farms in the province,

and close down those without building permits and the required environmental compliance certificate (ECC) from the provincial government.

"Sa ating mga poultry at piggery, kapag nag-inspect na po ang ating teams ay ipakita n'yo po ang inyong building permit at ECC at kapag wala kayong ipinakita, kayo po ay ipasasara. Dahil ito po ay mandato at ito po ay

walang sisinuhin, lalo na po doon sa malalapit sa amin, wala pong pulitika dito," said Umali, adding those that continue their operations pose serious threat to the natural environment and health of the people living in the area.

The governor said a formal notice will be given to these erring farms so they can explain their side.

If they still fail to present the corresponding

environmental clearances and building permits they will be closed down.

"If you want to open it, let's go to court, let's get it on," Umali said.

The governor also warned the heads of the local governments where errant poultry and piggery farms are located they will not be spared.

The stern order was in response to several complaints from local residents

in Palayan City, Lupao and nearby areas that some poultry and piggery farms allegedly operate without local permit and environmental safeguards.

Umali aired the warning during last Tuesday's episode of the weekly DWNE-Teleradyo program "Usapang Malasakit sa Lipunan" with co-host provincial administrator Atty. Alejandro R. Abesamis.





# 'Di magre-report ng may sakit na baboy KULONG, MULTA SA HOG RAISERS

## Mula sa pahina 1

"They violated RA 8485 or the Animal Welfare Act, as they deprived their dead pigs of adequate care, maltreating them in the process," wika ni Agriculture Secretary William Dar.

Sa ilalim ng batas, ang kapabayaang sa pagkakaloob ng sapat na pangangalaga sa mga hayop ay may kaparusahan na pagkabilanggo ng anim na buwan hanggang dalawang taon at multang P1,000 hanggang P5,000.

"Hog raisers should report sick and dead pigs

to their respective municipal or city veterinarians, who will then coordinate with the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry to determine the cause of sickness or death," anang kalihim.

Aniya, ang mga magtatapon ng patay na baboy sa mga pampublikong lugar ay maaari ring pagmultahin ng P300 hanggang P1,000 o patawan ng hanggang 15 araw na community service dahil sa paglabag sa Solid Waste Management Act.

Ang babala ay ginawa ni Dar makaraang maglu-

tangan ang mga patay na baboy sa waterways sa Quezon City at Marikina City, na kalapit lamang ng mga lalawigan ng Rizal at Bulacan, kung saan ang mga baboy ay nagpositibo sa African Swine Fever (ASF) virus.

"It was utterly irresponsible on the part of the backyard raisers as they did not only violate current laws, but their misdoing also spread the disease pathogens much faster," aniya.

"The irresponsible dumping of dead pigs simply adds scare to the

public, and this should not be tolerated. The perpetrators must be punished in accordance with the law."

Sinabi ni Marikina Mayor Marcelino 'Marcy' Teodoro na ipaghaharap nila ng mga kasong sibil at kriminal ang mga responsible sa pagtatapon ng 56 patay na baboy sa Marikina River.

"Both civilly liable and criminally accountable. It can be considered as illegal dumping of pollutant 'yun, eh," ani Teodoro.

Iniulat naman ni Que-

zon City Mayor Joy Belmonte ang sinasabing unang kumpirmadong kaso ng ASF sa Metro Manila.

Ayon sa alkalde, ang 11 patay na baboy sa Barangay Bagong Silangan ay nagpositibo sa virus.

Nakatanggap din, aniya, siya ng mga ulat ng patay na baboy sa Barangay Payatas, subalit hindi pa niya alam kung ilan ang mga ito.

Kasalukuyang bantay-sarado ang buong Luzon sa pagsisikap ng mga awtoridad na mapigilan ang outbreak ng African Swine Fever sa bansa.



**ENVIRONMENTAL CODE**

# IN COTABATO, BISHOP REJECTS LIFTING OF BAN ON OPEN-PIT MINING

**By Bong S. Sarmiento**  
@inqmindanao

KORONADAL CITY—The Diocese of Marbel has reiterated its support for the ban on open-pit mining imposed by the South Cotabato provincial government, which has delayed the \$5.9-billion Tampakan project that seeks to mine one of Asia's largest known undeveloped copper and gold reserves.

The Tampakan project has a potential average annual yield of 375,000 tons of copper and 360,000 ounces of gold, in concentrate, over 17 years.

Bishop Cerilo Casicas pledged last week to sustain the opposition spearheaded by his predecessor, the late Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez, against Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI), operator of the Tampakan project that straddles the provinces of South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and Davao del Sur.

Addressing a mining forum at the Notre Dame of Marbel University here, Casicas described the project as a venture which "even God will not approve."

"God created humans to protect the environment," he said.

### Court challenge

Advocates for mining the province's gold and copper reserves have challenged in court the open-pit mining ban that was imposed through an environment code approved in 2010.

The petitioners include the Bongmal Tribal Council, the Danlag Tribal Council and the Fulo Bato Tribal Council, all of whom come from communities within SMI's approved mining tenement.

The ban has delayed the project for close to a decade already. The bulk of the minerals for extraction are said to lie in Tampakan.

In the past, SMI had explained that based on various studies, the only viable method of extracting the mineral riches in the Tampakan project's area is through open-pit mining.

International experience has shown that "it is a safe and responsible method," the company said.

The environmental compliance certificate issued to SMI was canceled by the late Gina Lopez, when she served as environment secretary.

South Cotabato Gov. Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. said the provincial government would respect the court's decision. INQ



## Research team:

# Fern can absorb arsenic and copper

**A**N Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU)-led research team of environmental scientists has achieved a breakthrough in using plants to remove metal contaminants in the soil.

The team, led by AdMU Assistant Professor Rene Claveria, discovered that a fern could absorb copper and arsenic—two metal contaminants common in mining sites, an AdMU news release said.

*Pteris melanocaulon*, a native fern, was initially determined as a metallophyte—a plant capable of growing in soils even when there is a high concentration of metals.

“In a copper-gold mining area as study site, the fern was discovered to have an ability to accumulate copper,” said AdMU Assistant Professor Rene Claveria. “What we discovered much later is that this fern can also accumulate high levels of arsenic.”

Claveria and the members of his team—Dr. Teresita Perez (Ateneo de Manila University), Dr. Dennis Apuan (University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines-Cagayan de Oro), Mary Jane Apuan (Xavier University Cagayan de Oro) and Ellaine Castillo Perez (Institute of Biology, University of the Philippines)—observed the fern’s ability to tolerate toxic levels of arsenic in mining areas in Surigao and Cebu.

Dr. Augustine Doronilla, a Department of Science and Technology “Balik Scientist” from the University of Melbourne who

mentored the team, was instrumental in the discovery process.

“It was Dr. Doronilla who introduced us to phytoremediation or using plants to remove and immobilize contaminants in soil and groundwater,” Claveria said.

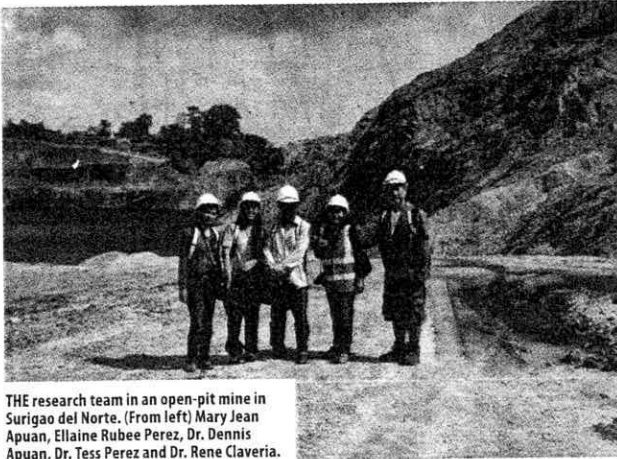
Doronilla, he said, spoke of the fern’s ability as an accumulator.

In 2014, the research team found *Pteris melanocaulon* to be an efficient copper accumulator. Hoping to dig deeper into the plant’s tolerance to toxic compounds, Claveria and his team sought to assess the fern’s ability as an arsenic accumulator.

With funding from DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development, the team was given access to field surveys and sampling, the news release said.

They found that *Pteris melanocaulon* was able to grow in soils that were contaminated with copper and other elements, such as arsenic.

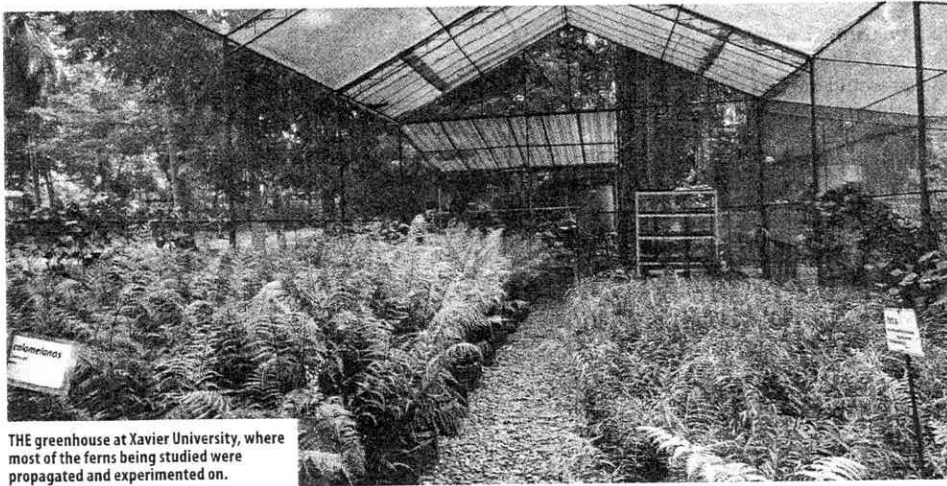
These observations were confirmed on potted experiments, where different concentrations of copper and arsenic solutions were made as soil amendments. Findings show that the fern’s roots and leaves were not affected.



THE research team in an open-pit mine in Surigao del Norte. (From left) Mary Jean Apuan, Elaine Rubee Perez, Dr. Dennis Apuan, Dr. Tess Perez and Dr. Rene Claveria.



THE copper and arsenic-accumulating fern *Pteris melanocaulon* thrives very well in abandoned mining areas in Surigao and Cebu.



THE greenhouse at Xavier University, where most of the ferns being studied were propagated and experimented on.

"It is the first type of fern discovered to accumulate copper in the roots and arsenic in the leaves," Claveria said.

Arsenic is a toxic metalloid that

naturally occurs in some copper and gold mining projects and gets exposed during open-pit mining, contaminating the soil and water in the process.

Excessive levels of arsenic may cause major health complications—from skin damage to problems in the circulatory system and even cancer.

Arsenic exposure in waterways like streams and rivers may lead to contamination of the living organisms in such ecosystems.

Eating fish or mollusks that are exposed to arsenic results in arsenic poisoning.

The new discovery then is useful especially in helping the mining industry and the local government remove, stabilize and destroy contaminants in the soil, Claveria said.

"Successful propagation of *Pteris melanocaulon* can clean up the entire area, making it suitable for other plants to grow. This can help revegetate and stabilize the land that is already affected by toxic elements," Claveria was quoted in the AdMU news release.

The findings were published in international scientific journals, such as *International Journal of Phytoremediation* (2015) and *Chemosphere* (July 2019).



16 SEP 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

## *Enviro groups ask bank to stop funding coal projects*

Groups representing environmental and consumer concerns led by the Power for People Coalition (P4P) on Friday staged a demonstration in front of a bank in Makati City asking it to stop funding coal-fired power plant projects.

"We are asking one of the biggest banks in the country to become a responsible corporate citizen and stop funding coal, which is the source of high power rates, environmental damage, as well as health issues in coal-affected communities," P4P spokesman Gerry Arances said.

Some of the projects allegedly funded by the bank include a \$1.9-billion 600 megawatt power plant in Masinloc, Zambales; 300 MW power plant in Barangay Cawag, Subic Bay Freeport Zone and the 600 MW Mariveles power plant.

"The longer coal stays around in the country, the longer we have to pay higher rates for unreliable electricity, the more we have to pay for health costs of pollution and the greater the damage our children would have to undo with the environmental effects of coal use," Arances said.

Consumer groups Murang Kuryente, Philippine Movement for Climate Justice and Sanlakas joined P4P in the demonstration.



16 SEP 2019  
DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

## Environmental groups protest financing of coal projects

Groups representing environmental and consumer concerns, led by the Power for People Coalition (P4P), recently staged a demonstration in front of one of the biggest and oldest bank's main office to stop funding coal-fired power plant projects.

"We are asking them to become a responsible corporate citizen and stop funding coal, the source of high power rates, much environmental damage, and a lot of health issues in coal-affected communities," said P4P spokesperson Gerry Arances.

Other power plants funded by the said bank are the 2x300 MW coal-fired power plant in Barangay Cawag, Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales by Redondo Peninsula Energy (RPE) and the 600MW Mariveles Power Plant.

"The longer coal stays around in our country, the longer we have to pay higher rates for unreliable electricity, the more we have to pay for health costs of coal pollution, and the greater the damage our children would have to undo with the environmental effects of coal use," said Arances.

Murang Kuryente, the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, and Sanlakas joined P4P in the demonstration, which began at 10 in the morning.

"Stopping funding for coal is easier than fixing their customer support," he added.



16 SEP 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

## Cotabato bishop opposes lifting of ban on open-pit mining

**KORONADAL CITY** — The Diocese of Marbel has reiterated its support for the ban on open-pit mining imposed by the South Cotabato provincial government, which has delayed the \$5.9-billion Tampakan project that seeks to mine one of Asia's largest known undeveloped copper and gold reserves.

The Tampakan project has a potential average annual yield of 375,000 tons of copper and 360,000 ounces of gold, in concentrate, over 17 years.

Bishop Cerilo Casicas pledged last week to sustain the opposition spearheaded by his predecessor, the late Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez, against Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI), operator of the Tampakan project that straddles the provinces of

South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and Davao del Sur.

Addressing a mining forum at the Notre Dame of Marbel University here, Casicas described the project as a venture which "even God will not approve."

"God created humans to protect the environment," he said.

Advocates for mining the province's gold and copper reserves have challenged in court the open-pit mining ban that was imposed through an environment code approved in 2010.

The petitioners include the Bongmal Tribal Council, Danlag Tribal Council and the Fulo Bato Tribal Council, all of whom come from communities within SMI's approved mining tenement.

The ban has delayed the project for close to a decade already. The bulk of the minerals for extraction are said to lie in Tampakan.

In the past, SMI had explained that based on various studies, the only viable method of extracting the mineral riches in the Tampakan project's area is through open-pit mining.

International experience has shown that "it is a safe and responsible method," the company said.

The environmental compliance certificate issued to SMI was canceled by the late Gina Lopez, when she served as environment secretary.

South Cotabato Gov. Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. said the provincial government would respect the court's decision. — *Inquirer*



## Environmental groups: 'Nakalalasang karbon 'wag pondohan'

**NAGSAGAWA** ng protesta ang grupong kumakatawan sa environmental at consumer na pinangunahan ng Power for People Coalition (P4P) sa harap ng Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) main office upang hilinging huwag pondohan ang 'coal-fired power plant projects.'

Ang BPI, kauna-unahan at pinakamalaking bangko sa bansa ay siyang 'biggest financier' ng 'coal-fired power plants'. Sa ilang malalaking bansa, ang nasabing teknolohiya ay hindi pinapayagan dahil nakasisira sa kalikasan.

"We are asking for BPI to become a responsible corporate citizen and stop funding coal, the source of high power rates, much environmental damage, and a lot of health issues in coal-affected communities," ayon kay P4P spokesperson Gerry Arances.

Ilan sa mga proyektong pinopondohan ng BPI ay kinabibilangan ng \$1.9 billion 600MW power plant sa Masinloc na binili ng San Miguel Corporation sa pinakamalaking korporasyon sa bansa.

Ang iba pang power plants na ginagastusan ng bangko ay ang 2x300 MW coal-fired power plant sa Barangay Cawag, Subic Bay Freeport Zone sa Zambales ng Redondo Peninsula Energy (RPE) at 600MW Mariveles Power Plant.

"BPI, in funding these coal projects, are using our money to poison us. The longer coal stays around in our country, the longer we have to pay higher rates for unreliable electricity, the more we have to pay for health costs of coal pollution, and the greater the damage our children would have to undo with the environmental effects of coal use,"

giit pa ni Arances.

Kasama ng P4P na nagsagawa ng demonstrasyon sa harap ng BPI ay ang Murang Kuryente, Philippine Movement for Climate Justice at Sanlakas.

"Stopping funding for coal is easier than fixing their customer support," dagdag pa ng tagapagsalita ng P4P.

**JAN SINOCRUZ**





16 SEP 2019

DATE

## Environmental groups sa BPI

# Nakalalasang Karbon, 'wag pondohan

**NAGSAGAWA** ng kilos-protesta ang grupong kumakatawan sa environmental at consumer na pinangunahan ng Power for People Coalition (P4P), sa harapan ng Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) main office upang hilingin na huwag pondohan ang coal-fired power plant projects.

Ang BPI, ang kauna-unahan at pinakamalaking banko sa bansa, at biggest financier ng coal-fired power plants, ang teknolohiya na hindi na pinapayagang gamitin pa sa maunlad na bansa.

"We are asking for BPI to become a responsible corporate citizen and stop funding coal, the source of high power rates, much environmental damage, and a lot of health issues in coal-affected communities," ayon kay P4P spokesperson Gerry Arances.

Ilan sa mga proyektong pinopondohan ng BPI ay kinabibilangan ng \$1.9-billion 600MW power plant sa Masinloc, na binili ng San Miguel Corporation sa pinakamalaking korporasyon sa bansa.

Ang iba pang power plants na ginagastusan ng banko ay 2x300 MW coal-fired power plant sa Barangay Cawag, Subic Bay Freeport Zone sa Zambales ng Redondo Peninsula Energy (RPE) at 600MW Mariveles Power Plant.

"BPI, in funding these coal projects, are using our money to poison us. The longer coal stays around in our country, the longer we have to pay higher rates for unreliable electricity, the more we have to pay for health costs of coal pollution, and the greater the damage our children would have to undo with the environmental effects of coal use," giit ni Arances.

Kasama ng P4P na nagsagawa ng demonstrasyon sa harap ng tanggapan ng BPI ang Murang Kuryente, the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, at Sanlakas.

"We understand that the sole focus of BPI is to make money. But they will not lose money if they shy away from coal. This has been demonstrated by some of the biggest banks in the world," ani Arances.

"Stopping funding for coal is easier than fixing their customer support," dagdag ng tagapagsalita ng P4P.



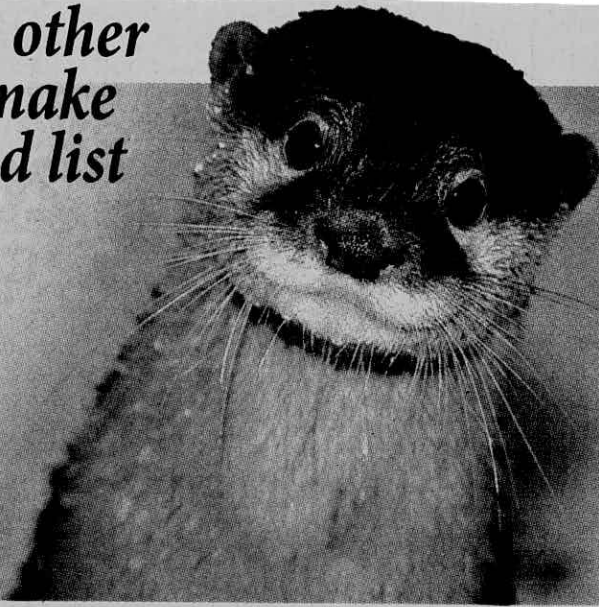
## Palawan otter, other Phl animals make trade protected list

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

With international support, the Philippine species of otters, butterflies, geckos and wedge-fish are now among the animals listed as threatened with extinction.

The Philippines successfully rallied support for international cooperation to protect its animals that are threatened

Turn to Page 5



The Asian small-clawed otter in Palawan is the only known otter species in the country, locally known as 'dungon,' 'pangkat-pangkat' or 'fisher dog.'

BATCONSULTANCY.CO.UK IMAGE

## Palawan From Page 1

with extinction during the 18th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) in Geneva.

During the meeting, a Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) official was also recognized for her role in strengthening the Philippines' conservation efforts and helping put a stop to domestic ivory trade.

Supported by other countries, the Philippines was able to include local species of otters and butterflies in Appendix I of the Convention, and geckos and wedgefish in Appendix II.

Appendix I offers the highest protection to species already threatened with extinction by limiting trade and requiring the issuance of export and import permits in exceptional cases, while Appendix II includes animals that may face extinction due to uncontrolled or illegal trade.

The isolated population of Asian small-clawed otter in Palawan is the only known otter species in the country, locally known as "dungon," "pangkat-pangkat" or "fisher dog."

Meanwhile, former DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau-Wildlife Resources Division chief Josefina de Leon received

the Clark Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award from the Species Survival Network and Animal Welfare Institute for her crucial role in strengthening wildlife law enforcement in the Philippines.

Apart from developing standards and protocols for wildlife law enforcers, De Leon was among the key figures in the destruction of more than four tons of elephant tusks seized in 2013.

Ambassador Evan Garcia, Philippine Permanent Representative to the UN and Other Organizations in Geneva, received the award in her behalf in a side event held last Aug. 20.

He also hailed the inclusion of Philippine animals in the CITES appendices.

"The listing is a victory not just for the animals whose survival is endangered because of unmitigated trade, but for present and future generations whose access to the benefits of biodiversity rests on our current resolve and ability to recognize threats, respond quickly to dynamic situations, and modify destructive patterns of consumption," Garcia said.

Members of the Philippine delegation included representatives from the DENR, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, Save Philippine Seas, Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines, Center for Sustainability PH Inc., Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines Inc., and Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Inc.

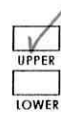


STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900  
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



PAGE



16 SEP 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/



**DOWNED BIRD** - Children at the Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila, show off a wounded black-crowned night heron which they brought down with a slingshot near Manila Bay Sunday. The bird is a migratory species whose numbers have dropped slightly because of shrinking habitats. (Ali Vicoy)



16 SEP 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

## 4th dead dolphin found in Negros town

By **GLAZYL MASCULINO**

**BACOLOD CITY** — The decomposing carcass of a dolphin was found floating on the waters of Barangay Patic, Pulupandan, Negros Occidental last

Wednesday, September 11.

It was the fourth dead dolphin that got stranded in Bago-Pulupandan coastal area.

The Lumba Project, a center for research and engagement on critically endangered Irrawaddy dolphins found in Bago and Pulupandan areas in the province, of the University of St. La Salle here, reported that the dolphin had multiple puncture wounds probably caused by cookie cutter sharks when found by fisherman Jeremias Gabayeron around 3 a.m.



## Baguio takes lead in waste segregation

**By Aldwin Quidasol**

BAGUIO City – City government officials will lead the compliance to solid waste management and collection policies to convince the people of this city the seriousness of the campaign on the proper segregation of waste.

Mayor Benjamin Magalong directed all departments of the city government to properly segregate their garbage before being collected by the roving trucks and brought to the city's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

He said he will take it against the concerned department heads once unsegregated garbage gets to the city's MRF as the city government has to lead by example in the proper disposal of garbage, especially the segregation of waste at

source, so that local officials and employees could convince residents in the city's 128 barangays to comply with the standing policy.

**He will take it against the concerned department heads once unsegregated garbage gets to the city's MRF.**

Magalong said he had been receiving reports that there are unsegregated wastes coming from the different offices of the city government, adding that these are being dumped in the city's MRF, which runs contrary to the policies on waste disposal the government is imposing to the citizens.

Under the Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000,

households are told to segregate their waste in their residences to ensure only segregated garbage is brought out and dumped in the identified pick-up points in the barangays, thus, the obligation to properly dispose garbage lies with the residents and not solely lodged with the government.

The city government has time and again reminded barangay residents to ensure the garbage they bring to their identified pick-up points are segregated to avoid unsegregated garbage from being returned to them by supervising barangay officials.

Magalong stressed that the people will be compelled in complying when they see that the government officials have the moral ascendancy as they follow the law they are pushing.



## Globe rewards sa lalahok sa coastal clean-up drive

**TATANGGAP** ang mga Globe customer ng 100 Globe Rewards points kapag lumahok sila sa coastal clean-up drive na pangungunahan ng International Coastal Clean-Up Philippines at ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa Setyembre 21 sa mga piling lugar sa Metro Manila at Subic Bay Freeport Zone sa Zambales.

Ideklara ng Philippine government noong 2003 ang ikatlong Sabado ng Setyembre ng bawat taon bilang International Coastal Clean-Up Day upang

maitaas ang kamulatan sa dumaraming problema sa marine debris. Sa ICC Day na ginugunita sa buong mundo ay nagtipon-tipon ang mga volunteer upang alisin ang mga basura sa mga dalampasigan, baybayin, ilog, daanan ng tubig at underwater dive sites at magtala ng impormasyon sa mga nakolektang basura.

Kaugnay sa 917 celebration nito ngayong buwan, ang Globe ay nanawagan sa mga customer nito na magpatala at mag-volunteer upang tumulong sa paglilinis sa Baseco Beach sa Tondo, Manila, na bahagi ng

Manila Bay coastline; at sa Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area, isang wetland na matatagpuan sa katimugan ng Manila Bay na kinikilala sa abroad dahil sa mahalagang papel na ginagampanan nito sa kaligtasan ng buhay ng threatened bird species.

Maaari ring lumahok ang mga Globe customer sa coastal clean-up sa Lighthouse Marina Resort, Moonbay Marina Complex, Subic Bay Freeport Zone sa Zambales.

Ang mga Globe customer na sasali sa coastal clean-up ay makatatanggap ng 100

Globe Rewards points kapag iniscan nila ang QR code at ipinasok ang kanilang mobile phone number sa oras na magpatala sa pipiliin nilang lugar mula alas-6 ng umaga hanggang alas-12 ng tanghali.

Ang mga indibidwal o grupo na nais maging bahagi ng mga aktibidad ay maaaring magpatala sa mga sumusunod: Individual Registration, Group Registration, ICC.

"While we do our best to meet the current and future needs

of our customers, we must also do our share for the environment for the welfare of future generations. It is everyone's responsibility to take care of the only planet we live in. We think it is appropriate to use this occasion for our customers to share a meaningful experience with us," wika ni Yoly Crisanto, Globe Chief Sustainability Officer and SVP for Corporate Communications.

Ang Globe 917 celebration na pinakaaabangan ng customers ay nasa ika-4 na taon na.



## GLOBE REWARDS SA LALAHOK SA COASTAL CLEANUP DRIVE

TATANGGAP ang mga Globe customer ng 100 Globe Rewards points kapag lumahok sila sa coastal cleanup drive na pangungunahan ng International Coastal Clean-Up Philippines (ICC Philippines) at ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Setyembre 21 sa mga piling lugar sa Metro Manila at Subic Bay Freeport Zone sa Zambales.

Idineklara ng Philippine government noong 2003 ang ikatlong Sabado ng Setyembre ng bawat taon bilang International Coastal Clean-Up (ICC) Day upang maitaas ang kamulatan sa dumaraming problema sa marine debris. Sa ICC Day na ginugunita sa buong mundo ay nagtitipon-tipon ang mga volunteer upang alisin ang mga basura sa mga dalampasigan, baybayin, ilog, daanan ng tubig, at underwater dive sites at magtala ng

impormasyon sa mga nakolektang basura.

Kaugnay sa 917 celebration nito ngayong buwan, ang Globe ay nananawagan sa mga customer nito na magpatala at mag-volunteer upang tumulong sa paglilinis sa Baseco Beach sa Tondo, Manila, na bahagi ng Manila Bay coastline; at sa Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Eco-tourism Area (LPPCHEA), isang wetland na matatagpuan sa katimugan ng Manila Bay na kinikilala sa ibang bansa dahil sa mahalagang papel na ginagampanan nito sa kaligtasan ng buhay ng threatened bird species.

Maaari ring lumahok ang mga Globe customer sa coastal cleanup sa Light-house Marina Resort, Moonbay Marina Complex, Subic Bay Freeport Zone sa Zambales.

Ang mga Globe customer na sasali sa coastal cleanup ay makatanggap

ng 100 Globe Rewards points kapag ini-scan nila ang QR code at ipinasok ang kanilang mobile phone number sa oras na magpatala sa pipiliin nilang lugar mula alas-6 ng umaga hanggang alas-12 ng tanghali.

Ang mga Indibidwal o grupo na nais maging bahagi ng mga aktibidad ay maaaring magpatala sa mga sumusunod: Individual Registration, Group Registration, ICC.

"While we do our best to meet the current and future needs of our customers, we must also do our share for the environment for the welfare of future generations. It is everyone's responsibility to take care of the only planet we live in. We think it is appropriate to use this occasion for our customers to share a meaningful experience with us," wika ni Yoy Crisanto, Globe Chief Sustainability Officer and SVP for Corporate Communications.



## **Environmental groups sa BPI: 'Nakalalasong Karbon, 'wag pondohan'**

NAGSAGAWA ng kilos-prootesta ang grupong kumakatawan sa environmental at consumer na pinangunahan ng Power for People Coalition (P4P), sa harapan ng Bank of the Philippine Islands' (BPI) main office upang hilingin na huwag pondohan ang 'coal-fired power plant projects.'

Ang BPI, ang kauna-unahan at pinakamalaking bangko sa bansa, at siya ring 'biggest financier' ng 'coal-fired power plants,' ang teknolohiya na hindi na pinapayagang gamitin pa sa mga mauunlad na bansa.

"We are asking for BPI to become a responsible corporate citizen and stop funding coal, the source of high power rates, much environmental damage, and a lot of health issues in coal-affected communities," ayon kay P4P spokesperson Gerry Arances.

Ilan sa mga proyektong pinopondohan ng BPI ay kinabibilangan ng \$1.9 billion 600MW power plant sa Masinloc, na binili ng San Miguel Corporation sa pinakamalaking korporasyon sa bansa.

Ang iba pang power plants na ginagastusan ng bangko ay ang 2x300 MW coal-fired power plant sa Barangay Cawag, Subic Bay Freeport Zone sa Zambales ng Redondo Peninsula Energy (RPE) at 600MW Mariveles Power Plant.

"BPI, in funding these coal projects, are using our money to poison us. The longer coal stays around in our country, the longer we have to pay higher rates for unreliable electricity, the more we have to pay for health costs of coal pollution, and the greater the damage our children would have to undo with the environmental effects of coal use," giit pa ni Arances.

Kasama ng P4P na naggsagawa ng demonstrasyon sa harap ng tanggapan ng BPI ay ang Murang Kuryente, the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, at Sanlaskas.

"Stopping funding for coal is easier than fixing their customer support," dagdag pa ng tagapagsalita ng P4P.





mencias)

## Mga environmentalist, consumer kontra sa coal power plant

Umapela sa pamahalaan ang mga environment at consumer group na pinangunahan ng Power for People Coalition (P4P) na huwag suportahan at pag-aksayahang gastusan ang mga coal-fired power plant project na hindi na rin pinapayagang gamitin sa ibang mauunlad na bansa.

Noong Biyernes ay nagsagawa ng kilos protesta ang grupo sa harap ng tanggapan ng pinakamalaking bangko sa bansa na nagsisilbi umanong 'biggest financier' ng mga coal-fired power plant, upang hilingin na huwag pondohan ang pagtatayo ng mga plantang gumagamit ng carbon.

"We are asking for the bank to become a responsible corporate citizen and stop funding coal, the source of

high power rates, much environmental damage, and a lot of health issues in coal-affected communities," ayon kay P4P spokesperson Gerry Arances.

"In funding these coal projects, are using our money to poison us. The longer coal stays around in our country, the longer we have to pay higher rates for unreliable electricity, the more we have to pay for health costs of coal pollution, and the greater the damage our children would have to undo with the environmental effects of coal use," giit ni Arances.

Kasama ng P4P na nagsagawa ng demonstrasyon sa harap ng tanggapan ng BPI ang Murang Kuryente, Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, at Sanlakas.



## Clean ocean, get Globe rewards

**GLOBE customers can get 100 Globe Rewards points when they participate in the coastal cleanup drive led by the International Coastal Clean-Up Philippines (ICC Philippines) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on September 21 in selected locations around Metro Manila and Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales.**

The Philippine government declared in 2003 the third Saturday of September of each year as an International Coastal Clean-Up (ICC) Day to raise awareness on the growing marine debris problem.

ICC Day, which is being observed worldwide, gathers volunteers to remove trash from beaches, coasts, rivers, waterways, and underwater dive sites and to record information on the debris collected.

In line with its 917 celebration this month, Globe is calling on its

customers to sign up and volunteer to help clean up Baseco Beach in Tondo, Manila, which is part of the Manila Bay coastline; and the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LP-PCHEA), a wetland situated south of Manila Bay recognized internationally due to the critical role it plays in the survival of threatened bird species.

Globe customers may also participate in the coastal clean-up at the Lighthouse Marina Resort, Moonbay Marina Complex, Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales.

Globe customers who will join the coastal clean-up are entitled to 100 Globe Rewards points when they scan QR code and input their mobile phone number upon registration at the location of their choice from 6 a.m. to 12 noon.

Individuals or groups who want to be part of the activities may

sign up at the following: Individual Registration, Group Registration, ICC.

"While we do our best to meet the current and future needs of our customers, we must also do our share for the environment for the welfare of future generations. It is everyone's responsibility to take care of the only planet we live in. We think it is appropriate to use this occasion for our customers to share a meaningful experience with us," said Yoly Crisanto, Globe Chief Sustainability Officer and SVP for Corporate Communications.

The Globe 917 celebration is currently in its fourth year and is much awaited by Globe customers.

For more about Globe and its sustainability programs, follow [Facebook.com/Globe-BridgeCom](https://www.facebook.com/Globe-BridgeCom) or visit [www.globe.com.ph/about-us/sustainability](http://www.globe.com.ph/about-us/sustainability).



16 SEP 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 17

## Clean the ocean, get Globe rewards

GLOBE customers can get 100 Globe Rewards points when they participate in the coastal cleanup drive led by the International Coastal Clean-Up Philippines (ICC Philippines) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on September 21 in selected locations around Metro Manila and Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales.

The Philippine government has declared in 2003 the third Saturday of September of each year as an International Coastal Clean-Up (ICC) Day to raise awareness on the growing marine debris problem. ICC Day, which is being observed worldwide, gathers volunteers to remove trash from beaches, coasts, rivers, waterways, and underwater dive sites and to record information on the debris collected.

In line with its 917 celebration this month, Globe is calling on its customers to sign up and volunteer to help clean up Baseco Beach in Tondo, Manila, which is part of the Manila Bay coastline; and the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA), a wetland situated south of Manila Bay recognized internationally due to the critical role it plays in the survival of threatened bird species.

Globe customers may also participate in the coastal clean-up at the Lighthouse Marina Resort, Moonbay Marina Complex, Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales.

Globe customers who will join the coastal clean-up are entitled to 100 Globe Rewards points when they scan QR code and input their mobile phone number upon registration at the location of their choice from 6 a.m. to 12 nn.

Individuals or groups who want to be part of the activities may sign up at the following: Individual Registration, Group Registration, ICC.

"While we do our best to meet the current and future needs of our customers, we must also do our share for the environment for the welfare of future generations. It is everyone's responsibility to take care of the only planet we live in. We think it is appropriate to use this occasion for our customers to share a meaningful experience with us," said Yoly Crisanto, Globe Chief Sustainability Officer and SVP for Corporate Communications.



## Blacklisted Indian nabbed in Boracay

By EVELYN MACAIRAN

Agents of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) have arrested a blacklisted Indian national who managed to reenter the country and work on Boracay Island in Aklan.

Vincent Joseph Mondal, 42, was arrested on Sept. 4 as he was working as a cook at the Namas-ter Restaurant located beside the Boracay public market, according to Fortunato Manahan Jr., acting chief of the BI intelligence division.

Mondal, who failed to present his working

permit and visa, was blacklisted by the BI six years ago for overstaying and failure to pay fines.

Authorities expressed belief Mondal reentered the country through Mindanao.

"He is an illegal entrant as he did not undergo inspection by immigration authorities when he last arrived in the country," BI intelligence officer Jude Hinolan said.

Mondal is being held at the BI detention center in Taguig as authorities are preparing the deportation proceedings against him.



16 SEP 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

## 3 foreigners use Boracay beach as urinal

THE three foreigners caught urinating in the world renowned Boracay beaches must face the full force of the law.

Justice Undersecretary Markk Perete pointed out foreigners violating the country's laws should be punished accordingly.

Any discussion of deportation should come after, he added.

"As a matter of policy, if certain acts constitute violation of our laws, including our local ordinances, the offender should be first made to suffer the penalty for such violation," Perete explained.

Chinese Zhang Zhi, 30, and Hao Yueran, 35, both billeted at the Fairways and Blue Waters Resort, were caught at 8:20 p.m. last Thursday urinating in public.

Six beach guards of the Malay local government were roving at the beachfront when they saw the two peeing on the shore in front of Calypso Beach and Dove Resort at Station 3 in Barangay Manoc-Manoc.

Zhi and Yueran were brought to the police station and issued citation tickets in violation of a municipal ordinance on cleanliness and sanitation.

The following day, Korean Sungjun Kim was also caught for the same violation while in front of D'Mall. He was also issued a citation.

**Hector Lawas**



16 SEP 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

## INDIAN NA WALANG WORKING PERMIT HINULI SA RESTO

**INARESTO** ng Bureau of Immigration (BI) agents ang isang Indian national dahil sa pagtrabaho sa isang restaurant sa Boracay nang walang working permit at visa.

Kinilala ni BI Intelligence Division Acting Chief Fortunato S. Manahan Jr. ang naturang dayuhan na si Vincent Joseph Mondal, 42 anyos.

Ayon kay Manahan, si Mondal ay naaktuhan ng immigration agent na nagtatrabaho sa Namaster restaurant na matatagpuan malapit sa Boracay Public market bilang isang chief cook.

Nang mahuli si Mondal ni BI intelligence officer Jude Hinolan ay wala itong maiprisintang

pasaporte o travel documents at nadiskubre na overstaying na ito.

Nabisto ni Hinolan na mayroong nakabinbin na reklamo sa opisina ng BI laban sa Indian national dahil batay sa rekord ng BI ay ilegal ang entry nito via back door o hindi dumaan sa tamang proseso.

Nasa rekord din ng BI na hindi siya nagbayad sa ipinataw na penalty ng pamahalaan.

Agad na dinala ito sa BI detention center sa Bicutan Taguig City habang naka-pending ang kanyang deportation proceedings sa opisina ng BI Board of commissioners. **FROI MORALLOS**



**BALITANG  
PROBINSIYA**  
ni PABS HERNANDEZ III

**2 KATAO, ARESTADO SA  
"HOT LOGS"**

**LA UNION** — Dalawa katao ang inaresto ng mga awtoridad nang makumpiskahan ng "hot logs" o mga trosong walang kaukulang dokumento kama-kalawa sa Bgy. Caoayan, Burgos.

Kinilala ang mga suspek na sina Benjie Aberin, driver ng jeep at Virgo Dingan, pahinante, kapwa residente sa nasabing bayan.

Ayon sa ulat, may nagbigay ng impormasyon sa mga awtoridad na may lulang "hot logs" ang pampasaherong jeep na minamaneho ni Aberin kasama ang pahinanteng si Dingan at dahil dito ay pinara ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng mga tauhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at pulisya ang sasakyan ng mga suspek at dito nakumpiska ang mga trosong walang kaukulang dokumento.

Nakapiit na ang mga suspek na kapwa nahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa Presidential Decree (PD) 705 o Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.



## 'Eco-brick' building to rise at CDO

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — A three-story treatment facility for children with leukemia will soon rise here, but it will not be the conventional brick and mortar structure as it will be made out of eco-bricks.

Named "Balay Lunas (House of Healing)," the proposed building will stand within a 14-hectare property in Zayas, which used to be formerly a garbage dumpsite but now converted into an eco-park.

Eco-bricks are made from compressed plastic

garbage, which is the source of livelihood of former garbage scavengers who formed a cooperative in creating such material.

It was affirmed by the City's Local Environment and Natural Resources Office (Clenro) chief, Engr. Armen Cuenca, that the eco-bricks to be used in building the facility have the durability which is much better than usual hollow blocks.

"The durability of the eco brick is 700 pound per square inch (psi) compared to a hollow block which is only 400 psi. In fact, we can get 35 percent savings when we will use the eco-bricks," he said.

In his speech, Mayor Oscar Moreno expressed gratitude on the success of

the project that would be two-pronged in benefiting both the less fortunate waste pickers and children with leukemia.



**Making sure** A utility man ties up used tires tightly on a pick-up truck for delivery to various parts of the metropolis.

ROMAN PROSPERO





# WWF-PHILIPPINES LAUNCHES 'NO PLASTICS IN NATURE' INITIATIVE

**T**HE first anniversary of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines's #AyokoNgPlastik movement was highlighted by the recent launching of its "No Plastics in Nature" Initiative that seeks to stop the flow of plastic waste by 2030.

The problem with plastics has been escalating for decades, where the Philippines has been identified as the world's third-largest contributor of plastics in the ocean.

Plastic pollution has always been a huge issue in the country with the continuous generation of plastic wastes and poor waste management.

In 2016, global plastic production has reached 396 million metric tons (MMT), which translates to 53 kilograms of plastic per person on the planet.

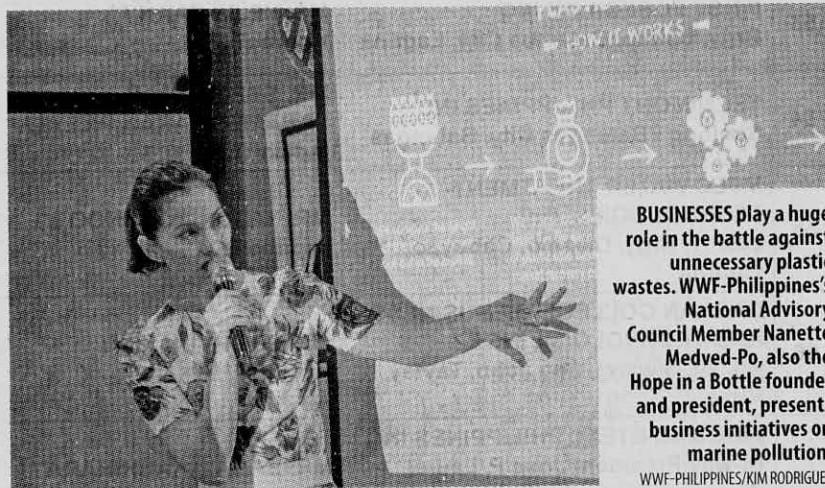
A third of this number has already polluted the land or waterways, and with a projected increase of 40 percent by 2030, an additional 104 MMT will leak into nature in a business-as-usual scenario.

This poses harmful effects not only to the environment, but to human health, as well. It is estimated that on average, people could be swallowing approximately 5 grams of plastic every week.

Recognizing the threat brought about by plastic pollution, WWF-Philippines rolled out the #AyokoNgPlastik movement last year in the hopes of addressing the issue by creating awareness among Filipinos to reduce dependence on single-use plastics, such as straws, bags, bottles and cups, among others.

This year, WWF-Philippines reinforces its campaign against unnecessary plastics by adopting the No Plastics in Nature Initiative, a global WWF approach that intends to stop the flow of plastics into nature by 2030, through the elimination of unnecessary plastics, doubling reuse, recycling and recovery, and ensuring that the remaining plastic is sourced responsibly.

"With the No Plastics in Nature Initiative, we are hoping to make the Philippines free of unnecessary plastic wastes, but we cannot do this alone, we need the help of everyone. Every individual, company and institution should be mindful of the amount of plastics they produce



**BUSINESSES play a huge role in the battle against unnecessary plastic wastes. WWF-Philippines's National Advisory Council Member Nanette Medved-Po, also the Hope in a Bottle founder and president, presents business initiatives on marine pollution.**

WWF-PHILIPPINES/KIM RODRIGUEZ

and use daily, and take action accordingly, to make this goal a reality," said Joel Palma, WWF-Philippines president and CEO.

The initiative is a holistic approach consisting of four main strategies. These are lobbying for a global legally binding agreement on plastic pollution, creating Plastic Smart Cities movement for cities and tourism destinations, initiating a Plastic Action (PACT) for businesses, and #AyokoNgPlastik for the general public.

The WWF network is continually pushing for a new international legally binding agreement to comprehensively address marine plastic pollution throughout the full life cycle from both production to disposal and recovery back into a circular loop.

This is the network's response to the agreement made at the recent 14th Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in Geneva, which stresses that the developing world could no longer be a plastic dumping ground and that any trade would require the prior consent from the receiving country.

Plastic Smart Cities, on the other hand, is a global movement of cities and tourism destinations that are fighting plastic pollution through improved collection, recycling, reduction of key waste plastics and landfill management.

Currently, the Philippines is working in six cities—including Davao City, Digos City, Tagum City, Manila City, Parañaque City, Island Garden City of Samal—and four municipalities, including Lupon, San Isidro, Santa Cruz and Donsol.

Meanwhile, WWF-Philippines was able to partner with at least 20 businesses for the sustainable journey movement where programs to reduce or eliminate single-use plastics in their supply chain system, workplace and business operations were implemented.

This program resulted in the prevention of over 1.5 million pieces of plastic waste from leaking into nature. Currently, WWF-Philippines is adopting PACT, a regional initiative on engaging businesses to take on a circular economy.

Finally, WWF-Philippines's successful #AyokoNgPlastik movement will continue to educate the general public about plastic pollution, its impacts, and how people can help in addressing it through the Facebook community and the recently launched "AyokoNgPlastik" micro site.

Members of the movement have also demonstrated their commitment to this cause by signing the petition to support the call for a new legally binding international agreement on plastic pollution.



16 SEP 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

## Public warned anew vs toxic whitening products

A non-profit watchdog has again cautioned consumers against using unregistered skin lightening cosmetics contaminated with mercury, a highly toxic chemical.

The EcoWaste Coalition reminded the public to shun such skin whitening products to prevent mercury poisoning that can harm the brain, kidneys, skin, and other organs and systems of the human body.

"We urge consumers to steer clear of products promising fairer and flawless skin that lack market authorization from health authorities and whose quality and safety cannot be assured," said Thony Dizon, chemical safety campaigner of EcoWaste Coalition.

"The application of such products onto the skin may in fact result to skin discoloration, rashes and scarring and to other health issues linked to mercury poisoning," he added.

The group warned that mercury-added skin whitening cosmetics proliferate in the local mar-

ket, citing the continued illegal sale, offline and online, of Goree Beauty Cream with Lycopene and Goree Day and Night Whitening Cream despite being banned in 2017 by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) due to their mercury content.

The group on Friday, September 13, managed to buy the "made in Pakistan" Goree products at Victory Lacson Underpass in Quiapo, Manila. Subsequent screening using X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analytical device detected mercury at 21,100 and 25,300 parts per million (ppm) in the two products, way in excess of the allowable limit of 1 ppm.

The group on Saturday saw more retailers of beauty and herbal products at Baclaran Terminal Plaza Mall in Pasay City selling the banned Goree products and other prohibited mercury-contaminated skin whitening products such Golden Pearl Beauty Cream and Collagen Plus Vit E Day & Night Cream. **(Chito Chavez)**



# House leader pushes creation of disaster resilience department

By **ELLSON QUISMORIO**

It's time the Philippines, a country that has endured calamitous natural disasters in the past, to have a Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR), according to a ranking official in the House of Representatives.

Deputy Speaker and Camarines Sur 2nd district LRay Villafuerte has filed House Bill (HB) 398 creating the Department of Disaster Resilience, defining its powers and functions, and appropriating funds for it.

The proposed measure envisions the DDR as the primary agency responsible for leading, organizing, and managing the national effort before, during and after disasters.

Villafuerte filed the bill in support of President Duterte's call during his State of the Nation Address (SONA) in July for the speedy approval of a law creating such a department, which would also oversee national efforts on disaster prevention, relief work and climate resilience.

The department would also "provide leadership in the continuous development of strategic and systematic approaches to disaster prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, anticipatory adaption strategies, measures, techniques and options."

It seeks to integrate the Climate Change Commission (CCC), National Disaster Risk Reduction, People's Survival Fund (PSF), Yolanda Recovery and Rehabilitation Efforts, and Office of the Presidential Assistant for Rehabilitation and Recovery (OPARR) under the DDR.

Also to be attached to the department are the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Administration (PAGASA) and Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

"The DDR will help ensure that the country is on top of all climate change developments with residents who are safe and ready before, during and after the occurrence of a natural disaster," said the Deputy Speaker, who is also a member of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC).

The international credit rating agency Moody's has pointed out that not only is the Philippines situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire and within the Pacific Ty-

phoon Belt, but its "historically large share of the country's labor force is employed by the agriculture sector, which is inherently vulnerable to climate-related shocks," Villafuerte noted.

"It is high time that the Philippines, through legislation, take a decisive step towards resiliency, stability and full readiness in the face of natural disasters. It cannot continue to resort to band-aid measures like creating temporary government agencies to deal with serious, persistent and pressing issues such as climate change and disaster management," he stressed.

He said "true economic progress is unattainable when we continuously fail to deal with the reality of climate change and hence, suffer from its effects. With the creation of the DRR, the Philippines will be able to quickly respond, prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate disaster and climate resilience plans, programs and projects for the welfare of the people, particularly the vulnerable and the poor."

The DDR will streamline the planning and execution of policies and projects on climate change and unify the country's approach towards resiliency.

"The department shall also do away with redundant bureaucratic processes that may result in delays, confusion and diluted accountability," Villafuerte said.

Under Villafuerte's proposal, the applicable powers, functions, funds, and appropriations of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the Climate Change Office (CCO), Geo-Hazard Assessment and Engineering Geology Section of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Health and Emergency Management Bureau of the Department of Health (DOH), the Disaster Response Assistance and Management Bureau (DREAMB) of the DSWD, and the Bureau of Fire Protection will be transferred to the would-be DDR.

The disaster risk reduction and management functions, assets and personnel of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) currently under the DND (Department of National Defense), would also be transferred to the DDR, but the civil defense functions will remain with the DND.

The existing organizational and administrative systems and processes of the transferred OCD shall serve as the core organization of the Department.



**BUILDING OFFICIALS' DILEMMA**

**PROGRAM GIVING ELECTRICITY TO ILLEGAL HOMES LINKED**

**TO BAGUIO SQUATTERS RISE**

BAGUIO CITY—An amnesty program allowing property owners with no land titles or building permits to have access to electricity and water may have helped increase the number of informal settlers here, a building official told the city council recently.

The council was deliberating on a new ordinance that would continue a 2016 amnesty which allowed informal settlers to have electricity and water supply while they applied for permits or clearances to legitimize their property.

**Amnesty program**

The previous amnesty required the city building and architect's office to issue certificates of electrical installa-



**CROWDED CITY** The Baguio City government has been dealing with problems related to housing, resource use, traffic and waste management as migrants, workers and students continue to crowd the summer capital. —EV ESPIRITU

tion to people who lived in houses that were built without permits.

But city building officer, Nazita Bañez, cautioned the

council about granting new amnesty, saying the previous ordinance appeared to have encouraged more people to build houses on critical slopes,

forests and government lands.

Bañez said the new amnesty could run counter to the proposal of Mayor Benjamin Magalong to impose a moratorium on building constructions to give the city time to correct policies that affected the environment.

About 9,000 illegally built houses benefited from the 2016 amnesty, she said, and that number may increase if a new amnesty is approved.

**Humane treatment**

Some shanties, which the government allowed to have power connections, were not even habitable, Bañez said.

The city government had adopted six amnesty ordinances in recent years.

These ordinances were aimed at treating squatters humanely by granting them access to vital resources, said Councilor Joel Alangsab, one of the sponsors of the proposed amnesty ordinance.

Like the 2016 amnesty, the proposed measure does not condone squatting and may not be used as a legal shield should the city government order the demolition of illegal structures, he said.

Some councilors supported Bañez's proposal to bar structures on slopes from availing of the amnesty. Her office is conducting an inventory of houses or buildings in danger zones and those put up without soil and geological evaluation.

—VINCENT CABREZA INQ



## SM by the Bay, govt steer environmental consciousness on Intl Coastal Cleanup Day

**S**M by the Bay and SM Mall of Asia, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR), International Coastal Cleanup Philippines, Pasay City local government and City Environment and Natural Resources Office, Philippine Coast Guard, and SM Cares, the corporate social responsibility (CSR) arm of SM Prime Holdings Inc., are set to hold the global celebration of the 34th International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day on September 21 to spread awareness in keeping the coastline clean for generations to come.

To be held at the Central Park of the bay area, inside the Mall of Asia Complex in Pasay City, the ICC is one of the biggest events of SM by the Bay, to support its advocacy in caring for the environment.

This year's coastal cleanup is expected to encourage thousands of volunteers to participate and show their concern for the environment in cleaning the coastal stretch of the SM by the Bay. Through the years, participants have come from different sectors of the society, including students, firemen, policemen, teachers, athletes, SM employees and many more.

Paired volunteers will be assigned to different stations wherein one will serve as the collector and other, the tabulator. Data collected will then be forwarded to Ocean Conservancy for final tabulation.

The coastal cleanup supports UN Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water, which aims to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems from pollution, and safeguard them from all kinds of harmful land-based activities.

In fact, the 2019 ICC Philippines poster includes a turtle entangled



FILE photo from the 2018 International Coastal Cleanup activity at SM by the Bay

in fishing net, which was inspired from an event last August 10, 2019, where a green sea turtle was rescued near the coast of Manila Bay. That image serves as a reminder on the damaging effects if our activities are left unchecked and coasts remained unkempt.

"Each year, tons of garbage wind up in the oceans, with 60 percent being composed of plastic material. These are very hazardous to marine life. Now more than ever, the effects of climate change are seen and felt everywhere. We only have one Earth; let's get involved in putting an end to marine pollution for future generations," said Perkin So, senior assistant vice president of SM Mall of Asia, who will lead the hundreds of SM volunteers for the cleanup.

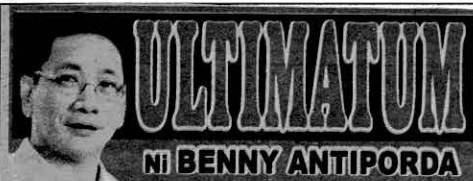
Since 2015, SM By the Bay's regular coastal cleanup initiative has already collected 682,000 kilograms of garbage, in more than 5,000 trash bags, and supported by close to 9,000 volunteers.

SM Cares is the CSR arm of SM Prime Holdings Inc. Other

environment and sustainability programs of SM include SM by the Bay's quarterly cleanup drive; Solar panel rooftop installations which promote the use of clean energy; Water recycling treatment for all malls wherein all recycled water is used back for non-potable and industrial needs; the Automated Weather Stations; the monthly Trash-to-Cash Recycling Market; and the Green Film Festival, to name a few.

As a responsible member of the community, SM ensures that its CSR programs serve as a catalyst for positive change in the communities that it supports. To know more about SM Cares, you may visit [www.smcares.com.ph](http://www.smcares.com.ph), [www.facebook.com/OfficialSMCares](http://www.facebook.com/OfficialSMCares), or send an e-mail to [smcares@smsupermalls.com](mailto:smcares@smsupermalls.com).

Interested volunteers may register at <https://bit.ly/2YxuWyT>. To know more about the International Coastal Cleanup, you may visit [www.facebook.com/SMbytheBAY](http://www.facebook.com/SMbytheBAY), send an e-mail to the [smbythebay@gmail.com](mailto:smbythebay@gmail.com), or contact (02) 556-0364.



## MAGBUNGKAL NA NG SARILING LANGIS

HINDI maganda ang naganap sa suplay ng langis sa buong mundo lalo na sa mahal kong Pinas na halos 100 porsyentong umaangkat nito.

Tanging ang Malampaya natural gas ang nabungkal natin sa sarili nating lupain subalit hindi naman napakikinabangan nang husto sa presyo dahil kontrolado ng mga dayuhan.

Isa pa, malapit nang maubos ang deposito ng Malampaya natural gas na mataagpuan sa Palawan.

Hindi maganda ang naganap sa industriya ng langis dahil sa konting problema rito, biglang nagkakaroon tayo ng malakihang taas-presyo o oil price hike.

Nitong huli, inatake ng drone ang dalawang pinakamalalaking oil field sa Saudi Arabia at nagbunga ito ng pagkaparalisa ng kalahati ng produksyon ng nasabing bansa.

Agad na sinabi ng mga anak ng putak-teng negosyante sa langis na magkakaroon ng big time oil price hike sa Pinas dahil dito.

Pero kung tutuusin, 5 porsyento lang naman sa pandaigdigang suplay ang naapektuhan at lumalabas na gawa-gawa lang talaga ng mga ganid na negosyante sa langis ang pagtataas ng presyo ng malakihan at isinasangkalan ang mga pangyayaring katulad ng naganap sa Saudi Arabia.

Maraming langis sa ating bansa, natural gas at langis na pupwedeng irepina para maging gasolina, diesel, gaas, liquified petroleum gas at iba pang produktong petrolyo.

Sa Mindanao, marami nang natutuklasan na deposito na napakalalaki, kasama ang mga nasa Liguasan marsh na nasa loob mismo ng ating kalupaan.

Nariryan din ang mga ibang deposito sa Palasan, West Philippine Sea at sa Philippine Rise na dating Benham Rise.

Kung gugustuhin lang talaga ng pamahalaan, pupwedeng simulan ang pagbubungkal ng mga langis para hindi na tayo kailangan mag-angkat ng sarili nating mga natural gas at petrolyo.

Mayroon tayong nakatayong departamento ng enerhiya at sangay ng pamahalaan na magaling at sanay na sa pagbubungkal ng langis gaya ng Philippine National Oil Company na nagsimula pa noong panahon ni Manong Ferdie.

Kung may mga pagkukulang man tayo, pupwede naman tayong maki-partner sa mga sanay na dayuhan subalit pairalin ang nararapat na hatian sa lahat ng usapin gaya ng puhunan, kapangyarihang magpresyo, suplay sa loob ng Pinas at iba pa.

Sa panahon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, mag-iisang taon nang nagkakalkal ang Pilipinas at isang kompanya ng langis malapit sa Palawan at sana'y magtagumpay ito.

Dapat na madagdagan ang ganitong proyekto at kung gugustuhin, magagawa namang maitayo ang isang drilling platform at makapaglabas ng mga langis o natural gas sa loob lamang ng tatlo hanggang limang taon, gaya ng posibilidad sa Liguasan marsh na nasa lupa lamang at hindi nasa gitna ng karagatan.

Dapat magbuhos ang pamahalaan ng malaking pondo para sa oil exploration sa Pilipinas at dito gagampan ang Palasyo at Kongreso nang malaki.

O ano pa ang ginagawa ng Department of Energy at mga kongresman at senador?

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.