

19 SEP 2019

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DAY : Thursday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



# Duterte: Pasig River can no longer be cleaned

**He's considering removing agency tasked with waterway's rehabilitation**

**By Julie M. Aurelio**  
@JMAurelioINQ

Saying the Pasig River was "uncleanable," President Duterte said on Tuesday that he was thinking of "removing" the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), the body tasked to revive and clean the major waterway.

"That Pasig, you can no longer clean it because we don't have any zoning," Mr. Duterte told new government appointees who had just taken their oath at Malacañang.

He added: "Over the years, the waste of factories and houses all go into the Pasig River. How can you clean that?"

The President then said he would remove the PRRC and transfer it to the Department of Environment and Natural

Resources (DENR) headed by Secretary Roy Cimatu.

It was not clear, however, whether he intended to dissolve the agency or merely transfer its functions to the DENR.

## Transfer of chairship

Earlier this month, Mr. Duterte issued Executive Order 90 transferring the chairship of the PRRC from the budget secretary to Cimatu.

A week later, this was followed by the President's firing of Jose Antonio Goitia as PRRC executive director over allegations of corruption.

The PRRC was created by former President Joseph Estrada in January 1998 to rehabilitate the 27-kilometer Pasig River.

The major waterway, which links Laguna de Bay to

Manila Bay, runs through the cities of Manila, Makati, Mandaluyong, Pasig, Taguig and the municipality of Pateros in Metro Manila and Taytay in Rizal province.

Last year, the PRRC's efforts to revive the once biologically dead river were recognized during the 21st International River Symposium held in Australia.

The Pasig River was named winner of the first 2018 Asia RiverPrize, beating China's Yangtze River.

"[The] PRRC and its partners' river restoration and management efforts have effectively brought the Pasig River back to life. These efforts have included delivering quality projects, programs, activities, and advocacies in easement recovery, riverbank development, waste and wa-

ter quality management, and public awareness," the International River Foundation said.

In Mr. Duterte's speech on Tuesday night, he stressed the need to overhaul the entire city by building new cities outside and reducing the urban population.

## Pailful of tilapia

He also joked that the Pasig River was teeming with fish and that one could have a pail full of tilapia after fishing for just 30 minutes.

Mr. Duterte joked that he sometimes took a dip in the river whenever he was in Malacañang.

"Me, I'm just near the Pasig River. Sometimes I take a bath there if I want bacteria in my body to help me become immune (to it)," he said. INQ



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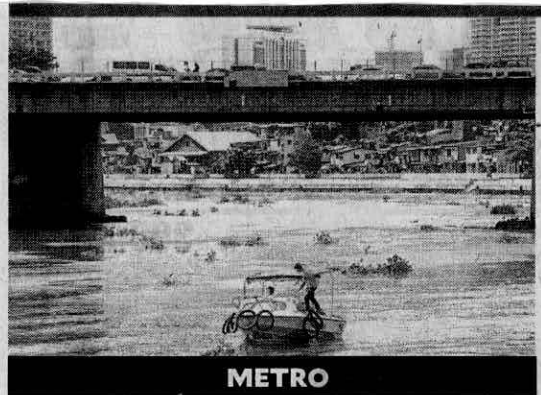
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**METRO**

## Rody: Pasig River now 'uncleanable'

For President Duterte, Pasig River has become "uncleanable," as all the waste generated by households and industries along its banks end up in the waterway. "How can you clean that?" he asked during a Malacañang event on Tuesday night. He said he was thinking of abolishing the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission and transferring its functions to the environment department. —STORY BY JULIE M. AURELIO

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## DENR to take over Pasig River rehabilitation – Duterte

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will be in charge of the rehabilitation of Pasig River even though the waterway is unlikely ever to be cleaned, President Duterte announced Tuesday night.

The President said he intends to abolish the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission and transfer its functions to the DENR led by Secretary Roy Cimatu.

“Maski ano. Pasig Bureau, Pasig department – department of Pasig. ‘Yang Pasig na ‘yan, hindi mo malinis ‘yan because wala naman tayong zoning [Regardless of the Pasig Bureau, Pasig department, Department of Pasig, you cannot clean Pasig River because we don’t have any zoning],” he said during the oath-taking of government appointees in Malacañang.

“Over the years, ang labasan ng mga factory, mga bahay, lahat, Pasig River. O how you can – you clean that? Kaya itong commission sa Pasig tanggalin ko na ito, place it under General Cimatu sa DENR [Over the years, Pasig River has become the sewer of factories, houses,

all. How can you clean that? So I’ll remove the Pasig commission and place it under General Cimatu of the DENR],” he added.

Duterte admitted that it was “useless” to pay people when Pasig River cannot ever be cleaned.

Earlier, President Duterte issued Executive Order No. 90 transferring the PRRC chairmanship to the DENR from the Department of Budget and Management to ensure the efficient supervision on the rehabilitation of the major waterways.

The latest order amended Executive Order No. 54 issued in 1999 that created the inter-agency body to rehabilitate Pasig River to its historically pristine condition conducive to transport, recreation, and tourism.

“There is a need for close coordination and oversight of all ongoing efforts of the National Government relative to the clean-up and rehabilitation of major waterways in Metro Manila,” the new order read.

Last week, the President terminated the appointment of Jose Antonio Goitia as PRRC executive director amid corruption allegations.





# Duterte to dissolve Pasig board

By MJ Blancaflor

**P**RESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte said Tuesday night he would dissolve the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission and transfer its task to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, believing the major river “is impossible” to revive.

This comes a week after Duterte fired PRRC chief Jose Antonio Goitia over allegations of corruption.

“Over the years, the factory waste, of houses, everything [go to] Pasig River. How can you clean that? So this com-

mission in Pasig, I’ll remove it, place it under General [Roy] Cimatu of DENR,” Duterte said in Malacañang during the oath-taking rites of government officials.

“Even Pasig Bureau, Pasig department, department of Pasig. That Pasig [River],

you cannot clean it because we don’t have zoning,” he added.

The PRRC is primarily tasked to implement programs and projects aimed at reviving the polluted Pasig River connected to the Laguna de Bay and the Manila Bay, which is undergoing massive rehabilitation by a special task force headed by the DENR.

The commission was formed in January 1999 under an executive order signed by then President Joseph Ejercito Estrada.

Duterte appointed Goitia in 2017 to lead the agency but the President said the latter spread word about his supposed appointment as Bureau of Customs collector and asked money from the people within the agency.

Last month, Duterte signed EO 90 transferring the chairmanship of PRRC from the Department of Budget and Management to the DENR.

In his speech, he suggested that rehabilitation efforts should be initially directed to factories near the river.

“You have to overhaul the entire city. Unless you build new cities outside and people will migrate and there’s a lessening of people here, maybe you can start. But you can start with the factories. They are all chemicals there,” he said.

In a joking mood, he said: “I take a bath there sometimes if I want bacteria in my body to be immune.”



## Pasig River imposibleng malinis pa – Duterte

Naniniwala si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na imposibleng malinis pa ang Pasig River dahil sa daming mga basurang nakatambak dito simula pa sa panahon ng mga Kastila.

Inihayag ito ng Pangulo sa panunumpa ng mga bagong appointed government official na ginanap sa Malacañang noong Martes.

“Ang Pasig ngayon sabi Pasig commission. Maski ano. Pasig Bureau, Pasig department -- department of Pasig. ‘Yang Pasig na ‘yan, hindi mo malinis ‘yan because wala naman tayong zoning. Panahon pa ni Rizal, ang poo ng mga Espanyol noon, diyan sa Pasig pumupunta,” sabi ng Pangulo.

“Over the years, ang labasan ng mga factory, mga bahay, lahat,

Pasig River. O how you can -- you clean that? Kaya itong commission sa Pasig tanggalin ko na ito, place it under General Cimatu sa DENR. Environment na. Just paying people with... useless. Hindi mo malinis talaga ‘yan,” dagdag pa ni Pangulong Duterte.

Maliban na lamang aniya kung magtatayo ng mga bagong siyudad para mag-migrate ang

mga tao at mabawasan ang populasyon sa Metro Manila.

“You have to overhaul the entire city. Unless you build new cities outside at mag-migrate and there’s a lessening of you know, people here, maybe you can start. But you can start with the factories. They are all chemicals there,” wika ng Pangulo.

**(Prince Golez)**



**VIOLATION OF CLEAN WATER ACT**

# WATER FIRMS TO APPEAL SC RULING

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**  
@RonWDomingoINQ

The two concessionaires of Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) intend to ask the Supreme Court to reconsider a decision announced in August, which imposed fines of about P1 billion each company for violation of the Clean Water Act.

Both Maynilad Water Services Inc.—through owners Metro Pacific Investment Corp. (MPIC) and DMCI Holdings Inc.—and Manila Water Co. said yesterday they had received a copy of the decision promulgated on Aug. 6.

The Supreme Court said each concessionaire, separate-

ly as well as jointly with MWSS, was liable to a total of about P921.5 million in penalty effective since May 7, 2009.

The respective fines should be paid within 15 days from when the decision has become final. They will be slapped an additional fine that starts at P322,101 per day of failure to settle the penalty. This will increase by 10 percent every two years of failure.

Also, the Supreme Court said the total amount of fines imposed by the decision should earn an interest of 6 percent yearly from finality and until full settlement of the fines.

In its decision, the high tribunal affirmed, albeit with changes, the decisions of the

Court of Appeals that find Maynilad, Manila Water and MWSS guilty of violating Section 8 of the Clean Water Act.

The law mandates these entities to connect all existing sewage lines to the available sewerage system within five years from its effectivity, which started on May 6, 2004.

“We would like to affirm that [we] will exercise all legal options, including the filing of a motion for reconsideration by Oct. 2,” Manila Water said in a regulatory filing.

Also, in separate disclosures to the Philippine Stock Exchange, MPIC and DMCI said Maynilad would do the same on or before Oct. 2. INQ



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## SC upholds P2-B fine on MWSS, water firms

The Supreme Court (SC) has affirmed the P2 billion in penalties imposed on the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and its two concessionaires for failure to comply with environmental laws.

In a regulatory filing, the Metro Pacific Investment Corp., parent firm of west zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc., said the SC upheld with modifications the decision of the Court of Appeals finding the three parties guilty of violating the Clean Water Act.

In a separate filing, east zone concessionaire Manila Water Co. said it has received a copy of the SC decision.

The law mandates the MWSS, as the government agency tasked to provide water and sewerage services, and the concessionaires in Metro Manila and other cities to connect existing sewage lines to the available sewerage system

within five years from the law's effectivity in 2004.

The high court ordered the concessionaires along with the MWSS to pay P921.4 million for the period May 2009 to August this year.

The amount should be paid within 15 days from the time the court decision becomes final.

In addition, the MWSS and the concessionaires would pay an initial amount of P322,102 per day, subject to a 10 percent increase every two years until full compliance with the law.

A six percent interest will be imposed on the total amount of fines should there be a delay in the payment.

Maynilad plans to file a motion for reconsideration before the SC on or before Oct. 2.

Manila Water said it would also exercise its legal options.

— Louise Maureen Simeon



PHILSTAR/ED GUMBAN

**MANILA WATER Co., Inc. and Maynilad Water Services, Inc. will ask the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision which found the firms liable for fines.**

## Manila Water, Maynilad to ask SC to reconsider fines

MANILA WATER Co., Inc. said on Wednesday it will exercise all its legal options, including the filing of a motion for reconsideration by Oct. 2 in response to the Supreme Court (SC) decision that found the company liable for fines for violation of the Philippine Clean Water Act.

Separately, the parent firm of Maynilad Water Services, Inc. said it will file a motion for reconsideration on the same court decision on the water concessionaire on or before Oct. 2.

The company's main shareholders Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) and DMCI Holdings, Inc. filed separate disclosures to the stock exchange on Wednesday.

The companies said they received a copy of the decision of the Supreme Court en banc on the case. The secretary of the Department of Environment of Natural Resources is also a respondent in the case.

In said decision, the Supreme Court found the company liable for fines for violation of Section 8 of the Philippine Clean Water Act.

Manila Water said the company is jointly and severally liable with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for the total amount of P921,464,184 covering the period starting from May 7, 2009 to the date of promulgation of the decision, Aug. 2019, to be paid within 15 days from finality of the decision.

From finality of the decision until full payment of the fine, Manila Water is to be fined the initial amount of P322,102 per day, subject to a further 10% increase every two years as provided under Section 28 of the Philippine Clean Water Act, until full compliance with Section 8 of the same law.

The total amount of fines imposed by the decision is to earn legal interest of 6% per annum from finality and until its full satisfaction.

In their disclosures, MPIC and DMCI cited the same fines for Maynilad.

Sec. 8 of the law mandates MWSS, as the government agency vested with the duty to provide water and sewerage services, and/or the concessionaires in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized cities — as defined in the Local Government Code — to connect all existing sewerage lines to the available sewerage system within five years from the law's effectivity or from May 6, 2004.

The decision also enjoins all water supply and sewerage facilities and/or concessionaires in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized cities to comply strictly with Sec. 8 of the law.

On Wednesday, shares in Manila Water slipped by 1.36% to P21.70 each. Shares in MPIC rose by 0.20% to P5.06, while DMCI shares declined by 1.21% to P8.99 each. — **Victor V. Saulon**



# Maynilad earmarks ₱200 B for wastewater projects

By **JAMES A. LOYOLA**

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad), the concessionaire for Metro Manila's West Zone, is investing almost ₱200 billion for wastewater projects from 2019 until the end of its concession period in 2037.

The firm said this budget will partly go towards the construction of 26 new Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) that have a combined treatment capacity of 1,600 million liters per day.

It will also be spent for the installation of some 425 kilometers of new sewer lines that will catch the wastewater generated by around 10 million Maynilad customers, and the operation and maintenance of all wastewater facilities, among others.

The planned investment is on top of the ₱39 billion spent by Maynilad for wastewater projects and services in the West Zone since 1997 when Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System operations were privatized.

These investments enabled the company to reach an additional 1.3 million customers with its sewerage services, bringing total customers served to al-

most 2 million by 2018.

Meanwhile, customers in unsewered areas are covered by Maynilad's septic tank cleaning services.

"Maynilad only started investing heavily in the wastewater infrastructure after it got out of corporate rehabilitation in 2008 and expanded water service to more areas," said Maynilad President and CEO Ramoncito S. Fernandez.

He noted that, "despite this, in less than 10 years, we managed to increase sewerage coverage in the West Zone to 20 percent of our 9.5 million water-served population. That is proof of our commitment to environmental sustainability."

"As we work on expanding our wastewater services, we also closely collaborate with our government partners so that other pollution sources that harm Manila Bay will be addressed," Fernandez added.

Maynilad now operates 22 wastewater treatment facilities with a combined treatment capacity of about 663,000 cubic meters of wastewater per day. The company is also currently constructing STPs in Valenzuela City and in Tunasan and Cupang in Muntinlupa.





## Water firms appeal SC decision

METRO Manila water concessionaires will file on or before October 2 motions for reconsideration on a Supreme Court (SC) en banc decision ordering them and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to pay at least P1.8 billion in fines for allegedly violating the Clean Water Act (CWA).

In separate disclosures at the Philippine Stock Exchange, Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. said they will exert all legal remedies on the High Tribunal's decision.

The SC affirmed, with modifications, the decisions of the Court of Appeals finding Maynilad, Manila Water and the MWSS guilty of violating section 8 of the CWA, mandating them to connect all existing sewage lines to the available sewerage system within five years from the effectivity of the law in 2004.

For violating the particular section of the CWA, the SC held each of the concessionaires jointly and severally liable with the MWSS for P921,464,184 for the period May 7, 2009 to August 6, 2019, the date of the decision's promulgation or a total of over P1.8 billion.

The parties are also liable to pay P322,102 a day, subject to a further 10 percent increase every two years, until full compliance with the mandate. A 6 percent interest will also be imposed on the total amount of the fines should there be a delay in its payment.





# Gov't set to release ₱78 M to address African swine fever

By **CHINO S. LEYCO**

A ₱78-million emergency fund approved last week by President Duterte is set to be released to effectively manage, control, and contain the threat of African swine fever (ASF), the Department of Agriculture (DA) said Wednesday.

Agriculture Secretary William Dar said the fund, which will be disbursed by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), will be used for biosecurity and quarantine operations, disease monitoring and surveillance, upgrading of laboratories, capacity-building, and other disease control measures.

Aside from the release of the emergency fund, Dar also said the National ASF Task Force (NATF) will convene to flesh out interagency coordination, in partnership with concerned local government units (LGUs) and the private sector.

Chaired by the President, with the DA as vice-chair and lead agency, the NATF is initially composed of secretaries of Finance, Foreign Affairs, Interior and Local Government, Environment, Trade, Budget as well as disaster risk reduction.

After receiving last September 9 the confirmatory test results from the World Organization for Animal **▶ 8**

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## Gov't set to release... ◀1

Health or Office International des Epizooties (OIE) reference laboratory in Pirbright, England, the DA Crisis Management Team (CMT) on Swine oriented all the DA regional directors in Luzon on the ASF.

The DA headquarters also provided the regional directors guidelines on how to manage, contain, and control the disease and were tasked to communicate the same to their respective provincial city and municipal LGUs through their veterinary officers.

Dar also instructed other DA regional directors in Visayas and Mindanao to submit their respective disaster management plan to prevent the possible spread of ASF in their areas.

DA plans to meet with concerned governors and their respective veterinary officers to align the LGU's local issuances and corresponding actions vis-à-vis national guidelines by the expanded CMT (for a concerted effort with the NATF).

During that meeting, the DA will present a geographic zoning plan to adjust government response to the developing situation on the ground and effectively prevent further spread of ASF in other parts of the country.

The DA also requested the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) to immediately operationalize and open a line of coordination between the DA and its relevant agencies with the LGU's respective DRRMCs for quick response on the ground.

Finally, the DA chief assured the consuming public that local pork, provided National Meat Inspection Services-certified, is safe to eat.

### QC ASF assistance

Meanwhile, Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte started distributing cash assistance to city hog raisers affected by the African swine fever (ASF) on Wednesday.

Owners of around 146 pigs culled in Barangay Bagong Silangan are the first recipients of the financial aid earlier promised by Belmonte.

The local government will provide ₱3,000 and ₱1,500 financial assistance for every culled pig and piglet, respectively.

"Scholarships and livelihood will also be provided to affected families of illegal hog raisers to help them find new ways to earn a living," said Belmonte.

"Hindi natin sila maaaring pabayaang lalo na sa panahong kailangan nila ng tulong mula sa lokal na pamahalaan. Naririto kami para tumulong hanggang muli silang makabangon mula sa problemang ito (We will take care of them, especially in this trying times when the local government's help is needed. We are here to help until they can recover from their financial woes)," Belmonte said.

Belmonte started culling infected pigs on September 15 in the wake of the ASF scare.

Culled were pigs from Sitio Veterans (Area 5) and Oriole (Area 2) in Barangay Bagong Silangan after blood samples submitted from these areas were confirmed by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to have tested positive for the ASF.

"We went above and beyond DA's protocol to ensure that the virus won't spread to nearby areas so I ordered the immediate culling of the pigs," she added.

Dr. Anamarie Cabel, City Veterinary Office head, said the 1-7-10 protocol requires the culling of infected animals.

As part of the protocol, additional blood samples within the one kilometer radius of the "ground zero" have been collected and submitted to the BAI for testing.

Belmonte also called on barangay officials within the one kilometer radius to cooperate by identifying informal backyard hog raisers and assisting the Quezon City Veterinary Office in getting blood samples to be submitted to BAI for testing.

For her part, Cabel called on the hog raisers to immediately inform the City Veterinary Office through 988-4242 loc. 8036 in case of sick pigs. (With a report from Chito A. Chavez)



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KUNG saan-saan na lang itinatapon ng mga namamatay na baboy na malamang na may sakit.

Sa isang terminal ng sasakyan sa Nueva Vizcaya, may 12 patay na baboy ang natagpuan.

May anim namang patay na baboy ang itinatapon at naaanod sa isang creek sa Quezon City.

Sa Malolos City, Bulacan, may 13 namang piglets ang natagpuan sa irrigation canal hanggang may 21 iba pang baboy ang namatay sa ibang lugar sa Malolos pa rin.

Sa Marikina River naman natagpuang palutang-lutang ang nasa 50 patay na baboy.

Sa Guiguinto, Bulacan, basta na lang din iniwan ang dalawang baboy na patay sa kalsada.

Karamihan sa mga ito ang napatunayang nagkasakit ng African Swine Fever kung tawagin samantalang ang iba ay ineksamin pa kung ano ang ikinamatay ng mga ito.

#### HABULIN SILA

Dapat habulin ng mga awtoridad ang mga basta na lang nagtatapon ng mga patay na baboy kahit saan.

Kung nalunod lang ang mga ito dahil tagulan ngayon, oks lang na may makita tayong patay at palutang-lutang na baboy kahit saan.

Pero panahon ng ASF ngayon na binabaka ng mahal kong Pinas upang hindi masira ang P200 halaga na industriya at ikinabubuhay ng libo-libo kundi man milyong mamamayan.

Kung uusisain ang pagtatapon ng mga patay na baboy, may klarong paglabag sa tatlong batas.

Isa ang Animal Welfare Act o RA 4885, ang Solid Waste Management Act o RA 9003, Philippine Clean Water Act o RA 9275.

#### MGA PARUSA

May kulong na 6 buwan hanggang 2 taon ang lalabag sa Animal Welfare Act na nagsasabing dapat disente ang pagtrato sa mga namamatay na hayop.

Sa Clean Water Act, may kulong na 2-4 taon at ganito ang Solid Waste Management Act.

Sa Clean Water Act, maituturing na isang polusyon sa tubig ang pagtatapon ng maysakit na hayop, maging baboy,



Ni BENNY ANTIPORDA

## LAW VIOLATORS SA KRISIS SA BABOY, LABANAN

sa katubigan.

At sa Solid Waste Management Act, maituturing na solidong basura ang buong baboy na itinatapon kahit saan.

Lahat ng ito ay may multa pang maliliit hanggang sa malalaking halaga.

#### HUMABOL LAHAT

Kabilang sa mga pupwedeng maghabla ang mga lokal na pamahalaan mula barangay hanggang sa mga munisipyo at lungsod.

Siyempre pa, pupwedeng magdemanda rin ang mga nasyunal na ahensya gaya ng Department Environment and Natural Resources.

Ang tanong, eh, pupwede rin bang maghabla ang mamamayan?

Sa tingin ko ay pwede kung nakasisira sa kanila ang pagtatapon ng mga baboy na patay dahil sa iba't ibang sakit gaya ng ASF.

Halimbawa na lang ang mga itinatapon sa irrigation canal na piglets sa Malolos.

Aba, paano ang panggingisda ng hipon, tilapia, dalag, alimango at iba pa sa lugar ng mga magsasaka para sa kanilang ulam?

Paano kung pinagpiyestahan ng mga hipon, tilapia, dalag, alimango at iba pa ang mga may sakit na baboy pagkatapos, eh, uulamin ang mga ito ng mga magsasaka?

Anak ng tokwa, dapat talagang humabol lahat sa mga nagtatapon ng mga patay na baboy.

#### MGA EPEKTONG IBA

May malalaking epekto ang ASF at takot ng mga tao sa karneng baboy, kahit pa sinasabi ng mga awtoridad na hindi nakahahawa sa tao ang ASF.

Hindi naman naniniwala ang marami dahil paano raw kung makaulam sila ng double dead o botcha na may ASF?

Ang isang malaking epekto ay ang pagtumul ng bentahan ng karneng baboy na nagaganap na kahit saan sa bansa.

Kahit na maliit na polusyon lang ang may ASF, nadadamay na ang lahat.

Sa pagtumul ng ne-

gosityong karneng baboy, nandyan ang pagkalugi ng mga negosyante rito, pati ang mga backyard na nag-aalaga.

Kasama sa mga negosyante ang mga mayari ng mga farm, mga restoran, mga delivery at iba pa.

Kung kalahati na lang ang benta sa mga palengke, tiyak na sementsplang ang P200 bil-yong negosyo.

#### NAGSA-SAMANTALA

Sa gitna naman ng krisis sa karne at negosityong baboy, mga Bro, anak ng tokwa, nagsasamantala naman ang mga nagtitinda ng manok at isda.

Pamahal nang pamahal ang mga karneng manok at isda.

May mga rason ang mga negosyante sa manok at isda.

Pero batid ng lahat ng kung may krisis sa isang negosyo sa pagkain, susulpot naman ang mga mapagsamantala bagama't may pinalalabas na rason ang mga ito.

Sa manok, mahal daw ang pag-aalaga at sa isda, maliit ang huli sa dagat dahil sa laging masamang panahon.

May rason man o wala ang negosyante sa manok at isda, naririyang talaga ang pagsasamantala.

#### HARAPIN LAHAT

Mula rito, mga Bro, hindi lang ang mga violator ng mga nasabing batas ang dapat na bantayan at labanan.

Pati ang mga nagsasamantalang negosyante sa manok at isda dapat ding silipin.

Pero siyempre, kasama rin sa mga dapat bantayan ang mga gumagawa ng mga produktong karneng baboy gaya ng litson at longganisa.

O magbantay po tayolahat

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



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## Patay na baboy sa creek sisiyasatin ng QC Council

Kumilos na rin ang Quezon City Council sa isyu ng mga naanod na patay na mga baboy sa ilog sa Quezon City.

Ito'y makaraang paimbestigahan sa pamamagitan ng privilege speech sa session sa QC Council ni Councilor Allan Francisco ang nasa likod ng pagtatapon ng mga patay na baboy sa creek sa Bagong Silangan, QC at panagutin ito sa batas.

Anyang batay sa nakuhang report, may 39 patay na baboy ang natagpuang palutang-lutang sa dalawang ilog sa Metro Manila at 11 dito ay natagpuan sa Bgy. Bagong Silangan.

Malaki ang paniwala ni Francisco na itinapon ang mga patay na baboy sa naturang creek dahil kabilang ito sa nagkasakit ng African Swine Fever (ASF) na taglay ng karamihang baboy sa naturang barangay.

Anyang, patuloy ang pagkuha ng blood samples ng City Veterinary para matiyak na ASF din ang ugat ng pagkakasakit ng iba pang baboy sa naturang barangay gayundin sa Barangay Payatas.

Sinabi ni Francisco na papanagutin sa iba't ibang paglabag sa batas ang mga matutukoy na may kinalaman sa naturang insidente. (*Angie dela Cruz*)



## ISA PANG PATAY NA BABOY INANOD SA CREEK SA QC

**ISA na naman patay na baboy ang natagpuang inanod sa creek ng Brgy. Bagong Silangan, Quezon City.**

Himihinalang apektado ng African Swine Fever (ASF) ang baboy na natagpuan kahapon ng umaga.

Sanhi ng malakas na agos ng tubig sa ilog bunsod ng pag-ulan hindi na nagawang maiahon pa ng mga opisyal ng barangay ang naturang patay na baboy at tuluyan ng inanod at hindi na rin matukoy kung saan galing ang naturang patay na baboy.

Kaugnay nito umak-siyon na kahapon ang Quezon City Council sa pamamagitan ng privilege speech ni Councilor Allan Francisco upang paimbestigahan kung sino ang may kinalaman sa pagtatapon ng mga patay na baboy

sa isang creek sa Quezon City.

Ayon kay konsehal Allan Francisco ng Ikalimang Distrito ng Lungsod, pangunahing iimbestigahan ng konseho kung sino ang dapat managot sa pagtatapon ng mga patay na baboy sa creek ng Barangay Bagong Silangan, QC nitong nakalipas na linggo.

Pahayag ni Francisco na napag-alaman niya sa mga lumabas na balita sa pahayagan at telebisyon na nitong nakalipas na Linggo aabot sa 39 patay na baboy ang natagpuang palutang-lutang sa dalawang ilog sa Metro Manila at 11 rito ay natagpuan sa Barangay Bagong Silangan, QC.

Idinagdag pa ng konsehal na naniniwala siya na ang mga natagpuang patay na baboy na itina-pon

sa creek ng Brgy. Bagong Silangan, QC at karatig lungsod ay kabilang sa mga kaso ng African Swine Fever (ASF).

Samantala, sinabi ni Francisco na pangunahing aksiyon ng City Veterinary ng lungsod ay ang pagsasagawa ng preliminary action ng naturang departamento para makakuha ng test at samples ng mga natagpuang patay na baboy kung kontaminado nga ito ng naturang sakit.

Ayon pa sa konsehal maaaring sampahan ng kasing paglabag sa Animal Welfare Act o RA 8485 as amended ng RA 10631, paglabag sa Republic Act 9275 o Clean Water Act, RA 9003 Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, RA 6969 ang mga matutukoy na may kinalaman sa naturang insidente.

**PMRT**





## Gov't targets 150 Minahang Bayan areas by 2022

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

The government plans to declare around 150 Minahang Bayan areas in the next three years in line with efforts to make small-scale mining mainstream, an official of the Mines and Geosciences Board (MGB) said.

In a panel discussion during Philippine-Extractive Industries Transparencies Initiative (PH-EITI) National Conference last Wednesday, MGB director Wilfredo Moncano said the agency is fasttracking the processing of Minahang Bayan applications in a bid to legalize small scale mining.

"Right now, we already have 29 approved minahang bayan all over the country and we are reviewing several other applications," Moncano said.

"We are targeting (to have) 150 Minahang Bayan areas in the next three years," he added.

On the sidelines of the event, Moncano told reporters the MGB expects to approve around 40 Minahang Bayan applications per year until 2022.

"Up to the end of the year maybe we can get close to 40," he said.

The MGB official earlier said there

are currently about five or six Minahang Bayan applications that have been endorsed to the office of the DENR secretary for clearance.

Moncano is hopeful the pending applications will be approved within the year as the program is the only way small-scale mining can be legalized.

"Our understanding with the DENR secretary is that the only way to integrate the small-scale mining industry to the mainstream is through legalization," Moncano said.

He emphasized that as the program legalizes small-scale mining operations, stricter requirements would be needed for applications.



## More Minahang Bayan to be approved

BY JED MACAPAGAL

THE Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) is keen on approving at least 40 Minahang Bayan applications annually until 2022 to mainstream small miners.

Minahang Bayan refers to an approved common area where small-scale miners are permitted by the government to operate.

Wilfredo Moncano, MGB acting director, told reporters at the launch of the 5<sup>th</sup> Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency

Initiative (PH-EITI) report in a conference in Pasay City yesterday the agency is fasttracking approvals to maximize gains from mining and encourage small-scale miners to conduct their operations in a legal manner.

Moncano said the MGB will streamline the issuance of environmental compliance certificates and other requirements.

So far only 29 Minahang Bayan have been approved.

The country's metallic mineral production value grew 9.41 per-

cent in the first half of the year to P61.26 billion from the previous year's P55.99 billion.

Meanwhile, the 5th country report of the PH-EITI said while more extractive companies are opening their books for transparency, there is a need for the issuance of an administrative order promoting accountability and transparency in the oil and gas sectors. The report showed 63 projects were covered in this latest publication, almost double the previ-

ous year's report. PH-EITI, is a government-led, multi-stakeholder initiative implementing EITI, the global standard that promotes the open, accountable management, and good governance of oil, gas, and mineral resources.

"(The report) covered practically 100 percent of total sales in the metallic mining and oil and gas sectors; and that despite an increase in the total reconciled revenues (from P27.4 to P39.1

See MORE > Page A7

### MORE

billion), it posted a decrease in the overall variance between government and company data after reconciliation (from two percent to 0.42 percent)," said Bayani Agabin, Department of Finance (DOF) undersecretary and focal person and chair of the PH-EITI, said in his opening remarks at the conference.

The report also recommends the strict implementation of the DENR's administrative order no.

2017-07, which mandates mining contractors to participate in the PH-EITI.

"The issuance of the administrative order mandating mining contractors to participate in the PH-EITI project clearly shows the commitment of DENR-MGB to ensure more transparency and accountability from the sector," the report said.

"Immediate release of the im-

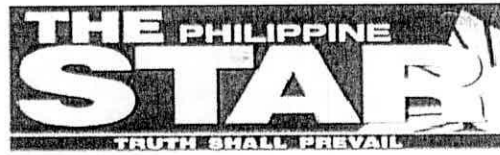
plementing rules and regulations of DAO No. 2017-07 will properly guide companies on what constitutes compliance with EITI standards and the corresponding implications for non-participation," it added.

The report said 2.4 percent of revenues was contributed by the oil and gas sector, followed by the metallic sector with 19.9 percent, and non-metallic sector with 7.8 percent of total. (*with A. Celis*)





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
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19 Sep 2019

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# Phl to benefit from Indonesia's nickel ore ban

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

While the Philippines could see a spike in nickel prices when it is able to capitalize on Indonesia's nickel ore ban, the government is unsure if the local sector will be able to meet the demand for high grade ore.

In an interview, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) director Wilfredo Moncano told reporters that Indonesia's ban on nickel ore exports is an encouraging development for Philippine mining firms.

"It's encouraging on the part of the nickel miners. I would also expect a spike or increase in the price of nickel," he said.

Based on data from the MGB, nickel prices decreased to \$12,316 per MT from \$13,859 per MT in the first semester of the year.

This, however, is expected to rebound in the second half of the year.

"The positive outlook was motivated by expected economic growth and increased demand from China. The growing concern for possible disruptions in the operations of main nickel producers in the world market, coupled with the growing demand for electronic vehicles, will also push prices higher," MGB said.

Moncano said while the Philippines is able to capitalize on the opportunity to be brought by Indonesia's nickel ore export ban, he emphasized that the country may not be able to supply high grade nickel.

"We can capitalize on the opportunity. We have nickel. What's worrying me is if the market will insist on high

grade nickel," Moncano said.

He emphasized that most

Philippine nickel output are more in the 1.3 percent to 1.4 percent nickel grade.



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# Palawan estate to host events on Coastal Cleanup Day



Long-tailed macaque

In addition to raising awareness for the global marine environment, this month's International Coastal Cleanup Day at Lio Beach in El Nido, northern Palawan, has evolved into a full-scale celebration of its unique and biodiverse ecosystems.

On Sept. 21, a series of activities at the beach – which is the centerpiece of Lio Tourism Estate by Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI) – will highlight key ecosystems supporting over 900 species of fish and five out of the seven species of sea turtles, over 110 species of birds, and other flora and fauna that thrive in the area.

At 7:30 a.m., simultaneous coastal cleanups at the estate's four-kilometer stretch of pristine beach and each of the island resorts developed and managed by ALI subsidiary Ten Knots Development Corp. (TKDC) will jumpstart the events. An eco-run through Lio beach dubbed as "plogging" will simultaneously kickstart the day.

The "ploggers" will each carry a sack while jogging through a six-kilometer route. The participants will be timed as they traverse the



Squirrel

route and the litter they collect will be weighed. Ploggers with the shortest time and heaviest sacks will receive recognition.

In the afternoon, TKDC will launch the 3.8-kilometer Lio Hike Trail which will bring trekkers through Lio's forests to a view-deck 82 meters above sea level with panoramic views of Cadlao Island and sunset in Bacuit Bay.

The do-it-yourself tour allows hikers opportunities to identify and encounter the Palawan hornbill and white vented shama, the Philippine mouse-deer, the long-tailed macaque, lizards, and other animals endemic to the Palawan archipelago.



Palawan hornbill



## Clean the ocean and get Globe Rewards

GLOBE customers can get 100 Rewards points when they participate in the coastal clean up 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.

Individuals or groups who want to be part of the activities may sign up at the following: (Individual



Registration) <https://forms.gle/vWYdvfzEz5SqBaus5>; (Group Registration) <https://forms.gle/onDT8qktqjYsGH7r5>; (ICC) <http://www.icc.ph/volunteer.html>.

For more information, visit [www.globe.com.ph/about-us/sustainability](http://www.globe.com.ph/about-us/sustainability).



## 34th INT'L COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY SA BASECO

**BILANG** bahagi ng Global Coastal Clean-Up Celebration, pangungunahan ng lokal na pamahalaang lungsod ng Maynila sa pamumuno ni Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso ang 34<sup>th</sup> International Coastal Clean-Up Day sa Baseco, Beach Port Area ng nasabing lungsod sa Sabado ng umaga.

Ang nasabing ICC Day na may temang "Bayanihan para sa Malinis na Karagatan" ay sisimulan dakong alas-7 ng umaga kung saan magsisilbing punong-abala ang Department of Public Services ng lokal na pamahalaang lungsod ng Maynila sa pamumuno ni OIC Kenneth Amurao.

Ang International Coastal Clean-Up ay pinakamalaking boluntaryong pagsusumikap upang mapanatili ang kalinisan at ganda ng karagatan kung saan katuwang sa nasabing selebrasyon ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa pamumuno ni Sec. Roy Cimatu, iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno, paaralan, NGA's, NGO's at iba pang mga organisasyon.

Ayon kay Amurao, ang layunin ng nasabing pagdiriwang ay upang magkaroon ng pagkakaisa sa paglilinis sa karagatan, alamin ang pinagmumulan ng dumii sa dagat, baguhin ang maling pag-uugali na nagdudulot ng polusyon sa dagat, at itaas ang kaalaman ng mga mamamayan hinggil sa mga dahilan ng pagdumi ng katubigan. **JAY REYES**



## 34th International Coastal Clean-Up Day, idaraos

**BILANG** bahagi ng "Global Coastal Clean-Up Celebration", pangunahan ng lokal na pamahalaang lungsod ng Maynila sa pamumuno ni Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso ang 34th International Coastal Clean-Up (ICCI) Day sa Baseco, Beach Port Area ng nasabing lungsod sa Sabado (Set. 21) ng umaga.

Ang nasabing ICC Day na may temang "Bayanihan para sa Malinis na Karagatan" ay sisimulan dakong alas-7 ng umaga

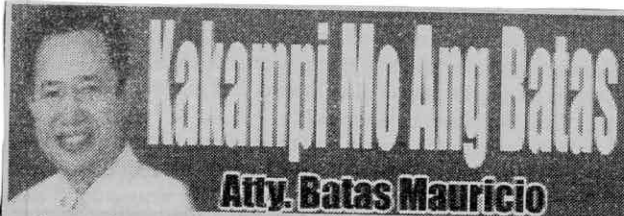
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## Kakampi Mo Ang Batas

**Atty. Batas Mauricio**

Sa mga katanungan, tumawag sa (02) 927 7226, 0917 984 24 68, 0918 574 0193 at 0922 833 43 96. Mag-email po kayo sa [batasmauricio@yahoo.com](mailto:batasmauricio@yahoo.com), o sumulat po kayo sa 18 D Mahiyain corner Mapagkawanggawa, Teachers Village, Diliman, Quezon City.

### Manila Bay clean-up, walang buting idudulot

**INSPIRASYON SA BUHAY:** "... Kung hindi kayo makikinig sa tinig ng Diyos... at hindi kayo susunod sa Kaniyang mga utos... mangyayari sa inyo ang mga sumpang ito..." (Deuteronomio 28:15, Bibliya).

\*\*\*

**MANILA BAY CLEAN-UP, WALANG BUTING IDUDULOT:** Ewan ko ba kung bakit tila walang unawa ang mga opisyal ng Maynila na hindi nila kailanman matatapos ang problema ng mga basurang inaanod sa pampang ng Manila Bay sa tuwing lumalakas ang ulan, gaya noong Lunes, Setyembre 16, 2019, kahit na magtalaga pa sila ng mga kawani na permanente ng magbabantay doon at hakot sa mga basurang inaanod.

Kasi naman, maliwanag na patuloy na dadating ang bulto-bultong basura sa Manila Bay araw-araw, umulan man o umaraw, at hakutin man ng hakutin ang mga ito, dadagsa at dadagsa pa din ang mga dumi sa pampang. Sayang lamang yung oras, pagod, at gastos sa mga taong naghahakot ng basura doon, kasi hindi naman talaga malilinis ang nasabing coastline. Walang buting idudulot ang anumang Manila Bay clean-up, noon at ngayon.

Bakit nga ba kasi walang tigil ang dating basura? Kasi wala ding tigil ang walang habas na pagtatapon ng kanilang mga dumi ang mga mamamayang nakatira sa Maynila, at sa mga kalapit na lunsod at bayan. Dahil diyan, kung nais talaga nating linisin ang pampang ng Manila Bay, turuan natin ang ating mga kababayan na mag-asal-tao pagdating sa kanilang mga basura.

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**ASAL-HAOPANG TAO PAGDATING SA KANILANG MGA BASURA:** Sa ngayon kasi, sa totoo lang, asal-ha-

yop ang maraming Pilipino pagdating sa kanilang mga dumi, kalat, at basura. Tapon dito, tapon doon. Di na baling maging kalat ang kanilang mga itinapon, basta ang mahalaga sa marami sa kanila, naitapon nila sa labas ng bahay nila ang mga basura.

Ang tanong lang siyempre dito ay ito: bakit ba ganito na ang ugali at kalakaran sa maraming Pilipino sa ngayon? Ang sagot: wala na silang pakialam sa kapakanan ng kanilang kapwa, at ang mahalaga na lamang sa kanila ay ang kanilang pansariling kapakanan at ang kapakanan ng kanilang mga mahal sa buhay.

Kumbaga, marami ng mga Pilipino sa ngayon ang hindi na nakaka-alaala na ang pagiging makasarili nila ay tuwirang paglabag sa isang mahalagang utos ni Jesus, ang ating Diyos at Tagapagligtas, na nagsasabing "mahalin mo ang iyong kapwa tulad ng pagmamahal mo sa iyong sarili."

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**HINDI SAPAT ANG PANALANGIN O PANANAMPALATAYA LAMANG:** Paanong nawala na sa alaala ng mga Pilipino ang mga utos ng Diyos at Tagapagligtas na ang Pangalan ay Jesus? Kasi, hindi na sila nagbibigay ng oras upang pakinggan ang Kaniyang Tinig na nagmumula sa Bibliya. At dahil hindi na natin pinakikinggan ang tinig ng Diyos na nagmumula sa Bibliya, hindi na din natin nasusunod ang Kaniyang mga utos.

Nakalimutan na natin na ang mga pangako ng Diyos na magiging masagana at matagumpay ang buhay ay may mga kondisyon na dapat malaman at tuparin ng mga tao. Hindi na rin natin nauunawaan na kung hindi natin tutuparin ang mga kondisyon ng Diyos upang maibaba Niya ang Kaniyang pagpapala, paggabay, at proteksiyon, hindi nga natin makakamtan ang mga biyayang ito.

Nabulag tayo ng kaaway ng Diyos na hindi na natin kailangang basahin, pag-aralan, at sundin ang Kaniyang Bibliya, kasi Siya naman ay mapagmahal, at handang magbibigay ng Kaniyang mga pagpapala basta tayo ay nananalangin at may pananampalataya sa Kaniya. Nalinlang tayo ng kaaway ssa bagay na ito, kasi hindi sapat ang panalangin o pananampalataya lamang.

\*\*\*

**REAKSIYON?** Tawag po sa 0977 805 9058; 0918 574 0193, 0933 8251308 o sa aking Messenger account sa Facebook: Melanio Lazo Mauricio Jr. Email: [batasmauricio@yahoo.com](mailto:batasmauricio@yahoo.com), [mmauriciojr11@gmail.com](mailto:mmauriciojr11@gmail.com). Maaari din po kayong mag-post ng inyong mga reaksiyon sa aking Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/atty-batas](http://www.facebook.com/atty-batas).



## ESTADO NG TUBIG SA ANGAT DAM TUMATAAS NG BAHAGYA ARAW-ARAW

AYON kay Dr. Seville David, Jr. Executive Director ng NWRB, sa ngayon, ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay mahigit na sa minimum operating level na 180 meters, ngunit, mababa pa rin kung ikukumpara sa normal high water level (NHWL) na 210 meters, malayo pa rin sa end of the year target na 212 meters.

Base sa ulat ibinigay sa inyong lingkod, ang antas ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay nasa 188.61 metro noong September 17, 2019, 8:00am). Ang magandang balita, halos araw-araw na tumataas ang antas ng tubig, sana tuloy-tuloy pa rin ang pag-ulan, habang gumagamit tayo ng tubig, bahagya tumataas ang lebel ng tubig umuulan.

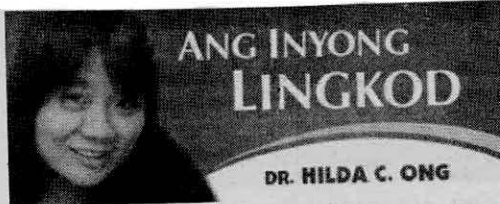
Sa ngayon, ang desisyon ng NWRB, hindi muna itataas ang alokasyon para sa irigasyon, mananatili parin sa 30cms at 40cms para sa domestic consumption. Hindi ito makakaapekto sa pag-supply para sa Metro Manila. Ang

hambang na ito ay isang estratehiko upang makatipid ng tubig at mabawasan ang pagbagsak ng antas ng tubig sa Angat reservoir hanggang sa umabot sa year end target.

Ayon pa rin kay David, kung patuloy ang pag-ulan sa susunod na araw hangang sa susunod na linggo, ang alokasyon na 40cms para sa MWSS ay mananatili pa rin hanggang katapusan ng Setyembre.

### -ooOoo- MAG-INGAT SA MGA NAG-AALOK NG PEKENG RAFFLE PROMO AT MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE

Panawagan ng Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) sa lahat ng miyembro na mag-ingat sa mga pekeng Facebook page tulad ng "PhilHealth Updates Online" na nanghihikayat na "i-like" at "i-share" ang nasabing FB page upang makasali sa raffle promo na nagbibigay ng "libreng pabahay" kaugnay sa anibersaryo ng PhilHealth sa



DR. HILDA C. ONG

susunod na taon.

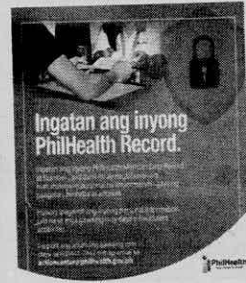
Dumulong ang PhilHealth sa Facebook Philippines, kaya umaksyon at tinanggal kaagad ang nasabing post at mga re-shared matapos dumulong at ipaabot ng PhilHealth ang pangyayari.

Bukod sa pekeng raffle promo, nagbabala rin ang PhilHealth laban sa isa pang FB account ni Efeiram Oicatse na may Facebook page nangangalan "PhilHealth Registration Online" na nag-aalok ng tulong para mapabilis ang pagpo-proseso ng PhilHealth membership at makakuha ng PhilHealth ID kapalit ng Php 170 na dapat bayaran sa isang kilalang convenient store.

Ayon sa PhilHealth, wala silang pabahay raffle promo at walang sinuman nabigyan ng awtorisasyon na mag-solicit o manghingi ng bayad kapalit ang pagpapamiyembro sa PhilHealth. Hinihikayat nito ang

lahat ng miyembro na huwag agad magtiwala sa mga ganitong modus at mag-ingat sa pagbibigay ng mahahalagang impormasyon upang maiwasang mabiktima ng pandaraya.

Ang pagpaparehistro sa PhilHealth ay libre para sa lahat at maaaring gawin sa mga tanggapan ng Local Health Insurance Office o Express Counters sa buong bansa. Kung sakaling mayroon kayong na-monitor na ganitong uri ng iregularidad, maaaring ipagbigay-alam sa alin mang opisina ng PhilHealth, o sa Facebook account "PhilHealth official"; o kaya mag-email sa [actioncenter@philhealth.gov.ph](mailto:actioncenter@philhealth.gov.ph); o itawag sa (02) 441-7442.



	ANGAT DAM	IPO DAM	LA MESA DAM
September 15, 2019	186.67m	101.14m	77.67m
September 16, 2019	187.91m	101.10m	77.83m
September 17, 2019	188.61m	101.08m	77.83m





# Smoke from Indonesia fires reaches Metro Cebu

By **MINERVA BC NEWMAN**

**C**EBU CITY – The haze shrouding Metro Cebu is the smoke from forest fires in Indonesia blown in by monsoon winds, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Central Visayas said on Wednesday.

In its 8 a.m. advisory, EMB said its monitoring for particulate matter (PM

2.5 showed a reading of 56 micrograms per normal cubic meter, which is above the safe guideline value of 50 micrograms per normal cubic meter.

The haze from forest fires can cause air pollution, and bring about health risks for respiratory tract infections and cardiac ailments, EMB said.

Cindylyn Ochea, EMB's head of the monitoring and enforcement division, said PM 2.5 is a particulate matter or

dust particle measuring 2.5 micrometers in diameter, about 3 percent the diameter of a human hair.

"Since they are so small and light, PM 2.5 tend to stay longer in the air than heavier particles," Ochea said.

She said this increases the chances of humans and animals inhaling them into the bodies and might bypass the nose and throat and penetrate deep into the lungs.



## Air quality in Davao remains good, fair

By **ZEA CAPISTRANO**

DAVAO CITY – The Air Monitoring Unit (AMU) of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Region 11 confirmed that a significant increase of fine particles has been detected in the air in Davao City following the forest fires in Indonesia.

Melvin Dapitanon, AMU-EMB head, said that based on their monitoring last week, the levels of fine particles in the city was at 20-30 micrograms per normal cubic meter. However, from Saturday to Monday, the PM2.5 has reached 40-47 micrograms per normal cubic meter.

“Our standard is at 50 microgram per normal cubic meter, that is the standard set under our Clean Air Act,” Dapitanon said over a phone interview.

The increase was particularly recorded by the air quality monitoring instrument in Calinan National High School. The other instrument is located at the Davao International Airport.



## *Bamboo eyed as sustainable livelihood source*

THE Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) will establish a regional network that will explore the vast potential of bamboo for environmental sustainability and economic resiliency amid worsening climate change.

Bamboo could also provide an excellent source of livelihood for organized smallholder farmers.

This was the major development after the first-ever Asean Bamboo Congress held in Iloilo City earlier this month.

The five-day event brought together government officials, scientists and researchers within Southeast Asia, as well as representatives from the World Bamboo Organization, Brazil, Qatar and Peru.

The initiative served as a "decisive output" of the conference as it enabled formal commitment of the signatories towards "a sustainable and climate resilient future for the entire region," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

"With this resolution, we are assuring that we will put our utmost endeavors in the continuous research and development in bamboo production technologies, as well as stronger linkages within the Asean region," he said.

Bamboo is widely recognized as a "versatile renewable resource" that protects the environment, improves the microclimate, controls soil erosion, protects riverbanks, reduces flash floods, serves as windbreak and sequesters atmospheric carbon efficiently.

It also has good properties comparable to most wood species and offers a variety of uses either in its unmanufactured form or as processed into engineered products, and as such, reduces the demand burden for wood-based products from the forests thereby arresting deforestation.

The attendees to the regional conference were convinced that engaging into bamboo production and the manufacturing of bamboo products provide job opportunities and steady income source among farmer groups, local communities, artisans and workers along the value chain.

However, they also noted that promoting bamboo for climate change adaptation and mitigation, economic stability and environmental sustainability entails innate challenges that need "science-based decision-making, linking up with all possible stakeholders and dialogue partners."

While the congress participants decided to do this, they also agreed to share best practices to increase the appreciation and acceptance of bamboo as a cost-effective green product as alternative to plastic, metal and wood materials.

They recognized that bamboo not only provides food and raw materials for construction, but it also generates local jobs, creating new income streams; lessens flooding, erosion and rising sea level; and is a great source of clean fuel.

Last month, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources announced it was eyeing Panay Island as the center for bamboo production in the Philippines.

Cimatu vowed to adopt the latest technology in producing lumber and timber out of the bamboo stands, which will usher in inclusive development in the island and provide income and livelihood not only to the marginal farmers, and promote Panay as the country's "bamboo capital."

**EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ**



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
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EDITORIAL

CARTOON

10 SEP 2019  
DATE

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# Ozone layer will be completely healed — UNEP

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

**The planet's protective shield of gas or ozone layer will be completely healed as far as some regions are concerned by the 2030s, according to the United Nations environmental agency.**

The latest Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion estimates that since 2000, parts of the ozone layer have recovered at a rate of one to three percent every 10 years.

"At projected rates the Northern Hemisphere and mid-latitude ozone will heal completely by the 2030s, with the Southern Hemisphere repaired by the 2050s, and Polar regions in the following decade," the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said.

UNEP said the phaseout of controlled uses of ozone-depleting substances has not only helped

replenish the protective layer for future generations but is also helping guard human health by filtering harmful rays from reaching Earth.

The recognition of this success comes on World Ozone Day, marked Sept. 16. This year celebrates "32 Years and Healing"; a commemoration of the international commitment to protect the ozone layer and climate under the historic Montreal Protocol, which has led to the phaseout of 99 percent of ozone-depleting chemicals in refrigerators, air-conditioners and other consumer products.

Regenerating the ozone has

helped curb the effects of climate change with approximately 135 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions from 1990 to 2010 averted by a strong protective shield.

As of late last year, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reported the global concentration of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases is still steadily on the rise, with consequential warming effects on the planet and ozone-teardown.

Damaging effects of ozone-depleting substances allow increased ultraviolet or UV rays to reach Earth, increasing incidents of skin cancer, eye cataracts, compromised immune systems and harm to agricultural lands and forests.

The Montreal Protocol is the only UN treaty to be adopted by all

member states, with all parties sharing responsibilities relating to phasing out ozone-depleting substances, controlled trade of such substances, annual data reporting and other matters.

"We can celebrate success but we must all push to keep hold of these gains, in particular by remaining vigilant and tackling any illegal sources of ozone-depleting substances as they arise," UNEP said.

The agency called for support of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which entered into force last Jan. 1.

The agreement targets the phasing out of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), or climate-warming gases, which could avoid global temperature rise of up to 0.4 degrees Celsius by end-century.



# The clean-energy fast track

**L**ondon—The global transition from carbon-intensive fossil fuels to cleaner, more reliable renewables like wind and solar is already well underway. But the big question—for the 2020s and beyond—is how fast it will happen. A slow transition would mean that energy-sector incumbents continue to flourish, and we would all but certainly miss the emissions-reduction targets enshrined in the 2015 Paris climate agreement. But if the transition is rapid, incumbents will experience varying degrees of disruption—the price of keeping the Paris targets well within reach. As matters stand, both scenarios are possible, representing two paths that lie before us.

In a new report for the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Energy, we and our co-authors identify four key areas that will determine which path we take. "The Speed of the Energy Transition" offers compelling evidence that the transition is coming fast, and that all stakeholders in the global energy system—which is to say, everyone—must start preparing.

One area where the gradual and rapid scenarios diverge is adoption of renewable energy. When will renewables start displacing incumbents? For markets, the key moment will be when renewables make up all of the *growth* in energy supply, as well as all the growth in electricity supply. That, most likely, will happen in the early 2020s, long before fossil fuels lose their dominant share of *total* energy supply. As renewables become the leading growth industries in the energy sector, financial markets will increasingly reallocate capital accordingly.

A second area concerns innovation in energy technology, and whether growth in new applications is linear (the gradual scenario) or ex-

## WORLD VIEW

KINGSMILL BOND, ANGUS MCCRONE  
AND JULES KORTENHORST

ponential (the rapid scenario). Solar and wind are already cheaper than fossil fuels when it comes to generating electricity, and electric vehicles are close to challenging internal-combustion-engine cars on price. The evidence suggests that the barriers to growth for EVs in the foreseeable future are soluble. Moreover, new waves of innovation are forthcoming, in the form of nascent but already viable technologies such as green hydrogen energy. Prices for renewables will most likely drop far below those of incumbent energy sources—and fast—leading to exponential growth in green energy.

A third key area is public policy. Will policymaking remain cautious, or will it become more dynamic and ambitious as new technologies create opportunities to improve the design and functioning of markets? Inertia being a powerful force, existing policies have been limited in scope. But history teaches us that there are tipping points: Once genuine change comes, it tends to be adopted rapidly across the board, as in the case of laws prohibiting smoking indoors.

Given that new technologies are already providing better solutions for consumers' energy needs, policymakers inevitably will respond to their constituents' demands. Once enough politicians recognize that the energy transition is not expensive, and will actually boost competitiveness (thereby reducing prices), they will update the rules governing energy markets to make way for the change that is already underway.

The last key area is emerging markets, which could either follow the fossil-fueled path of developed countries, or leapfrog to newer energy technologies. Countries like China and India undoubtedly need to generate far more energy for their citizens, and there are almost one billion people worldwide who still lack access to electricity. But that doesn't mean emerging and developing countries have to opt for high-emission fossil fuels. Just as mobile phones made landline telephony irrelevant in much of the developing world, increasingly affordable renewables can become the obvious first choice for generating energy.

From our perspective, the evidence clearly points to a rapid energy transition in the years ahead. The danger is that key stakeholders—whether policymakers or investors—will mistake which path we are on, and make poor decisions. If so, we will all have to bear the costs of stranded high-carbon assets and bad investments in obsolete technologies. Worse, we will have missed an early opportunity to achieve sustainability and minimize the risk of catastrophic climate change.

Everyone—from innovative technology start-ups to energy incumbents and government policymakers—has a role to play in determining which path we take. If stakeholders recognize the rapid pace of the global energy transition already underway and embrace the change, we can still hit the Paris targets and have a planet that allows everyone to thrive.

Project Syndicate

Kingsmill Bond is the new energy strategist for Carbon Tracker. Angus McCrone is chief editor of Bloomberg NEF. Jules Kortenhorst is CEO of the Rocky Mountain Institute.





# Poor countries must increase carbon footprint to address hunger, says study

## First word

I WILL rest my case against "climate alarmism" with this column today.

The latest information coming in is a crusher for the United Nations climate agenda.

In sharp contrast to the UN's admonition for mankind to eat less meat (in order to reduce carbon emissions), a new research study from a prestigious US university reports that poor countries will have to increase their carbon footprint in order to combat hunger.

This pulls the rug from under the feet of the UN's relentless campaign against carbon dioxide (CO2) as the alleged culprit behind global warming. The UN must either refute the research or fold its inhuman campaign, when it convenes its climate summit on September 23.

President Duterte was indeed right not to send a Philippine delegation to another climate talkathon.

## Carbon vs hunger

Agence France Presse (AFP)



## OBSERVER

YEN  
MAKABENTA

reported the news that researchers at Johns Hopkins University have concluded in a study that poor countries will have to increase their carbon footprint in order to combat hunger.

The study found that achieving a nutritious diet with adequate calories in developing countries would require a substantial increase in greenhouse gas emissions and water use.

The researchers developed a model looking at how changes to dietary patterns across 140 countries would impact greenhouse gas emissions and freshwater use at the individual and country level.

They used the model to determine the per capita and country-wide climate and water footprints of nine "plant-forward" diets, which included no red meat, pes-

catarian, vegetarian without eliminating eggs and dairy, and vegan.

Keeve Nachman, the study's senior author, told AFP that much of the conversation about mitigating the effects of climate change "fails to recognize that many parts of the world are dealing with under-nutrition."

"In order to get them to a place where they are not experiencing chronic under-nutrition, they will need to eat more, and accordingly, they will need to increase their carbon footprint," he said.

"What that says to us is that in many high-income countries around the world, where we're consuming far more animal products than the global average, there's an increased urgency to start transitioning sooner rather than later towards some of these more plant-forward diets."

"What's exciting about some of the diets that we've modeled is, there are diets that don't require you to fully eliminate any particular animal products; it's all about a more nuanced approach."

Carbon, as is well-known, is a key

contributor to the exponential growth of agriculture and food production.

It's a false and inhuman choice: food or carbon chastity.

## Climate change: Natural or man-made

Dr. Roy Spencer, PhD, a climate scientist at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and formerly with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, has summed up the climate debate persuasively in a current article in his blog titled "Global warming: natural or man-made."

He writes:

"'Global warming' refers to the global average temperature increase that has been observed over the last 100 years or more. But to many politicians and the public, the term carries the implication that mankind is responsible for that warming. This website describes evidence from my group's government-funded research that suggests global warming is mostly

► MakabentaA9



## FIRST PERSON

ALEX MAGNO

### Privatized

The Commission on Audit (COA) raised red flags on the bidding process leading to the award of the Kaliwa dam project to a Chinese contracting company with no track record for dam construction.

In COA's view, the bidding was staged. Two other companies participated in the bidding process merely to satisfy the requirements of our procurement law.

The MWSS has not commented on the COA observation. In the meantime, more serious questions have been raised over whether the approach taken in this particular project is the best one possible.

For instance, a Japanese company has tendered an offer to undertake the Kaliwa River project at no cost to the Philippine government. This offer was ignored because the Japanese engineering team proposes to build a weir to impound water rather than a tall dam. The MWSS seems to have set its mind to build a dam.

Too, a Credit Loan Agreement was signed November last year between the MWSS and the Export-Import Bank of China. This is a tied loan, meaning we are obligated to hire a Chinese company to undertake the project.

While the loan provides about P11 billion for the project, the contract with the winning Chinese bidder was for P12.189 billion. This raises the question: How will the MWSS fund the difference, to include possible cost overruns and project administration expenses?

Right of way acquisitions, environmental mitigation measures and other expenses will surely raise the total cost of the project. Since the project will produce water above what the concessionaires can currently sell, water tariffs might have to be raised to cover costs.

The MWSS no longer sells water. It supports itself from concession fees from Maynilad and Manila Water amounting to P200 million annually. That amount is hardly enough to cover the MWSS' operating costs.

The Philippine government, as a matter of course, guarantees the loan taken from the Export-Import Bank of China. Should something go terribly wrong with this project, the Philippine government will take loan repayments from taxpayer money.

Otherwise, the MWSS may choose to raise concession fees on the two water concessions. That will be passed on to the consumers. The regulatory agency does not have a plan to sell the water to the Southern Tagalog and Central Luzon regions to improve water sales.

The Kaliwa River project accounts for only 25 percent of the estimated water to be collected from the entire Laiban dam complex. The Kanan River project, to be undertaken later, will produce 75 percent of the total raw water to be generated.

This entire project could be lucrative in the long run, especially if property development around the area comes into play. Several local corporations, including San Miguel, have earlier offered bids to undertake the project (including building a new city for communities that the dams might displace) at no cost to government.

If so, why did government choose to take out a tied Chinese loan and have a Chinese company with no track record in dam construction to undertake the project?



#### Bulk water

When water supply fell critically low last April, someone from the MWSS took responsibility on behalf of government for the water shortages. That is not true.

Section 3.9 of the concession agreement approved by the MWSS Board of Trustees Dec. 2, 1996 acknowledges the letter sent by the regulatory body to the winning concessionaires. That letter, dated Nov. 27, 1996, reads: *"The concessionaires, as agents or representatives of MWSS... shall be authorized to exercise the water rights of MWSS under the water permits issued, or to be subsequently issued by the NWRB."*

The Privatization Strategy Report approved by the MWSS board months before that was even more explicit: *"The concessionaires... will be responsible for the supply of their respective future bulk water requirements. It is they who will be best positioned to identify the most efficient means of securing additional raw water."*

That quote could not be clearer. If water rights have been conceded to the concessionaires, why is the MWSS now insisting that the responsibility for the development of raw water resources remains with the agency?

If the MWSS had ceded water rights to the concessionaires, why was the construction of the Kaliwa River dam suddenly a government undertaking, funded by a tied loan and contracted out (possibly through anomalous bidding) to a Chinese company with no record in dam building?

The water privatization program undertaken by the Ramos administration was a resounding success. It became the textbook model for many other countries. It dramatically increased the volume of water supplied urban consumers, brought down non-revenue water levels and brought investments in new water distribution technologies.

Although this program required the concessionaires to put in humongous amounts of capital, they make no more than bond rates in profit. This means that if they put their capital in bonds, they will be making the same amount of money without the heartaches.

Why then did government take over the projects that would bring more bulk water to consumers?

It could be that the concessionaires were not interested in putting in more capital to a business venture that brings only bond rate returns. But then, it is widely known that Ayala Corporation (that controls Manila Water) has banked a tremendous amount of land in the Laiban area.

This could, in all probability, be a failure in project design. Properly framed, this project could attract private investments taking advantage of the prospects for property development to supplement water revenues.

That said, the Kaliwa River project now seems destined for trouble.



## Imbak ng Pantabangan Dam, kulang pa

**CABANATUAN CITY -** Kulang pa ang imbak na tubig ng Pantabangan Dam bunsod na rin ng mabagal na buhos ng ulan sa Nueva Ecija, ayon sa National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

Ayon kay NIA-UPRIIS department manager Rosalinda Bote, umaasa ito na maaabot ng water reservoir ang target na 210 meters na water elevation pagkatapos ng buwan ng Oktubre ngayong taon.

Sa ngayon aniya, lampas 201 meters pa lamang ang elevation ng tubig ng dam dahil sa mabagal na buhos ng ulan sa lugar.

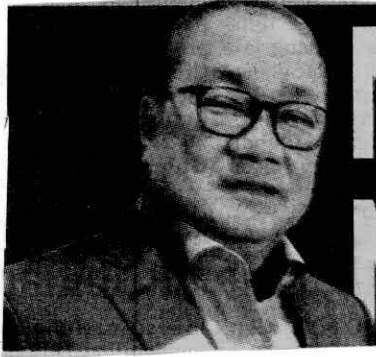
Dahil dito ay hindi sila nagpapalabas ngayon ng tubig mula sa dam at sa halip ay pawang sa local flows na lamang sila umukuha sa kanilang pangangailangan lalo't nagsisimula na ang anihan sa lalawigan.

Sa datos ng NIA-UPRIIS, nasa

34 cubic meters per second kada araw ang average na inflows o pasok ng tubig sa dam ngayong normal ang kalagayan ng panahon.

Kung maaabot ang 210 meters sa susunod na buwan, magiging kampante na aniya sila na masusuplayan ang pangangailangan ng mahigit sa 133,000 ektaryang bukirin na service area nito.

**Light A. Nolasco**



# MERALCO-MVP BITAW NA SA COAL PLANT!

NANAWAGAN ang ilang electricity consumers sa Manila Electric Company (Meralco) ni Manny V. Pangilinan na bitawan na ang coal bilang source ng kuryente.

Ang Meralco ang may-ari ng Atimonan Ome Energy na tinutulan ng mga residente doon dahil sa masamang epekto nito sa kalusugan at kalikasan.

Ayon sa Power for People convener Gerry Arances, ang A1E ang naiwang bidder para sa 20-year supply contract ng 1,200 mega-

watt greenfield capacity na kukuhanin sa mga bagong planta.

Sabi ni Philippine Movement for Climate Justice Ian Rivera, parating nabibigo ang pagpapatakbo ng A1E at nanloloko na ang proponents nito para lang makakuha ng pondo.

"A1E has repeatedly tried and failed to get the 1,200 MW Atimonan power station up and running despite strong opposition from the public. Every step of the way, the proponents

have tried to deceive and cut corners just so the plant could secure funding and permits, sabi ni Rivera.

Dagdag pa niya, hindi kinilala ng Environmental Impact Assessment ng A1E ang polusyong magagawa nito at lalong hindi ito naglatag ng mekanismo para mapagaan ang polusyon at kaduda-duda ang pagkakakuha nito ng certificate of energy project of national importance sa ilalim ng Executive Order No. 30.

"Consumers want

clean, affordable, renewable energy, not the kind of energy being forced by Meralco and its sister generation companies into our bills," sabi pa ni Arances.

Nanawagan si Arances kay Pangilinan at sa iba pang mga director ng Meralco na bitawan na ang mga coal plant. Dagdag pa niya, nagiging mas mura na ang renewable at nanawagan na rin si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na iwasan na ang coal plants.

Sabi naman ni Rivera, P15 bilyon na ang ikinalugi ng Meralco Generation as of december 2018 kaya't desperado na itong pagtakuhin ang A1E.

"Ang pangako sa aming trabaho ng kumpanya ay hindi totoo. Nawalan pa nga ng kabuhayan ang marami sa aming mga kababayan dahil sa pagkasira ng kalikasan alang-alang sa coal-fired power plant," sabi ni Bianca Opalda ng KAPAKANAN Atimonan. **(Eileen Mencias)**



19 SEP 2019

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## 'Walang malasakit sa kapwa, kalikasan'

**Inihayag kahapon ni Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle na ang kayabangan at kasakiman ay bunga ng kawalan ng pakialam o malasakit sa kapwa at kalikasan.**

Ang pahayag ay ginawa ni Tagle nang pangunahan nitong Martes ang pagpapasinaya sa Solar Power Facility ng Holy Apostles Senior Seminary sa Guadalupe, Makati City.

Aniya, isang magandang hakbang ang naturang Solar Power Facility, lalo na ngayong buwan na ipinagdiriwang din ang Season of Creation.

Binigyang-diin ng arsobispo na ang paggamit sa natural resources bilang alternatibong pinagkukunan ng enerhiya ay pagpapakita ng pagmamahal at malasakit sa kalikasan.

Iginiit pa niya na kapag nawala na ang pakialam ng tao sa kapwa nito at maging sa kalikasan, ay nagsisimula nang maghari ang 'kayabangan at kasakiman.'

Nagbabala pa ang Cardinal na ang dalawang ito ang nagiging sanhi upang maglaho ang pagpapahalaga ng tao sa lahat ng nilikha ng Panginoon.

"When caring is no longer appreciated

as a human value, when being caring is replaced by carelessness, I could care less, when caring is replaced by greed, by pride, when caring is thrown away, when caring disappears, even human beings are thrown away, values are thrown away," anang Cardinal.

Dahil dito, ipinaalala rin ni Tagle na mahalagang maibalik ang kultura ng pagkalinga at pagpapahalaga hindi lamang sa kalikasan kungdi maging sa kapwa tao.

**Mary Ann Santiago**





# KULTURA NG PAGKALINGA, IBALIK-CARDINAL TAGLE

**NANINIWALA** si Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle na ang kayabangan at kasakiman ay bunga ng kawalan ng pakialam sa kapwa at kalikasan.

Ito ang inihayag ni Tagle nang dumalo sa pagpapasinaya sa Solar Power Facility ng Holy Apostles Senior Seminary

sa Guadalupe, Makati City nitong Martes.

Sinabi ni Tagle na isang magandang hakbang ang naturang Solar Power Facility, lalo na ngayong buwan na ipinagdiriwang din ang Season of Creation.

Binigyang-diin niya na ang paggamit sa natural resources bilang alter-

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"When caring is no longer appreciated as a human value, when being caring is replaced by carelessness, I could care less, when caring is replaced by greed, by pride, when caring is thrown away, when caring disappears, even human beings are thrown away, values are thrown away," anang Cardinal.

Dahil dito, ipinalalala rin ni Tagle na mahalagang maibalik ang kultura ng pagkalinga at pagpapahalaga hindi lamang sa kalikasan kundi maging sa kapwa tao.

Aniya, kapag tiningnan ang tao bilang isang kasangkapan lamang ay

madali na ring gawing kasangkapan at sirain ang kalikasan.

Tiwala naman si Tagle na sa maliliit na hakbang tulad ng paggamit ng Solar Power Facility ay nakatutulong ito upang mapanumbalik ang "Culture of Caring."

"This little acts and our blessing today is one of those actions that must be encouraged in order to really build up a whole culture of caring. We need to recover the spirituality, gratitude for the creator, appreciation for the gift of creation, and recover our vocation to be stewards and care givers," aniya.

Nabatid na ang Solar Power Facility ng Holy Apostles Senior Seminary ang kauna-unahan sa lahat ng seminaryo sa Archdiocese of Manila.

Nakalilikha ito ng 22.32 kilowatt peak at maaaring mapunan ang halos 43% ng day time electric consumption ng buong institusyon.

**ANA ROSARIO  
HERNANDEZ**



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## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP)** of the proposed **MASBATE GOLD EXPANSION PROJECT** of the **FILMINERA RESOURCES CORPORATION (FRC)** in the **MUNICIPALITY OF ARORROY, PROVINCE OF MASBATE**.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the proposed **MASBATE GOLD EXPANSION PROJECT** to attend a Public Hearing on **04 OCTOBER 2019 (FRIDAY)** at **9:00 AM** (*registration starts at 8:00 am*) to be held in **VICTORIO V. PATO MEMORIAL RECREATION CENTER, SAN ROQUE, BARANGAY PURO, ARORROY, MASBATE**.

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EPRMP of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The Masbate Gold Project (MGP) is a joint operation of FRC and Phil. Gold Processing & Refining Corp. (PGPRC). The proposed project expansion covers the increase of throughput ore being processed in the PGPRC plant from 7.3 million MT/yr to 9 million MT /yr. The proposed expansion will require an upgrade of plant equipment to improve the processing capacity for low-grade ore to maximize the extraction of gold. It will utilize the existing low-grade stockpile as raw material to better manage the stockpile inside the MGP area.

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD)** of this Office through mail or through email at [eiamd.emb.co@gmail.com](mailto:eiamd.emb.co@gmail.com), three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EPRMP and Executive Summary for the Public (ESP) are downloadable at our website: [www.eis.emb.gov.ph](http://www.eis.emb.gov.ph) (*kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/Consultation link found in our website*) while the hard copies will be available in this Office and in the following offices:

- 1) **EMB Region V**  
Regional Center Site, Rawis, Legazpi City
- 2) **Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO)**  
Municipality of Aroroy, Province of Masbate

For more details, please contact EIAM Division of this Office at telephone number (02) 920-2240 to 41 and look for the project case handlers **Engr. Carlo Vic Arida, EnP** and **Engr. Mary Therese Gonzales, EnP**.