

11 January 2023, Wednesday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





## BUMUTI NA KALIDAD NG TUBIG SA MANILA BAY

MASAYANG ibinalita ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ang unti-unting pagbaba ng antas ng fecal coliform ay bunga ng halos apat na taong pagsisikap sa rehabilitasyon na nagpabuti sa kalidad ng tubig sa Manila Bay.

Batay sa datos mula sa Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO), noong Oktubre 2022, ang fecal coliform level sa Manila Bay ay bumaba sa 51,300 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100mL) mula sa 126,000 MPN/100mL noong 2019.

Ayon sa DENR, ang karaniwang antas ng coliform para sa mga tubig sa baybayin upang maging ligtas para sa paglangoy at iba pang mga aktibidad sa paglilibang ay nasa 100 MPN/100mL lamang.

Sa pagpapatupad ng mga pagsisikap sa rehabilitasyon noong Enero 2019, idineklara ang Manila Bay bilang 'no swimming zone'.

Ang pagligo sa Manila Bay ayon sa DENR ay maaaring maglantad sa mga tao sa mataas na an-



tas ng fecal coliform bacteria at tumaas ang kanilang pagkakataong magkaroon ng mga sakit.

Noon, ang DENR ay nagtala ng fecal coliform count na 7.9 milyong MPN/100mL mula sa sampling station sa the Padre Faura drainage outfall.

Dalawa sa pitong proyekto sa Manila Baywalk ay natapos na, kabilang dito ang solar-powered comfort rooms sa mga lansangan ng Padre Faura at Abad, gayundin ang seguridad, operasyon at pagpapantili ng sewage treatment plant (STP).

Sinabi ng DENR na ang natitirang limang proyekto ay nasa 83 hanggang 96 porsyento nang natapos.

Ang mga ahensya ng gobyerno, na bahagi ng mga pagsusumikap sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay ay magpapatibay ng mga sustainable management intervention sa taong ito at magpapasimula rin ng mga diskarte sa komunidad sa solid waste management.

Sinabi ni Jacob Meimban, executive director ng MBCO, na ang mga proyekto ng STP ay inaasahang mababawasan ang polusyon sa mga pangunahing daluyan ng tubig. **(Dolly Cabreza)**





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

AD  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CART

01-11-23

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## From SBMA to Peza?

### BIZ BUZZ



**A** former high-ranking official from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) may soon take the helm at the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza), with two influential groups reportedly pushing for the appointment of this individual.

A well-placed government source told the Inquirer that endorsement papers for this person had reached Malacañang, with a religious sect well-known for block voting during elections, as well as a political party affiliated with the previous administration pushing for this appointment.

Backers of this individual have apparently told our government source that the appointment is almost a certainty and will be announced sometime around the mass oath taking in Malacañang that is set to take place during the last week of this month.

Despite this, industry stakeholders seem to have gotten hold of this move from the grapevine, with some industry associations making their own pitch to the President, preferring **Tereso Panga**, officer in charge of Peza, instead to become chief of the investment

promotion agency.

The IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines and the Semiconductors and Electronics in the Philippines Foundation Inc., among others, have endorsed Panga. But only time will tell if **President Marcos** would heed stakeholders' preference, or if he would go with the flow of designating a political appointee. —**ALDEN M. MONZON**

#### Conscientious mining

Eramen Minerals Inc. was honored this year as it bagged the prestigious Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award (PMIEA) in the surface mining category and first runner-up for "best mining forest" in the metallic category at the 68th Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference, held at the John Hay Trade and Cultural Center in Baguio City late last year.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) recognized Eramen for its exceptional commitment, initiative and innovation in environmental protection, safety and health management and social development.

In 2021, Eramen launched the Mine Environment Mod-

ernization (Memo) program to enhance its environmental protection and natural resource management. One of the projects under Memo was the development of a new one-hectare forest nursery with a capacity to grow 500,000 seedlings.

Eramen has planted over 510,000 trees covering more than 657 hectares, including mined-out sites, buffer zones, and bamboo plantations.

Eramen also developed an organic agroforestry farm to grow a variety of fruits, vegetables and other crops not only to augment food sources and sustainability of the mine but also to aid in reducing the impact of climate change. It maintains a program to manage air quality through road watering activities by installing road water sprinklers spanning nine kilometers.

All told, Eramen invested nearly P50 million for environmental management for the 2021-2022 fiscal year alone. —**DAX-IM L. LUCAS**

#### Filipinos and 'furbabies'

If one has nothing to do and bored, one will likely to spend time mindlessly scrolling through numerous entertaining Reels, which are short-form videos, on Facebook and Instagram.

And it is like a time vortex.

Before one knows it, hours have already been spent staring at one's phone. Goal achieved.

While people are watching these videos, internet giant Meta (aka Facebook) observed what had piqued people's interests in the past year. It turns out, whether on Facebook or Instagram, Filipinos love watching animals and pets, which they endearingly call their "furbabies."

Meanwhile, Filipino social media users also follow fashion, food and cooking, family and parenting and travel videos on Instagram. Other top topics in Facebook include comedy or skit, sports, fashion and family and parenting.

"Since we launched Reels on Instagram in 2021, we have seen just how much Reels content reflect authentic Pinoy culture as a whole," said Meta Philippine country director **John Rubio**. "We look forward to seeing Filipino creators expand their repertoire, grow their following, and explore fun new ways to engage people through short-form content in 2023." —**TYRONE JASPER C. PIAD INQ**





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COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business



PAGE



UPPER  
LOWER



PAGE 1  
STORY



BANNER  
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

03-11-23

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

SC: AIM OF 2005 JMSU IS TO DISCOVER PETROLEUM

## 'Exploration deal unconstitutional'

By JOEL R. SAN JUAN

[@jrsanjuan1573](#)

**T**HE Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday declared as unconstitutional the tripartite agreement for Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking (JMSU) entered into by the Philippine government with China and Vietnam during the term of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2005.

Under the JMSU, which expired in 2008, the Philippines, China and Vietnam through their respective national oil corporations agreed to conduct joint explorations of the disputed South China Sea covering 142,886 square kilometers (agreement area).

However, up to 80 percent of the JMSU site is within the Philippines's 200-mile exclusive economic zone, prompting the filing of petitions seeking to declare the agreement as unconstitutional.

Voting 12-2-1, the Court en banc ruled that the JMSU is unconstitutional for allowing wholly-owned foreign corporations to participate in the exploration of the country's natural resources without observing the safeguards provided in Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution.

The said provision mandates that the exploration, development, and utilization (EDU) of natural

SEE "JMSU," A2





01-11-23

TITLE:

Exploration...

PAGE

2/2

DATE

## JMSU...

CONTINUED FROM A1

resources shall be under the full control and supervision of the State.

Then Bayan Muna Party-List Representatives Satur C. Ocampo and Teodoro A. Casiño, et al. along with former Senator Teofisto Guingona III filed the petition before the SC in 2008 assailing the constitutionality of the agreement.

Petitioners argued that the JMSU was illegal as it allowed foreign corporations wholly-owned by China and Vietnam to undertake large-scale exploration of the country's petroleum resources, in violation of the of the Constitutional provision which reserves the EDU of natural resources to Filipino citizens, or corporations or associations at least 60 percent of whose capital is owned by such citizens.

They added that even if the agreement is merely for a pre-exploration activity, it is clear that all the data and information acquired in the implementation of the agreement shall be jointly owned by the parties, which is a clear proof that the Philippines has conceded or forfeited its ownership over the country's petroleum and other mineral oils.

Furthermore, the petitioners said the respondents compromise its claim over the disputed Spratly Group of Islands by allowing the implementation of the said tripartite agreement.

The agreement covers 6 islands claimed and occupied by the Philippines in Spratly such as Pag-asa Island, Likas Island, Lawak Island, Kota Island, Patag Island and Panata Island.

Named respondents in the petition were then president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, her executive secretary Eduardo Ermita, her Foreign and Energy secretaries as well as the Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) and the PNOC-Exploration Corp.

The Court, noting that the term "exploration" pertains to a search or discovery of something in both its ordinary or technical sense, ruled that the JMSU involves the exploration of the country's natural resources, particularly petroleum.

Citing the text of the fifth whereas clause of the JMSU, which states the Parties "expressed desire to engage in a joint research of petroleum resource potential of a certain area of the South China Sea as a pre-exploration activity," the Court said that it is clear that the JMSU was executed for the purpose of determining if petroleum exists in the agreement area.

"That the Parties designated the joint research as a pre-exploration activity is of no moment," the Court said in a decision penned by Associate Justice Samuel H. Gaerlan

"Such designation does not detract from the fact that the intent and aim of the agreement is to discover petroleum which is tantamount to exploration," it added.

The Court further held that as the JMSU involves the exploration of the country's petroleum resources, it falls within the ambit of Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution.

Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo and 10 other Associate Justices concurred with the ruling. Associate Justice Amy C. Lazaro-Javier and Associate Justice Rodil V. Zalameda dissented, while Associate Justice Ramon Paul L. Hernando was on leave and did not take part.





TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

# SC voids exploration deal with China, Vietnam

By NEIL JAYSON SERVALLOS

The tripartite agreement for the Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking (JMSU) signed by the Philippine government with China and Vietnam during the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2005 has been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court (SC).

In a decision released yesterday, the SC *en banc* voted 12-2-1 to declare as unconstitutional the agreement among China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CNOOC), Vietnam Oil and Gas Corp. (Petrovietnam) and the Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) for natural resources exploration involving a 142,886-square-kilometer area of the West Philippine Sea, an area which is within the Philippines' 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

The agreement covers six islands claimed and occupied by the Philippines in the Spratlys such as Pag-Asa Island, Likas

Turn to Page 4

# SC voids From Page 1

Island, Lawak Island, Kota Island, Patag Island and Panata Island.

The SC ruled that the JMSU, which expired in 2008, is unconstitutional as it allows wholly-owned foreign corporations to participate in the exploration of natural resources within the Philippines' EEZ, thereby disregarding the safeguards provided by the Constitution under national economy and patrimony.

"That the parties designated the joint research as a 'pre-exploration activity' is of no moment," the SC decision penned by Associate Justice Samuel Gaerlan read.

"Such designation does not detract from the fact that the intent and aim of the agreement is to discover petroleum, which is tantamount to 'exploration,'" it added.

The case stemmed from the original action for certiorari and prohibition assailing the constitutionality of the JMSU

filed in 2008 by petitioners then-Bayan Muna party-list representatives Satur Ocampo and Teddy Casiño and other former lawmakers.

They argued that the JMSU was unconstitutional on the ground that it violated the 1987 Constitution's Article XII, Section 2, or the provisions on national economy and patrimony, which mandates that the exploration, development and utilization of natural resources shall be under the full control and supervision of the state.

Further, the petitioners said the JMSU was illegal because of the participation of CNOOC and Petrovietnam, foreign corporations wholly owned by China and Vietnam, respectively, which is in violation of the constitutional provision that reserves the exploration, development and utilization of natural resources to Filipino citizens, or corporations or associations at least 60 percent of whose capital is owned by such citizens.

The respondents, which included Arroyo and several officials of her Cabinet, maintained that the Constitution's Article

XII, Section 2 was inapplicable as the said provision contemplates the exploration, development and utilization of natural resources, whereas the JMSU only involves pre-exploration activities.

In ruling in favor of the petitioners, the SC noted that the term "exploration" pertains to a search or discovery of something in both its ordinary or technical sense and ruled that the JMSU involves the exploration of the country's natural resources, particularly petroleum.

Citing a clause of the JMSU, which states that the parties "expressed desire to engage in a joint research of petroleum resource potential of a certain area of the South China Sea as a pre-exploration activity," the SC said that it is clear that the JMSU was executed for the purpose of determining if petroleum exists in the agreement area.

The high court further held that as the JMSU involves the exploration of the country's petroleum resources, it falls within the ambit of Constitution's Article XII, Section 2.





JOINT EXPLORATION OF WPS WITH CHINA AND VIETNAM COMPANIES

## SC VOIDS 2005 OIL SEARCH DEAL;

# RULING LAUDED AS 'A WARNING TO MARCOS'

By Tina G. Santos  
@santostinaINQ

The Supreme Court has declared void and unconstitutional a 2005 agreement that allowed China and Vietnam to conduct a joint exploration with the Philippines for oil resources in areas under the country's jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

Voting 12-2-1 on Tuesday, the high court en banc ruled that the Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking (JMSU) was "un-

constitutional for allowing wholly owned foreign corporations to participate in the exploration of the country's natural resources without observing the safeguards provided in Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution."

The decision was penned by Associate Justice Samuel Gaerlan, with the concurrence of Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo and 10 other magistrates.

Associate Justice Amy Lazaro-Javier and Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda dissented,

while Associate Justice Ramon Paul Hernando did not take part as he was on leave, according to the court's public information office (PIO).

The case stemmed from the petition filed in 2008 by former Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and five other lawmakers, which asked the tribunal to void the tripartite agreement among China National Offshore Oil Corp., Vietnam Oil and Gas Corp. and the Philippine National Oil Co.

The respondents in the case were led by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The JMSU, which covered an exploration area of 142,886 square kilometers in the South China Sea, was signed in March 2005 and expired in July 2008.

### 'Relevant as ever'

In a statement on Tuesday, Casiño said the court may have taken 14 years to resolve the matter but the ruling was "relevant as ever" in view of President Marcos' apparent plan to

enter into another exploration deal with China in the WPS.

"May this be a warning to Mr. Marcos not to trifle with the constitutional provisions that reserve the exploitation of our natural resources exclusively to Filipinos and under the full supervision and control of the Philippine government," Casiño said.

The petitioners questioned the JMSU for violating the constitutional provision which holds that the exploration, development and utilization (EDU)

of the country's natural resources should be under the full control and supervision of the state.

The JMSU was illegal, they said, for allowing foreign corporations wholly owned by China and Vietnam to undertake a large-scale exploration of the country's petroleum resources.

The Constitution, they stressed, reserves the EDU of natural resources to Filipino citizens or to corporations or associations where at least 60 percent of the capital is owned by Filipinos.





TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

# SC VOIDS 2005 OIL SEARCH DEAL; RULING LAUDED AS 'A WARNING TO MARCOS'

In defense of the deal, the respondents maintained that the provision invoked by the petitioners was inapplicable since the JMSU only involved "pre-exploration activities," not an EDU.

### 'Exploration'

But the high court noted that the term "exploration" pertains to a search or discovery of something in both the ordinary or technical sense of the

word. It also cited a portion of JMSU text which read: "Parties expressed desire to engage in a joint research of petroleum resource potential of a certain area of the South China Sea as a pre-exploration activity."

"[I]t is clear that the JMSU was executed for the purpose of determining if petroleum exists in the Agreement Area," the decision said, as quoted in a summary released by the PIO.

"That the Parties designated the joint research as a 'pre-exploration activity' is of no moment. Such designation does

not detract from the fact that the intent and aim of the agreement is to discover petroleum which is tantamount to exploration," it added.

### 'Traacherous'

Bayan Muna Chair Neri Colmenares, who served as counsel for the petitioners, had assailed the JMSU for undermining the national interest when it "treacherously offered 142,886 sq m of the West Philippine Sea, including 24,000 sq km of areas that indisputably belong to the Philippines and not contested by China."

"China became aggressive after the JMSU because it managed to pinpoint the exact location of natural gas and oil reserves in the area," Colmenares said.

In a tweet, former Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate called Tuesday's court ruling a win for Philippine sovereignty.

"Bayan Muna filed this petition as far back as 2008 as China has been using JMSU as cover in its unbridled exploration and incursion in our territory, particularly in the West Philippine Sea," he said.

On July 12, 2016, the arbitral

tribunal ruled to invalidate China's historic claims to nearly the entire South China Sea demarcated by its so-called nine-dash line, which included the West Philippine Sea, waters within the country's 370-kilometer exclusive economic zone.

### Marcos trip

Beijing refused to participate in the arbitration and continues to ignore the arbitral award despite international pressure.

In 2018, China and the Philippines pledged to jointly explore oil and gas assets in the

West Philippine Sea.

But the talks failed and in June, shortly before Mr. Marcos assumed the presidency, outgoing Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said discussions had been terminated as a result of constitutional limits and sovereignty issues.

During President Marcos' visit to Beijing last week, Chinese President Xi Jinping told the Philippine leader that Beijing was ready to resume oil and gas talks with Manila, and to handle maritime issues in a friendly and consultative manner. INQ





# SC voids oil exploration deal

## Signed in 2005 by PH, Vietnam, and China

By REY G. PANALIGAN

**T**he Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday, Jan. 10, declared void and unconstitutional the 2005 Tripartite Agreement for Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking (JMSU) among China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), Vietnam Oil and Gas Corporation (PETROVIETNAM), and the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) on 142,886-square kilometer area in the South China Sea.

In a decision handed down in Baguio City during its full court session, the SC's public information office (PIO) said the High Court ruled the JMSU unconstitutional "for allowing wholly-owned foreign corporations to participate in the exploration of the country's natural resources without observing the safeguards provided for in Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution."

A copy of the full court decision, written by Associate Justice Samuel H. Gaerlan, was not immediately available. The PIO released the summary of the ruling.

The JMSU was questioned before the SC in 2008 by the ▶ **7**





TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE

4/2

DATE

## SC voids oil exploration deal 1◀

group of then Bayan Muna Party-List Reps. Neri Colmenares, Satur C. Ocampo and Teodoro A. Casino.

They told the SC the JMSU violated Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution which mandates that "the exploration, development, and utilization (EDU) of natural resources shall be under the full control and supervision of the State."

They also pointed out that the tripartite agreement "was illegal as it allowed foreign corporations wholly-owned by China and Vietnam to undertake large-scale exploration of the country's petroleum resources, in violation of the constitutional provision which reserves the EDU of natural resources to Filipino citizens, or corporations or associations at least 60 percent of whose capital is owned by such citizens."

The government at that time

countered that Section 2, Article XII of the Constitution was inapplicable as the provision contemplates EDU of natural resources, whereas the JMSU only involves pre-exploration activities.

In resolving the issue, the PIO said the SC noted that the term "exploration" pertains to a search or discovery of something in both its ordinary or technical sense, but the JMSU "involves the exploration of the country's natural resources, particularly petroleum."

It said the court also cited the text of the "fifth whereas" clause of the JMSU, which states the "Parties expressed desire to engage in a joint research of petroleum resource potential of a certain area of the South China Sea as a pre-exploration activity."

Thus, the SC said, "it is clear that the JMSU was executed for the

purpose of determining if petroleum exists in the Agreement Area," the PIO also said.

"That the Parties designated the joint research as a 'pre-exploration activity' is of no moment. Such designation does not detract from the fact that the intent and aim of the agreement is to discover petroleum which is tantamount to exploration," it also said quoting from the decision.

It said the SC also held that the "JMSU involves the exploration of the country's petroleum resources; it falls within the ambit of Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution."

Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo, and 10 other justices concurred in the decision. But Associate Justices Amy C. Lazaro-Javier and Rodil V. Zalameda dissented, while Associate Justice Ramon Paul L. Hernandez was on leave and did not take part.

The SC's PIO said a copy of the decision would be made public as soon as it is available.





# SC: Exploration deal among PH, China, Vietnam illegal

BY ASHZEL HACHERO

AFTER nearly 15 years, the Supreme Court en banc yesterday declared “unconstitutional” the 2005 Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking (JMSU) agreement entered into by the administration of President Gloria Arroyo with China and Vietnam, covering 142,886 square kilometers in the South China Sea, majority of which are within the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone.

The en banc voted 12-2-1 to declare the JMSU unconstitutional, with Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo joining the majority, while Associate Justices Amy Lazaro-Javier and Rodil Zalameda dissented. Associate Justice Ramon Paul Hernando is on leave and did not take part in the proceeding.

Under the JMSU, the Philippines, China and Vietnam through their respective national oil companies agreed to a joint exploration of the South China Sea, even if 80 percent of the 142,886 square kilometers covered in the agreement is within Manila’s exclusive economic zone.

Critics of the tripartite agreement said its approval was tied to the projects worth \$8 billion to be financed by loans from Beijing to fund the North Rail, South Rail and the National Broadband Network deal with China’s ZTE

Corporation.

The JMSU expired in July 2008 but the petitioners then urged the SC to still rule on their plea as they reiterated that the tripartite agreement was disadvantageous to the country.

The petitioners told the SC that through the JMSU, China was able to learn of the enormous reserves of natural gas in Recto or Reed Bank located within the Philippines’ EEZ, northwest of mainland Palawan.

The High Court said the JMSU, by and among, the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), the Vietnam Oil and Gas Corporation (PetroVietnam), and the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) is unconstitutional for allowing wholly-owned foreign corporations to participate in the exploration of the country’s natural resources without observing the safeguards provided in Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution.

The case stemmed from the petition for certiorari and prohibition filed by former Bayan Muna representatives Satur Ocampo and Teddy Casiño in 2008 assailing the constitutionality of the JMSU on the grounds that it violated the constitutional provision which mandates that the exploration, development, and utilization of natural resources

shall be under the full control and supervision of the State.

Joining Ocampo and Casiño in the petition were former Bayan Muna representative Neri Colmenares, the late Anakpawis representative Crispin Beltran, former Gabriela representatives Liza Maza and Luzviminda Ilagan, former Quezon representative Erin Tañada, and former senator Teofisto “TG” Guingona III.

The petitioners also argued that the JMSU was illegal as it allowed foreign corporations that are wholly-owned by China and Vietnam to undertake large-scale exploration of the country’s petroleum resources, in violation of the constitutional provision which reserves the right to exploit and utilize natural resources to Filipino citizens, or corporations or associations at least 60 percent of whose capital is owned by such citizens.

The respondents -- Arroyo, then-executive secretary Eduardo Ermita, and the then-heads of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Energy, and the Philippine National Oil Company-Exploration Corp. -- maintained that Section 2, Article XII of the Constitution was inapplicable because it contemplates the exploration, development and utilization of natural resources,

whereas the JMSU only involves pre-exploration activities.

The case was submitted for resolution in 2010.

But the Court en banc, noting that the term “exploration” pertains to a search or discovery of something in both its ordinary or technical sense, ruled that the JMSU involves the exploration of the country’s natural resources, particularly petroleum.

Citing part of the JMSU, which states the parties “expressed desire to engage in a joint research of petroleum resource potential of a certain area of the South China Sea as a pre-exploration activity,” the SC held it is clear that the tripartite agreement was executed for the purpose of determining if petroleum exists in the agreement area.

“That the parties designated the joint research as a pre-exploration activity is of no moment. Such designation does not detract from the fact that the intent and aim of the agreement is to discover petroleum which is tantamount to exploration,” the decision penned by Associate Justice Samuel Gaerlan said.

The Court further held that as the JMSU involves the exploration of the country’s petroleum resources, it falls within the ambit of Section 2, Article XII of the Constitution.





TITLE :

PAGE

DATE



BW FILE PHOTO

**VOTING 12-2 with one abstention, the tribunal has ruled the oil deal with China and Vietnam was illegal for allowing foreigners to explore the country's natural resources without full state supervision.**

## Philippine court voids oil deal with China, Vietnam

THE PHILIPPINE Supreme Court (SC) has voided a 2005 government deal with China and Vietnam for joint gas and oil explorations in the South China Sea.

Voting 12-2 with one abstention, the tribunal had ruled the agreement violated the Constitution for allowing foreigners to explore the country's natural resources covering 142,886 square kilometers without full supervision from the state, it said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The court ruled that the Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking is unconstitutional for allowing wholly owned foreign corporations to participate in the exploration of the country's natural resources without observing the safeguards provided in Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution," it said.

The High Court had yet to upload a copy of the decision on its website.

Under the Constitution, the exploration, development and use of the country's natural resources must be under the full control and supervision of the state.

In 2005, the Philippines under ex-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo entered into the deal with China and Vietnam through their state-owned oil companies.

The government earlier argued the deal was aboveboard because it only involved "pre-exploration activities," which the court disagreed with.

The High Court said the purpose of the pact was for these companies to explore the area for petroleum and other gas resources.

"Such designation does not detract from the fact that the intent and aim of the agreement is to discover petroleum, which is tantamount to exploration," it said.

Bayan Muna Party-list including former Congressmen Satur C. Ocampo and Teodoro A. Casiño sued the government in 2008 before the High Court, saying the deal would allow foreign oil companies to

conduct large-scale explorations of natural resources intended for Filipino citizens.

In a statement, Mr. Casiño welcomed the ruling even if it took the court almost 15 years to resolve it. "The ruling is as relevant as ever considering President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s plan to enter into a joint exploration of the West Philippine Sea with China," he said, referring to areas of the South China Sea within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

Last week, Chinese President Xi Jinping told Mr. Marcos China was ready to resume oil and gas talks with the Philippines, according to Chinese state television.

"I really hope — I would very much like, as you have suggested, Mr. President — to be able to announce that we are continuing negotiations and that we hope that these negotiations will bear fruit," Mr. Marcos told the Chinese leader, according to a video released by the presidential palace in Manila.

"Because the pressure is upon not only China, not only the Philippines but the rest of the world to move away from the traditional fronts of power," he added.

China claims more than 80% of the South China Sea, which is believed to contain substantial oil and gas deposits and through which billions of dollars in trade passes each year. A United Nations-backed arbitration court in July 2016 voided China's claim to more than 80% of the sea based on a 1940s map.

China has ignored the ruling, which has failed to stop its island-building activities in areas also claimed by the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan.

"May this be a warning to Mr. Marcos not to trifle with the constitutional provisions that reserve the exploitation of our natural resources exclusively to Filipinos and under the full supervision and control of the Philippine government," Mr. Casiño said. — **John Victor D. Ordoñez**





01-11-23

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## Maynilad allots P19 B for new sewer lines

West zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. (Maynilad) is spending P19 billion in the next five years to install 121 kilometers of new sewer lines to expand sewerage services.

The company said the new sewer pipelines would be laid in portions of Manila, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Bacoor, Las Piñas, Caloocan, and Quezon City.

The new lines will catch used water generated by around 2.1 million customers and convey it to Maynilad's sewage treatment plants for proper treatment before discharge to the ecosystem.

"The installation of new sewer lines is part of our effort to protect community health and the environment through proper sewage collection and treatment. We hope for the continued support of the local government units so that we can fast track the implementation of these pipe-laying projects in their area," Maynilad COO Randolph Estrellado said.

To minimize public inconvenience resulting from these pipe-laying activities, Maynilad said it closely coordinates with the barangays and communities.

Affected roads are also immediately restored with temporary asphalt pavement to make the roads passable to motorists.

Moreover, Maynilad

said it regularly monitors its contractors to ensure that their work sites are fully enclosed by board-up barricades and have appropriate lighting and traffic/warning signs.

The company is operating and maintaining 625 kilometers of sewer lines, and 22 wastewater treatment facilities that have a combined capacity to treat around 664 million liters of wastewater per day.

Apart from new sewer lines, Maynilad is budgeting P22 billion for seven new water treatment plants in Muntinlupa, Pasay, Parañaque, Cavite, and Rizal in the next five years.

These facilities will add more than 545 million liters per day (MLD) of water supply for distribution to customers, thus helping to reduce service interruptions.

It is also targeting to replace 639 kilometers of old, leaky pipes as part of upgrading its distribution system to reduce water losses.

Maynilad allocated around P9.9 billion for the replacement of deteriorated pipelines in Manila, Parañaque, Pasay, Muntinlupa, and Las Piñas.

Maynilad is the concessionaire of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for the west zone of the Greater Manila Area.

— Danessa Rivera





## Maynilad plans to spend P19B on new sewer lines

MAYNILAD Water Services, Inc. is targeting to spend P19 billion in the next five years for the installation of 121 kilometers of new sewer lines as part of the expansion of its sewerage services.

In a media release on Tuesday, the west zone water concessionaire said the new pipelines will be laid in portions of Manila, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Bacoor, Las Piñas, Caloocan, and Quezon City.

The new pipelines will catch used water generated by 2.1 million customers and will then be treated under Maynilad's sewerage treatment plants for proper discharge.

"The installation of new sewer lines is part of our effort to protect community health and the environment through proper sewage collection and treatment. We hope for the continued support of the local government units so that we can fast track the implementation of these pipe-laying projects in their area," Randolph T. Estrelado, chief operating officer of Maynilad, said.

Maynilad said that the pipeline laying was coordinated with authorities of affected local government units to minimize the inconvenience it may cause to the public.

"Affected roads are also immediately restored with temporary asphalt pavement to make the roads

passable to motorists. Moreover, Maynilad regularly monitors its contractors to ensure that their work sites are fully enclosed by board-up barricades and have appropriate lighting and traffic/warning signs," Maynilad added.

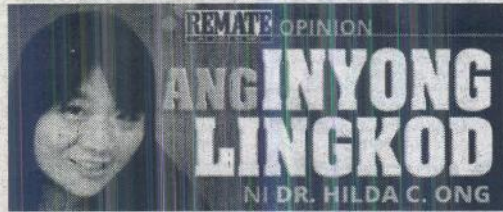
The west zone water concessionaire currently operates up to 625 kilometers of sewer lines, and about 22 wastewater treatment facilities that can treat 664 million liters of wastewater per day.

Maynilad, a concessionaire of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, serves the cities of Manila, except portions of San Andres and Sta. Ana. It also operates in Quezon City, Makati, Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon. It serves the cities of Cavite, Bacoor and Imus, and the towns of Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario in Cavite province.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which has a majority stake in Maynilad, is one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT Inc.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has an interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**





REMATE OPINION  
**ANG INYONG LINGKOD**  
NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

ANG West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) ay nag-aalok ng mga serbisyo sa paglilinis ng septic tank sa mga residential at semi-business customer nito ngayong Enero sa mga piling bahagi ng Caloocan, Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Manila, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Parañaque, Pasay, Quezon City, Valenzuela, at Cavite Province nang walang bayad o dagdag na bayad.

Isa sa mga pagsisikap at tinutukan ng kompanya upang bawasan ang pagkaraga ng polusyon sa mga sistema ng ilog ng Metro Manila ang sanitation program ng Maynilad. "Hinihiling namin sa aming mga customer na gamitin ang serbisyong ito dahil makatutulong ito sa pangangalaga sa kalusugan ng komunidad at sa kapaligiran," sabi ni Maynilad Chief Operating Officer Randolph T. Estrellado.

Mga kustomer na nani-

## LIBRENG SEPTIC TANK CLEANING HANDOG NG MAYNILAD NGAYONG ENERO 2023

nirahan sa Barangay 167, 171, 172, 180, 181, at 183 sa Caloocan; Brgy. Pamplona 2 at Talon Dos sa Las Piñas; Brgy. Longos sa Malabon; Brgy. Poblacion sa Muntinlupa; at Brgy. San Antonio sa Parañaque ang maaaring mag-avail ng serbisyong desludging ng Maynilad.

Bukod dito, ilang customer ng Maynilad sa Cavite Province, partikular sa Brgy. 10-A, 10-B, 13, 16, 18, 19, 23, 26, 28, 29, 29-A, Dalahican, Panapaan, at San Roque sa Cavite City; at Bucandala 1 hanggang 5 sa Imus City ay maaaring mag-avail ng septic tank cleaning services ng kompanya nang walang

dagdag na bayad. Ang serbisyo sa paglilinis ng septic tank karaniwang nasa halagang humigit-kumulang Php 4,700 bawat trak.

Ang mga interesadong customer ng Maynilad na nais mag-avail ng septic tank cleaning service ng kompanya ay maaaring tumawag sa Maynilad Hotline 1626 para masagot ang inyong mga katanungang kung ano ang mga kinakailangan at pamamaraan. Ang karagdagang impormasyon ay makukuha rin sa website ng kompanya, [www.mayniladwater.com.ph](http://www.mayniladwater.com.ph), at social media accounts (Twitter: @maynilad, Facebook: /MayniladWater).

Ang Maynilad ang pinakamalaking pribadong water concessionaire ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) sa Pilipinas sa mga tuntunin ng customer base. Kasama sa

**Kung nais ninyo malaman ang TAMANG IMPORMASYON, TAMANG SERBISYO ni AGARANG SERBISYO LADY, i-search sa YOUTUBE CHANNEL, "HILDA ONG" at sa Facebook Fanpage "TV RADIO HILDA ONG". Huwag kalimutan i-click ang salitang "SUBSCRIBE", "LIKE" at "SHARE".**

lugar ng serbisyo nito ang mga lungsod ng Maynila (lahat maliban sa mga bahagi ng San Andres at Sta. Ana), Quezon City (kanluran ng San Juan River, West Avenue, EDSA, Congressional, Mindanao Avenue, ang hilagang bahagi na nagsisimula sa mga Distrito ng Banal na Espiritu at Batasan Hills), Ma-

kati (kanluran ng South Super Highway), Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, at Malabon, lahat sa Metro Manila; at ang mga lungsod ng Cavite, Bacoor, at Imus, at ang mga bayan ng Kawit, Noveleta, at Rosario, lahat sa lalawigan ng Cavite.





TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## Maynilad allots P19B for new sewer lines

West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) is spending some P19 billion over the next five years for the installation of 121 kilometers of new sewer lines to expand sewerage services for its customers.

The new sewer pipelines—to be laid in portions of Manila, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Bacoor, Las Piñas, Caloocan, and Quezon City—will catch used water generated by around 2.1 million customers and convey it to

Maynilad's Sewage Treatment Plants for proper treatment before discharge to the ecosystem.

"The installation of new sewer lines is part of our effort to protect community health and the environment through proper sewage collection and treatment. We hope for the continued support of the local government units so that we can fast track the implementation of these pipe-laying projects in their area," said Maynilad Chief Operating Officer Randolph T.

**GOOD NEWS** [rematenewscentral@yahoo.com](mailto:rematenewscentral@yahoo.com)



Estrellado.

To minimize public inconvenience resulting from these pipe-laying activities, Maynilad closely coordinates with the barangays and communities: Affected roads are also immediately restored with temporary asphalt pavement to make the roads passable to motorists. Moreover, Maynilad regularly monitors its contractors to ensure that their work sites are fully enclosed by board-up barricades and have appropriate lighting and traffic/warning signs.

Maynilad is currently operating and maintaining 625 kilometers of sewer lines, and 22 wastewater treatment facilities that have a combined capacity to treat around 664

million liters of wastewater per day.

Maynilad is the largest private water concessionaire in the Philippines in terms of customer base. It is the concessionaire of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for the West Zone of the Greater Manila Area, which is composed of the cities of Manila (certain portions), Quezon City (certain portions), Makati (west of South Super Highway), Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon all in Metro Manila; the cities of Cavite, Bacoor and Imus, and the towns of Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario, all in Cavite Province.





## EcoWaste warns consumers vs toxic lucky charm bracelets ahead of Chinese New Year

TOXICS watchdog EcoWaste Coalition warned consumers against buying lucky charm bracelets that could contain cadmium, as these trinkets become popular with the Chinese New Year celebration set this year on Jan. 22.

In a statement on Tuesday, the group said it has spotted high levels of cadmium in lucky charm bracelets sold at P50 to P150 in Quiapo, Manila.

According to the group, most of the lucky charm bracelets have exceeded the 100 parts per million (ppm) limit accepted under European Union (EU) standards.

"Based on the screening results, 12 of the 15 bracelets contained rabbit-inspired ornaments with cadmium content above the 100 ppm EU limit for cadmium in jewelry: seven had over 100,000 ppm, four had 19,690 to 78,200 ppm, and one had 553 ppm," the EcoWaste Coalition said.

Cadmium is a hazardous chemical, with its compounds being listed in the Philippine Priority Chemical list and the 10 chemicals of major public health concern of the World Health Organization (WHO), according to the group.

"We find the presence of cadmium in products marketed as charms for attracting good health, fortune and happiness very concerning as this substance is known to cause adverse health effects, including cancer," EcoWaste Coalition National Coordinator Aileen A. Lucero said.

"Consumers should be forewarned that some lucky charms, which are often sold without any labeling information, may be laden with hazardous substances like cadmium. Consumers may be exposed to cadmium through the skin or oral contact. Worst, a child may play with and accidentally ingest a cadmium-containing charm if the bracelet is broken or untied," she added.

Citing the WHO, the EcoWaste Coalition said that cadmium has toxic effects on the kidneys, and the skeletal and respiratory systems, adding that it is classified as a human carcinogen.

"The unrestricted sale of cadmium-laden jewelries in the local market is a public health concern. We urge concerned government regulators to take action in order to protect human health," the group said.

**Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**





TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## Davao bizmen told: Comply with waste mgmt plan

By MANUEL T. CAYON [@awimailbox](#)  
Mindanao Bureau Chief

**D**AVAO CITY—Businesses here have been asked to carefully craft their Solid Waste Management Plan and abide by them as the city finds ways to reduce the daily disposal of garbage to its landfill.

The City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) has issued the warning as businesses file this month either their application to operate or renewal of permits and pay their tax dues.

The CENRO said a solid waste management plan is required of every operational business in the city in order to acquire a solid waste management certificate from the office.

"The purpose of the solid waste management plan regards with their disposal system, how they manage their waste. The only major requirement is the solid management plan," said CENRO chief Marivic Reyes.

The certificate is required when applying for new business permits but it would not be required anymore upon renewal. However, failure to abide by the management plan once inspected anytime would still have consequent penalties for business owners, Reyes said.

"It is within the law that an establishment operating without a Solid Waste Management Certificate will be penalized because this is in violation of our ordinance, with a penalty of P5,000," she added.

Establishments must follow the system indicated in their solid waste management plan, a copy of which would be kept by CENRO as reference for future inspections. The plan must include segregation schematics, collection points, the disposal schedule, and other waste management details, all of which are geared at making sure that only residuals or unusable materials are collected by the CENRO.

Businesses found violating their waste management plan would be penalized and may have to reapply for another solid waste management certificate.

Reyes said measures on responsible waste management are being implemented even more stringently in the city due to the continuously increasing volume of trash collected.

In 2020, the office collected 223,431 tons of garbage. This increased to 254,750 tons in 2021 and 285,829 tons in 2022. All of these ended up in the city's sanitary landfill, which is already full, the CENRO said.

Although the trend points to an increase in the total volume of garbage collected, she said the city has been effective to a certain extent in minimizing the garbage buildup with daily collection still range between 600 and 700 tons of garbage.

"If we look at the studies, there really is a decrease in our collection. Most just cannot notice this because the number of subdivisions and incoming condominiums in our city have also increased," Reyes said.

She added that maintaining the daily average volume collected within the range of 600 to 700 tons is the critical indicator to the city's solid waste management.





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TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

### **Davao City biz firms must craft solid waste management plan**

DAVAO CITY - The City Environment and Natural Resources Office has urged business firms here to carefully craft their Solid Waste Management Plan as a requirement for the issuance of a solid waste management certificate.

Engr. Marivic Reyes, CENRO chief, said failure to abide by the SWMP will have consequential penalties for business owners.

Citing the city's Solid Waste Management Ordinance of 2009, Reyes said establishments must follow the system indicated within their SWMP, a copy of which would be kept by the CENRO as a reference for future inspections.

The plan must include segregation schematics, collection points, the disposal schedule, and other waste management details—all of which are geared at making sure that only residuals or unusable materials are collected by the CENRO.

"The purpose of the solid waste management plan is for them to manage their wastes. That is the only major requirement (to acquire the certificate, Reyes said.





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## REIMATE OPINION ULTIMATUM

NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

### ANO ANG GAGAWIN SA SIRANG KALIKASAN?

MALAPIT nang tay-init at ilang buwan na lamang bago ideklara ito ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

Gayunman, napaliligiran tayo ng mga pangyayari sa ibang mga bansa na nagaganap din sa Pinas.

#### SA US, AUSTRALIA, PAKISTAN

Nitong huli, magkasabay ang matitinding pagbaha sa California sa United States at sa kanlurang bahagi ng Australia.

Parehong kakaiba ang mga pagbahang ito dahil ngayon lang nararanasan umano ng mga nakatira sa dalawang lugar.

Pinili ang California, lalo na ang mga lugar sa tabing dagat, bilang tahanan ng mga sikat at malalaking tao, subalit sinasalakay na sila ng mga pagbaha na kanilang iniwasan sa ibang lugar sa US.

Nitong nagdaang mga araw, bumagyo at pinalikas ang marami patungo sa mga ligtas na lugar.

Sa Australia naman, mga Bro, umaabot sa 16 metro ang pagbaha.

Maimadyin ba ninyo ang 16 metrong taas ng baha?

Lubog and dalawang palapag na bahay rito, kasama ang bubong, at delikado pa ang ikatlong palapag.

Marami ang naihiwalay ng mga komunidad sa Perth, at helikopter na ang gamit para mahatiran ng pagkain ang nga na-trap sa malalawak na pagbaha.

Ilang buwan ang nakararaan naman, sinasabing higit sa kalahati ng bansang Pakistan ang matagal na lumubog sa baha at milyon-milyong tao ang nagutom habang daan-daan ang namatay.

Hanggang ngayon, umaasa pa ang Pakistan ng tulong mula sa ibang bansa dahil nasiraan sila ng mga ari-arian na umaabot sa mahigit \$16 bilyon.

Umaasa silang makalikom din ng \$16B na utang o donasyon upang maibalik nila sa normal ang pamumuhay ng mga napinsala.

Noong sinalanta tayo ng bagyong Yolanda, nasa P36.62 bilyon ang nasirang ari-arian, kasama ang mga imprastrakturang pag-aari ng pamahalaan, bahay, niyugan, bangka at marami pang iba.

Sa palitang P50 sa \$1, wala pang \$1 bilyong dolyar ang nasira sa atin.

Kaya, kung imadyinin natin ang nasira sa Pakistan, grabe iyon.

#### SA PILIPINAS

Ayon sa matatanda, iba na ang panahon ngayon.

Wala na gaano ang dating hatian ng tag-init at tag-ulan at may saniling iskedyul na buwan ang mga ito.

Sa ngayon, kung uminit, sobra ang init ng panahon at kung lumamig, sobra rin.

Kung may sobra-sobrang tagtuyot, may sobra-sobra ring tag-ulan.

At ang matindi pa, kung bumagyo, gayon na lang na lumilikha ng mga grabeng pagbaha.

At kung ano ang sinasabi ng taga-ibang bansa ukol sa nagaganap sa kanila na mga pagbaha, anak ng tokwa, nagaganap din ito sa atin.

Noong bumaha sa Metro Manila kay Ondoy, noon lang umano nagkaroon ng ganoong baha.

Nang dumating naman ang baha mula kay bagyong Ulysses sa Cagayan Valley, noon lang din umano naganap ang ganoong pagbaha.

Ito rin ang sinasabi ng mga biktima ni Yolanda.

Ano nga kaya meron sa mga nangyayaring ito?

Dahil ba sa sinasabi nilang climate change?

O baka naman dahil sa pang-aabuso natin sa kapaligiran, gaya ng pagkakalbo natin sa mga kagubaitan para may mapagtayuan tayo ng mga bayan, komersyo, housing project at iba pa.

Anomang reklamo o puna, iparating lang sa [www.remate.ph](http://www.remate.ph) o i-text sa 09214303383.





## Benguet mountain gets landmark SC ruling

BY ALDWIN QUITASOL

**BAGUIO CITY** – The Supreme Court *en banc* has recently denied the appeal of former Baguio City Congressman Nicasio Aliping Jr. in connection with the writ of *kalikasan* over the Sto. Tomas Forest Reserve at Mt. Sto. Tomas Mountain in Tuba, Benguet.

The High Court junked the Petition for Review on *Certiorari* filed by the former lawmaker against the Court of Appeals (former 4th Division), Bishop Carlito J. Cenzon, Archbishop Socrates Villegas, Sheree Nolasco, Marie Balangue, Nonnette C. Bennett, Dr. Teresita De Venecia, Antonio Supremido Jr. and Pastor Gener Tandoc.

To recall, the SC *en banc* on September 2014 issued a writ of *kalikasan* with a Temporary Environmental Protection Order, stopping any developments and other activities being done in the forest reserve.

The issuance directed concerned

officials, private individuals including Aliping to refrain or stop earth-moving activities in the area – especially the spot where a *teleserye* was previously filmed was closed to tourism activities as tourists swarmed the area where the surroundings were pestered with congestion and pollution.

Aliping filed a petition with the Court of Appeals his return to the writ on 14 October 2014 and on May 2015, the CA granted the privilege of the writ of *kalikasan*; the writ of continuing *mandamus* and the TEPO was made permanent.

The petitioner was also ordered to cease and desist from developing the land he was claiming.

However, Aliping again filed a petition with the CA a motion for reconsideration on October 2015. This was then denied by the High Court's *en banc*.

The SC *en banc*'s decision was actually promulgated on June 2022 but was posted on 25 November 2022.





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PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## **P1.5M pananim sa Norzagaray, wasak sa pinakawalang tubig sa dam**

INIULAT na aabot sa higit P1.5 milyong halaga ng mga pananim ang nasira sa pagbaha sa bayan ng Norzagaray sa Bulacan bunsod ng pagpapakawala ng tubig sa mga dam.

Ayon kay Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDR-RMO) head Jerry Sumbillo, maraming napinsalang tani-man sa kanilang bayan lalo

na ang mga malapit sa ilog.

Sinabi ni Sumbillo, humupa na ang baha sa kanilang bayan pero nais ipatawag ni Mayor Merlyn Germar ang mga opisyal ng Ipo at Angat dam para magpaliwanag sa mga residente ng Norzagaray kung bakit ganoon kalin-di ang naging pagbaha na puminsala sa kanilang kabu-hayan.

DANNY GRAVADOR