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DENR

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WASTE SEGREGATION (Photo courtesy of the DENR)

DENR upgrades online system to monitor LGU's action on solid waste management

By JEL E. SANTOS

An upgrade in an online feature that will monitor the amount of waste collected, hauled and transported to waste treatment facilities will push compliance of local government units to manage solid waste properly. The upgrade was made in the online system of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) recently.

The new feature in the Integrated Information System (IIS), according to DENR-EMB Director William P. Cuñado, seeks to continuously educate LGUs on environmental management. It will especially monitor their compliance to the minimum standards and requirements for the collection of solid waste.

"LGUs are partners of the national government in enforcing environmental laws and regulations. We need to work closely with them to achieve significant and meaningful results in environmental protection and management," he said.

Under Section 24 of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, Environmental Monitoring Officers (EnMOs) are tasked to monitor the recommendations given by the EMB to LGUs. The recommendations include LGUs providing trucks for the collection of recyclables like glass, metals, plastics

and waste paper to be transported to the materials recovery facilities, recycling facilities, or contracted junk shops. LGUs are also ordered to manage the collection of compostable or biodegradable wastes to be transported to composting facilities.

EnMOs are tasked to ensure that unsegregated or mixed solid waste at the source will not be collected.

Meanwhile, LGUs have to submit their daily and monthly reports through the EMB IIS.

The DENR said EnMOs will consolidate the LGUs' monthly report for the updating of solid waste management regional data on the quantity of waste collected, hauled, and transported to the waste facilities.

According to Cuñado, some residents practice waste segregation at the source in their homes, but the segregated wastes are mixed by the waste collection crew in the dump trucks in violation of Section 24 of RA 9003.

Thus, the DENR-EMB director said the efforts of the residents and establishments in practicing proper waste segregation at the source are in vain.

"Through the monthly consolidation of manifest form per LGU submitted to IIS, we can respond immediately and monitor the commitments of the LGUs with the primary emphasis on their biodegradables, recyclables, residuals, household hazardous wastes, and especially the management of the Covid-19 related wastes," he said.



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Waste monitoring of LGUs enabled; flood mitigating measures set



Rainy Friday. Heavy rains strand commuters and cause floods in roads in the vicinity of a mall in Manila on Aug. 5, 2022. (PNA photo)

THE Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) has enabled its Integrated Information System (IIS) to record the amount of waste collected, hauled and transported from local government units (LGUs) to solid waste management or treatment facilities.

William Cuñado, EMB director, said the new feature in the IIS aims not just to continuously educate LGUs on environmental management but also to monitor these LGUs' compliance to minimum standards and requirements in the collection of solid waste.

Under Section 24 of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, Environmental Monitoring Officers (EnMOs) are tasked to monitor the recommendations given by the EMB to LGUs, such as providing trucks for collection of recyclables like glass, metals,

plastics and waste paper to be transported to the materials recovery facilities, recycling facilities, or contracted junk shops; collection of compostable or biodegradable wastes to be transported to composting facilities; and collection of household infectious wastes or COVID-19 related wastes.

EnMOs are also tasked with ensuring unsegregated or mixed solid waste at the source will not be collected while LGUs are required to submit their daily and monthly reports through the EMB IIS.

The EnMOs will then consolidate the LGUs' monthly report for the updating of solid waste management regional data on the quantity of waste collected, hauled and transported to the waste facilities.

Cuñado said some residents practice waste segregation in their homes but the garbage is mixed

by waste collection crew in dump trucks.

"Hence, the efforts of the residents and establishments in practicing proper waste segregation at source are disregarded... Through the monthly consolidation of manifest form per LGU submitted to IIS, we can respond immediately and monitor the commitments of the LGUs with the primary emphasis on their biodegradables, recyclables, residuals, household hazardous wastes, and especially the management of the COVID-19 related wastes," Cuñado added.

The Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO) said it also held last week an interagency meeting with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the

Manila city government for the "reinforcement of collective actions to address the recent flooding experienced in the city of Manila."

Jonas Leones, undersecretary for policy, planning and international affairs of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said the holistic design of the Manila Bay rehabilitation involves mitigating measures to accommodate heavy rains and prevent flooding.

"Part of the overall rehabilitation plan is to install mitigating strategies and infrastructures that address flooding. These measures, which are managed by the DPWH and MMDA, are necessary as these ultimately affect the Manila Bay waters," Leones said.

Jacob Meimban, MBCO director,

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WASTE

said the Taft-United Nations, Padre Faura and Ermita-Malate areas which recently experienced heavy flooding will be prioritized as these are low-lying and flood-prone areas.

Meimban said declogging of drainage canals especially

in the identified areas are also underway.

Meimban said the DENR is planning to provide funding for the declogging operations as well as the installation of mobile pumping stations in the Baywalk area, reconstruction of floodgates and

construction of other flooding interventions in coordination with other government agencies.

The DPWH said it will work on constructing more box culvert canals and pumping stations on T.M. Kalaw and Taft avenues. - **Jed Macapagal**



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The Plastic Waste to Value Southeast Asia Challenge announces 5 innovators

THE INCUBATION NETWORK, in partnership with the Global Plastic Action Partnership, UpLink by the World Economic Forum, and the Alliance to End Plastic Waste, have recently launched the Plastic Waste to Value Southeast Asia Challenge to tackle plastic waste mismanagement in the region. Established to accelerate innovative solutions that are focused on plastic recycling and upcycling in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, the challenge is excited to unveil five innovators that will be participating in the tailored development program over the course of five months.

The challenge received a total of 101 incredible applications through the UpLink platform. Forty-eight shortlisted candidates were carefully assessed by academic researchers, corporate sustainability practitioners, innovators, and climate & circular economy specialists. The selected innovators will receive partnership building opportunities, mentorship, increased visibility, access to networks, and grants to scale their solutions.

"Working in partnership with the Global Plastic Action Partnership and the Alliance to End Plastic Waste, The Incubation Network is committed to support solutions that will enhance waste management ecosystems and accelerate the move towards a circular future



FILIPINO STARTUP Envirotech Waste Recycling, Inc. is invited to be part of the Plastic Waste to Value Southeast Asia Challenge amongst 101 submissions.

for plastics," said Simon Baldwin, global head of Circularity, SecondMuse. "We are very excited. The selected innovators have demonstrated a compelling opportunity for growth and economic & environmental impact."

Urgent sustainable solutions are needed to combat the ever-growing global plastic waste pollution crisis. Between 2017-2019, an estimated two million tons of plastic waste leakage per year came from Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. This accounts for 17% of annual global marine

plastic waste leakage. Plastic waste that is not polluting waterways is either burnt or dumped – posing a significant threat to environmental and biodiversity health.

"Innovative solutions are critical to address plastic waste management in the region. We are thrilled to have worked closely with The Incubation Network and the Alliance to End Plastic Waste to identify an impressive cohort of Top Innovators with high-impact solutions that bring value to plastic waste. We look forward to providing the Innovators with greater visibility

and impact in the region," said Poonam Watine, knowledge specialist, Global Plastic Action Partnership.

Solutions have been assessed based on their contributions to at least one of the three focus areas: (1) increasing the amount of plastic waste managed, processed and/or recycled; (2) supporting the operational improvement of plastic waste management and recycling; and (3) improving working conditions of enterprises in plastic waste management and recycling.

The Plastic Waste to Value Southeast Asia Challenge cohort includes: Bank Sampah Bersinar (Indonesia), a social enterprise that provides community-based waste management solutions; Envirotech Waste Recycling, Inc. (Philippines) which collects Single-use plastic (SUPs) and turns them into useful products such as school chairs; Kibumi (Indonesia), a disruptive startup company that strengthens the plastic recycling supply chain through digitalized and modernized waste collection points; Plastic People (Vietnam) which transforms plastic waste into useful and upcycled products such as furniture or accessories; and TerraCycle Global Foundation (Thailand) which provides simple, innovative, and high impact solutions to prevent, remove, and recycle waste from the environment.

"Ending plastic waste is a clear and urgent necessity recognising both the environmental costs and economic losses when plastic waste is not recovered," said Nicholas Kolesch, vice-president for projects at the Alliance to End Plastic Waste. "With growing demand for post-consumer plastic, the Plastic Waste to Value Southeast Asia Challenge will support ventures in the region to close this gap, getting plastics out of the environment and back into a circular economy."

On the ground implementation will be supported by venture builder Impact Hub Manila. Icelly Nicole Recato Dy, junior project manager at Impact Hub Manila, said, "We are always actively supporting changemakers wanting to create impact through lessening the plastic pollution in the Philippines. As the country is gearing towards lessening plastic consumption and promoting alternatives, we realize that there is still a long way to go. We continuously find ways to support entrepreneurs and changemakers that are working towards these goals."

The Plastic Waste to Value Southeast Asia Challenge is led by The Incubation Network, the Global Plastic Action Partnership, UpLink by the World Economic Forum, and funded by the Alliance to End Plastic Waste, and supported by SecondMuse, The Circulate Initiative, Global Affairs Canada, and DEFRA.



Editorial

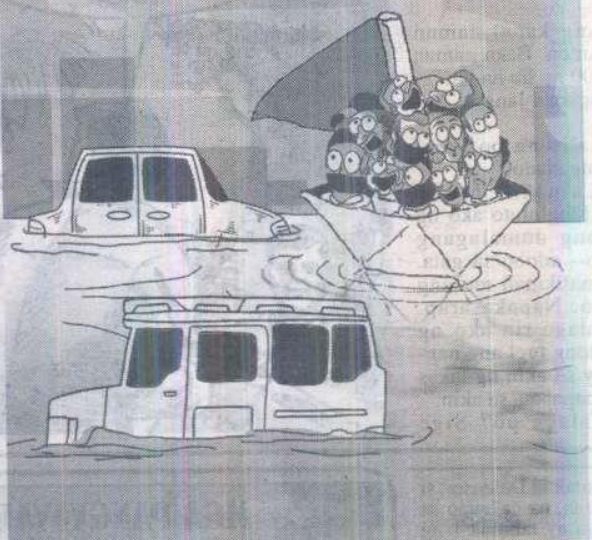
Walang katapusang problema sa baha

LUMANG problema na ang baha sa Metro Manila. Dekada'70 pa ay marami nang umaangal sa perwisyong baha at hanggang ngayon, ito pa rin ang problema at walang magawang solusyon ang pamahalaan ukol dito. Kapag umulan, marami na ang kinakabahan, lalo ang taga-Maynila sapagkat pati silong ng kanilang bahay ay pinapasok ng baha.

Sa Sampaloc, Maynila, karaniwan na ang baha sa ganitong buwan. Walang natandaan na hindi bumaha sa Sampaloc. Kapag umapaw ang España Blvd. tiyak nang magiging lawa ang mga kalsada sa Sampaloc. Marami na naman ang maglilimas ng tubig-baha na pumasok sa kani-kanilang mga bahay. Ang nakadidiri, hindi lamang tubig ang pumasok sa bahay kundi pati na rin ang mga basura at nakadidiring dumi.

Noong nakaraang Agosto 5, nagmistulang malaking parking area ang Taft Avenue at Kalaw St. Ang

Larry Goy '22
8.15.22



dahilan: hindi makalampas sa hanggang hita na baha ang mga maliliit na sasakyan. Napilitang maglakad sa baha ang mga pasahero sapagkat wala nang pumapasadang dyipni at maski mga taksi.

Itinaturong dahilan nang pagbaha sa mga kalsada sa Maynila ay ang Dolomite beach na proyekto ng nakaraang administrasyon. Ayon sa Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), nagsaayos at naglinis na sila ng mga drainages at iba pang daluyan ng tubig baha kaya nakapagtataka kung bakit mabagal ang pagbaha ng tubig.

Itinanggi naman ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) na ang Dolomite beach ang dahilan nang pagbaha sa Maynila at iba pang lungsod.

Mahusay magturuan at magsisihan ang mga opisyal ng pamahalaan kapag nangyari na ang problema. Para mailigtas ang sarili, gagawa ng kung anu-anong dahilan at maninisi.

Kung nagawa na ng DPWH at MMDA ang kanilang tungkulin, bakit patuloy ang pagbaha sa Metro Manila? Bakit walang pagbabago? Bakit patuloy ang perwisyong baha?

Hindi kaya basurang plastic ang dahilan kaya ayaw bumaba ang tubig-baha? Nararapat alamin ang dahilan ng problema at lapatan ng solusyon. Maawa sa mga taga-Metro Manila na madalas sinasalanta ng baha. Panahon na para wakasan ang perwisyong baha.



Mayor Honey: Pagtapon ng basura sa Manila Bay tigilan na

NI EDD REYES

UMAPELA si Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna-Pangan sa mamamayan na tigilan na ang walang patumanggihang pagtatapon ng basura sa Manila Bay, mga estero, kanal at iba pang daluyan ng tubig upang makatulong sa pagpigil ng pagbaha sa mga pangunahing lansangan.

Ang hiling ng alkalde ay bunsod na rin ng nakolektang basura ng mga tauhan ng Manila Department of Public Service (DPS) sa Manila Bay na umabot sa 804 na sako na katumbas ng 24.2 na toneladang basura sa kanilang ginawang paglilinis matapos ang sunod-sunod na malalakas nap ag-ulan noong nakaraang linggo.

"Panawagan po natin sa ating mga kababayan, please, please please, iwasan na po natin ang magtapon po ng basura sa Manila Bay at sa ating mga estero dahil in the long run, kayo rin naman po ang nagsa-suffer. A



Malukitang umaspala si Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna-Pangan na tigilan na ang pagtatapon ng basura sa Manila Bay. Kuha ni JONJON REYES

ba ang dala nito? Yan ay ang patuloy na pagbabaha, iniwasan po natin yun dahil kayo rin naman ang napepershuwisyong kapag mayroon pong pagbaha," apela ni Mayor Honey.

Hinimok din ni Mayor Honey ang publiko na pana-

tilihing malinis ang kanilang kapaligiran dahil ang pagtatapon niya ng basura sa mga lansangan, estero at kanal ay hindi lamang nagreresulta ng pagbaha kundi nagiging panganib din sa kalusugan lalo na't sa panahon ng tag-ulan tumataas ang kaso ng mga tinatamaan ng nakamatatay na sakit na Dengue.

Nagpahatid din ng kanyang pasasalamat ang alkalde kay DPS Director Kayle Nicole Amurao at sa kanyang mga "Estero Rangers" na walang pinipiling araw at oras sa pagpapatuloy na paglilinis, hindi lamang sa mga lansangan, kundi maging sa Manila Bay, kanal, estero at iba pang daluyan ng tubig.

"Tulongan naman po natin sila, huwag naman po nating hayaan na sila na lang po ang naglilinis ng ating mga estero at Manila Bay, meron din po tayong responsibilidad na panatilihin malinis ang mga ito, huwag po nating iasa lahat sa ating pamahalaan," panawagan pa ng alkalde,



Stop throwing your waste into esteros, waterways - Lacuna

MANILA Mayor Honey Lacuna-Pangan appealed to the public to stop throwing or dumping their waste into esteros, waterways including the Manila Bay to help reduce flooding in the streets and in the main thoroughfares.

Mayor Honey's urgent request was made after

around 804 sacks of garbage (equivalent to 24.2 tons of waste) were collected by personnel of the Manila Department of Public Service (DPS) when they conducted a clean-up drive following successive downpours of rain last week.

"Panawagan po natin sa ating mga kababayan,

please, please please, iwasan na po natin ang magtapon po ng basura sa Manila Bay at sa ating mga estero dahil in the long run, kayo rin naman po ang nagsa-suffer. A ba ang dala nito? Yan ay ang patuloy na pagbabaha, iniwasan po natin yun dahil kayo rin naman ang napeperwi-

syo kapag mayroon pong pagbaha," Mayor Honey said.

The mayor also encouraged the public to keep their surroundings clean since throwing of garbage in esteros and waterways not only resulted in the flooding but also endangers the health of the citizens, especially

this rainy season where dengue cases rise sharply.

She also expressed her appreciation to DPS Director Kayle Nicole Amurao and her "Estero Rangers" for their continuous cleaning operation, not only in the streets of Manila, but in esteros and waterways. **Edd Reyes**



4 men nabbed for illegal waste dumping in Tanza

By **DENNIS
ABRINA**

TANZA, Cavite — Four persons were arrested by operatives of the Tanza PNP for illegal dumping of waste at a vacant and grassy lot in Brgy. Lambingan here on Saturday, August 13, 2022.

Officer-on-case (OOC)

Police Staff Sergeant Francis Mark Cortez identified the suspects as Ricky E. Mendrez, 50, driver; Antonio M. Magsumbol, 45, driver; Ronel J. Esteves, 31, truck helper and Warren Calupo Norcio, 36, truck helper.

The suspects were arrested after they were caught in dumping waste materials in the area.

The suspects failed to

produce permits nor documents for the illegal disposal of waste.

The waste was in their dump.

Tanza Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) head Menandro R. Dimaranan, 58, had complained to local authorities on the illegal dumping of the waste from two dump trucks.



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4 arrested for illegal dumping of waste in Cavite

TANZA, Cavite - Four men on Saturday were arrested by operatives for violation of Republic Act 9003 or illegal dumping of waste in a vacant and grassy lot in Bgy. Lambingan, this town.

Police Staff Sergeant Francis Mark Cortez said arrested were Ricky Men-

dre, 50; Antonio Mag-sumbol, 45, both drivers; Ronel Esteves, 31, and Warren Calupo Norcio, 36, both truck helpers.

The suspects were caught for throwing vast waste materials in a vacant in Bgy. Lambingan.

Cortez said the suspects failed to produce any

permit nor documents for the disposal of said waste which was loaded in the dump trucks.

Tanza Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office head Menandro Dimaranan filed a complaint to the local authorities on the illegal dumping of waste of the two dump trucks in the area. **Dennis Abrina**



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Villar: Sicogon Island protected under NIPAS

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

THE Sicogon Island Wildlife Sanctuary Act, passed during the term of former President Rodrigo R. Duterte, has now lapsed into law.

Senator Cynthia Villar filed Senate Bill 2277, now Republic Act No. 119331, which declared two parcels of land in Sicogon Island in the municipality of Carles, Iloilo, as protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), providing for management and appropriating funds.

In her proposed Senate Bill 2277, which she authored and sponsored, Villar noted that Sicogon Island's interesting biodiversity calls for a need to declare a protected area its remaining 282.867 hectares of forestland.

The island is characterized by moderately rolling terrain with the highest elevation of about 300 meters above sea level. It has twelve freshwater springs which are the source of drinking and day-to-day use of residents.



The Jagna Baywalk Mangrove Belt and Mayor Joseph Rañola

Jagna is a port town located 63 kms east of Tagbilaran, Bohol, or 76.3 km from the newly constructed Panglao International Airport. It faces the Bohol Sea to the south, facing Mindanao, and is otherwise surrounded by mountains of lush green forest. A town in a great hurry in the last decade, it has attracted a McDonald's fastfood restaurant, a 7-Eleven 24-hour convenience store, a mall and supermarket of the Bohol Quality chain, a brand-new Jagna Food Court, newly concreted side-roads, and end-to-end solar street lighting. The latter means that the "grid down episodes" common in Bohol no longer mean night darkness for Jagna-anons.

More importantly, Jagna hosts the justifiably renowned Central Visayan Institute Foundation (CVIF), home of the Dynamic Learning Program (DLP) which has produced singular learning outcomes in secondary education, defying the landscape of learning poverty lately documented by the 2018 PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) performance league table. The DLP, which has attracted adoption by over a hundred private and public high schools, is the brainchild of the dynamic physicist duo and Magsaysay awardees in education, Drs. Christopher Bernido and Maria Victoria Carpio-Bernido (may she rest in peace).

The municipality has an ambitious and ongoing building program which includes the scenic Jagna Baywalk which is also designed to serve as a concrete storm surge protection.

Leading the charge in this journey to an aborning progressive rural Philippines is newly re-elected Mayor Joseph Rañola. That he won his second term by a mere hundred votes says something of his peculiar approach to politics — he has a dim view of the traditional politics of pressing flesh and endless individual patronage. Rather, his philosophy seems to go: "*Ang buhat ang pagsultion*" ("Let accomplishments do the talking."). That is, provide public goods projects that serve

INTROSPECTIVE RAUL V. FABELLA

all at once, like the solar street lighting, the new Sports Complex, newly concreted side roads, and the Jagna Baywalk. As we go into the Mandanas era of a higher local government share in central government tax revenues, this is the type of local governance that reassures us that the new revenue flows will not be squandered. It is, however, rather rare and is not without its pitfalls.

The ongoing construction of the Jagna Baywalk threatens to block access to the sea of a beautiful patch of mangroves. Being blocked from seawater access means a death sentence to any mangrove patch. Our position is that the Jagna Baywalk itself would be more effective and in keeping with Bohol's green image if conjoined with a lush mangrove belt, the Jagna Baywalk Mangrove Belt.

Mangrove forests have suffered massive degradation in the Philippines and elsewhere due primarily to land-use change such as fishponds, resorts, and infrastructure development. But mangroves are hugely useful to humanity and Boholans: they serve as a buffer against storm surges, as a nursery for fingerlings, as a home for crustaceans, and as a lush aviary. More apropos in this climate change era, they also sequester carbon that otherwise would aggravate global warming.

This Jagna Baywalk Mangrove Belt covers an area of 1,658 sq.m. of robust *pagatpat* and statuesque *bakawan* mangrove species. This tiny patch serves as a sink for about 22 tons of carbon stock or about 82 tons of carbon dioxide. The contribution is small by itself, but multiplied a million times it could mitigate the global climate imbalance. It served precisely as a shelter against the December 2021 storm Odette — exactly as Dr. Jurgene Primavera's "Greenbelt Initiative" envisioned. This also serves as an advance guard of the "concrete action" extension of National Academy of Science and Technology's



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The Jagna Mangrove

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GOOGLE EARTH MAP (above) showing the location of the Jagna Baywalk Mangrove Belt.

Rhizophora sp (*bakawan*, left) at the Jagna Baywalk Mangrove Belt. Photo taken by Earth Science and Marine Geology expert Dr. Jannell Lea A. Soria.



(NAST) Pagtanaw 2040. The nice thing is that mangrove greenbelts regenerate themselves quickly and beautifully, pushing back on the Second Law of Thermodynamics, while concrete walls do not. Resilience dictates that while we resort to concrete for quick results, surge protection is most effective and lasting when buttressed by nature itself, thus, mangroves.

To this effect, Dr. Christopher Bernido had written to Mayor Rañola about the fate of the Jagna Baywalk Mangrove Belt. The mayor in turn called an all-stakeholders meeting: himself presiding, ourselves, his development staff, the private contractor, and the local branch of the DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) in a freewheeling discussion of the issue.

It turns out there was a strong generalized awareness about mangrove protection but especially from the mayor himself. Having grown up in these parts, the mayor

revealed that this patch was originally planted by Chris' own parents, then Governor Esteban Bernido and Consuelo Bernido. It was agreed that a substantial canal be explicitly provided in the plan and maintained to permanently connect the mangrove patch with the sea. It is important that there is a continuing exchange of plant and fish life between the sea and the mangrove patch. Now adjacent to the mangrove patch is an open brackish water shore area perfect for the expansion of mangrove belt. The Jagna Mangrove Belt will best serve a better surge protection if extended unto this brackish shore space.

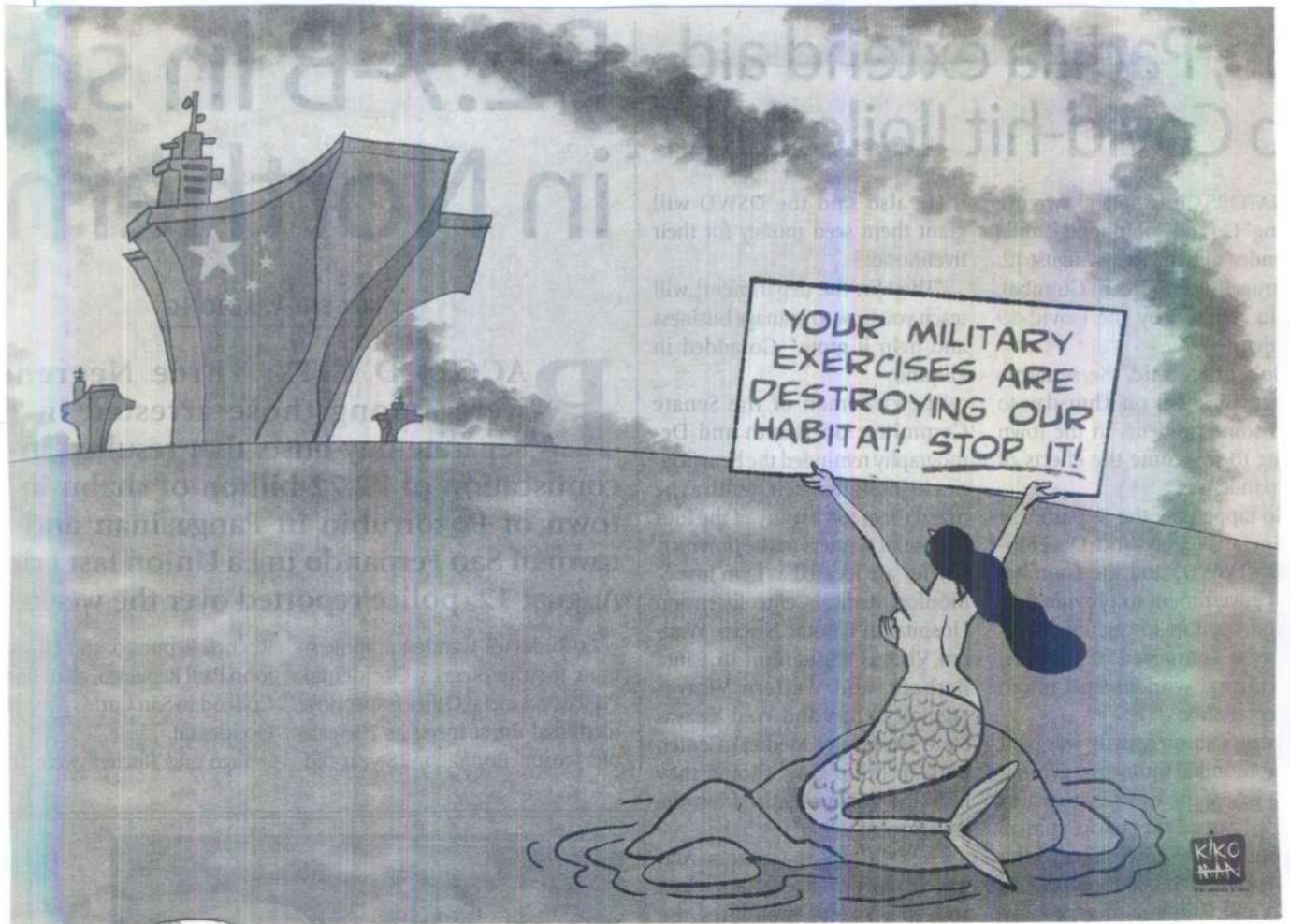
Upon ocular inspection, however, it appears that the dike being constructed suggests a creeping land reclamation project on top of the storm surge protection. The construction work, advertently or otherwise, now threatens to overrun the empty space ideal for mangrove reforestation. This open space has experienced reforestation efforts by private groups but which have not yet borne fruit and require local government reaffirmation.

In Panglao Island, Bohol, the provincial government under then Governor Edgar Chatto simply rejected the business community's proposal to reclaim a portion of the sea as it would annihilate a very important mangrove forest. This was then a signal victory for Green Bohol. We are confident that Jagna Mayor Joseph Rañola will ensure that the Jagna Baywalk Mangrove Belt will become yet another signal victory for Green Bohol.

The battle for Mother Earth has to be fought and won one square meter at a time. ■

RAUL V. FABELLA is a retired professor of the UP School of Economics, a member of the National Academy of Science and Technology and an honorary professor of the Asian Institute of Management. He gets his dopamine fix from bicycling and tending flowers with wife Teena.





Editorial

Tough times driving growth in sea piracy

THE Philippines should monitor a report saying that piracy and sea robberies in Southeast Asia are growing. Earlier this month, the Iseas-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore reported that poor people were being pushed to criminality because of the economic downturn caused by global events, particularly the Russian war against Ukraine and the lingering Covid-19 pandemic.

To be precise, the report focused on the Singapore Strait, which is bounded by Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia. That is a valuable waterway used by ships ferrying billions of dollars worth of cargo, which are tempting targets for pirates.

But the institute also mentioned that maritime security was a concern in the Sulu and Celebes Seas that connect the Philippines with Indonesia and Malaysia. Maritime safety there has been improving in recent years, thanks to the cooperation among those three countries. But the institute added that they should remain vigilant, not only against piracy but also on kidnapping and terrorism.



Even if the growing piracy hot spot was in the Singapore Strait, the Philippines should be concerned. Filipinos account for about 25 percent of seafarers worldwide, meaning they are likely to be victims of piracy and sea robbery that happen anywhere. Incidentally, those two terms are differentiated only by where the crime takes place. Sea robbery is the term used for "piracy" that happens within 12 nautical miles of the coast.

Both those maritime threats not only disrupt international trade. They also hamper the movement of goods and people within the archipelagic states like the Philippines. According to the institute, "Poor socioeconomic conditions in coastal communities often lead locals to turn to crime to make ends meet, especially during economic downturns."

The economic fallout, if severe enough, could also fuel political instability and derail rural development. As everyone knows, poverty is the root cause of many problems in the Philippines.

Fisheries agreement

In a story about the report on piracy, Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* said that the territorial disputes in the South China Sea may be exacerbating the problem. That paper referred to Indonesia's dispute with China, which claims nearly all of the South China Sea with its "nine-dash line" border claim. Of course, the Philippines, along with others in Southeast Asia, also has a similar issue with China that impacts maritime security.

In a previous commentary some time ago, Rafael "Raffy" Alunan 3rd pointed out the link between fishing rights and maritime security. He was formerly interior secretary during the Ramos administration and was chairman of the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations.

The point is that security threats and economic problems can result from diplomatic policy failures. Filipino fisherfolk are already the poorest of the poor in the country. And disrupting their livelihood because of competing claims in the South China Sea may push some of them to crime, because they lack options.

The competing claims may be a complex problem with no easy fix. But there should be some understanding between the Philippines and China on protecting the poorest of the poor. The government should push for a fisheries agreement that can protect Filipino fishermen, not only from the Chinese coast guard but also from large fishing boats that crowd out those in outriggers from fishing grounds.

Also, the fishermen's welfare is not without a larger public interest. Consumers are also affected when local fish supplies become limited. Importing fish to serve demand can be an option, but not without added costs to consumers who are already struggling with inflation.

A fisheries agreement seems consistent with the government's foreign policy. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has said that under his leadership, the Philippines will be a friend to all and an enemy to no one. But it remains to be seen whether China will reciprocate.

Without relief from the impact of the Ukraine-Russia war and from Covid-19, policymakers are left with few options to address problems on the home front. The agreement suggested here can be initiated by the Philippines, and that can possibly mitigate the problems created by external headwinds. Given the link to regional maritime security, a pact protecting fishing will benefit more than just poor Filipinos.



Facing humanitarian and ecological disasters, world's nations must be united

IT struck me as somewhat odd that the United Nations General Assembly chose this time to declare the access to a clean and healthy environment a universal human right. Odd because the UN appears impotent in the face of Putin's ongoing military attack on Ukraine. The war has caused massive destruction to civilian infrastructure including homes, about 12 million people have been displaced, thousands have been killed, and the disruptions in international trade in fuel, fertilizer, grains and other foodstuffs have caused inflation to soar across the globe.

OK, the UN and the government of Turkey were able to broker a deal that allows Ukrainian cargo ships carrying wheat, corn and other vital commodities to finally leave the Black Sea. But will this suffice to prevent famine?

The World Food Program, a UN agency, estimates that some 47 million people will be added to the acutely hungry in the 82 countries where the organization is operating "due to the ripple effects of the war in

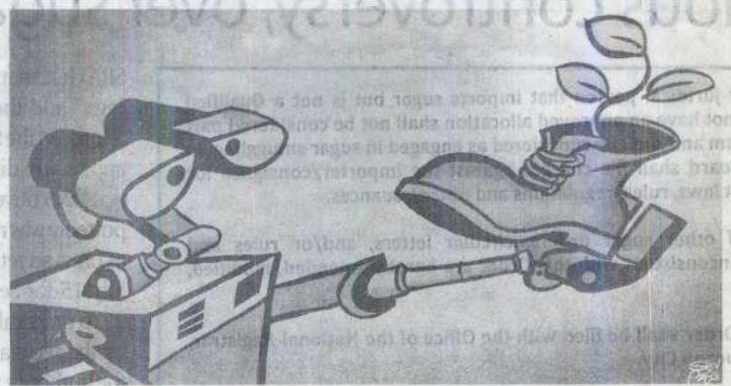


RESURGENCE

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Ukraine in all its dimensions," the UN Global Response Group reported in its August 2022 brief. In June, the group had reported that "Today, 60 percent of workers have lower real income than before the pandemic." We are going from worse to worse.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), also part of the UN system, is frantically calling on Ukraine and Russia to allow the agency to send inspectors to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Eastern Ukraine. The plant was seized by the Russian military in early March shortly after the invasion, and remains under Russian control. Rafael Grossi, IAEA's director-general, told Associated Press in an August 3 interview that the situation at the facility is "completely out of control" and that "Every principle of nuclear safety has been violated." Russia and



Ukraine accuse each other of shelling the facility. Even UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' appeals to the two governments to immediately cease all military activities around the facility, have fallen on deaf ears. The situation, according to Grossi, is "extremely grave and dangerous."

Since World War 2 when the atomic bomb was used to force Japan to surrender, there has been an earnest effort to harness nuclear technology for peaceful use. But not only has Putin dangled the prospect of using nuclear weapons in the conflict, the case of the Zaporizhzhia plant reminds us that

even a nuclear power plant, built and operated to provide a basic commodity to thousands of households and civilian establishments, can become a dangerous weapon in an armed conflict. As the world commemorated the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that killed and maimed thousands, Europe suddenly sees itself closer to nuclear disaster than ever.

Two years of Covid-19 pandemic with resulting swelling of the ranks of the poor and the continued worsening of climate change-induced extreme weather events are apparently not uniting the world. Western



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TITLE: facing humanitarian and ecological disasters, world's
nations must be united

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Europe showed its lack of solidarity with poorer nations when it hoarded the Covid-19 vaccines during the early part of the vaccine roll-out. Putin's war and its consequences for Europe — millions of refugees, the need to provide massive and sustained military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, the energy crisis resulting from the difficult but necessary decision to cut dependence on Russian fuel — all mean that Europe has less to spare for poorer nations. This could be disastrous for some countries, especially in Africa, where drought — with its devastating impact on agricultural production — and local armed conflicts were already causing untold misery before Putin attacked Ukraine — a war that the world needs like a hole in the head.

Meanwhile, governments are preparing for the next round of climate change talks which will take place in Egypt in November. Experts have warned that emissions must be brought down significantly, across all sectors, now. While there have been tremendous advances in renewable energy and other technologies and processes that improve energy efficiency and reduce pollution, it simply isn't enough. We need to produce less and people who consume much must reduce their ecological footprint. Aside from emissions that cause climate change, we are facing depletion of the world's finite natural resources and degradation and pollution of soil, water and air. Plastics and other toxic wastes are choking the world to death. The Earth is on its way to becoming the way it is depicted in the animated movie "Wall-E": an abandoned wasteland of barely breathable air and mountains of garbage. This scenario was predicted by the report "Limits to Growth" which was published 50 years ago. We are still pushing limits without much thought for the decades, centuries and millennia to come. Of course, the millions who are starving, who are fleeing war and natural disasters, are concerned with simply staying alive. Unity and solidarity, expressed through action, among nations and peoples are needed now more than ever.



Bill seeks use of Tagalog on disaster info

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

SENATOR Lito Lapid has filed a bill that seeks the use of Tagalog or regional dialects on announcements, advisories, press releases, and any other information about local or national disasters or emergencies.

He filed Senate Bill No. 273 which seeks to mandate all government agencies and local government units to use languages that can easily be understood by the public.

Lapid said that most, if not all advisories, announcements, or issuances on impending disasters or calamities are delivered either in English or Filipino.

"And the government's aim to keep its constituents well-informed of and prepared for impending disasters fall short of its objective because not all could understand English or Tagalog," Lapid said.

Bill No. 273, also known as the "Language Accessibility of Public Information on Disasters Act," also proposed that information relating to impending calamities or emergencies such as epidemics, outbreaks, and public health emergencies shall be language-accessible and readily comprehensible, especially to speakers of regional languages and dialects.

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cause catastrophic accidents in a nuclear facility.

There are also concerns on who would accept a nuclear plant or barge near their communities.

The BNPP construction was started in 1975.

It was mothballed after the 1986 people power revolt amid reports that it sits near an earthquake fault, and a scandal involving an \$80 million kickback allegedly paid by US builder Westinghouse to dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Last Tuesday, the House established a 25-member Special Committee on Nuclear Energy to focus on creating measures related to nuclear energy - from developing infrastructure for nuclear power plants to ensuring that costs are competitive.

PNRI hails House action on nuclear energy

PNRI Director Carlo Arcilla hailed the formation of this special committee, seeing this as a big push to hasten the country's move to tap zero-emission nuclear energy for electricity.

"It's a very good development," Arcilla told **The STAR** in a phone interview.

He said the development could expedite the legislative requirements and processes needed to establish the regulatory and commercial environment in which a nuclear

energy industry could be developed.

Pangasinan Rep. Mark Cojuangco has been elected as the chairman of the Special Committee on Nuclear Energy.

Lawmakers also amended the jurisdiction of the existing committee on energy to explicitly state that nuclear energy, sources and infrastructures will be beyond its jurisdiction.

Arcilla said that the congressional special committee can work closely with the seemingly dormant Nuclear Energy Program Inter-Agency Committee to galvanize it back to action and resume the national government's direction at taking a second look at reviving the proposals to commission the mothballed BNPP.

"They can't ignore the BNPP. It is the most viable way, it offers the fastest way for the government to tap zero emission nuclear energy in a significant way and bring in significant volume of nuclear power to our electricity supply," Arcilla said.

He noted that small modular reaction nuclear technology was largely still at the development stage and could only produce a limited amount of electricity due to the limitations of the reactor size.

- With Rainier Allan Ronda



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Bong Go receives support for DDR push from fellow senator Padilla

SENATOR Christopher "Bong" Go has won the support of his colleague, fellow senator Robinhood "Robin" Padilla, who endorsed the former's efforts to push for the passage of his bill to establish a Department of Disaster Resilience.

In an ambush interview after personally providing aid to struggling residents in Maasin City, Leyte on Thursday, August 11, Go vowed to support all efforts and initiatives aimed at rehabilitating areas in Southern Leyte worst hit by Typhoon Odette in December last year.

"Kami naman po ni Robin, susuportahan po namin bilang senador kung ano ang makakatulong, as legislator, 'yung makakatulong sa rehabilitation dito sa Maasin. Not only sa airport ninyo, kundi sa buong probinsya," said Go.

Go then maintained the need for a more streamlined and holistic response to disasters and other calamities as he renewed his call for the passage of Senate Bill No. 199 which aims to establish the DDR. The said measure seeks to create a highly specialized agency that will be tasked with ensuring adaptive, disaster-resilient and safe communities.

"At ako po ay hindi titigil sa Senado na isulong po ang Department of Disaster Resilience. Kasi, tignan n'yo po, kung meron tayong departamento na nakatutok kapag may bagyo, hindi na po tayo kailangan mag-create ng task force para dito," said Go.

"Yung departamento na po, tuluy-tuloy kahit na bagong administrasyon, itu-turn over na lang ng secretary sa bagong secretary ang mga rehabilitation efforts na gagawin," he added.

The DDR will bring together all essential functions and mandates currently scattered among various disaster-related agencies. Once established, it shall be primarily responsible for implementing programs, projects and activities that shall ensure communities are disaster-resilient, adaptive and safe.

To support the DDR's functions and responsibilities, the measure also provides for the creation of an Integrated Disaster Resilience Information System (IDRIS) which will serve as a database of all relevant disaster risk reduction and climate change information.

Moreover, the bill also provides for the establishment of a Humanitarian Assistance Action Center, a one-stop shop for the processing and release of goods, equipment and services, in order to guarantee the timely delivery of assistance to disaster-stricken areas.

It likewise provides for remedial measures for areas under a state of calamity, such as the imposition of price ceiling on basic necessities and prime commodities, programming or reprogramming of funds for the repair of public infrastructures, and grant of no-interest loans by lending institutions to vulnerable groups or individuals.

Finally, the measure establishes the National Disaster Operations Center and Alternative Command and Control Centers to monitor, manage and respond to disasters.



There will also be a Disaster Resilience Research and Training Institute which will offer training and collect, manage and share information to improve the country's resilience.

"Napakaimportante po ng cabinet secretary level kasi 'yung respeto po, bago dumating ang bagyo, ipre-position na agad ang goods ng secretary, in coordination with LGUs (local government units) tapos ilikas kaagad ang mga kababayan natin sa ligtas na lugar," Go further explained.

Meanwhile, Padilla, who joined Go during the visit, agreed with the establishment of the DDR when asked by the media. Additionally, he also commended Go's approach in public service, particularly his practice of personally visiting Filipinos in crisis.

"Alam n'yo po, ang experience ko kung ikukumpara sa karanasan ni Idol Senator (Go), siguro po sa sampu, ang akin ay lima lang, kalahati lang. 'Yung kanya po kasing experience, siya po ay nagtrabaho sa executive bukod sa legislative," Padilla said.

"Tandaan po natin dati po siyang SAP, Special Assistant to the President. Nakita n'ya, nakasama niya ang taumbayan, harapan. Ang legislative po kasi madalas malayo kami (sa sitwasyon sa baba). Kaya kitangkita niya kung ano ang para sa sa ating bayan," Padilla added.



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Unending struggle for land in the Bangsamoro

Lending an ear to the stories of aggrieved parties in Bangsamoro land conflicts gives the impression that each woeful tale is unique, with different beginnings, twists, and turns.

However, data collected over 10 years show distinct patterns in how land disputes can turn violent and spiral into more violence, prolonging and widening the impact of the original conflict. These patterns reveal how enduring land conflicts can destabilize a region that is in a conflict-to-peace transition.

International Alert Philippines' just-released report, "Conflict's Long Game: A Decade of Violence in the Bangsamoro," tallies hundreds of land-related conflicts that displaced thousands of Bangsamoro residents over the 2011-2020 period, disrupting livelihoods and stalling the education of children and youth.

Land disputes turn violent when weapons are used. They unravel a string of violence when relatives become involved in long-standing clan feuds and revenge killings. Among other reasons, disputes break out due to unclear or contested borders between properties, conflicting claims, lack of proof of ownership, informal transfers such as sales and mortgages, and the formalization of ownership, such as through surveys or titles, of lands that had been informally or communally held for a long time. The fragmented land administration system also causes conflict as different agencies issue land tenure instruments that may cover the same properties.

There are times when the escalation of violence cannot be prevented by local conflict resolution, especially when the contending parties are affiliated with the Moro National Liberation Front, Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), or the Bangsamoro

COMMENTARY

JUDY T. GULANE

Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF). Firefights break out as their heavily armed combatants are drawn into the conflict.

Conflicts from decades ago also continue to create flashpoints in the present. In the early 1970s, the municipality of Upi, later divided into Upi and South Upi, was riven by sectarian violence as Maguindanaon landowners were accused of forcibly acquiring the lands of the Teduray indigenous peoples (IPs) who, in turn, allied themselves with the armed Christian settlers of the Ilaga gang to drive off the Maguindanaon. Nowadays, land conflicts in South Upi indicate that the Maguindanaon landowners are back with a vengeance. Numerous attacks on Teduray and Lambangian residents by armed groups, including those associated with the MILF and the BIFF, have been documented.

Moreover, the development of enclaves where MILF combatants and their families were allowed to set up their camps during the years of conflict with the government has been ring-fenced by the government, mainly for the MILF, causing tensions among indigenous groups with ancestral domain claims. The camp development program includes land distribution for de-commissioned combatants and their families but encompasses Mount Firis, a place that is sacred to the Teduray and Lambangian IPs, and other lands claimed by the IPs.

To make matters worse, clashes between the BIFF and the military have repeatedly caught the IPs in the middle, forc-

ing them to evacuate. Teduray leaders have also been killed.

There may be some truth in the argument that the political settlement embedded in the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) and the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) may have lit the fiery struggles for land, particularly among residents in the mainland provinces of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur. The CAB raised expectations as well as uncertainties about land ownership as it recognized "vested property rights" and promised land restitution in cases of wrongful dispossession. Meanwhile, the BOL has empowered the regional government, now in the control of the MILF, to act on contested issues such as the delineation of ancestral domains, the conduct of cadastral surveys, and the reclassification of public lands—as if the MILF has no conflicts of interest.

A land law, as civil society organizations have suggested, will provide clarity to land tenure issues as well as resolve and avert land-related conflicts. Land administration, overseen by multiple regional ministries, also needs streamlining and simplification to prevent disputes. Finally, the land law must be informed by a code that will uphold IP rights, including over their ancestral domain.

These must be treated as priority measures. Failure to do so risks turning the new Bangsamoro into another sad story of failed promises. The peace and security everyone longs for hangs in the balance.

Judy T. Gulane is a consultant to International Alert Philippines. Her research on informal land markets comprises a chapter in Alert's award-winning book, "Out of the Shadows: Violent Conflict and the Real Economy of Mindanao."



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BAGAMAT maraming mahahalagang batas ang pumasa sa nagdaang 17th at 18th Congress sa ilalim ng Duterte administration ay hindi nakalusot ang panukala ukol sa paglikha ng DWR o ng Department of Water Resources na hindi umusad sa Senado bagamat ipinasa ng House of Representatives sa Ikalawa at ikatlong pagbasa.

Ang tanong ng inyong Agarang Serbisyo Lady sa mga mambabatas, hindi ba mahalaga ang pagkakaroon nito sa gitna ng climate change na patuloy na lumalala?

Mabuti na lamang at sa kauna-unahang State of the Nation Address ni President Ferdinand "BBM" Marcos, Jr. ay isa ito sa mga inihain ni-



REMATE OPINION

ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

PAGLIKHA NG DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES LUBHANG KAILANGAN

yang priority legislative agenda ang pagbuo ng DWR.

Lubha kasing kinakailangan na ng bansa ang Department of Water Resources para sa pagkakaroon ng water security sa bansa lalonglalo na sa high urbanized

areas katulad ng Metro Manila na ilang beses na ring nakaranas ng water crisis.

Ang Metro Manila kabilang ang mga lalawigan ng Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna at Rizal ay umaasa sa tubig buhat sa Angat Dam at mga kaugnay

na dam na inihahatid ng mga water concessionaires na Manila Water at Maynilad Company sa pamamahala ng MWSS o ng Metropolitan Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Mayroong pag-ulan nitong nakaraang araw, ngunit hindi sapat ang tubig ulan sa area ng Bulacan, kaya bumaba ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam.

Base sa dam elevation level noong ika-12 ng Agosto 2022, ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay nasa 177.69 meters, mas mababa ng 2.31 meters, kung ikukumpara sa minimum operating level na 180 meters. Mas lalong malayo sa normal high-water level (NHWL) na 210 meters. Ang Bustos Dam ay nasa

17.16 meters, malapit na sa 17.70meters spilling level at ang Ipo Dam ay nasa 100.54 meters, malapit-lapit na rin sa 101.00 meters spilling level.

Mabagal ang usad ng polisiya ukol sa usapin ng water management, utilization and conservation dahil sa isyu ng tubig sa bansa ay pinaghahatian ng 39 agencies na nag-uunahan sa pondo at nag-aagawan sa hurisdiksiyon. Sa mga mauunlad na bansa, ang serbisyo ng tubig ay nakaatang sa isang departamento.

Nagbibigay naman ng inputs ang National Water and Resources Board (NWRB) at iba pang water stakeholders ukol sa water management, bakit hindi lumusot sa nakaatang mga Kongreso ang Department of Water?



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DOE prodded to disclose results of ₱266-M nuclear power study

By MYRNA M. VELASCO

The Department of Energy (DOE) is prodded to submit to the Senate and make public the P266-million nuclear power development study, which results have been unavailable until now.

In a public hearing, Senate Committee on Energy Chairman Raffy Tulfo has formally requested current Energy Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla to furnish the legislators a copy of the government-funded nuclear feasibility study that was commissioned during the term of Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi.

Lotilla also conveyed that "right now, we don't know what happened to the study - what the results are, and we're trying to find out exactly if there was an output."

The DOE chief acknowledged that the previous administration actually commissioned a study, but said "I still haven't seen it and Senator Win (Sherwin Gatchalian) was saying - Congress provided certain amount for the conduct of that study."

This was confirmed by former Senate Committee on Energy Chairman Sherwin T. Gatchalian, stating "We appropriated close to P266 million for the study of the possibil-

ity of injecting nuclear power into our grid."

He expounded that the allocation for the study "was actually an amendment from the Senate to include that amount precisely to formulate a study and use science-based evidence, data as well as research to come up with an educated recommendation to the Senate and also to the President"

Gatchalian, likewise, said "Unfortunately, I haven't seen any output of that study and P266 million is no small amount, so I would like to support the message of the Chairman that the study should be brought out to the open and make everyone understand what is the result of that study."

Tulfo primarily inquired if the regulatory frameworks, policy toolbox as well as the safety measures of the "nuclear renaissance" ambition of the Philippines are already in place if the government will seriously pursue this as an added technology option in the energy mix.

At this stage though, Lotilla only noted that the "the previous administration created a body to explore a nuclear power policy, so we want to build on whatever has already been done; and to make sure that whatever feasibility study in the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant is done by an independent, credible consultant with International Atomic En-

ergy Agency (IAEA) guidance."

The energy secretary asserted that the instruction of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. was to ensure "safety standards" and to "comply with all strengthened requirements imposed by the IAEA; especially after the Fukushima incident in Japan."

"If a developed country like Japan could suffer an accident like that (nuclear meltdown in 2011), how do we ensure that in the case of the Philippines, we can in fact live up to the standards that we will impose upon ourselves?" said Lotilla.

The Duterte administration attempted to revive the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant and had likewise entertained alternatives of deploying small modular reactors (SMRs) - even if these are still at "experimental or pilot phases" in many countries.

Until today, the array of issues and concerns when it comes to nuclear power developments remain long and varied - from public acceptance; humongous upfront capital investment; recycling and storage/disposal of spent fuel; safety and equipment redundancy installation as well as siting issues; nuclear liability and coverage; and most especially the policy and regulatory frameworks which are still absent in the country's sphere of policymaking.



Lawmaker seeks revival of Bataan nuclear plant

By SHEILA CRISOSTOMO

A lawmaker has asked the government to revive the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP), which is "just sitting idle for the last four decades," claiming it can produce cheaper electricity for the country.

Negros Oriental Rep. Arnolfo Teves Jr. has authored House Bill No. 2921, the Philippine Nuclear Act of 2022, for government activation and utilization of the \$2.118-billion BNPP (about P117 billion).

Teves said the other option is to acquire another nuclear

facility "in case the existing power plant is no longer feasible for operation."

"The BNPP will help our country cut electricity cost by almost half, in comparison to the rates of the coal-fired power plants," he noted.

Citing the 441 nuclear power plants currently in operation in at least 30 countries, Teves said this "shows that nuclear power is a safe means of generating electricity, which could also operate without interruption, making it a more reliable source of energy assuring of meeting the country's supply de-

mands."

Under HB 2921, the National Power Corp., Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI), and the Departments of Energy, of Environment and Natural Resources, and of Science and Technology should conduct an initial validation on the feasibility of the BNPP operations to make sure that it would be within the internationally accepted nuclear power industry standards.

"In the event this nuclear power plant is no longer feasible for operation, I urge the government to construct another nuclear plant or a

nuclear barge, which is also safer against the earthquake, so that Filipinos can avail of lower electricity cost," Teves said.

Nuclear risks

Critics have pointed out that Japan, which is heavily reliant on nuclear energy for its power needs, has the highest electricity cost in Asia.

Concerns have also been raised about nuclear waste, which cannot be recycled and remains permanently radioactive.

The Philippines sits in the Pacific Ring of Fire, with regular earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that can



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DOLOMITE SUNDAY

Families relax at the
dolomite beach in Manila
on a balmy Sunday, Aug.
14, 2022, a week before
the opening of classes.
PHOTO BY JOHN RYAN
BALDEMOR



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SUNDAY AT THE 'BEACH' — People relax on a Sunday at the Manila Bay Dolomite Beach on Roxas Boulevard, Malate, Manila. (Manny Llanes)



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

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SUNDAY AT THE 'BEACH' — People relax on a Sunday at the Manila Bay Dolomite Beach on Roxas Boulevard, Malate, Manila. (Manny Llanes)



DANGEROUS WATERS. A young boy assists a toddler in wading at the shoreline of Manila Bay near the Dolomite beach on Roxas Boulevard in Manila on Sunday, August 14, 2022. The Health department still warns the public against swimming in Manila Bay due to the high amount of coliform in the water. **Danny Pata**



Taal Volcano remains restive

By ELLALYN V. RUIZ

A 2,100-meter high steam plume was observed at Taal Volcano in Batangas the past 24 hours, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said yesterday.

In its 8 a.m. bulletin, Phivolcs noted the occurrence of a 2,100-meter or 2.1-kilometer tall "voluminous" emission of steam-laden plume.

The upwelling of hot volcanic fluids also continued, causing

volcanic smog or "vog" over Taal Volcano and neighboring communities.

Phivolcs said Taal's sulfur dioxide or SO₂ emission averaged 3,945 tons per day as of August 13, down from 13,572 tons per day on August 11.

No volcanic earthquake was detected over the past 24 hours.

Phivolcs said Taal Volcano remains under Alert Level 1, which means it was still in an abnormal condition and

should not be interpreted to have ceased unrest nor ceased the threat of eruptive activity.

"Should an uptrend or pronounced change in monitored parameters forewarn of renewed unrest, the alert level may be raised back to Alert Level 2," it said. "Conversely, should there be a return of monitoring parameters to baseline levels after a sufficient observation period, the alert level will be further lowered to Alert Level 0."



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION						
SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS						
Notice is hereby given that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Capital Region, Patents and Deeds Section, LPDD, in pursuance to Administrative Order No. 38 dated 19 April 1990, will sell at DCMT NCR Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division, National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City , through sealed bidding to the highest bidder at 10:00 A.M. on OCT. 25, 2022 , the tract of land situated in Western Bicutan (Pitagama), Taguig City which are specifically described below to wit:						
APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO. / BLK NO. / PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUED PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
JGPSA No. 007607-2208	JUSTINO B. DE GUZMAN	Lot 1, Block 47, Pad-00-036894	84 sq.m.	Php140.00	Php11,760.00	Php1,200,000.00
All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division, on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked "Bid for Land Described in MSG/JCP/DLM No. 007607-2208". Bids must be accompanied with cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.						
Quezon City, Philippines (Sgd.) ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO Chief, Licenses, Patent and Deeds Division MSG/JCP/DLM						



TITLE: _____

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1118
Tel.No. 8539-4378
Website: www.emb.gov.ph Email: records@emb.gov.ph



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP) of the proposed EXPANSION OF BALABAG GOLD-SILVER PROJECT of TVI RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PHILS.) INC. to be located at SITIO BALABAG, BARANGAY DEPORE, BAYOG, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed EXPANSION OF BALABAG GOLD-SILVER PROJECT to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Date	Time	Venue
23 August 2022 (Tuesday)	9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:30 AM)	Municipal Gymnasium, Poblacion, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur

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 following is the project information:

Project Name	Expansion of Balabag Gold-Silver Project		
Project Location	Sitio Balabag, Brgy. Depore, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur		
Project Size	Area: 2,177 hectares		
Parameters	Extraction Rate: 11 MMTPY of ore and waste		
Project Type	Resource Extractive Industries Mining Extraction of metallic ores/minerals		
Project Rationale	The Zamboanga Peninsula has an abundance of rich mineral deposits that have attracted small-scale and larger-scale mining companies throughout the years. The mining operations have provided benefits to the local and national economy, royalties to the indigenous people communities, and livelihood programs to the host and adjacent municipalities. Meeting the Project economic parameters and off-take agreements are the primary reasons behind the need to increase the production capacity. An in-house estimate and re-optimization of the mine design had been made considering the increase in the gold price, yielding an increase in ore and waste tonnages. Some of the marginal ore classified from previous estimates have been considered for processing. To mine this marginal ore, waste stripping has also increased, thus, the overall material movement per annum.		
Project Components	Component	Existing Capacity/Area	Proposed Expansion/ Capacity/Area
	Area Coverage	189.4095 hectares	2,177 hectares
	Extraction Rate (Ore- Waste)	2 MMTPY	11 MMTPY
	Surface Mine Area	13.5 hectares	35 hectares
	Mill and Processing Plant Capacity	2,000 MT/day	2,500 MT/day
Proponent	Tailings Storage Facility	20.5 hectares	76 hectares
	Waste Dump Area	13 hectares	50 hectares
Proponent	TVI Resource Development (Phils.) Inc.		

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 email at eia@emb.gov.ph, 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 are downloadable on our website: (kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found on our website), while copies will be available in the following offices:

- **EMB Region IX**
Purok Tugas, Balangasan District, Pagadian City Tel No. (062) 945 3228
- **LGU Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur**
Municipal Hall Building, Poblacion, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur
- **Brgy. Depore**
Brgy. Hall, Brgy. Depore, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur

For more details, please contact the EIA and Management Division at this Office at telephone number 8920-2240 and 8539-4378 loc 116 and look for the project case handlers, **Ms. Leonil Marie Gargar** and **Engr. Carlo Vic Arda**.



MT - Aug. 8 & 15, 2022



TITLE:

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Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Kapaligiran at Likas Yaman
PAMBANSANG PUNONG REMIYON
National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon

PAGREBENTA NG PAMPUBLIKONG LUPA

Ang pabatid na ito ay ipinagkaloob bilang patunay na ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources—National Capital Region, Patents and Deeds Section, alinsunod sa Department Administrative Order No. 38, 19 April 1990, ay magkakaroon ng bilihan sa DENR-NCR, National Ecology Center, East Avenue Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City sa pamamagitan ng isang sealed bidding na makakapagbigay ng pinakamataas na halaga sa ika-10 ng umaga ng OCT 11, 2022 ng lupang matatagpuan sa Barangay Escopa III, Project 4, Quezon City na inilarawan ng mga sumusunod:

BILANG NG APLIKASYON	PANGALAN NG APLIKANTE	BILANG NG LOTE/PLANO	SUKAT NG LOTE SA METRO KUANADRADO	HALAGA NG LUPA KADA METRO KUANADRADO	KABUUKANG HALAGA NG LUPA	KABUUKANG HALAGA NG MGA STRUKTURA
IGPSA No. 007404-718	RODEL V. REAL	Lot 24, Block 40, Pos-00-014047	18 sq.m.	PHP250.00	PHP4,500.00	PHP100,000.00

Ang mga bid ay dapat na selyado at dapat isumite sa nasabing Dibisyon, mismo o bago sa itinalagang eras at petsa sa itaas at minarkahan na "Bid for Land Described in IGPSA No.007404-718". Ang mga bid sa pagbili ay dapat isumite sa pamamagitan ng pera, money order, treasury warrant, sertipikadong tseke, cashier's check o manager's check na nagkakahalaga ng humigit kumulang sa sampung porsiyento (10%) ng isinuniteng turing. Kung ang bumibili ay nais bawlin ang kaniyang dinepositong halaga bilang alok sa pagbili, ngunit natukoy na ang pinakamataas na bidder, ang katumbas na deposito ay makukumpiska pabor sa pamahalaan. Ang mga alok sa pagbili ay hindi dapat bababa sa kabuuang halaga ng nasabing lupa. Ang pamahalaan ay may karapatang tanggihan ang isa o lahat ng alok sa pagbili kung kinakailangan.

Lungsod ng Quezon, Republika ng Pilipinas

(Sgd.)
ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO
Chief, Licenses, Patent and Deeds Division
MSG/JCP/DLM

AUG. 15, 22, 29 SEPT. 5, 12, 19 EMZ

Republika ng Pilipinas
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National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon

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BILANG NG APLIKASYON	PANGALAN NG APLIKANTE	BILANG NG LOTE/PLANO	SUKAT NG LOTE SA METRO KUANADRADO	HALAGA NG LUPA KADA METRO KUANADRADO	KABUUKANG HALAGA NG LUPA	KABUUKANG HALAGA NG MGA STRUKTURA
IGPSA No. 007404-713	JESSICO M. PAJIC	Lot 9, Block 60, Pos-00-014047	41 sq.m.	PHP250.00	PHP10,250.00	PHP150,000.00

Ang mga bid ay dapat na selyado at dapat isumite sa nasabing Dibisyon, mismo o bago sa itinalagang eras at petsa sa itaas at minarkahan na "Bid for Land Described in IGPSA No.007404-713". Ang mga bid sa pagbili ay dapat isumite sa pamamagitan ng pera, money order, treasury warrant, sertipikadong tseke, cashier's check o manager's check na nagkakahalaga ng humigit kumulang sa sampung porsiyento (10%) ng isinuniteng turing. Kung ang bumibili ay nais bawlin ang kaniyang dinepositong halaga bilang alok sa pagbili, ngunit natukoy na ang pinakamataas na bidder, ang katumbas na deposito ay makukumpiska pabor sa pamahalaan. Ang mga alok sa pagbili ay hindi dapat bababa sa kabuuang halaga ng nasabing lupa. Ang pamahalaan ay may karapatang tanggihan ang isa o lahat ng alok sa pagbili kung kinakailangan.

Lungsod ng Quezon, Republika ng Pilipinas

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BILANG NG APLIKASYON	PANGALAN NG APLIKANTE	BILANG NG LOTE/PLANO	SUKAT NG LOTE SA METRO KUANADRADO	HALAGA NG LUPA KADA METRO KUANADRADO	KABUUKANG HALAGA NG LUPA	KABUUKANG HALAGA NG MGA STRUKTURA
IGPSA No. 007607-2208	JUSTINO B. DE GUZMAN	Lot 3, Block 47, Pos-04-000804	84 sq.m.	PHP140.00	PHP11,760.00	PHP1,200,000.00

Ang mga bid ay dapat na selyado at dapat isumite sa nasabing Dibisyon, mismo o bago sa itinalagang eras at petsa sa itaas at minarkahan na "Bid for Land Described in MSA/IGPSA No.007607-2208". Ang mga bid sa pagbili ay dapat isumite sa pamamagitan ng pera, money order, treasury warrant, sertipikadong tseke, cashier's check o manager's check na nagkakahalaga ng humigit kumulang sa sampung porsiyento (10%) ng isinuniteng turing. Kung ang bumibili ay nais bawlin ang kaniyang dinepositong halaga bilang alok sa pagbili, ngunit natukoy na ang pinakamataas na bidder, ang katumbas na deposito ay makukumpiska pabor sa pamahalaan. Ang mga alok sa pagbili ay hindi dapat bababa sa kabuuang halaga ng nasabing lupa. Ang pamahalaan ay may karapatang tanggihan ang isa o lahat ng alok sa pagbili kung kinakailangan.

Lungsod ng Quezon, Republika ng Pilipinas

(Sgd.)
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BILANG NG APLIKASYON	PANGALAN NG APLIKANTE	BILANG NG LOTE/PLANO	SUKAT NG LOTE SA METRO KUANADRADO	HALAGA NG LUPA KADA METRO KUANADRADO	KABUUKANG HALAGA NG LUPA	KABUUKANG HALAGA NG MGA STRUKTURA
IGPSA No. 007604-20	GENALENE C. ALFONSO	Lot 5, Block 13, Pos-04-000800	22.76 sq.m.	PHP200.00	PHP4,552.00	PHP50,000.00

Ang mga bid ay dapat na selyado at dapat isumite sa nasabing Dibisyon, mismo o bago sa itinalagang eras at petsa sa itaas at minarkahan na "Bid for Land Described in MSA/IGPSA No.007604-20". Ang mga bid sa pagbili ay dapat isumite sa pamamagitan ng pera, money order, treasury warrant, sertipikadong tseke, cashier's check o manager's check na nagkakahalaga ng humigit kumulang sa sampung porsiyento (10%) ng isinuniteng turing. Kung ang bumibili ay nais bawlin ang kaniyang dinepositong halaga bilang alok sa pagbili, ngunit natukoy na ang pinakamataas na bidder, ang katumbas na deposito ay makukumpiska pabor sa pamahalaan. Ang mga alok sa pagbili ay hindi dapat bababa sa kabuuang halaga ng nasabing lupa. Ang pamahalaan ay may karapatang tanggihan ang isa o lahat ng alok sa pagbili kung kinakailangan.

Lungsod ng Quezon, Republika ng Pilipinas

(Sgd.)
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APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO. / BLK NO. / PLAN NO:	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUED PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA No. 007404- 713	JESSICO M. PAUIG	Lot 9/ Blk. 80 Pcs-00- 014047	41 sq.m.	PhP250.00	PhP10,250.00	PhP150,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division, on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked "Bid for Land Described in MSA/SA/IGPSA No. **007404-713**". Bids must be accompanied with cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Quezon City, Philippines.

(Sgd.)
ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO
Chief, Licenses, Patent and Deeds Division
MSG/JCP/DLM