

DATE : 05 JAN 2019  
05 JAN 2019

DAY : Saturday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**



Twins &amp; Sons 1993

# The Manila Times

A-4  
PAGEUPPER  
LOWERPAGE 1  
STORYDAILY  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 JAN 2019

DATE

## Editorial

### Higher accountability when disasters are preventable

**T**ROPICAL depression Usman left widespread destruction in its wake in the Bicol region: more than 120 people killed, dozens injured and hundreds of millions of pesos in crop and other property damage. What is particularly distressing about this news is that it appears much of the human tragedy could have been prevented.

As with most weather-related disasters in the Philippines, the damage from Usman was caused by landslides and floods. The storm was not particularly strong, but the persistence of people to live in hazardous areas aggravated its effects.

This is a source of frustration for the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), which on Thursday renewed its call to local government units (LGUs) to heed its geohazard maps. The geohazard maps, which identify areas that are at risk from flooding, landslides or seismic hazards, are constantly updated after every weather event.

Taken together with weather advisories and warnings from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the maps provide a guide on which areas should be evacuated or kept off-limits ahead of approaching storms. If used properly, the maps help to eliminate, or at least significantly reduce, the human toll of violent weather.

The problem is, the geohazard maps are apparently not used properly. The MGB has been frustrated, it said on Thursday, by the "adverse reaction" of some LGUs to the bureau's declaration of land in their jurisdictions as too hazardous to be occupied. For reasons that can only be speculated, the LGUs are either too weak against pressure from their residents to follow the identified dangerous areas, or simply negligent of this responsibility, and as a result, people die or get injured.

It happened last week in the Bicol region, and it has happened many times in the past all across the Philippines. It is bound to happen again, unless the leaders of those LGUs act more decisively and authoritatively.

Since appeals to common sense apparently make no impression on some LGU constituents no matter how forcefully the government urges them to make full use of the disaster management tools that are provided, it may be time to consider whether coercion would be a better policy.

Each year, the national government spends vast sums in disaster response and recovery. We may safely assume a significant amount of that expenditure is made necessary by local governments' lack of aggressive and forceful action to ensure their residents' safety. These are the LGUs that may have to face some administrative penalties for gross neglect of duty as may be set by an appropriate government agency.

Of course, LGUs that practice good risk management — and there are many that do — should not be blamed if a disaster is unforeseen or unpreventable.

Likewise, the relevant national agencies must ensure that they are doing all they can to assist the LGUs. As we pointed out in an editorial earlier this week, for instance, the storm warning system may need to be revised to make it clearer and easier to use.

Those LGUs who need it, however, should be given a harsh object lesson that there is no place for "adverse reactions" to tools that are intended to protect the lives and well-being of their people. We would hope that the mere prospect of facing a costly penalty would encourage all erring LGUs to ensure that the penalty never needs to be imposed.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# BusinessMirror

*Always look at today's business*

P-1

A 1  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 JAN 2019

DATE



**Lovely sunset can't mask Manila Bay's dirty waters, prompting DENR to crack down on polluters**

By MA. STELLA E. ARNALDO  
& RODERICK ABAD

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has served notice it will be cracking down on hotels found polluting the Manila Bay, sparking another round of finger-pointing among the thousands of stakeholders that ring the historic body of water boasting one of the world's most beautiful sunsets.

This developed even as Environment Undersecretary for Attached Agencies Sherwin Rigor said in an interview with the BUSINESSMIRROR that about 300,000 families of informal settlers need to be moved out of Metro Manila to help improve the water quality of Manila Bay.

The DENR has made it a top priority to rehabilitate Manila Bay beginning this year, on top of its current programs to clean up major tourism destinations, such as Boracay Island, El Nido and Coron in Palawan, Alona Beach in Panglao Island, Baguio City and Siargao Island in Surigao del Norte, to name a few.

Rigor said, "We will be checking all hotels and industries along Manila Bay, as well as inspect all malls if they are compliant in their operations of their sewerage treatment plants [STP]." The DENR has recorded the fecal coliform level

in the Bay at 330 million most probable number (MPN) per 100 milliliters (ml.) The standard and safe level for water quality is 1,000 MPN/100 ml, which is considered SB, or swimming pool quality.

Unfortunately, neither the Department of Tourism (DOT) nor other private tourism organizations have data on the number of hotels along Manila Bay or Roxas Boulevard.

Jose C. Clemente III, president of the Tourism Congress of the Philippines, expressed support for the DENR's plan to clean up Manila Bay and check on the polluters in the hotel industry. "Undoubtedly, the DENR's plan to clean up Manila Bay is admirable and timely. It's one of the attractions of the capital city and any effort to clean it up is very welcome. It will be a herculean task, but the private sector supports the effort in whatever ways it can. I am sure



P-2

## Saving Manila Bay



A MAN collects recyclable materials from the pile of garbage that was washed ashore on Manila Bay by strong waves brought by Tropical Depression Henry on July 16, 2018. MINIE REYES

that our stakeholders will be behind this and will take proper steps to address any issues, if any, as it pertains to pollution on the bay."

Rigor stressed that the DENR will also be installing STPs "along the mouths of Manila Bay." This forms part of the "quick-fix" solutions of the DENR's rehabilitation

plan, which will cost about P2 billion to P3 billion, he added. The DENR targets a reduction of the coliform level by 5 million MPN/100 ml every month, such that by the end of 2019, the level should have dropped to 200-250 million MPN/100 ml.

Among the largest polluters

of Manila Bay are industrial firms, and those establishments that discharge into the estero that drains into the outfall—the place where a river or sewer drains into the sea—of the Manila Yacht Club. "We have an outfall at the Manila Yacht Club, which has the highest pollution at 1.3 billion MPN/100 ml. Those

that use that estero are Ospital ng Maynila, hotels, the Manila Zoo, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, De La Salle University, among others. We will be checking along that outfall and that sewer line to trace which establishments are the most polluters," Rigor stressed.

He noted Duterte was serious in having the Manila Bay cleanup completed within his term, but the DENR official admitted that its full rehabilitation may take up to seven years. By then, it is projected that the necessary environment infrastructure have been put in place, polluters have cleaned up their acts, and informal settlers have been completely relocated.

"We'll be checking on the shelter plan of all LGUs [local government units]. The President has made it very clear; he wants to have a solution within his term. But the substantial improvements may take

three to five years, or up to seven years, depending on the speed of the relocation of the informal settlers, and the shelters that will be built."

Rigor emphasized the DENR wants the relocation areas to be properly built and with complete facilities. "That will part of the medium- to long-term plan; they will be relocated but it has to be a decent relocation area where they have complete facilities."

He said the DENR will be filing cases versus barangay officials who have allowed the proliferation of informal settlers, which have contributed to the pollution of Manila Bay as they throw their waste



P-3

## Saving Manila Bay

directly into the Pasig River and its other tributaries, as well as esteros that drain into the Bay.

### Manila Yacht Club's mission

THE Manila Yacht Club, for its part, said it is ready to play a role in the planned rehabilitation of Manila Bay, especially in ensuring that both public and private entities with a stake in the bay faithfully abide by the law.

MYC Commo. Robert L. Joseph pointed to various pieces of legislation in place, such as the Clean Water Act, the Solid Waste Management Law, and the Rainwater Catchment Law or Republic Act 6716, among

others, that have been enacted for almost three decades yet are not fully enforced.

According to him, the Philippines has the best set of environmental laws in Asia and among the best in the world. "But unfortunately, they are not being implemented," he told the BUSINESSMIRROR in an interview. "So what I'll do is use them."

The newly installed top official of the country's premier yacht organization revealed that MYC has set a dialogue with all the stakeholders in Manila Bay to ensure that the wastewater they release there are safe and clean.

Manila Bay has been a catch basin in the metropolis since time immemorial. Effluents coming from the surrounding LGUs, including those from the residential areas, commercial and industrial establishments, are discharged into two big sewage pipes near the MYC and the US Embassy in Manila.

Specifically, the group will talk to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to help the agency compel compliance by LGUs with environmental laws. "We will seek the assistance of the COA [Commission on Audit] and the Ombudsman to file charges against those who will not adhere to or implement the laws," Joseph said. He said they will ask the COA to conduct an "environmental compliance audit."

### Maynilad, Manila Water

A CRUCIAL player that MYC wants to bring into the picture is actually, as some critics have long pointed out, a virtual elephant in the room: the private concessionaires of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Authority (MWSS). The MYC said it will discuss with Manila Water and Maynilad Water Services Inc. their obligation to process the wastewater they throw into the bay.

"That's the responsibility for them to have a franchise. To supply water to homes, they have to give water and be responsible for taking out water," the commodore said of both the water concessionaires' share of protecting Manila Bay since they have their own treatment plants.

It's an issue that a former environment secretary recently reminded incumbent Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu about the Manila Bay cleanup will take decades, unless it addresses head-on the issue of the concessionaires' obligation to treat wastewater at source, so that what is discharged into the bay is clean.

Buhay Party-list Rep. Lito L. Atienza, guesting at a public forum, noted with dismay the government's lackadaisical attitude toward how Maynilad and Manila Water have not been prodded to comply more speedily with the commitments they made when they were granted the concessions:

Atienza recalled that in his time as DENR chief, he had called out the two companies about the need for them to speed up their compliance with the "second part" of their contract, i.e., the sewerage part. He conceded the two firms had greatly expanded water supply in much of their franchise zones, but noted they remained woefully behind in the targets of ensuring a sound sewerage system for a metropolis bursting at the seams.

Just before Christmas, Cimatu said the DENR will find a way to prevent the direct discharge of untreated wastewater into at least four esteros in Metro Manila, all of which lead out to the Boardwalk area in Manila Bay, while waiting for the private water concessionaires to fix sewer lines in their respective areas.

"The long-term plan is the presence of the sewer lines all over Metro Manila. This is the mandate given to the concessionaires, Maynilad and Manila Water. The completion of all this will be in 2037. That is our problem," he said. This longer wait appalled Atienza, who noted that the two concessionaires should then justify why they have been including, all this time, in their billings a portion that supposedly covers their obligation to handle the sewerage part.

### 'Toka Toka' advocacy

MANILA Water, the East Zone concessionaire of Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, meanwhile recently touted that it has "finally covered the whole province of Rizal through a partnership seal signing" with the governor and mayors of the lone city of Antipolo and 13 towns as well as their respective city and municipal environment and natural resources (C/MENRO) officers. These are Jalajala, Baras, Tanay, Teresa, Cardona, Angono, Binangonan, Cainta, Rodriguez, San Mateo, Taytay, Morong and Pililia.

Manila Water said in a statement its President and CEO Ferdinand Dela Cruz had shared with Governor Rebecca "Nini" Ynares and the Rizal town mayors the significance of the "Toka Toka" advocacy, which it describes as the first and only environmental movement in the Philippines on used water management as a vital contributor in reviving rivers and waterways.

Dela Cruz gave assurances that Manila Water is "focused on its development plans until the end of concession agreement in 2037" and cited MWSS for approving its business and service improvement plan. This includes programs to further improve water, used water, and sanitation services not only in



P-4

## Saving Manila Bay

eastern Metro Manila but also for Rizal Province.

Manila Water will complete six more sewage treatment plants (STPs) in Rizal province with total capacity of 300 million liters per day (MLD) to start with the construction of the 16-MLD capacity Hinulugang Taktak STP.

The "Toka Toka" movement, which was started in 2012, aims to drive everyone to do his share or "toka" to protect the environment which can translate into any of the four ownable acts: (i) segregating and disposing of waste properly, (ii) availing of Manila Water's desludging service every five years, (iii) connecting to Manila Water's sewer line and (iv) educating the community through various information drives.

Manila Water as MWSS's private concessionaire for the east zone serves more than 6.8 million residents in the eastern portion of Metro Manila and the province of Rizal.

### Declining water quality

MEANWHILE, the DENR and DOT have served notice they will continue the rehabilitation through other routes—but time is fast running out, Atienza pointed out, and unless the wastewater treatment work is fast-tracked, damage to the bay continues.

Various studies reveal the diminishing quality of water in Manila Bay, including that of the DENR, which reveals the presence of waterborne bacteria.

The Manila City Health Department, on the other hand, found out higher-than-normal levels of fecal pollution that could come from animal or human bodily waste.

Other coliform organisms and potential toxins from ship oil and gas, likewise, add to the contamination.

All these make the bay water unfit for humans, as it can cause various diseases and, at the same time, contribute to its filth.

Commodore Joseph attributed to dirty seawaters and floating waste to the dwindling water activities, like boating, along Manila Bay.

"Sailing has not been so good in Manila," he said. "Why is it that people don't want to sail here? It's because of the polluted water."

The top official of MYC shared that they will continue to hold sailing events not only to attract more tourists, but also to provide employment opportunities.

"My plan is to get 10 poor people and teach them how to sail. And then when they know how to sail they can work in sailboats. With their experience, they will be also hired abroad," Joseph said. "We're the MYC. We started sailing [in the country]. So we can get them trained here."

Established in 1927, MYC is a members-only yacht club based in the country's capital. One of the oldest of its kind in Asia, it has around 200 active members and over 100 life members.

### Taking up the challenge

RECENTLY, Cimatu trumpeted his determination to "accept the challenge to rehabilitate Manila Bay. If nobody else will do it, who will do it? I am optimistic that it can be done. I hope that all of us join in this endeavor that will save Manila Bay."

The short-term target, he said, is to improve the quality of water by reducing the coliform level in Manila Bay by the end of 2019.

The long-term target, he said, is to make the water of Manila Bay safe for bathing and swimming.

Using the regular budget of the DENR for the implementation of the Clean Water Act, the DENR will work on targeted esteros, including the Pasig River, to bring down the coliform level in areas in Manila Bay, particularly along Bay Walk, to 100 MPN/100 ml, the level safe for swimming.

Water in some portions of Manila Bay, particularly fronting the Board Walk, reaches up to 333 million MPN/100 ml.

"Unless we can accelerate this one... we need to start really. We should shorten this as much as possible. We should do something. The problem is coming from esteros in Metro Manila. The condition of the esteros, if I will describe it, [is that] we have two billionaire esteros," he said, referring to the coliform level of the water, which reaches the billions level.

Acknowledging that the task at hand is huge, Cimatu said the DENR will be counting on the support of all stakeholders—particularly local chief executives and the private sector.

He said the DENR, this early, has received offers from industries to help out.

"I was asked, and I am even grateful for the offer of assistance from heads of industries to help us in this. There were offers and suggestions, including the use of resources," said Cimatu.

On January 15, the DENR will make a comprehensive presentation of the problem to stakeholders, and solicit probable solutions and hopefully receive the offers of assistance, he said.

Meanwhile, Cimatu asked the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority to come up with a map of all esteros in Metro Manila to identify the problem esteros.

"If we will be able to contain this pollution, we can reduce the reading... just like what happened in Boracay. Those coming out in Bulabog Beach, we were able to prevent it and reduce the coliform level," he explained.

With reports by Lourdes M. Fernandez and Jonathan L. Mayuga



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



5

PAGE



05 JAN 2010

DATE

*Ang aming pananaw...*

## REHABILITASYON NG MANILA BAY

LUMAHOK kamakalawa ang Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) sa pulong na ipinatawag ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu para simulan ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Kabilang sa mga ahensiyang nagsidalò ang Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO), Policy and Planning Service, DENR sa National Capitol Region at ang Policy Studies Office upang talakayin at maisapinal ang short-term at medium-term plan para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Ayon kay Cimatu, kinailangan ang aktibo at kahusayan ng PRRC sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay dahil nagtagumpay ang ahensiyang pinamumunuan ni Executive Director Jose Antonio "Pepeton" E. Goitia sa epektibong restorasyon at pamamahala sa Ilog Pasig at mga tributaryo nito.

Dapat na talagang pangunahan ng PRRC ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay dahil lalo pang lumala ang kalagayan ng look sa nakalipas na 10 taon matapos ipag-utos ng Supreme Court (SC) ang rehabilitasyon nito noong 2008.

Ngunit dapat ding pananagutin ng DENR ang mga lokal na opisyal na hindi tumugon sa utos ng SC lalo ang mga lungsod at bayan ng Metro Manila, Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan at Cavite.



# Misdeclared trash returned soon

**The shipment contained plastic, used batteries, diapers and dextrose tubes, among other hospital wastes**

**By Raymart T. Lolo**

The controversial containers full of misdeclared garbage will be returned to South Korea not later than the end of this month.

Customs  
Guerrero  
yesterday

Commissioner Leonardo announced this following bilateral meeting between representatives of the Korean government and the Bureau of Customs (BoC) at the Sub-Port of Mindanao International

Container Terminal, in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental. During the meeting, it was agreed that 51 containers will be re-exported on 9 January while the bulk of the shipment consisting of 5, 197.91 tons of waste garbage will be returned on or before 30 30 January.

The Korean representatives expressed full cooperation and support to the return of the imported garbage and agreed to shoulder the shipping cost of \$47,430 without the arrastre and demurrage charges.

"We welcome this positive development and thank our counterpart in their swift response to our demand for the re-exportation of this shipment of garbage. I commend the Bureau personnel for their immediate action upon my instructions. But anybody found to have aided in the commission of this act will be dealt with severely," Guerrero said.

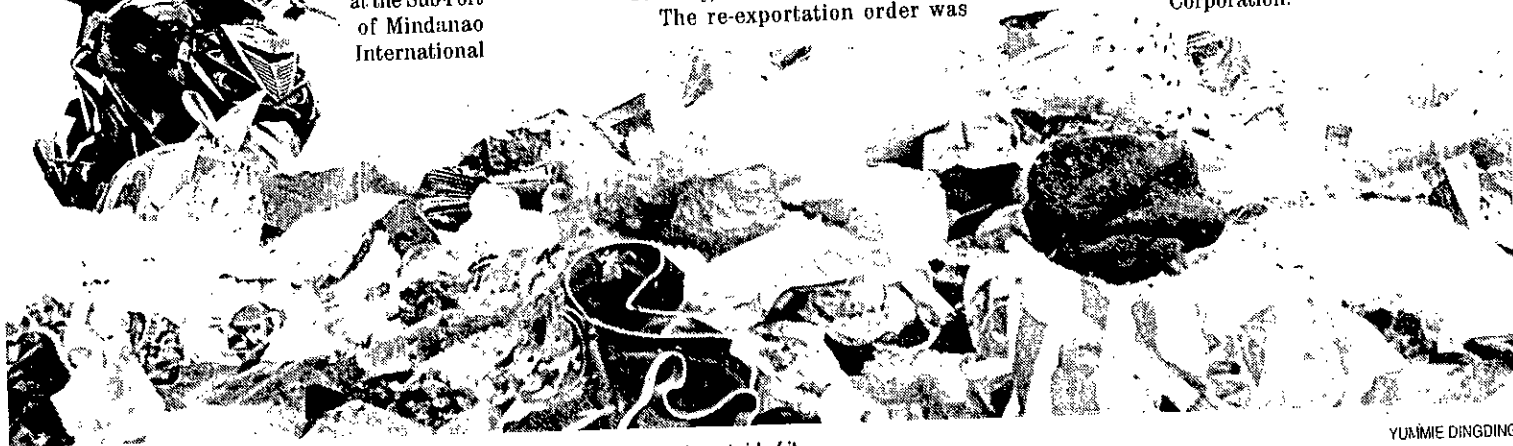
The re-exportation order was

pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 10863 (Customs Modernization and Tariff Act), Republic Act 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act), and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the BoC emphasized.

The truck-load of trash from South Korea arrived in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental in July last year without prior import clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. It was incorrectly declared as "plastic synthetic flakes."

The shipment contained plastic, used batteries, diapers and dextrose tubes, among other hospital wastes.

According to documents shown by the BoC, the garbage shipment was consigned by South Korean company Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corporation.



YU/MIE DINGDING

PLASTIC waste has been the bane of most countries which are finding ways to get rid of it.





Trusted Since 1898

# The Manila Times

A-7  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

HEADER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 JAN 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

## 3 buried alive in Negros Oriental treasure hunting

**BACOLOD CITY:** Three reported treasure hunters were buried alive after a tunnel to the mining site collapsed in Sibulan, Negros Oriental.

Their other companion, Mauro Alforque, 44, survived and reported the incident to authorities on Wednesday.

Buried alive were Feliciano Incilay Sr., 62, an employee of the Provincial Veterinary Office and resident of Cervantes Street in Dumaguete City; Algie Javier, 29, a former overseas Filipino worker who reportedly owned a gold detector, of Barangay Isugan; and Bobby Baldado of Palinpinon from the adjacent town of Valencia.

The rescue team recovered the bodies of Incilay and Baldado on Friday, while Javier's body

was found on Thursday in a tunnel 50 feet deep underneath the *barangay* (village) road in Barangay Boloc-Boloc of Sibulan. Javier was identified through his school identification card from the Negros Oriental State University.

Personnel of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)-Region 7 sent to investigate the alleged treasure hunting activity confirmed that the digging in the area had no permits from the National Museum of the Philippines and Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Edward Malahay and Ramsey Brillante, engineers of MGB-7, explained that mining and treasure hunting are two different

things — mining is processing minerals that can be recovered from the soil while hunting is searching for hidden treasures.

Malahay said the four men were not only digging or excavating a vertical "deep well" as they initially claimed, but they were also digging forward horizontally, thus endangering the lives of motorists above ground because the tunnel cut across the road above it.

"History will tell us that when the Japanese Army was withdrawing to the hinterlands of Negros Oriental, they had no more time to dig as deep as 50 feet under to hide their treasures," he said.

The possibility was that these supposed treasures were buried in shallow grounds, he noted.

Both Malahay and Brillante joined the rescuers in the retrieval operations.

Meanwhile, Councilor Jon Rey Abada of Sibulan disclosed that as far as the local government unit is concerned, they had no idea as to the legality of the mining activity because such permit is secured from the national government.

He said the digging was done manually and the area was covered by a canvas supposedly just for a deep well.

The Filipino Chinese Volunteer Fire Brigade brought in floodlights for the rescuers to continue the search at night.

The digging for alleged buried treasure started on December 30 until the collapse of the tunnel. **EUGENE Y. ADIONG**



## 1 sa 3 minero na nalibing, lasog-lasog nang mahukay

LASOG-LASOG na ang katawan ng isa sa tatlong minero na namatay sa gumuhong hukay nang matagpuan ang bangkay sa rescue operation kahapon

ng madaling araw sa Brgy. Boloc, Negros Oriental.

Si Bobby Baldado na huling nahukay ay hiwa-hiwalay na ang ulo at iba pang parte ng katawan nang matagpuan.

Unang nakuha noong Huwebes ang bangkay ni Argie Javier na halos hindi na rin makilala dahil bloated na ang mukha. Patuloy pang hinahanap ang bangkay ng ikatlong biktima na si Feliciano Enslay. Masuwerte namang nakaligtas ang isa pang minero na si Mauro Alforque.

Nabatid na noon pang Nobyembre nagsimulang magmina ng ginto ang mga biktima nang walang kaukulang permit sa lokal na pamahalaan hanggang sa matabuhan ang mga ito ng gumuhong lupa.

MARY ANNE SAPICO



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
 PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES SERVICE

**PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
 INQUIRER**

A-7  
 PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
 STORY

BANNER  
 STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 JAN 2019

DATE

**TASK FORCE ORDER**

**BORACAY FALLS SILENT ON NEW YEAR'S DAY  
 AFTER BAN ON PYROTECHNICS**

p-1

**ILOILO CITY.** For the first time in decades, New Year passed in Boracay without fireworks and firecrackers.

The ban on firecrackers and fireworks gave the world famous resort island what could probably be its quietest New Year's Day.

The Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force imposed a ban on fireworks on the island following the six-month closure of Boracay for rehabilitation.

Residents and stakeholders had asked that fireworks be allowed during New Year's Day celebration but the local government unit allowed fireworks only up to 500 meters from the shoreline of Malay town, across the island.

A resident said the fireworks display on the mainland was too far to be seen and enjoyed by those in Boracay.

**Foot traffic**

Residents and businessmen in Boracay had earlier raised concern over cruise ship stops on the island, saying these simply add to foot traffic.

The Department of Tourism (DOT) said it would discuss this and other concerns with the people.

Tourism Undersecretary Benito Bengzon Jr. said that as a member of the task force, the DOT "will continue holding con-

sultations and dialogues with stakeholders in the island."

A group of business operators and residents on the island had asked the task force to ban cruise ships from visiting the island to help regulate the number of tourist arrivals and ensure that the carrying capacity of 55,000 residents and tourists at any given time was not exceeded.

The group had noted that cruise ships carry at least 4,000 people who would stay in Boracay for just a few hours but leave lasting negative impacts.

**Garbage**

"The cruise ships bring the island nothing but congestion and garbage," the group said in a letter to the task force.

The group said other top tourist destinations in the world had already prohibited cruise ships due to their adverse environmental effects.

"If Boracay is going to be representative of environmental sustainability, we should follow suit and ban cruise ships from Boracay," the group said.

But the DOT said it would continue to promote the Philippines as a "competitive cruise hub in Asia" bearing in mind Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat's "directive to market the country as a destination that promotes sustainable tourism."

—NESTOR P. BURGOS JR. INQ



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Strategic Communication Initiatives Service

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

A-7  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BALTIMORE  
STORY

EDITORIAL

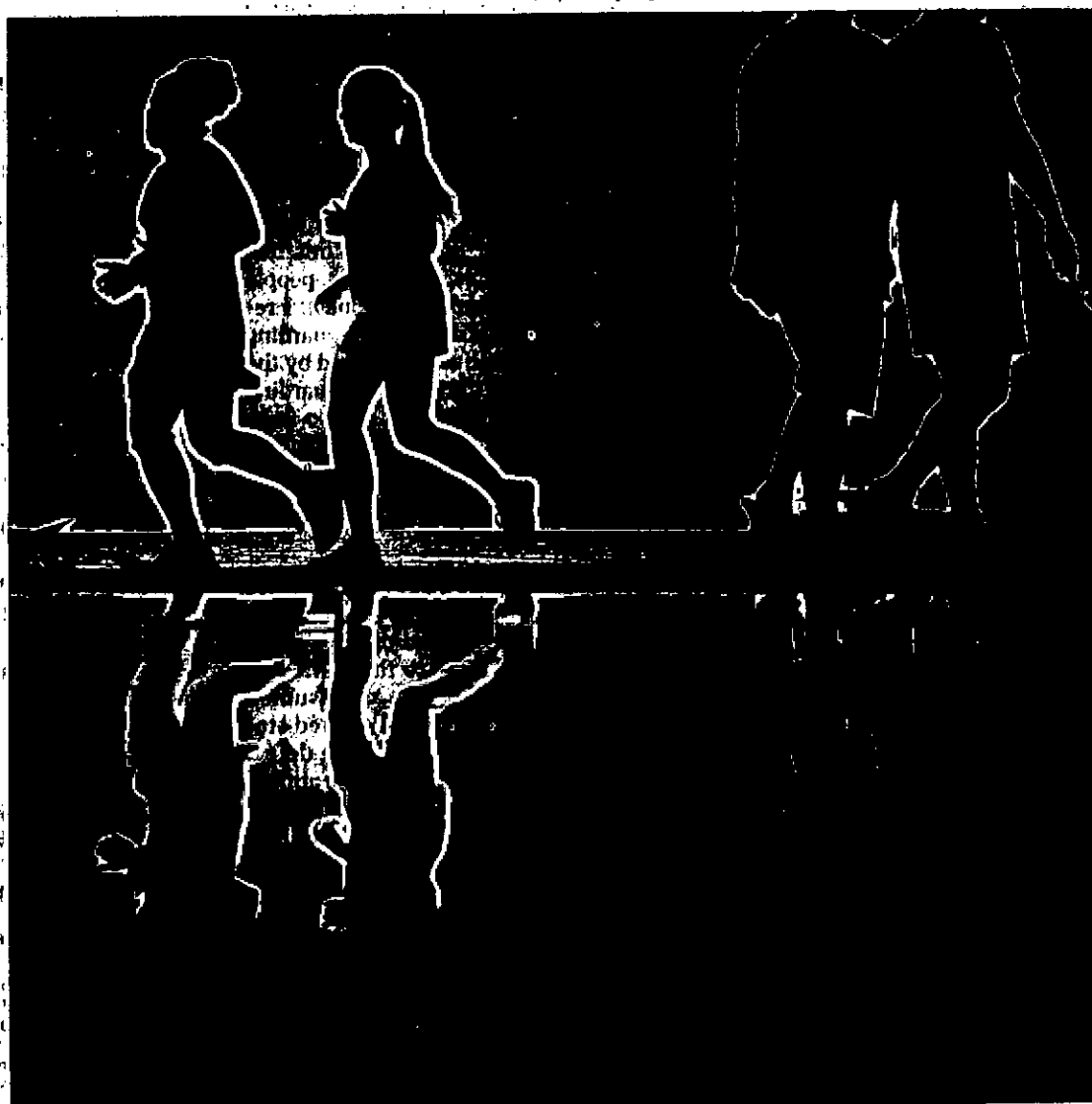
CARTOON

05 JAN 2019

DATE

P-2

Boracay Falls silent on new year's Day after boom  
on Pyrotechnics



**BACK IN BUSINESS.** Visitors stroll and jog along a beach on Boracay in October, shortly after it was reopened following a six-month rehabilitation program. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

7  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 JAN 2019

DATE

## More establishments allowed to operate in Boracay Island

The Department of Tourism (DOT) announced that more resort and hotel establishments have been allowed to operate in Boracay Island.

"A total of 303 establishments accounting to 10,467 rooms are now accredited," the tourism department stated in its latest bulletin.

The establishments have been accredited by the Boracay Interagency Task Force, which is composed of representatives from the tourism, environment, and interior departments.

Previously, the DOT reminded the public that only accredited establishments would be allowed to accept bookings and reservations.

"We would like to remind the public that only the Boracay

Island accommodation establishments that are compliant with the requirements of the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources), the DILG (Department of Interior and Local Government), and accredited by the DOT are allowed to accept bookings and reservations," it stated.

"The public is urged to avoid transactions with establishments that have not yet secured the necessary clearances, permits and/or accreditation from the DOT, DENR and DILG, and thus have no assurance to re-open," it added.

The world famous island reopened last October 26 after it underwent massive rehabilitation for six months. (Analou De Vera)



# 2018 NEWS BREAKING SERIES

**M**AAKSIYON, m a k u l a'y at naging masaya ang naging kaganapan ng katatapos na taong 2018 at ang pahayagang PILIPINO

news naman sa radyo, television at sa new media o sa internet.

Labinwalong breaking news ang napili ng pahayagang ito upang ibahagi sa suking

## ni EUNICE CALMA (Part 1)



Mirror ang kabilang sa frontliner para matanggap at maipahayag ang mga balitang bumandera sa pahayagan at naging breaking

### 1. MISS UNIVERSE FEVER

mambabasa. Bagaman noong Disyembre 2018 pa naganap ang pagkapanalo

ni Catriona Gray bilang Miss Universe, hindi pa rin makalimutan ng Pinoy ang hatid na saya nito.

Nagbunyi ang buong bansa, maging ang mga Pinoy sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo nang masungkit ng pambato ng Filipinas sa ika-apat na pagkakataon ang korona ng Miss Universe.

Naganap ang prestihiyosong beauty pageant sa Bangkok, Thailand noong Disyembre 17.

Mula sa siyamnapu't apat na kandidata, nangibabaw ang talino at ganda ng 24-anyos na si Gray.

Tumatak sa mga hurado at mga manonood ang signature Lava walk ni Gray at maging sa mga kasuotan na inirampa niya sa pageant ay tiniyak niyang sumasalamin

sa mayamang kultura ng Filipinas.

1969 nang unang masungkit ng Filipinas ang korona ng Miss Universe sa pamamagitan ni Gloria Diaz.

Sinundan ito ni Margie Moran noong 1973 at Pia Wurtzbach noong 2015.

### 2. PACQUIO PANALO LABAN KAY MATTHYSSE; GINTO SA ASIAN GAMES NASUNGKIT NI HIDILYN DIAZ

Muling pinatunayan ni Pambansang Kamao at Senador Manny Pacquiao na siya pa rin ang hari ng lona.

Ito ay nang kanyang talunin sa "Fight of Champions" si Lu-

cas Matthyssse noong Hulyo 15 sa Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Sa ikapitong round, iginawad ni Pacman ang technical knockout laban sa Argentinian boxer.

Makaraang maagawan ng welterweight belt, nagretiro na si Matthyssse.

Samantala, nagdagdag din ng karangalan sa Filipinas si Airwoman First Class Hidilyn Diaz.

Ito ay nang kanyang masungkit ang unang ginto sa 2018 Asian Games.

Ang Rio Plympic silver medalist ay nagwagi sa women's weightlifting 53 kilogram category.

Dahil isa nang gold medalist, na-promote si Diaz sa ranggong sarhen-ta sa Philippine Air Force.

### 3. P1-B JACKPOT SA LOTTO NASUNGKIT

Sa unang pagkakataon, sumampa ng bilyong piso ang jackpot prize ng grand lotto kaya naman marami sa tumatangkilik ng palarong ito ng Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) ang pumila at hindi naman nabigo dahil pagsapit nang Oktubre 14 ay dalawa ang nanalo na taga-Samar at Albay.

Ang pangyayari ay lalo pang nagpagana sa mga lotto bettor para tangkilim ang number game.

### 4. BORACAY REHAB

Isa ring maituturing na tagumpay ng gobyerno noong 2018 ay ang rehabilitasyon sa Isla ng Boracay.

Pebrero nang punahin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagiging cesspool ng isla kaya't noong Abril ay isinailalim ito sa anim na buwang rehabilitasyon.

Bagama't marami ang naging ispekulasyon sa pagsasara ng isla at marami sa mga negosyante at residente ang nagsakripsyo ng kawalan ng kita, ikinatyuwa naman ng marami ang pagbabalik sa mala-crystal na dagat makalipas ang anim na buwang rehabilitasyon.

Ayon sa Department of Tourism, umabot sa P1 bilyon ang ginugol sa rehabilitasyon.

Naging wake up call naman ito sa gobyerno upang pagtuunan din ng pansin ang iba pang tourist attractions.

(Itutuloy)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

2  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 JAN 2019

DATE

## Poe pushes measure creating disaster management dep't

By **VANNE ELAINE P. TERRAZOLA**

Senator Grace Poe has asked her colleagues to pass the bill that would create the Department of Disaster Resilience and Emergency Management (DDREM).

Poe said it was "urgent" to approve the measure, noting the lack of coordination between the national government and local government units to "effectively respond" to the needs of communities before and after calamities, such as typhoons.

She particularly cited Tropical Depression Usman that hit the Bicol region and Samar provinces over the weekend. Poe said she had received messages from people seeking help.

"It seems that the national government and local government units still lack coordination," she said in a radio interview.

"I think we have long been discussing this. We have prioritized several other bills. What's sad is that we remember this only during disasters," Poe added.

Poe blamed the supposed lack in coordination on the "absence" of a point person in the interagency NDRRMC.

She also observed that the body was "almost powerless because it was not headed by an official with a Cabinet rank."

She said the Department of National Defense (DND), under which the NDRRMC is operating, was also addressing many other concerns.

Poe's Senate Bill 1735, filed in March 2018, seeks the creation of the DDREM,

which will have the authority in policy-making, planning, coordination, implementation and evaluation of programs related to disaster risk reduction and management.

It aims to strengthen the country's disaster risk reduction and management system and institutions, particularly the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Under SB 1735, the NDRRMC shall be transferred from the Department of National Defense to the proposed department which shall convert the NDRRMC's plan into "specific operational guidelines and programs."

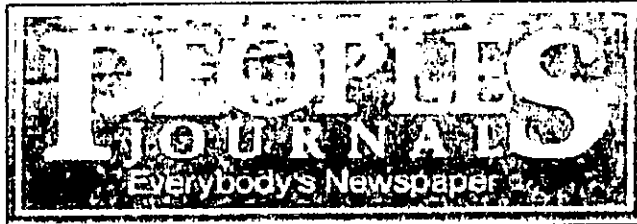
The proposed department shall have bureaus on disaster resilience, disaster preparation and response, and knowledge management and dissemination. It shall also have regional offices.

The bill is currently being deliberated by the Senate defense committee. Senate President Vicente Sotto III had also filed a similar proposal.

The House of Representatives, on the other hand, had approved its version of the bill on final reading last October.

In his third State of the Nation Address, President Duterte asked Congress to pass the measure that would create the Department of Disaster Management, saying the "people's safety requirements cannot wait."

Congress sessions will resume on January 14, but will go on break anew in February.



05 JAN 2019

DATE

## Landslides

### UNCENSORED

Manuel  
L.  
Morato



GENERALLY speaking, it is seldom that landslides occur (like Tsunami) in the sense that they are considered unusual occurrences unlike what is happening lately. It's landslide one after another.

I believe what I observed in the mountainous areas of Malaysia more than a decade and a half ago makes sense in preventing landslides that could affect their roads and highways; and no squatters were allowed to build structures on dangerous slopes.

Rainwater will seek its own way and its own level; and the only way to control its on-rush is by building a cemented structure where engineers think rainwater will flow down a mountain. Markings can be traced while surveying mountains. It will show markings as to where rainwater flows down. Those are the spots that must be helped before it digs deeper and deeper into the mountain that sooner or later will weaken the topography of the mountain that will lead it to collapse causing landslides. Heavy and constant rainfall can cause erosions which eventually cause landslides.

In Malaysia, as I observed, they constructed concrete steps about a meter wide for strong rainwater to flow down to without "eating" the ground. It's that part of the mountain that eventually loosens up that cause the landslides. But it is for the local government to monitor and report to

the proper government department. During the dry season, the Bureau of Forestry can extend help for they are more in a position to notice the cracks where rainwater flows. Those are signs where landslides can cave in the mountain down to the valley below; and national and local roads to wash away.

*Ang napuruhan ngayon ay ang Sitio Garang in Sagñay, Camarines Sur.*

Overall, typhoon "Usman" caused some 82 deaths a few days ago, but there are reports reaching to over 110 deaths. What a painful tragedy to suffer from up to the very end of 2018, a tragic year to many, worldwide it seems. It was a very bad year and thank God we have discarded it.

So, I repeat what I said in my column last Nov. 13, 2018, entitled "Worth observing" wherein I said that those cemented pathways with steps serve to guide the heavy rainfall down the roadside canals without having to

"eat up" the mountain soil deeper and deeper until the mountain caves in. *Nakikita naman kung saan pirmi bumubuhos at bumabagsak ang tubig ng malakas na ulan sa ating mga bundok.*

The track of landslides in mountainous areas is the constant pounding of heavy rainfall year in and year out. Eventually, the mountain will cave in due to the constant pounding and beating of heavy rain.

Now that the very bad 2018 is over marked by so many disasters, tragedies and sad and lamentable experiences, may Our Lord give us a happier year.

A friend had texted this message which I appreciate a lot to start a new day:

"Don't allow yourself to get so busy that you miss those little but important extras in life... The beauty of a day, the smile of a friend, the good memories and, the chance to be a channel of blessings to others. Smile and give thanks to the ever loving God who sustains us with Good Health and Happy disposition. May we all have a healthy, productive and enjoyable life this year."

I will republish my column of Nov. 13, 2018 in the "The Philbiznews at [www.thephilbiznews.com](http://www.thephilbiznews.com). or at [www.facebook.com/THEPHILBIZNEWS](http://www.facebook.com/THEPHILBIZNEWS) or [www.thephilbiznews.com](http://www.thephilbiznews.com).

For comments and suggestions email at [mlmorato@yahoo.com](mailto:mlmorato@yahoo.com)





Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

6  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 JAN 2019

DATE

P-1

# Landslides, a new major cause of storm deaths

**F**OR years, fatalities in our storms and typhoons were mostly drowning victims, people crushed to death by falling trees, and fishermen and boat passengers carried out to sea. In 2013, super-typhoon Yolanda brought a new threat to life in storm-hit areas – the storm surge, a wall of seawater six to eight feet high surging inland destroying everything in its path, then sweeping back to sea with the bodies of thousands of drowning victims.

A new major cause of death has become increasingly common in more recent storms – landslides. Entire sides of hills and mountains – trees, rocks, and all – have come sliding down to bury whole communities. Last Wednesday, Executive Director Ricardo Jalad of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council reported a death toll of 85 and still rising from tropical depression Usman, mostly killed when their homes collapsed under landslides after several days of heavy rains. The Bicol region suffered the most fatalities – 68 – in the rains and landslides.

Twenty persons were reported missing. They were believed to have been buried in the landslides.

It was heartbreaking, said Vice President Leni Robredo when she visited Sagnay, Camarines Sur. “There were whole families who disappeared, with only one or two members left behind.”

The surviving victims are in dire need of assistance, she said, but she cited the need for a long-term approach to the problem posed by landslides. The victims should no longer return to their communities hit by landslides, she said.

Just as there are dangerous sites near rivers, lakes, seas, and other bodies of water, there are today many other areas that have become dangerous because of denudation of forests, mining, and other construction activities. We continue to have about the same number of storms carrying about the same amount of rainwater – powerful Yolanda was a rarity. But certain parts of our many islands may have become endangered by human activity where there was none before, weakening the earth and thus making it prone to landslides.

The long-term approach suggested by Vice President Robredo should be undertaken nationwide. Otherwise we will come to have an increasing number of deaths during storms and typhoons due to landslides.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

6  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 JAN 2019

DATE

P-2

*Landslides, a new major cause of storm deaths*





05 JAN 2013

DATE

## EDITORIAL

### Landslides, a new major cause of storm deaths

**F**OR years, fatalities in our storms and typhoons were mostly drowning victims, people crushed to death by falling trees, and fishermen and boat passengers carried out to sea. In 2003, super-typhoon Yolanda brought a new threat to life in storm-hit areas – the storm surge, a wall of seawater six to eight feet high surging inland destroying everything in its path, then sweeping back to sea with the bodies of thousands of drowning victims.

A new major cause of death has become increasingly common in more recent storms – landslides. Entire sides of hills and mountains – trees, rocks, and all – have come sliding down to bury whole communities. Last Wednesday, Executive Director Ricardo Jalad of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council reported a death toll of 85 and still rising from tropical depression Usman, mostly killed when their homes collapsed under landslides after several days of heavy rains. The Bicol region suffered the most fatalities – 68 – in the rains and landslides.

Twenty persons were reported missing. They were believed to have been buried in the landslides. It was heartbreaking, said Vice President Leni Robredo when she visited Sagnay, Camarines Sur. "There were whole families who disappeared, with only one or two members left behind."

The surviving victims are in dire need of assistance, she said, but she cited the need for a long-term approach to the problem posed by landslides. The victims should no longer return to their communities hit by landslides, she said.

Just as there are dangerous sites near rivers, lakes, seas, and other bodies of water, there are today many other areas that have become dangerous because of denudation of forests, mining, and other construction activities. We continue to have about the same number of storms carrying about the same amount of rainwater – powerful Yolanda was a rarity. But certain parts of our many islands may have become endangered by human activity where there was none before, weakening the earth and thus making it prone to landslides.

The long-term approach suggested by Vice President Robredo should be undertaken nationwide. Otherwise we will come to have an increasing number of deaths during storms and typhoons due to landslides.



**EDITORIAL**

## Landslides, bagong pangunahing sanhi ng pagkamatay sa bagyo

SA mga nakalipas na taon, kalimitang sanhi ng mga pagkamatay sa mga bagyong dumadaan sa bansa ay dulot ng pagkalunod, mga taong nabagsakan ng mga bumuwal na puno, at mga mangingisda at pasahero ng mga bangka na inanod sa dagat. Noong 2003, nagdala ng bagong panganib sa buhay ang super typhoon Yolanda sa mga sinalantang lugar – ang daluyong o storm surge, isang hindi pangkaraniwang taas ng tubig-dagat na umaabot sa anim hanggang walong talampakang taas na tumatabon sa kalupaan at sumisira sa lahat ng madaang nito, at muling babalik sa dagat tangay ang bangkay ng libu-libong naluod.

Isang bagong pangunahing sanhi ng pagkamatay ang tila nagiging karaniwan sa mga nagdaang bagyo kamakailan – ang landslides. Ang pagguho o pagbagsak ng buong bahagi ng burol o bundok – kasama ng mga puno, naglalaking bato, at iba pa – na naglilibing sa buong komunidad. Nitong nakaraang Miyerkules, iniulat ni Executive Director Ricardo Jalad, ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, ang bilang ng mga nasawi na 85, at patuloy na nadaragdagan mula sa bagyong Usman, na karamihan ay nasawi nang mawasak ang kani-kanilang tahanan dahil sa pagguho ng lupa makaraan ang ilang araw na pagbuhos nang malakas na ulan. Pinakamarami ang naitalang biktima sa rehiyon ng Bicol – 68 – sa mga pag-ulan at landslides.

Nasa 20 katao ang iniulat na nawawala, na pinaniniwalaang nalibing nang buhay sa landslides. Nakakadurog ito ng puso, ayon kay Vice President Leni Robredo nang bumisita siya sa Sagnay, Camarines Sur. "There were whole families who disappeared, with only one or two members left behind."

Matindi ang kailangang tulong ng mga nakaligtas na biktima, aniya, ngunit binanggit ng bise presidente ang pangangailangan para sa isang pangmatagalang solusyon sa problema na dulot ng landslides. Hindi na dapat pang bumalik ang mga biktima sa kanilang mga lugar na tinamaan ng landslides, aniya.

Katulad ng mga mapanganib na lugar malapit sa mga ilog, lawa, dagat, at iba pang bahagi ng tubig, marami nang iba pang lugar ang naging mapanganib dulot ng pagkakalbo sa kagubatan, pagmimina, at iba pang aktibidad. Patuloy tayong nagkakaroon ng parehong bilang ng mga dumaraang bagyo sa ating bansa na nagdadala na halos magkakasing dami ng ulan – bagamat naiiba ang dala ng bagyong Yolanda. Ngunit ilang tiyak na mga lugar sa ating bansa ang naging mapanganib dahil sa aktibidad ng mga tao na wala naman dati, na pagpapalambot sa lupa dahil sa maging malapit ito sa mga landslides.

Ang pangmatagalang solusyon na iminungkahi ni Vice President Robredo ay dapat lamang na ipatupad sa buong bansa. Kung hindi, patuloy lamang na tataas ang bilang ng mga nasawi tuwing may bagyo o sama ng panahon dulot ng landslides.



05 JAN 2010

DATE  
9  
PAGE

UPPER HALF  
/  
LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

**'Wag namang gawing 'Trashlacion' — EcoWaste**

Umape-la ang EcoWaste Coalition (EWC) sa may 2.5 na mga deboto na lalahok sa 2019 Trashlacion ng Black Nazarene na huwag magkalat ng kanilang mga basura.

Sinabi ni Aileen Lucero, coordinator ng EWC na huwag namang gawing 'trashlacion' ang pagdiriwang at hiniling na maging responsable ang mga deboto sa pagtatapon ng kanilang basura.

Nalaman na sa mga

nakalipas na taon ng Trashlacion, tone-toneladang basura ang hinahakot ng mga truck ng MMDA at lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila tuwing idinaraos ang 'Pahalik' at Trashlacion.

Hinimok ng EWC ang mga deboto na iwi na lamang o 'di kaya ay itapon sa mga ilalagay na garbage bag ang kanilang pinagkainan tulad ng mga styroplate, plastic na baso, kutsara at bote ng mi-

neral water.

Gayundin, umape-la rin ang EWC sa mga vendor na magdala ng mga basurahan na paglalagyan ng kanilang mga basura.

Dapat umanong kumain na ang mga debotobago lumahok sa Trashlacion para maiwasan na buntutan pa sila ng mga street sweeper na magwawalis ng mga itataponilang kalat habang nagpuprusisyon. (Juliet de Loza-Cudia)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

Page  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 JAN 2019

DATE

# Population boom a threat to water security—MWSS

**T**HE Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System is heightening its efforts to boost water security in mega Manila amid the threat of a booming population on water supply.

MWSS Administrator Reynaldo V. Velasco emphasized that the agency is pursuing the development of new dams to ensure ample water supply beyond the term of President Rodrigo Duterte. According to Velasco, the MWSS' goal under his watch is a water secure mega Manila even amidst threats of natural calamities including a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that is capable of destroying infrastructure and flatten buildings.

Velasco said the agency is also keen on tapping core water professionals and on obtaining its ISO compliant status.

These and other developments were contained in Velasco's yearender report.

The onset of 2018 was a busy year for MWSS. It was preparing for its 140th anniversary that was launched with the opening of the Carriedo Cup Sports Fest. The sports festival aimed to foster teamwork and camaraderie among MWSS employees themselves and with employees of its concessionaires.

As part of its anniversary celebration,

MWSS also launched the coffee table book *From Carriedo to Balara: Celebrating 140 Years of MWSS and Ensuring Water Security*. Authored by Ramos family biographer Melandrew T. Velasco, the book traces the history of the water agency and discusses the direction it is headed under the current stewards.

Another activity to celebrate the anniversary is the unveiling of the Palafox masterplan for the MWSS eco-tourism hub. A joint project of Maynilad and Manila Water in celebration of over 20 years of successful partnership with MWSS, the plan will transform the 79-hectare Balara Water Complex into a four-in-one leisure center—a water eco-tourism hub, an institutional zone, a mixed-used development, and an adventure hub.

The year just past saw the continued success of the MWSS-initiated Annual Million Tree Challenge. MWSS held the AMTC Recognition and Pledging Day that garnered over one million pledges from various government agencies.

MWSS efforts to rehabilitate and protect six critical watersheds and its supports DENR's Sustainable Development Program through the AMTC earned for MWSS recognition from DENR-NCR and the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency.

## New water sources

Committed to pursue water infrastructure projects started by the previous administration, Velasco said that the Bulacan Bulk Water Supply Project Phase 1 and Phase 2 is now 97-percent complete. It will be inaugurated within the month, he said.

"Perhaps our customers are secretly nursing the fear that one day they might wake up only to find out that their taps have gone dry," Velasco said. "Let me assure them that we have adequate supply to service the domestic and industrial needs of our customers," he added.

MWSS has identified Laguna Lake, Sumag River, Kaliwa Dam, Wawa River-New Montalban Dam and Tayabasan River as medium-term water sources that could supply 19,63 MLD. On the hand, long-term sources are Kanan Dam and Agos Dam with a combined capacity of 6,300 MLD.