

DATE : 10 JAN 2010

DAY : Thursday

# DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



10 JAN 2018  
DATE

## DENR men urged to take measures vs excessive rainfall

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu yesterday ordered all environment field officers to take proactive and timely measures to avoid risks

associated with excessive rainfall.

Cimatu issued this order following heavy rains brought by Tropical Depression Usman that triggered flashfloods and landslides killing at least 120 people in the

Bicol Region shortly before the New Year.

He stressed that the increase in the frequency of landslide events triggered by heavy rainfall underscores the urgent need to further protect communities from

the devastating effects of climate change.

In the earlier part of 2018, two other deadly rainfall-induced landslides happened in Itogon town in Benguet and Naga City in Cebu province. A similar incident

happened in Natonin, Mt. Province in October.

"It is imperative for the DENR and its field offices to be responsive to the dangers and adverse effects of excessive rainfall," Cimatu said.

Cory Martinez



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES SERVICE

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**OBLIGATED BY LAW**

## SOLON: WATER CONCESSIONAIRES SHOULD HELP IN BAY CLEANUP

By Marlon Ramos  
@MRamosINQ

President Duterte should compel the two water concessionaires servicing Metro Manila to build water treatment facilities if he really wants to clean up Manila Bay, House Senior Deputy Minority Leader Lito Atienza said on Wednesday.

Atienza, a former environment secretary, said Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Company Inc. had agreed to construct sewage systems as part of their contractual obligation to the government.

The agreement was upheld by the Supreme Court when it directed the two water concessionaires and several state agencies to undertake the rehabilitation of Manila Bay in 2008, he added.

"[The President] cannot do the cleanup of Manila Bay if he will not force these two giant companies to comply with the agreement they had with the government," Atienza told reporters.

### Coercion needed

"The real way to clean up the bay is to coerce the two water concessionaires, which, by force of law, are obligated to provide the water treatment facilities," he said.

On Tuesday night, Mr. Duterte warned that he would close hotels along Manila Bay that did not have wastewater treatment plants.

While speaking at a barangay

summit on the peace process in Pasay City, the President announced that he had ordered Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Interior Secretary Eduardo Año to start the bay cleanup "whether they [establishments] like it or not."

"So hotels should put [up] water treatment plants or I will shut them down," he said.

### President's ultimatum

"You do something about your waste there, otherwise I will close it. That's for certain," Mr. Duterte added.

Malacañang said on Tuesday that the President wanted the road user's tax to be used for the bay cleanup.

Atienza, meanwhile, noted that the trucks Maynilad and Manila Water had been providing to siphon off septic tanks of houses in Metro Manila were not enough to prevent the degradation of the bay.

"That's not the condition in their water concession agreement. The domestic and industrial water discharges should be processed and purified before these could be released into Manila Bay," Atienza said.

"The failure of Manila Water and Maynilad to construct water facilities is one of the reasons why Manila Bay remains a big sewer," he lamented. "It looks and smells like a sewer."

Maynilad services the western part of the metropolis while Manila Water operates in the eastern portion. INQ



**MANILA CESSPOOL** Young boys swim in Manila Bay despite a ban enforced by the local government on bathing in the area due to health risk concerns. —INQUIRER FILE PHOTO



MATAGAL nang may kautusan ang pamahalaan para sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay.

Sampung taon na ang desisyon ng Supreme Court para linisin ng pamahalaan ang sikat na lawang ito ng mahal kong Pinas.

Sikat dahil dito ginanap ang pekeng giyera ng mga Amerikano at Kastila para sabihing pinalaya ng mga una ang bansa mula sa huli.

Sikat din dahil dito matutunghayan ang isa sa pinakamagandang tanawin ng paglubog ng araw sa hapon.

Dahil naman sa kasi-katan nito, itinayo ang napakaraming establisimyento na hindi lang panglokal kundi panturista.

### MANILA HOTEL AT IBA PA

Sa gilid ng lawa itinayo ang pamósong Manila Hotel at sinundan na ito ng mga nagtataasang gusali at iba pang mga establisimyento dahil naging sentro na ito ng negosyo sa Kamaynilaan.

Dito rin sa Manila Bay nakatayo ang sikat na US Embassy at sinakop mismo nito ang katubigan ng lawa.

May katubigan ding sinakop ng Ocean Park at nasa gilid ang hotel nito.

Malaking bahagi na rin ang ni-reclaim at pinagtayuan ng iba't ibang establisimyento na nadagdag sa dati ng mga gusali.

Walang nakaaalam kung saan itinatapon ng lahat ng mga gusaling ito ang kanilang mga dumi, kasama na ang mga duming tao at basura.

Pero may malaking paniniwala na marami sa mga gusali at establisimyento ang walang maaayos at malinis na poso negro at iba pang uri ng basura at pinalalabas na lamang sa Manila Bay.

### MAS MARUMI SA BORACAY

Sampung taon na ang nakararaan, nagkaroon ng pag-aaral kung gaano karumi ang Manila Bay.

Matapos ang pag-aaral, mga Bro, natagpuan ang lawa na sobra ang duming taglay nito.

Ang tubig ng Boracay ay may 100 MPN (Most Probable Number) per 100 milliliters na fecal coliform bacterial level nito, ayon sa aking boss na si Department of Environment and Natural



## PAGLILINIS SA MANILA BAY PANAHON NA TALAGA

Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Pero ang Manila Bay, anak ng tokwa, may 350 MPN per 100 milliliters na katulad ng dumi sa Boracay.

Kaya naman, kung tinawag na pusali ni Pang. Digong ang karagatan at dalampasigan ng Boracay, higit na masahol ang tawag sa Manila Bay.

Hindi lang masamang amoy ang maaamoy mo sa Manila Bay.

Ang sobrang dumi nito ang dahilan na rin kung bakit ipinagbabawal ang maligo rito.

### UTOS NI DIGONG

Ngayon ay may kautusan na si Pang. Digong na linisin na ang Manila Bay.

Siyempre pa, ang paglilinis ay hindi basta ganun-ganun lang.

Katulad ng ginawa sa Boracay, aalamin kung saan nanggagaling ang mga basura na galing sa mga comfort room, kusina at iba pang sari-saring basura.

Susundan ang mga tubo, drainage at iba pa na daluyan ng mga tubig at basura hanggang sa makita kung saan nakakonekta ang mga ito.

At kung makikitang galing sa mga gusali at iba pang establisimyento, diyan na magkakalintakan.

Kapag hindi agad umaktyon ang mga gusali at establisimyento na matatagpuang nagtatapon ng basura at walang maaayos na pagpoproseso nito, maaaring may agarang pagsasara sa mga ito gaya ng ginawa sa Boracay.

### MALAWAK NA BAHAGI

Ang mga Lungsod ng Maynila, Navotas, Malabon, Pasay, Parañaque at Las Piñas ang tututukan ng DENR sa paglilinis nito sa Manila Bay.

Hindi kasi, masyadong marumi ang mga baybayin sa Bataan, Pampanga at Bulacan sa hilaga, at Cavite sa timog.

Pero maaaring madamay ang mga huling lugar kung sa imbestigasyon ng DENR at sumbong ng mamamayan ay, lalabas na marurumi rin.

Kung pagbabatayan nga ang mga nahuhuling isda, shells at iba pa sa mga tabig-dagat sa mga lungsod na ito, marami ang lasa at amoy-burak.

Nangangahulugan na napakarumi talaga ang mga dalampasigan o tabing-dagat.

Meron ngang sinasabi mismo ni Bulacan Governor Wilhelmino Sy na may heavily polluted na tabing dagat sa parte ng Bulacan.

### ROAD FUND

Manggagaling sa Road Fund na sinisingil sa mga inirerehistrong sasakyan ang pondo para sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay.

Maglalaan ang gobyerno ng P47 bilyon para sa sa proyekto.

Marahil, malaki na ang magagawang paglilinis gamit ang pondong ito.

Kung paano isasagawa nang sistematiko at nasa tamang panahon ng paglilinis ay malalaman ng madla sa mga susunod na araw.

Kung kailan din sisimulan ang paglilinis ay tiyak na anomang araw mula ngayon.

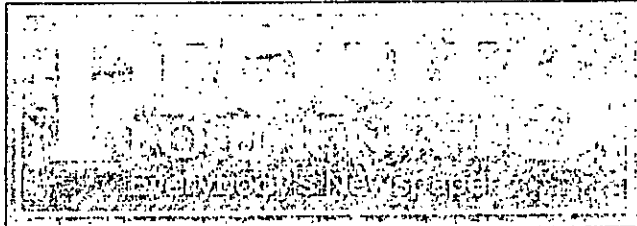
Sinasabi natin ito dahil hindi lang ang taong pamahalaan ang maglilinis kundi may mga iha-hire ang pamahalaan na mga mamamayan para tumulong sa paglilinis, paggiba sa mga pinagmulan ng mga basura at polusyon at pag-aayos ng buong dalampasigan.

Matatag ang pamahalaang Duterte sa aksyon nitong linisin ang Manila Bay.

Ang magtangkang magpalusot at mangorap sa mga taong pamahalaan ay tiyak na mananagot sa batas.

Lahat para sa malinis na kapaligiran na sa huli pakiknabangan ng buong bansa at hindi ng ilhan.

oOo  
Anomang reaksyon o reklamo ay maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa banti-porda@yahoo.com



10 JAN 2010

DATE

## Duterte warns hotel polluters from destroying Manila Bay

JUST like in Boracay, President Rodrigo Duterte plans to close down establishments, particularly hotels that chuck waste into Manila Bay.

"Do something about your waste there or else I will close it," said Duterte during the Barangay Summit on Peace and Order in Pasay City.

Duterte said hotels must ensure they have working water treatment facilities. He backed the proposal of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to restore the water quality of Manila Bay during the Cabinet meeting on Monday.

"Itong mga hotel, 'yung palabasin niyo 'yung mga tae ng mga turista. Kaya ko itong tae ng Pilipino pero kung tae ng kung sinu-sino diyan, lagyan niyo ng water treatment 'yang hotel niyo, 'pag hindi sarahan ko 'yan," he said in front of Metro Manila local chief executives. Huwag mo ako hamunin. Kung wala tayong turista eh 'di wala, hindi naman tayo mamamatay," he added. (Don't challenge me. If we don't have tourists, then we won't have them. We won't die.)

**Efren Montano**



## PDU30: Mga hotel, establisyento sa paligid ng Manila Bay ipasasara

**IPASASARA** ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang mga hotel at iba pang mga establisyentong nakatayo sa paligid ng Manila Bay kapag hindi nila napanatiling malinis ang kanilang kapaligiran.

Inatasan na ni Pangulong Duterte sina Interior Sec. Eduardo Año at Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu na magsanib-pwersa sa pagsasagawa ng rehabilitasyon sa

lugar.

Kailangan aniyang mapanatili ng mga ito ang kanilang sewage at wastewater treatment facilities, dahil kung hindi ay mapipilitan itong ipasara ang naturang mga establisyento.

"Whether they like or not itong mga hotel ipalabas niyong dumi ng mga turista, lagyan ninyo ng water treatment 'yang hotel n'yo 'pag hindi sarahan ko 'yan. Huwag mo akong hamunin," ayon sa Pangulo.

Sinabi pa niya na hindi

naman mamamatay ang mga Filipino kung walang turista.

"Kung wala tayong turista, eh, 'di wala. Hindi naman tayo mamamatay. You do something about your waste there otherwise I will

close. Sigurado yan. Is that the way how to do it? You swim among the germs of humanity?" aniya pa.

Nauna rito, sinabi ni Budget Sec. Benjamin Diokno na ipinag-utos na rin sa kanya ng Punong Ehekutibo ang paglilinis



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

**Duterte sa mga establisimento sa  
Manila Bay area: 'Shape up or shutdown'**

INATASAN ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sina DILG Sec. Eduardo Año at DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu na simulan na ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay sa lalong madaling panahon. Sa dinaluhan nitong Barangay Summit for Peace and Order sa Pasay City nitong Martes ng gabi, sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte na sa ayaw at sa gusto ng mga opisyal ng gobyerno at ng maaapektuhang publiko, kailangan nang isailalim sa rehabilitasyon ang Look ng Maynila. Kasabay nito ay binalaan ni Pangulong Duterte ang mga establisimento na nagtatapon ng basura sa Manila Bay na ipasasara niya ang mga ito kung hindi sila maglagay ng kani-kanilang waste treatment facilities. Iginiit ni Pangulong Duterte na wala siyang pakialam kung walang pupuntang turista sa gagawing paghihigpit dahil hindi naman ito ikamamatay ng mamamayan.



# Atienza blames private water firms for Manila Bay pollution

By JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ [@joveemarie](#)

**T**HE government should force the private water concessionaires—Maynilad Water Services Inc. and the Manila Water Co.—to carry out the water-treatment part of their contracts if it wants to clean the famous Manila Bay, a lawmaker said on Wednesday.

Senior Deputy Minority Leader Tito Atienza of Buhay party-list, in a news conference, said the concessionaires' failure is behind the dumping of untreated sewer waste in Manila Bay.

"Manila Bay remains to be one big sewer. It's just like sewer, it

looks like sewer," Atienza, a former three-term Manila mayor and former secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said.

Atienza said Manila Bay, despite the continuing mandamus issued by the Supreme Court,

"continues to be a giant sewer depository of household waste and veritable *pozo negro* of Metro Manila because the two water concessionaires—Manila Water and Maynilad—have yet to deliver on their commitment to provide wastewater-treatment facilities," he said.

During his term as environment secretary, Atienza caused the issuance of a continuing mandamus by the Supreme Court ordering the government, all local government units, the private sector and the two water concessionaires to clean Manila Bay and revive it to its original pristine condition.

President Duterte threatened to close hotels near Manila Bay if they do not practice proper waste treatment as he ordered the DENR to clean up the water body.

The rehabilitation plan came after the six-month closure of the Boracay Island.

Atienza said if Malacañang can strong-arm the environmental renewal of Boracay, surely it can also do the same to Manila Bay.

"Government should force them to provide for the water-treatment contracts, otherwise their concessionaires' contracts should be canceled," said Atienza.

Under the contract, the lawmaker added, the two water firms will be authorized to collect environment fees, which will be used to address problems on water waste.

"The real way to clean up the bay is to force the two water concessionaires to implement the wastewater-treatment facility. This will ensure that wastewater is already cleaned before being thrown out into Manila Bay," Atienza added.

He said the DENR, as well as the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, should ensure that concessionaires' contract will be implemented properly.





## Maynilad-MVP, MWC nambaboy sa Manila Bay

PASIMUNO umano ng kadugyutan at pambalahura sa Manila Bay ang Maynilad Water Services Inc. (MWSI) ng binatang negosyanteng si Manny V. Pangilinan at Manila Water Company (MWC), ayon kay Buhay Party-list Rep. Lito Atienza.

Batay sa solon, malamang na mabigo lamang si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa hangarin nito na linisin ang Manila Bay.

Ito ay kung hindi maglalagay ng mga waste water treatment plant ang MWSI at MWC na parehong may pinakamalaking kontribusyon ng populasyon sa Manila Bay.

Nakapaloob naman ayon kay Atienza sa kontrata sa pagitan ng gobyerno ang paglalatag

ng waste water treatment plant ng Maynilad at Manila Water.

Binigyang-diin ng Senior Deputy Minority Leader na ang MWSI at MWC ang pinakabong-gang magtapon ng dumi (untreated sewer waste) sa Manila Bay.

Ipinaliwanag ng kongresista na sa ilalim ng kontrata ng Maynilad at MWC ay pinahihintulutan ang mga ito na mangolekta ng environment fees na katumbas ng 20% na sinisingil sa mga consumer.

Iginiit ni Atienza na dapat kumilos sa usapin na ito ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS). **(Aries Cano)**



## Cleaning up Manila Bay



DUTY CALLS  
FLORENCIO FIANZA

PRESIDENT Duterte could be embarking on what can only be termed as the most ambitious environmental cleanup project in the country. This is the cleaning of Manila Bay. If he succeeds, it will be one of the crowning achievements of his presidency.

The size and scope of this undertaking is mind-boggling. No one expected President Duterte to be an environmental president but he is turning out to be one. The cleaning of Manila Bay is daunting for sure considering that over the last decades, the government cannot seem to clean Pasig River which is a much easier and smaller undertaking than taking on Manila Bay. Before the war, Manila Bay was the destination of Manila residents for swimming and picnicking. This went on until immediately after the war.

Then the bay became polluted. First, because of the water being drained by the Pasig which was dirty. Then, when squatters started to invade the banks of the river and used the river as their waste disposal area, the problem worsened. Then, industrial waste like chemicals were dumped into the river. The pollution was somewhat lessened due to the non-government efforts to clean the river but the river is for all intents and purposes dead. No fish can survive in the river. Today, it would be dangerous to swim in the river or for that matter the Manila Bay although on some occasions, we still see some children jumping and swimming in the Bay during the hot summer months. Fecal matter was dangerously high and worsening.

It would be of interest to some of us to know that Tokyo Bay was in a way like our Manila Bay until the Japanese started to clean it up in the early 1960s. It was also a monumental undertaking but today, Tokyo Bay is environmentally clean.

We are therefore embarking on an effort never seen before. It will be ex-

pensive, and requires every level of government to participate. This would mean that the participation of Local Government Units is essential for the project to succeed and it should not be limited to government alone. Here is an opportunity for all environmental groups to participate.

Most important of all, the public must also embrace the project and participate. No one could just be a bystander. If the public leaves the effort to the government and non-government groups, the project will not succeed.

“Tokyo Bay was in a similar situation decades ago.”

This is one of the reasons why the Pasig River cannot be kept clean permanently. Squatters living along the river banks continue to discharge their waste into the river. The Duterte administration is targeting 2022 for the project to be completed but considering the size of the problem, it is doubtful whether the project could be completed in so short a time. What is important however, is that it must start now and whatever is not completed will be finished by the incoming administration. Besides, the harder part of the project is seeing to it that when the bay has been cleaned, that it stays clean permanently for everyone to enjoy. The difference between this new plan of the government about Manila Bay and the previous efforts is this time, there is money to bankroll the project. President Duterte plans to use the P47-billion collected from the road users' tax to clean the bay and because vehicles will continue to increase, this money will also increase thereby providing sufficient funds to finish the project. It is still not clear how the Department of Environmental and Natu-

ral Resources intends to implement the project but at least the Department has some kind of experience because of Boracay and the others that it has tackled. This is important if the Manila Bay cleanup is to succeed.

Another issues to consider is whether DENR will seek foreign participation or whether it feels that it has already sufficient technical expertise to handle the huge project alone. If there is foreign participation, to what extent? Will it be limited to hiring foreign consultants for matters that are technically beyond the expertise of our local engineers?

Whatever, I do not think we will be seeing anything very soon. The DENR once given its marching orders by President Duterte, will have a lot of preparations to do. It will take time for the Road Users Board to be abolished and the funds to be transferred to the DENR. What we have now is a clear intention of President Duterte to clean Manila Bay. Let us hope that he will follow this through.

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Up to this time, AKO Bicol party-list Representative Rodel Batocabe who was killed on Dec. 22, 2018 of last year is the highest elected official killed leading to the 2019 elections which is four months away. There were vice mayors, mayors and a former congressman killed last year for various reasons with the police suspecting that politics is one of the main reasons for the violence.

The Police seem to have solved the Batocabe killing, in record time with the arrest and confession of the alleged gunman, Henry Yuson, an alleged former military and member of the NPA. Five of his accomplices have also been taken into custody and they all seem to be pointing at Daraga Mayor Carlwyn Baldo as the alleged mastermind. Mayor Baldo, not surprisingly, denied any participation. But the Police has compelling evidence.

If the police is right that it was Mayor Baldo who masterminded the killing, why did he use people known in the community instead of outsiders who cannot be easily identified? It seemed brazen—or simply stupid.



## SHOOTING STRAIGHT

BOBIT S. AVILA

### Cleaning Manila Bay is now Du30's advocacy



I was taken by surprise that no less than President Rodrigo Duterte threatened to close establishments polluting one of the country's natural harbors – the Manila Bay. So soon Mr. President? It looks like Pres. Duterte must have read my Tuesday column entitled "The Manila Bay clean up starts now." Last Tuesday evening, the President ordered Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Interior Secretary Eduardo Año to begin the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

The Chief Executive stressed that if establishment owners will not heed his order, he will not hesitate to close them.

He said in Tagalog, "Itong mga hotel, yung palabasin ninyo mga tae ng mga turista...lagyan ninyo ng water treatment yang mga hotel ninyo kung hindi sarahan ko yan. Hurwag ninyo akong hamunin. Kung wala tayong turista eh di wala. You do something about your waste there or else I will close you," the President said this speech during the Barangay Summit on Peace and Order in Manila.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda apparently confirmed that the Duterte administration is allotting P47 billion to fund the Manila Bay clean-up. The budget will also be used to look for relocation sites for affected families living near the bay. Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said the total budget may amount to P132 billion, adding the road users' tax for government projects will be utilized to fund the rehabilitation. "That's only part of the road users tax. Malaki 'yung road users tax (Road users tax is large)," he told the media in a briefing.

I had a lot of comments on the article we wrote about cleaning Manila Bay starting this year. First came from a good friend, Rick Ramos who texted, "Bobit, I have seen it happen in the past 25-30 years attending meetings with the DENR. Useless! I founded the Environmental Network Center Inc. (ENCI) in 1990. Tony Opoša was with us. Meetings with LGUs by DENR is all for show! I would not even attend these meetings if I were invited. They are not looking at a permanent solution to the problem. Cimatu is wrong to say that Manila Bay can be cleaned up in One Year!" I do not disagree with Rick, but then we are talking about different people in the DENR, plus the fact that under the Duterte administration, they cleaned up Boracay!

Here's another letter. "Dear Mr. Avila: We encourage your support to the Manila Bay cleanup. Please continue and also raise the following dimensions of the problem; in other words back up to Pasig, Laguna Lake and its waterways in three provinces: 1) Include cleanup of Laguna Lake, where bulk of the coliform pollution from 16 or so waterways come from in Rizal, Laguna and Cavite. Ex Sen. Ilarde has raised this point.

The LLDA has jurisdiction but more concerned with the fishpens and small fishermen. Note that bangus and tilapia from the lake help reduce such coliform (eek!). Trace these waterways upstream and see households without toilets! The UPLB, through its Institute of Biological Sciences and the School of Environmental Science and Management, and a BFAR station in Pililla have all the facts from relevant studies. 2) The Bulacan waterways, and to a lesser degree from Pampanga contribute also coliform but more industrial waste: note heavy metals. DENR knows this and the province has jurisdiction. Arsenio D. Calub Retired Assoc. Prof., UPLB"

Actually there are more letters, but I can only accommodate three and this is the third letter. "Sir Bobit, I read your column today, first DENR must also install Water Quality Analyser in different sites where they feel somebody or companies were throwing untreated water, just like mining companies in their mining sites, where DENR can monitor remotely if that company were throwing untreated water. See attached Online Water Analysers that can do the job I mentioned. DENR

can monitor the water quality in their office 24/7 and everything is recorded so walang lusot yong mga companies that continue to dump untreated water.

In fact, may mga sites na ngayon na may remote monitoring stations for water quality sa Vitas, Tondo, Libertad, Pasay, Napindad at PCG Compound but it's not being used later by DENR-MBCO. Sayang yong investment ng Government dito kung pabayaang lang. All our BOD Analysers were functioning pero walang PM (preventive maintenance) na ginagawa ang DENR-MBCO. Sana, you can call the attention of Sec. Cimatu. Daghang Salamat Sir Bobit, taga Mindanao ko, sa Agusan Sur Regards, Rico Alegre."

Yes, I submit that many people have already tried cleaning up Manila Bay in the past, but failed terribly simply because first of all, the presidents of the Philippines in those days were not as committed in doing something of such magnitude. My confidence is simply, we have a President who has the political will to do the impossible tasks. So now Manila Bay is DU30's advocacy!

Email: vsbobita@gmail.com



*Editorial*

## Maruming Manila Bay malapit nang linisin!

**M**AGANDANG pasalubong sa 2019 ang sinabi ng Malacañang kamakalawa na lilinisin na ang maruming Manila Bay. Pagkaraan nang maraming taon na hindi kumilos ang mga Presidente mula kay Ferdinand Marcos, Cory Aquino, Fidel Ramos, Joseph Estrada, Gloria Arroyo at Noynoy Aquino, ngayon ay matitikman na ng Manila Bay ang tunay na paglilinis na malayo sa ginagawa ng dating presidente na tinatapanan ng mga basura ang dagat at saka isa-isa ng pupulutin habang gumigiling ang kamera ng media.

Hindi na ganito ang mangyayari sapagkat tutukan ng media mula sa buong mundo ang paglilinis. Gustong simulan na ito sa lalong madaling panahon at nang eksakto sa pagbaba ni President Duterte sa 2022. Gusto niyang malinis na malinis ang Manila Bay na mas malinis pa sa Boracay na isinara niya sa loob ng anim na buwan dahil sa sobrang dumi na kagagawan ng mga walang disiplinang resort owner, restaurant at mga turista na walang pakialam kung magtapon ng kanilang basura at dumi.

Sabi ni Duterte ang Boracay ay "cesspool". Ang kahulugan ng "cesspool" ay poso-negro. Imadyinin kung gaano kaitim at karumi ang tubig sa poso-negro. Ganyan ang tubig na pinaglalulunayan ng mga turista sa Boracay noong hindi pa ipinasasara. Makaraang buksan, pagkaraan ng anim na buwan, malinis na malinis ang Boracay.

Sabi ng Malacañang, gagastos ng P47 bilyon sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay. Pero balewala ang bilyones na ito sapagkat ang pondo ay kukunin sa "Road User's Tax". Sabi ni Duterte bubuwagin na ang Road Board sapagkat hindi nagagamit nang tama ang pondo. Winawaldas umano ng mga miyembro ng Road Board ang pera.

Sana mabuwag na ang Road Board para magpilian ang pagnanakaw sa pondong galing sa Road User's Tax. Kapag nabuwag, kasuhan ang mga dupang sa yaman.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



10 JAN 2010

## Install water treatment plants for Manila Bay cleanup – Atienza

By **BEN R. ROSARIO**

President Duterte's bid to enforce a cleanup of Manila Bay will likely fail unless the Maynilad Water Services Inc. and the Manila Water Company (MWC) are "forced" to install waste water treatment plants as provided under their contract with the government, Senior Deputy Minority Leader and Buhay Partylist Rep. Lito Atienza said yesterday.

"Government should force them to provide for the water treatment contracts, otherwise their concessionaires contracts should be cancelled," said Atienza, a former secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Duterte has set his sights on the

Manila Bay cleanup as his next priority environment project following the rehabilitation of world-famous Boracay.

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said Duterte is determined to show political will to make his next project successful, adding that polluters will be part of the crackdown.

The former Manila mayor explained that under the concessionaires contract awarded by the government to the two water distribution firms, Maynilad and MWC will be authorized to collect environment fees which represents 20 percent of the water bills of consumers.

The collection will in turn be used to address concerns related to sewer and drainage waste water, including the putting up of treatment facilities.

"The real way to clean up the bay is to force the two water concessionaires to implement the waste water treatment facility. This will ensure that waste water is already cleaned before being thrown out into Manila bay," Atienza said.

According to him the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System are the two agencies that should be tapped to oversee the implementation of the provisions of the concessionaires contract.

He recalled that Maynila and MWC have been penalized in the past for polluting Manila Bay.

"I charged them ₱100,000 per day for non-delivery of their basic concession requirements," Atienza said.



# After Usman, LGUs urged to use geohazard maps

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

**Citing recent tragedies such as landslides that struck Mimaropa, the Bicol region and Eastern Visayas due to Tropical Depression Usman, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reminded local government units (LGUs) to make use of geohazard maps long since available to them.**

During the annual DENR New Year's call for the agency's top officials held recently at the DENR central office in Quezon City, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu pointed out that under Republic Act No. 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, local chief executives are tasked to chair local disaster risk reduction and management councils (LDRRMCs) at the provincial, city and municipal levels. It is the council's responsibility to come up with disaster management and risk reduction plans that will minimize if not totally prevent casualties during calamities, he said.

"The DENR for its part contributes to DRR efforts through the geohazard maps which the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) distributes to all LGUs so they can identify landslide and flood-prone areas," Cimatu said.

Under the law, LDRRMCs should set the direction, development, implementation and coordination of DRRM programs within their areas.

This includes integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into local development plans and programs, as well as recommending forced or preemptive evacuation of residents if necessary.

"I believe that through these maps, the DENR has done its part in protecting the lives of the Filipino people. We encourage LGUs to work hand in hand with us to protect our people," Cimatu said.

Meanwhile, DENR Undersecretary for solid waste management Benny Antiporda said local officials should utilize the geohazard maps, which are also available online through the MGB website at [mgb.gov.ph](http://mgb.gov.ph).

The MGB has also been conducting information, education and communication campaigns to help LGUs and communities use and understand the maps:

Antiporda noted that disasters are bound to happen, but based on these maps, local officials can put in place disaster risk reduction and management plans or precautionary measures to save lives and avoid damage to property in their areas of jurisdiction.

"These (maps) are even color-coded to indicate areas that are high risk or with high susceptibility to landslides and floods. Thus, having no appropriate information

is not an excuse," Cimatu said.

Cimatu has also issued a memorandum ordering all field officials of the agency to take proactive and timely measures to avoid risks associated with excessive rainfall.

The environment chief issued the directive after heavy rains from Usman triggered flash floods and landslides that killed at least 120 people in the Bicol region shortly before the New Year.

Two other deadly rainfall-induced landslides happened in Itogon town in Benguet and Naga City in Cebu province in September 2018. A similar incident happened in Natonin, Mountain Province in October.

Cimatu said the increase in the frequency of landslides triggered by heavy rainfall underscores the urgent need to further protect communities from the devastating effects of climate change.

"It is therefore imperative for

the DENR and its field offices to be prepared and responsive to the dangers and adverse effects of excessive rainfall," Cimatu said in the memo.

Antiporda lamented that the recent landslide incident took place in the Bicol region, particularly Albay province, which has been known as a model in disaster risk reduction.

"It's time for Albay to re-study their preparation and their systems," Antiporda said. "If climate changes, then better protection should be provided to people."

The DENR's Geohazard Mapping and Assessment Program is an ongoing priority program being implemented by the MGB. Its main objective is to identify areas in the country which are susceptible or vulnerable to various geologic hazards. Under this program, the 1:10,000 scale landslide and flood susceptibility assessment of 1,634 cities and municipalities was completed.



## DENR: HAZARD MAPS PANGONTRA SA DELUBYO

TAMA ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa pagsasabing kailangang i-maximize ang paggamit ng Geohazard Maps sa lahat ng LGU's para sa kanilang disaster management.

Pero ano nga ba ang Geohazard Maps?

Isa itong uri ng mapa na ginagamit ng pamahalaan sa pagtukoy ng mga lugar na malaki ang posibilidad na tamaan ng sakuna o kalamidad.

Ginagamit din ito para matukoy ang mga dapat unahing lugar sa panahon ng lindol, baha o pagputok ng bulkan.

Kaya bago pa man mangyari ito, nakahanda na ang lahat sa pag-iwas sa delubyo.

Hindi lingid sa lahat na bago paman rumagasa ang bag-

yong Usman, ilang ulit na pinaalalahanan nina DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu at Undersecretary Benny Antiporda ang lahat ng local chief executive na mag-chair ng local disaster risk reduction and management council at provincial, city at municipal levels ukol sa mga geohazard sa mga lugar nila.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu, ang councils ang may responsibilidad sa pagsasagawa ng disaster management and risk reduction plans para mabawasan kung hindi man maiwasan ang pagkasawi sa panahon ng delubyo o kalamidad.

Kaya nga, ang panukala ni Usec. Antiporda, eh, kinakailangan ng mga local official na gumamit ng geohazard maps



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

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

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CARTOON

Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE

# Please drop the 'DROPS'

By MAE LORRAINE R. LORENZO

**T**he sight of paper lanterns floating across the night sky creates a spectacular picture. It's romantic, sentimental, and unforgettable.

It's all beauty and symbolism until the lanterns crash down on earth and changes the picture – suddenly, lantern debris don't make a pretty picture after all.

For the past decade or so, we've seen countless moments where big events, both personal or corporate, turn to launching paper lanterns (also known as sky lanterns) and helium balloons as part of a program. The decision to use them is just symbolic, without any real purpose other than to make the occasion more 'memorable' or in this age of social media, more 'Instagrammable'.

But beyond aesthetics, the use of these celebratory materials poses a bigger problem for the environment – one that should be considered before planning another aerial launch.

## No joy for the environment

Paper lanterns, even those which are claimed to have been made from biodegradable materials, use thin metal wires to support it. Wires take longer to break down, which is why once a paper lantern falls, there's still a big chance that animals (both land and marine) can actually ingest these, putting their lives in danger.

According to advocate group Balloon Blow, sky lantern parts can take over a year to completely dissolve.

Balloons pose a similar problem.

"Balloons that are classified as biodegradable are made from natural latex," the group Haribon Foundation, said. According to Haribon, natural latex degrades naturally through mechanical means and light exposure which takes several months or even years to totally break down.

"It takes about four years for a latex balloon to completely decompose and when released in the air and eventually pops, its little pieces, which will highly end up in rivers and waterways, will have plenty of time

'Balloon or lantern drops are just symbolic, without any real purpose other than to make the occasion more 'memorable'. But beyond aesthetics, these pose a dire problem for the environment.'

for marine animals to mistake them for food," said the group.

Marine mammals, sea turtles and seabirds can get injured, entangled or killed due to discarded plastics found in the oceans. Bits of plastics are commonly mistaken for food. Other plastic debris entangle or suffocate corals and many marine organisms causing irreparable physical damage or mortality.

"Toxins and chemicals from plastics harm marine life and may get absorbed into the fish and other food source that we take in daily," the group warned.

Almost five million pieces of tiny trash were collected from the world's oceans in 2017. In the Philippines, nearly one million small plastics were found in our shorelines last year making it the most common coastal trash in the country, and making use of balloons and sky lanterns does not help at all in controlling the debris.

There have been various records worldwide of the danger of using sky

lanterns and helium balloons. For example, in Ohio, the huge balloon release stunt in 1986, dubbed the Balloonfest '86 ended up causing serious problems when almost 1.5 million mass-released latex balloons were blown back to the city due to a typhoon and created navigation issues for transport and rescue operations which caused traffic collisions and deaths.

Several days after, the balloons clogged the roads and waterways and some were reportedly washed ashore in Canada. In fact, The Guinness World Records has refused to recognize the event and has since no longer acknowledged record-breaking attempts that may prove harmful to the environment.

## Groups speak up

To celebrate the recent New Year, various events which planned to use balloons and paper lanterns caught the attention of various eco groups in the country.

"Filipino culture is very rich and our indigenous knowledge, systems and practices are generally rooted from nature. Balloon and sky lantern releases are, in the place, not originally Filipino. Our celebrations are not actually based on the culture of waste but rather on our deep relationship with the environment, God or deities and family. We have forgotten that the planet we trash is the planet we need. In this age of cataclysmic weather conditions, the impacts are unprecedented affecting our lives and livelihoods. We are all called to start acting from within, as individuals, because every small effort counts," said Rodne R. Galicha, country manager of The Climate Reality Project Philippines.





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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1898

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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*Please Drop the "DROP"*

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"The Earth is a gift and we are all called to be stewards. God will definitely not hear our prayers written on sky lanterns which degrade and destroy what he created out of love. Pope Francis is very clear in saying that the 'use and throw away' logic generates so much waste, because of the disordered desire to consume more than what is really necessary," according to Living Laudato Si Philippines, an environmental group fostered by the teachings of the Catholic Church.

## Citizens rise up

Apart from the environmental groups, everyday citizens and netizens have recently taken up the challenge to dissuade large corporations from using sky lanterns and balloons.

Last December, netizens voiced their opposition to various New Year balloon drops. The move inspired a lot of hotels and resorts to pause and re-evaluate their eco-consciousness.

For example, in Cebu, a French restaurant canceled its plans to release sky lanterns for the Sinulog festival following oppositions from netizens.

The recent opposition to the use of sky lanterns and balloons for events proved that there is still hope among Filipinos - that in unison, their voices can be heard rallying for the good of the environment.

Hopefully, companies would think twice (or thrice) before implementing activities that have dire impact on Earth. If they want to go for 'symbolism', then they have to drop their culture of waste and start going the green way.



## fast read

THERE ARE VARIOUS COMPELLING REASONS WHY BALLOON DROPS SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED, THESE ARE THE TOP 5 TOP REASONS:

1. BALLOON MATERIALS (LATEX), DON'T DISSOLVE EASILY AND DEBRIS CAN FIND ITS WAY TO THE OCEAN AND BE INGESTED BY MARINE ANIMALS.
2. BALLOON DEBRIS AND EVEN STRINGS USED FOR IT CAN ENTANGLE BOTH LAND AND MARINE ANIMALS WHICH CAN POSE A PROBLEM TO IMPORTANT MOVEMENTS SUCH AS FEEDING AND FLEEING A PREDATOR.
3. EVEN IF BALLOONS DO 'BREAK DOWN', THERE'S A BIG CHANCE THE MATERIAL COULD TRANSFORM INTO MICROPLASTICS WHICH ARE INGESTED NOT ONLY BY ANIMALS BUT HUMANS AS WELL.
4. BALLOONS CAN CAUSE TROUBLE FOR BIRDS IN FLIGHT. THERE'S A BIG CHANCE THAT HELIUM BALLOONS CAN GET ENTANGLED WITH FLYING BIRDS AND CAUSE TROUBLE DURING FLIGHT.
5. APART FROM LATEX BALLOONS, THERE ARE GROUPS THAT MAKE USE OF METALLIC MATERIALS WHICH CAN ACTUALLY AFFECT POWER LINES. IN THE US, HUNDREDS OF POWER OUTAGES HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO METALLIC BALLOONS GETTING CAUGHT IN POWER GRIDS.



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# Balloons, sky lanterns harm the environment

**T**HE spectacle of the symbolic releasing of balloons and night sky lanterns is, without a doubt, a beautiful sight to behold and has become increasingly popular at festivals, weddings and other celebrations across the world.

For Filipinos, the event is oftentimes symbolic and can even be observed in occasions such as burials. But after traveling for long distances and falling to the ground or waters, the burn-out and plastic remnants from the lanterns and balloons may not only litter the earth and seas, but can also hurt livestock and marine animals.

So people and corporations should think twice about using sky lanterns and helium balloons as they pose threats to the environment, conservation group Haribon Foundation said.

"Balloons that are classified as biodegradable are made from natural latex," the group echoed. According to Haribon, natural latex degrades naturally through mechanical means and light exposure that takes several months or even years to totally break down.

"It takes about 4 years for a latex balloon to completely decompose and when released in the air and eventually pops, its little pieces, which will highly end up in rivers and waterways, will have plenty of time for marine animals to

mistake them for food," the group said.

Marine mammals, sea turtles and seabirds can get either injured, entangled or killed from discarded plastics found in the oceans. Bits of plastics are commonly mistaken for food that kills turtles, birds and fish.

According to Haribon Foundation, "other plastic debris entangle or suffocate corals and many marine organisms causing them physical damage or mortality.

"Toxins and chemicals from plastics harm marine life and may get absorbed into the fish and other food source that we take in daily," warned Haribon.

## Top trash in the Philippines

Almost 5 million pieces of tiny trash were collected from the world's oceans in 2017. In the Philippines, nearly 1 million small plastics were found in shorelines last year, making it the most common coastal trash in the country today.

In Ohio, Cleveland, the huge balloon release stunt in 1986,

dubbed Balloonfest '86, ended up causing serious problems when almost 1.5 million mass-released latex balloons were blown back to the city by a typhoon and created navigation issues for transport and rescue operations, which caused traffic collisions and the death of two local fishermen.

Several days after, the balloons clogged the roads and waterways in Ohio and some were reportedly washed ashore in Canada. The Guinness World Records has refused to recognize the event and has since no longer acknowledged record-breaking attempts that may prove harmful to the environment.

Just a week ago, indoor beach club Cove Manila's "largest balloon drop" of over 130,000 balloons for its New Year's Eve countdown party did not push through because of criticisms on its potential environmental impacts from concerned citizens and as a directive from the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau.

Recently, a French restaurant in Cebu canceled its plans to release sky lanterns for the *Sinulog* festival following oppositions from netizens. The statement also cited the aborted plan of Okada's Cove Manila to hold the biggest balloon drop in the world.

## Sky lantern hazard

Previous reports have recorded massive structural and wildfires caused by malfunctioned candle-lit lanterns. In 2013, one sky lantern caused a vast 250-hectare wildfire in Washington in the United States that required 100 firemen to put out.

Like latex balloons, most sky lanterns are labeled as made from "biodegradable" materials. According to advocate group Balloon Blow, sky lantern parts can take over a year to completely dissolve.

Haribon warns consumers about products marked as "biodegradable" as some of these materials such as "biodegradable plastics" do not break down as fast as the label suggests. According to Haribon, anything that remains on land or water for an extended period of time becomes a threat to wildlife and nature.

"We want groups to be more environmentally-responsible in their decisions, to make choices that will promote the health of all forms of life, and not create threats to our environment today that may have irreversible effects in the future," urged Haribon.

The use of balloons and sky lanterns are already banned in some parts of Australia, Germany, Spain, Vietnam, and the United States.

**KITTY GAMBOA-AMANTE**



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Trusted Since 1898

# The Manila Times

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Balloons, sky lanterns harm the environment



While balloons are classified as biodegradable since they are made from natural latex, it will take several months or years before they totally break down. Once they land in waters or shores, they can end up being eaten by marine animals. HARIBON PHOTO



## Foreigners account for 60% of visitors to Boracay in 2018

By MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO

@akosistellaBM

Special to the BUSINESSMIRROR

**T**OTAL visitor arrivals in Boracay Island plunged by some 53 percent to 942,533 in 2018, from the historic high of 2 million the previous year. The massive drop in the number of tourists is attributed to the island's six-month closure from April 26 to October 26, which gave way to the rehabilitation effort of government agencies led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Data from the Department of Tourism (DOT) also showed of total visitor arrivals, 60 percent or 565,530 were foreign tourists, while the rest were Philippine residents and Filipinos residing abroad.

DOT Undersecretary for Tourism Regulation, Coordination & Resource Generation Arturo P. Boncato Jr. expressed optimism that foreign tourists would continue to look at Boracay as a major destination in Asia, especially now that it has been reopened and restored to its pristine glory. He noted that in his trip last November to attend the World Travel Market in London, "there was heightened interest in Boracay, especially with the rehabilitation it had undergone; many were eager to visit." Tourists from the United Kingdom account for among the largest number of European visitors to Boracay.

As this developed, at least P340 million will be spent this year by member-agencies of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) to continue the upgrading of infrastructure on the popular resort island.

In an interview with the BUSINESSMIRROR, DENR Undersecretary for Attached Agencies Sherwin Rigor said the largest capital outlay of some P300 million will be for "phase two" of the main road construction project on the island. This is being implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

The DPWH had previously committed to complete the widening of the main road until the Elizalde property on Station 1 by the island's reopening on October 26. The agency, however, failed to achieve the target ostensibly due to the rains brought on by the monsoon season.

He added, the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (Tieza) will also spend P25 million to put up a "complete lighting system on the main beachfront, Diniwid Beach, and other alleys." He said these will be solar lighting systems with atop posts, with a battery system to enable them to be lit at night. "This will be installed by February; the project is being bid out this January," said Rigor.

Since the island reopened last October 26, locals and tourists have been complaining of the dark beachfront, giving rise to safety concerns. The BIATF had earlier removed the lights along the beachfront because these were nailed to the coconut trees, which is considered an environmental violation.

Another major project by the BIATF, is a P15-million park development project in Wetland No. 4, to be funded by Tieza. Wetland No. 4, which is the lagoon across the main road from McDonald's at D'Mall, is being rehabilitated by the Aboitiz Group. According to the DENR official, the Aboitiz project will include a floating garden on the lagoon itself, "so we will have a carbon exchange."

On the other hand, the Tieza park project will include a car park, public restrooms, park benches and facilities for persons with disability. The project will likely be completed by October-November 2019, Rigor said.

"Those are big projects, especially the common lighting system," he noted. "These will include CCTV cameras, whose images will be transmitted to the task force's command center on the island, but linked up to the police, local government unit and other authorities," he added. The command center will likely be turned over to the Boracay Island development authority that will be created by President Duterte.

Rigor said the President will likely sign the executive order setting up a body to oversee the management of Boracay Island "this year," or before the expiration of EO 53 creating the BIATF. The BIATF is supposed to cease to exist by May 8, 2020, or two years after its creation.

Earlier, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat had announced that an EO creating a management authority to oversee Boracay will be headed by her agency, the DOT, but will still include her counterparts at the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Interior and Local Government.

Rigor said the BIATF will act as the "transitional authority" to the new development authority. While lawmakers in both houses of Congress have already filed their respective bills creating the island authority patterned after the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and similar government agencies, he expressed doubts said bills could be passed and approved before the first half of the year, due to the elections this May.



**METRO CORNER**

# Baguio City after Boracay



By **ERIK ESPINA**

**T**HE timely intervention of President Rodrigo Duterte in closing Boracay for rehabilitation is to be applauded, given the political, and the moral will, to save the pristine beaches and bucolic lifestyle of the world-famous tourist (including domestic "go-to-place") destination for sun and sand. Finally, an adult is in the room to have our laws enforced, particularly those meant to protect the environment.

Lessons learned in Boracay's hastened deterioration due to misguided business practices and the greed of local officials should be cited as warning to all. For an ongoing concern to prosper, e.g., tourism, trade, industry, urban expansion, etc., the operative word must be "sustainable development." We must be aware of the "absorb-tive" capacity of a certain place or locality. Meaning what is the comfortable and livable ratio between, land area

vis-a-vis people, tourists, informal settlers to live in? Open spaces, roads and Infrastructure vs. vehicles ratio? Location and proximity of business establishments which must provide standard intervals for recommended spacing and travel? Central to all the aforementioned is the problem of trash, including human waste, pollution levels in air and sea, and congestion per square kilometer, including violations of environmental laws.

Aside from the Department of Environment, the passage of land use and zoning is basic. The creation of the Presidential Office on Sustainable Urban and Land Development is a necessity for oversight functions, including the monitoring of increased levels of urban migrations and the phenomenon of "chain migration" by families and clans into urban economic centers.

Sorry to say, local officials are part of the problem in the absence of any clear and stable urban planning. Boracay must

be the template in what must be a continuing crusade to resuscitate decrepit and deteriorating tourist and urban environments.

Baguio City is one tourist destination that must be

subjected to presidential supervision given the actual experience of residents and travelers to the "Summer Capital" as a mirroring of Boracay. Mactan, Cordova, Talisay Beaches in Cebu, Palawan as well.



**SEÑOR  
SENADOR**  
Erik Espina

## Baguio, sunod na Boracay

**K**ARAPAT-DAPAT palakpakan si Presidente Rodrigo Duterte sa kanyang naging hakbang na ipasara ang sikat na Boracay Island. Isang pulo na kilalang bakasyon ng maraming turista sa buong mundo at nating mga

Pilipino dahil sa maputing buhangin nito. Dati ko ng binisto sa ilang nakalipas na kolum ang tungkol sa lumalalang polusyon sa baybaying karagatan nito. Paminsan-minsan ay may umaalingasaw na antot mula sa duming-tao dahil sa kakulangan ng poso-negro, mga daluyan ng palikuran na basta na lang sa ilalim ng lupa nakabaon, mga tubong may tagas mula hotel, restoran, bar, kabahayan, at iba pa o sa madaling salita, sa karagatan na dinudura ang lahat ng dumi.

Nagawaran ng pangalawang buhay ang Boracay dahil nakialam ang Malacañang sa mga walang habas na paglabag sa batas at kalikasan ng mga responsable sa pagrumi ng isla. Mahalagang maunawaan na may hangganan ang kapasidad ng isang lugar

o pook na bunuin ang dagsa ng turista, sasakyan, basurang nalilikom, duming-  
tao, usok, at trapik kahit lumobo pa ang kinikitang dolyares nito.

Napapanahon na talaga ang aking panukalang pagpapatayo ng Presidential Urban Planning & Sustainable Development Office. Bukod ito sa dapat na gampanin at pananagutan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Hindi na maaaring basta mag-isang kalungin ang pagpapalano sa naglalakihan at umuusbong na lungsod sa lokal na pamahalaan. Ito ay nagaganap marahil dahil sa rami ng nakalulusot na kurapsyon sa pagitan ng lokal na pamahalaan at ng mga tiwaling negosyante.

Dapat na ring panghimasukan ng

Palasyo ang lumalalang estado ng iba't-ibang lugar tulad sa Baguio City, baybayin sa Palawan, Mactan at Talisay City sa Cebu. Aminin natin, mahina ang mga lokal na pamahalaan pagdating sa "urban planning at sustainable development". Dapat ding huwag ng ikalong sa pamahalaang lokal ang paggawad ng prangkisa sa mga tricycle, pedicab, at habal-habal (angkas) dahil hindi nga matanganan ang pamumutakte nito, kasi nga, botante nila. Mabuti pang ilipat ang tungkulin sa Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB). Payo ko, buhaying muli ang mga ilog, sapa, at isulong ang zoning at land use sa lungsod, lalo na sa mga lugar na dinaragsa ng maraming mamumuhunan.



# Mining firms 'guarded' about 2019 amid trade war fears

MINING COMPANIES expressed "guarded optimism" about their prospects in 2019 as global metal prices stabilize due to balanced supply and demand, though the equilibrium could be disrupted by a worsening of the trade war between the United States and China, proposed tax laws for the Philippine mining industry, as well as ban on open pit mining.

"CoMP (Chamber of Mines of the Philippines) views 2019 with guarded optimism. Global metal prices are expected to be generally stable, reflecting the assumption of balanced supply and demand conditions. However, China remains the major force behind the metals and mining industry worldwide. Any fluctuations will likely be related to developments in this market and its ongoing trade war with the US," Rocky G. Dimaculangan, Vice-President for Communications of CoMP, told *BusinessWorld* in an e-mail on Wednesday.

"The bigger cause for concern for the Philippine mining industry is the ongoing moratorium on mining permits under Executive Order (EO) 79 and the ban on open pit mining under DENR Administrative Order 2018-19.

EO 79 states that the moratorium will not be lifted until a new mining tax regime is legislated, but despite the doubling of mining excise tax from 2% to 4% of gross output, the moratorium remains in place," Mr. Dimaculangan told *BusinessWorld* in an e-mail on Wednesday.

Mr. Dimaculangan said that CoMP believes that a profit-based royalty and windfall profits tax structure wherein rates are tied to operating margins, a bill outlining which has passed in the House of Representatives, is the most equitable way to increasing mining taxes.

Mr. Dimaculangan said that CoMP hopes a similar bill will be passed in the Senate to encourage quality investment, as well as help existing mining companies.

"The Chamber hopes this same structure will be approved by the Senate to help sustain existing mining operations, encourage quality investments in the hugely untapped Philippine minerals sector, and finally lift the moratorium on mining permits," Mr. Dimaculangan said.

Last month, in a year-end news conference, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said that it has

a positive outlook for the mining industry in 2019 under the new fiscal regime which is to be implemented in the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) 2 bill.

"We see a positive outlook for the mining industry. What the MICC (Mining Industry Coordinating Council) is saying was the new fiscal regime will happen once the second package of the TRAIN Law is passed and that will really provide a more advantageous package for the government," DENR Undersecretary Analiza A. Rebuelta-Teh said last Dec. 20.

"In that case, although there is the current version of the pending bill where there will be a decrease in the royalty tax for the mineral reservations, it can be offset in other forms in the new fiscal regime," Ms. Teh added.

Mr. Dimaculangan, however, noted that with the order issued by DENR to close and suspend 26 mining companies "has caused a significant loss of potential export receipts, tax revenues, and social progress unless the open pit issue is resolved." The order was made by former DENR Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez, and was continued by current Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Mr. Dimaculangan said that the Tampakan Copper Project, the King-King Gold-Copper Project, and the Silangan Gold Copper Project are on hold due to the DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2018-19 signed on Aug. 17, 2018.

The DAO sets a maximum area of extraction of ore at any given time depending on the scale of mining, which are: 50 hectares for one million metric tons (MT) or less; 60 hectares for more than one million MT but less than three million; 70 hectares for three million MT but less than five million; 80 hectares for five million MT but less than seven million; 90 hectares for seven million MT but less than nine million; and 100 hectares for nine million and up.

Mr. Dimaculangan said that a total of P303 billion worth of national government revenue and P47.6 billion next export commitment are the potential losses due to the suspension of these open pit mining projects.

Mr. Dimaculangan said that open pit mining is "an internationally accepted, environmentally safe method of extracting minerals." — **Reicelene Joy N. Ignacio**



## NAGSAGAWA NG DIALOGO ANG CHINA MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES SA PILIPINAS

NOONG bumisita sa Pilipinas ang mga opisyal ng China Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) nagpapakita ng isang maikling presentasyon na ng mga mandato ng bawal't ahensiya, mga programa at proyekto at posibleng lugar para sa pakikipagtulungan, tulad ng sumusunod: National Water Resources Board (NWRB), BSWM, NIA, DPWH, OCD, CCC, NPC, at PAGASA.

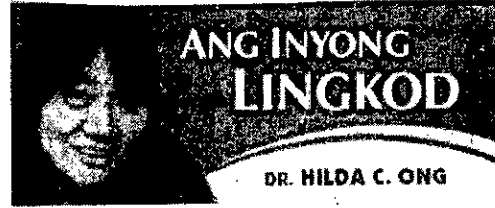
Ang ilan sa mga pagtatanghal ay ang mga sumusunod:

Sa mga tuntunin ukol sa tagumpay sa sektor ng tubig, ang Republika ng Tsina ay nakakuha ng mga kapansin-pansin na tagumpay sa paglulunsad ng napakalaking mga proyekto ng konserbasyon ng

tubig, pag-iwas sa baha at kontrol, garantiya ng may supply ng tubig, pag-iimbak ng tubig sa lupa, pagpapabuti ng kapaligiran ng tubig, at pag-unlad ng institusyon para sa water governance at pamamahala.

Ang bagong water governance and management system ay nakumpleto - ang Three Gorges Project Committee of the State Council at ang tanggapan nito, ang South-to-North Water Diversion Project Committee of the State Council at ang opisina nito ay pinagsama sa Ministry of Water Resources.

Na ang mga tungkulin ay pinalawak upang masakop ang pagpapaunlad, paggamit at pag-iingat ng mga mapagkukunan ng tubig, pagtatayo ng mga proyekto ng tubig, pamamahala ng mga pasilidad ng pantalan, pagsisiyasat at paghawak ng water-related offenses, at pagpapalano para sa pagkontrol sa



baha.

Pagtatag ng isang legal na sistema na namamahala sa mga mapagkukunan ng tubig tulad ng Batas sa Tubig, batas sa Flood Control, batas sa Water at Soil Conservation, at batas sa Water Pollution Prevention and Control bilang sentro ng pagbabalangkas, na sinusupportahan ng mga regulasyon sa konserbasyon ng tubig.

Inilarawan ng pamahalaang China ang madiskarteng pag-iisip nito para sa pamamahala ng tubig para sa bagong panahon tulad ng: a) pag-iingat muna; b) balanseng pamamahagi ng spatial; c) sistematikong pamamahala; at d) koordinasyon sa merkado ng pamahalaan na gagabay sa pamamahala ng tubig sa Tsina sa hinaharap.

Ang Tsina ay nakapuntos ng kapansin-pansin na

tagumpay sa multilateral at bilateral na kooperasyon, sa mga tuntunin ng pagkontrol sa baha at pagpapagaan sa sakuna at trans-boundary river management. Ang MWR ay nagkaroon ng friendly partnership sa mga ahensiya ng tubig sa higit 70 na bansa at rehiyon at itinatag ang higit sa 30 bilateral na regular na kooperasyon at mga exchange mechanism sa pamamagitan ng aktibong pagbabahagi ng mga karanasan sa pamamahala ng tubig upang magambag sa mga Chinese practice at solusyon sa mga global water issue.





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# GREEN IS IN!

## Tourists help regreen Catanduanes

Visitors to the island province of Catanduanes can enjoy its natural allure, and at the same time make a meaningful share in nurturing Mother Earth.

This after the provincial government adopted a unique program which provides tourists the opportunity to plant trees during their stay.

Provincial tourism head Carmel Bonifacio-Garcia said that the undertaking called "One Tourist, One Tree" encourages foreign and domestic tourists to plant a tree in areas identified by the provincial government. She said the program was born in 2015 to help promote responsible and sustainable tourism in Catanduanes by incorporating the tree-planting activity into the itiner-

ary of the guests as well as sporting events.

She added that the undertaking also intends to support the programs of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) aimed at reforesting the archipelago to mitigate the impact of climate change. The province is listed by the DENR as among the country's most important biodiversity areas.

For the past four years, some 1,280 trees have been planted at Mt. Cagmasoso in San Andres, Pag-Asa Radar Station in Bato, Puraran Beach and Balacay Point in Baras, Carangyan Beach in Pandan, Simamla Breeding Station, a government facility in the capital town of Virac.



## DENR, farmers revive grassland

**SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga:** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has partnered with a group of upland farmers in bringing back trees in a portion of grassland ecosystem in Zambales.

The Malatapi Community Livelihood Center Inc. (MCLCI) in Candelaria town, a people's organization and beneficiary of the DENR's Community-Based Forest Management Program, uses a cost-efficient way to establish a second-growth forest.

"MCLCI has managed to reforest a total of 60-hectare grassland portion of their CBFMP area without planting any seedlings or additional cost from us but through Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)," DENR Assistant Region 3 Director Arthur Salazar said.

"What the upland farmers did is to

find surviving tree species or seedlings including wildlings in the grassland area, then, they uprooted the grass around the tree, combined with grass pressing by foot to clear the surrounding of the tree species from weeds. This method of forest restoration is technically called as ANR," he explained.

ANR is a cost-efficient technology of rehabilitating degraded forest land and shrub vegetation by taking advantage of trees already growing in the area, and by protecting and nurturing them.

"They have protected the tree species from grass fire and grazing by establishing fire lines or fire breaks to make sure its survival. They have also constructed look-out tower for regular monitoring against any forest disturbance," he said. **PIA**



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## Project to improve water management proposed by Poland

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has welcomed the proposal of the Polish government and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to conduct a project that will improve water management in the Philippines.

The project's main objective is to identify how Poland and the OECD could support the Philippines to address water-related challenges and contribute to the implementation of effective and efficient water sector policy.

It is divided into two phases and is expected to be implemented this year. The first phase is a capacity-building workshop in Manila for a group of policy makers in the Philippines.

OECD experts and policy makers from Poland, including private sector experts will serve as resource persons.

The second phase is a study visit to Poland to acquire first-hand experience of existing practices in Polish cities.

This project is also in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Economic Development Authority, and Department of Foreign Affairs.



## 'Garbage' goes back to sender South Korea

**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY:** Repatriation of 6,300 tons of garbage shipped to Tagolo-an, Misamis Oriental, from South Korea last year has been scheduled for Sunday, a Customs official said on Wednesday.

John Simon, head of the Bureau of Customs sub-port at the Phividec Industrial Estate in Misamis Oriental (PIE-MO), said the cargo vessel *MV Kalliroe* of Maersk Shipping Lines is expected to arrive on Saturday, January 12.

"Loading of the cargo would immediately start upon arrival here because the South Korea-bound vessel would leave the following day," Simon added.

He said the first to be shipped back would be the 1,200 tons that first arrived at the PIE-MO industrial zone in July 2018.

The remaining 5,100 tons, loaded in 51 container vans and disguised as recyclable raw materials for plastics, which arrived at the port in mid-October 2018, would follow because these would still be repacked and inventoried prior to their shipment to South Korea, according to the Customs official.

He said the garbage, disguised as recyclable raw materials for plastics, first arrived at the PIE-MO industrial zone in July last year.

The cargo was consigned to Verde Soco, a South Korean company, whose management entered a memorandum of understanding with the PIE-MO to operate a plastics factory in Misamis Oriental.

The problem started when Verde Soco did not allow representatives from the local government unit, the provincial board and the local media to investigate the cargo after residents here complained about the suspicious shipments.

"The residents were alarmed after they noticed something suspicious about the cargo, which were shipped as open cargo by a foreign vessel," Provincial Board Member Gerardo Sabal said.

Residents in nearby coastal areas have also complained of a "foul smell" emanating from the cargo, prompting the local government and local media to investigate, he added.

Sabal said the security guard assigned at Verde Soco's main gate refused to let the investigators in, again prompting the media to report the suspicious cargo.

An inter-agency investigation called by the provincial board's committee on health exposed the "environmental violations" that Verde Soco had reportedly committed, he added.

*The Manila Times* ran the first story exposing the alleged garbage cargo.

It was then invited to shed light on the report during a series of hearings that the provincial board of Misamis Oriental called regarding the matter.

The Bureau of Customs (BoC) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources denied knowledge of the initial shipment of 5,100 tons of alleged raw materials for the recycling of plastics.

BoC found out that Customs had not issued importation clearance certificates and the cargo was later found out to be "misdeclared," Simon said.

He added that the problem was compounded when another shipment, which was again consigned to Verde Soco, arrived at the Mindanao International Container Terminal in Tagolo-an, Misamis Oriental in mid-October last year.

An inter-agency probe also found that the alleged garbage loaded in 51 container vans was mostly contaminated medical trash, wood and rusty iron, Simon said.

He added that the BoC immediately issued a cease and desist order against Verde Soco along with a status quo order against all the cargos while the BoC arbitration committee convened and issued a resolution to repatriate the shipments.

Simon said representatives from South Korea came to Misamis Oriental on December 27 to conduct an investigation and inspect the imported garbage from South Korea.

He added that the South Korean team came from the Ministry of the Korean Environmental Management represented by Director Yeo Jae Gap, Director Han Kee Chang and Director Kim Young Gi.

**CRIS DIAZ**



## Basurang nakatambak sa MICT ibabalik ng barko sa SoKor

TINIYAK ng EcoWaste Coalition na kanilang babantayan ang pagsasakay sa cargo vessel ng mga imported na basurang galing South Korea para masiguro na walang maiiwan sa bansa.

Sa Linggo, Enero 13 na ibabalik sa South Korea ang mga basura na kasalukuyang nakaimbak sa Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT) sa Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, ayon sa environmental group.

Sinabi ni EcoWaste Coalition National Coordinator Aileen Lucero na batay sa kumpirmasyon ni MICT Port Collector John Simon, Enero 13 aalisin ang mga basura sa nasabing port.

Enero 12 aniya darating sa Cagayan de Oro ang barko ng Maersk Shipping Lines at agad din nilang ikakarga ang mga basura at alasinuwebhe nang umaga ng Enero 13 ito aalis.

(Tina Mendoza)



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# 'Traslacion' not trash-free

## Environment watchdog says devotees ignored calls for proper waste disposal

By Melvin Gascon  
@melvingasconINQ

An environment advocacy group on Wednesday criticized devotees of the Black Nazarene for leaving behind piles of trash along the procession route.

In a statement, Ecowaste Coalition lamented how participants in this year's "Traslacion" ignored calls to dispose of their garbage properly, leaving behind used food packs and spoiled leftovers, even soiled diapers and plastic bottles filled with urine.

"Our public appeal for a trash-less traslacion has again fallen on deaf ears. Many people unashamedly threw their

garbage anywhere, turning the parade ground fronting the Quirino Grandstand into a dumping ground," said Daniel Alejandro, Zero Waste campaigner of Ecowaste.

### Different kinds of trash

The group reported that their volunteers also found makeshift bedding, cup noodles, coffee sachets, cigarette butts and other plastic waste at Rizal Park on Wednesday morning, hours after the Black Nazarene procession, along with millions of devotees, left for Quiapo Church.

"Families and [groups] who flocked to the park and even set up tents for the overnight vigil left piles of rubbish behind just

like in previous years. There were many urine-filled PET bottles lying on the ground," Alejandro said.

The garbage situation was "similarly dreadful" at the Quiapo district, with litter scattered all over the place, according to Ecowaste.

The group's volunteers also reported "rampant" disposal of styrofoam food containers at street corners and on sidewalks, and in areas where exhausted devotees ate and rested.

### Take responsibility

Alejandro urged traslacion participants to show their spiritual devotion by caring for the environment as "stewards of

God's creation," and to take full responsibility for their discards and not to rely on other people to clean up after them.

"We hope that our people's devotion to the Black Nazarene will also find its expression in the way we act toward our shared environment—with care and respect," he said.

### No qualms about littering

"People seem to have no qualms about littering, a prohibited act under our local and national environmental laws that (are) more often disregarded than enforced. Littering, especially in godly activities, is totally unacceptable. Devotion should not lead to pollution," Alejandro added. INQ



## Adopt zero-waste lifestyle – Legarda

Sen. Loren Legarda has encouraged the public to start a zero-waste lifestyle, especially avoiding the use of plastics to welcome a new year.

Legarda said the shift to zero-waste lifestyle may not be easy, but with the start of 2019, people can definitely add this to their resolutions.

“Let us welcome the new year with a resolve to be better citizens of the Earth by adopting an eco-friendly, zero-waste lifestyle,” Legarda said. “A zero-waste lifestyle means using products that can be reused and promoting processes that avoid or eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste. It means creating little to no

waste. It is veering away from the throwaway culture by reusing, reducing and recycling.”

Legarda believes that the implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) Law, which she authored, and the passing of her proposed Senate Bill 1948, or the Single-Use Plastics Regulation and Management Act of 2018, would ease the transition to a zero-waste lifestyle.

The ESWM Law implements a system of solid waste management that includes segregation of garbage at its source, segregated transportation, processing, treatment and proper disposal of solid waste.

– Cecille Suerte Felipe



# HATAWA

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### **BASURA 'UMAPAW' SA TRASLACION 'ZERO-WASTE' CAMPAIGN WA-EPEK SA DEBOTO**

SA kabila ng kampanya ng ilang grupong maging 'zero-waste' ang Traslacion ngayong taon, nag-iwan pa rin ang libo-libong deboto ng Itim na Poong Nazareno ng mga basura sa rutang dinaanan ng prusisyon.

Ayon kay Daniel Alejandre ng Ecowaste Coalition, tila bingi ang publiko sa kanilang pakiusap na magkaroon ng trash-less at zero-waste na Traslacion dahil sa walang habas na pagtatapon ng basura sa harap ng Quirino Grandstand.

Bundok-bundok na basura ang iniwan ng mga debotong nag-camp out sa Quirino Grandstand kabilang ang mga tinulugan nilang mga karton at plastik, pinagkainan, mga plastik na bote, at mga tsinelas.

Itinala ng EcoWaste Coalition na kasama sa mga iniwang basura ng mga deboto ang mga diaper at wipes, tirang pagkain at lalagyan nito, plastik na bote na may lamang ihi, cup noodles, sachet ng kape, upos ng sigarilyo, at iba pang mga plastik na produkto.

Dagdag ni Alejandre, walang takot magkalat ang mga deboto na kung tutuusin ay paglabag sa lokal at pambansang batas pangkalikasan na mas madalas winawalang-bahala kaysa ipatupad.

Ang pagtatapon ng basura, lalo pa tuwing may gawaing pangrelihiyon, ay hindi katanggap-tanggap. Ang debosyon, ariya, ay hindi dapat nagiging dahilan ng polusyon.

Naobserbahan din ng grupo ang parehong kalunos-lunos na kalagayan sa distrito ng Quiapo na natagpuan ng mga volunteer ang mga styrofoam na pinaglagyan ng mga pagkain na nakakalat sa mga kanto,

tábing-kalsada, at iba pang lugar na pinagpahingahan at kinainan ang mga deboto.

Nagkaisa ang Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila, EcoWaste Coalition at mga miyembro ng mga grupong pang-sibiko at pangrelihiyon na linisin ang iniwanan ng mga deboto ng Poong Itim na Nazareno.

Dala ang mga walis at pandakot, nagkaisa ang mga street sweeper sa pagtipon ng mga basurang iniwan ng mga debotong lumahok sa

Traslacion.

Gumamit ng trak na may malalaking walis sa ilalim ang MMDA at local na pamahalaan ng Maynila upang mapabilis ang pagtatanggal ng mga kalat sa lansangan.

"Umaasa tayong katulad ng pagkalinga at respetong binibigay ng mga deboto sa Mahal na Itim na Nazareno ay maibigay din nila para sa iisang mundong ating tinitirhan," malungkot na pahayag ni Alejandre.

Sa datos, nakalikom ang MMDA ng 385 toneladang basura noong Traslacion 2018 - 10% na mas marami kaysa nakolekta noong 2017.





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## Albay upgrades landslide warning criteria

By NINO N. LUCES

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay – The Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office (APSEMO) has upgraded warning criteria for landslides following the massive landslide brought by Tropical Depression "Usman" in Tiwi town that killed 18 people and injured 18.

APSEMO chief, Dr. Cedric Daep, told Manila Bulletin they have lowered the threshold of the landslide warning based on the latest experience when the tail-end of a cold front (TECF) battered Bicol last December.

Daep said the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) recorded the rainfall on Dec. 28 at 221.8 millimeters, and 215.15 mm on Dec. 29, that caused landslide in Tiwi.

"So for two days, a total of 437.2 mm rainfall recorded and that is equivalent to 84 percent of monthly rainfall. The average is 520.2-mm for one month," he said.

From now on, once Pagasa records 130 mm to 150 mm rainfall, residents in high-risk areas to landslide will be evacuated, Daep said.



## NVizcaya mine continues protection of rivers

ARTISANAL mining, including some small-scale mining prevalent upstream in the upland town of Kasibu which continues to this day, has resulted in the elevated total suspended solids (TSS) levels in the Didipio River and other rivers downstream.

This was according to the Baseline Study of the Major River System and Tributaries of *Barangay* (Village) Didipio conducted by the Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU) in 2004, prior to the entry of large-scale mining, particularly OceanaGold's Didipio Mine that started operation in 2013.

But General Manager David Way of OceanaGold's Didipio Mine said that from 2014 to 2018, they had seen an improvement of the natural river from using water management technologies while cooperating with the government and artisanal miners. The river was classified Class D prior to the development of OceanaGold's mining operation.

Way said the water management technologies the Didipio Mine has put in place include the water treatment plant, sewerage treatment plant, the Didipio Water Recycling and Purification Plant using hyperozone technology, and siltation (suspended solid settling) ponds.

OceanaGold, though its Didipio Mine, has also established plantation sites for its Mining Forest Program and actively participates in the government's National Greening Program.

Since the 1997 commencement of the Mining Forest Program, OceanaGold has planted a total of 2.075 million trees.

"As of the third quarter of 2018, we have already reforested a total area of 1,258.30 hectares," Way said.

He said all reforestation included a

percentage of trees that did not survive relocation but their reforestation survival rate was 92 percent, or above the Philippine national standard of 80 percent.

"In addition to reforestation and greening programs, we also have biodiversity initiatives including partnership with state universities and colleges, local government units and international organizations," Way added.

He said they have also funded the Kasibu municipality's initiative to appoint forest rangers (*Bantay Gubat*) who manage and protect public forest.

OceanaGold, through Didipio Mine, also supports annual ecological assessment and biodiversity monitoring by NVSU and Quirino State University under its Environmental Compliance Certificate, while partnering with the Isabela State University to support the Addalam River Integrated Watershed Management Study.

"We also collaborate with PhD students from NVSU to conduct a study on the natural and social dimensions of stream-riparian ecosystems in Didipio," Way said, adding they continue with the assessment of the river's upstream, midstream and downstream systems, and watershed rehabilitation areas.

He said their partnership with the International River Foundation is to support the restoration of the Cagayan River.

Other biodiversity activities include utilization of mass propagation of endemic plants through macrosomatic clonal propagation.

"This is using one tree to harvest more than one seedling," Way said.

Meanwhile, a dedicated nursery has been established to grow a range of forest tree species.

**LEANDER C. DOMINGO**



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# Environmental shifts and pressures will shape the world in 2030

**E**NVIRONMENTAL shifts and pressures are one of the megatrend drivers that will drive change and shape the world in 2030, according to a research report of Euromonitor International released recently.

Megatrend, according to the report, "is a shift in behavior or attitudes that has global impact and crosses industries. It is not a short-term fad; rather it is a trend with longevity, one which represents a fundamental shift in behaviour that is defining consumer markets." In a rapidly changing global environment, understanding and analysis of megatrend is critical for companies seeking to drive sustainable growth, and remain relevant as competition increases and new ideas disrupt entire industries.

The talk on the environment is no longer confined to the direction given by policy makers, there is now a growing social movement commanded by both economic and ethical imperatives, and supported by growing amount of data.

Environmental shifts and pressures indicate that competing demands and supply constraints combined with economic, environmental and geopolitical risks, create pressures on environmental resources. This results in an increasing focus of international agencies, governments, businesses and civil societies on climate



## ALL ABOUT CHOICES

**LUDWIG O. FEDERIGAN**

change.

One such example is on energy. According to Fraunhofer research group, in 2018, Germany, Europe's largest economy, generated 40 percent of its electricity mix from wind, solar, biomass and hydroelectric sources, topping the 38 percent from coal generation. In fact, Germany is steadily retiring its coal and nuclear power plants as it seeks to cut carbon emissions over the coming decades. The country will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent next year, and by 95 percent in 2050, compared to 1990 levels.

In the latest landmark United Nations (UN) scientific report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 C reported that "global warming which is likely to reach 1.5 C between 2030 and 2052" can be averted but "would require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructure [including transport and buildings], and industrial systems."

Our global net anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions should decline by about 45 per-

cent from 2010 levels by 2030, and reaching net zero around 2050.

Other identified megatrend drivers include:

### Population change

Based on the projection on population growth made by the UN, our global population will reach 8.6 billion by 2030. Demographic shifts such as urbanization, migration, higher life expectancy, falling birth rates and the increasing population of elderly people, are combining to reshape consumer lifestyles and purchasing decisions.

China alone, according to the Green Book of Population and Labor of the China Academy of Social Sciences, is set to reach a peak of 1.44 billion before 2030. Such number represents 16.7 percent of the projected population among nearly 200 countries.

Today, the fertility rates of all developed countries have fallen below 2.1 children born per female, the rate needed for a developed nation to hold its population constant. Population dynamics such as these drive consumer behavior, impacting household formation, purchasing power, tastes and lifestyles

### Changing values

In addition to the more material drivers, ideological drivers help feed and shape megatrends. From consumers to governments, beliefs about the world constantly



evolve, shaping priorities, perceptions, attitudes and motivations. In concert with the other drivers, these changing values then shape decision-making, from policy to purchases.

Generational shifts and cultural factors, as well as changing political scenarios such as the rise of populism, will continue shaping the way consumers think, perceive and behave in 2030.

## Technology

Technology plays a pivotal role in consumer decision-making and the ability of manufacturers and retailers to meet the needs of today's consumer. It encompasses everything from the development of mobile internet to 3D printing and artificial intelligence. The constant innovation within technology and ever-faster technological processes are driving consumer megatrends.

Its impact is global. Asia Pacific was home to more than half of the world's internet users in 2016, a result of a fast-expanding mobile subscriber base. In 2016, more than three-quarters of the global population were covered by a 3G network, and 86 percent of the population in developed economies had mobile internet access.

In the PwC-Management Association of the Philippines 2018 CEO Survey titled "The Future of Possibilities: Business in the Age of Disruption," all the 122 chief executive officers said that they

would introduce new technology, with 92 saying that they would invest in new technologies.

"A reliable business model is always updated," according to lawyer Alexander Cabrera, chairman and senior partner of Isla Lipana and Co./PwC Philippines. "Artificial intelligence, augmented reality, blockchain, drones, Internet of Things, robots and 3D printing are just some of the technologies that have disrupted and affected businesses across different industries globally, and even in our own business environment," he added.

One local conglomerate that uses technology to set-up one of its biggest corporate social responsibility projects is the Aboitiz Group on its Weather Philippines Foundation. Weather Philippines rolled out 800 weather stations across the country, and it has been growing since 2012.

In 2018, the group expanded the scope of the foundation, and created Weather Solutions. "The mandate of Weather Solutions is to monetize the data in the infrastructure of Weather Philippines. We're here to serve different industries such as agriculture, retail, aviation, transportation, and other sectors that are in need of data and weather information," Benigno Marasigan, president of Weather Solutions, said.

## Shifting economic power

With the rising importance of

emerging markets, increasing interest in frontier markets and fears-over advanced economy stagnation, the global economy has witnessed a paradigm shift. These changing dynamics are affecting all levels of society, from at-risk-of-default governments to job-insecure workers.

The turning point was in 2008 when emerging markets overtook developed countries for the first time in their contribution to world gross domestic product. This trend will continue with emerging and developing countries accounting for two-thirds of global output by 2030. There will be three emerging markets in the five largest economies in the world. Back in 1980, there were none.

The world is changing faster than ever, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep up with competitors. Amid this change, it is difficult for companies to understand why industries are evolving in the way they are today, much less predict how they will evolve into the future. "Understanding and analyzing megatrend allows companies to build a long-term strategy that is proactive, rather than reactive, making sense of where they stand today, but also ensuring they have a plan to remain relevant moving forward," the Euromonitor International report added.



## Scientists revise sea-level prediction at end of century

### First word

WHO is more likely to acknowledge error in his spine-tingling pronouncement — the politician or the scientist?

The scientist.

A scientist, who is serious about his research, will quickly admit error and adjust once facts prove him mistaken.

A politician, who is just grabbing publicity or smearing an adversary, will not take back his words, when proven wrong.

Robinson Meyer, a journalist who writes on climate change and technology, reported in the *Atlantic* on January 4, that two famous glaciologists (science specialists on glaciers) have publicly revised their dire sea-level prediction two years ago.

The news update has rewarded my continued monitoring of developments in the climate change debate.

It reinforces my earlier column on sea-level rise ("Climate scientist debunks 'sea level rise alarm,'" MT, Dec. 13, 2018), wherein I reported that a famous climate scientist had declared in a special report that sea-level rise projections were "very weakly justified."

I reproduce below a significant part of Robinson Meyer's article, "Sea-level Prediction Looks Far Less Likely" (*The Atlantic*, Jan. 4, 2019).

"One of the scariest scenarios for near-term, disastrous sea-level rise may be off the table for now, according to a new study previewed at a recent scientific conference.

"Two years ago, the glaciologists Robert DeConto and David Pollard rocked their field with a paper arguing that several massive glaciers in Antarctica were much more unstable than previously thought. Those key glaciers — which include Thwaites Glacier and Pine Island Glacier, both in the frigid continent's west — could increase global sea levels by more than three feet by 2100, the paper warned. Such a rise could destroy the homes of more than 150 million people worldwide.



### OBSERVER

YEN  
MAKABENTA

"They are now revisiting those results. In new work, conducted with three other prominent glaciologists, DeConto and Pollard have lowered some of their worst-case projections for the 21st century. Antarctica may only contribute about a foot of sea-level rise by 2100, they now say...

" Their new research also raises the marginal risk of disaster. Officially, the Paris Agreement aims to keep global warming from exceeding 2 degrees Celsius, though many experts consider that goal fanciful. And even in that extremely optimistic scenario, West Antarctica still switches into unavoidable collapse about 10 percent of the time, according to the new research.

" Their short-term revisions also barely change their long-term forecast of West Antarctic disintegration. If emissions keep rising, they warn that global sea level could rise by more than 26 feet by 2300.

" These new results have not yet been peer-reviewed. DeConto, a professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, presented them to other scientists last month at the fall meeting of the American Geophysical Conference, the largest annual conference of Earth scientists in the world."

### Marine ice cliff instability

"The new results inform one of the biggest outstanding questions — and most fervent debates — concerning how climate change will reshape our world: How much will the seas rise, and how fast will that upheaval occur? DeConto and several other American glaciologists — including Richard Alley, a professor at Penn State and a co-author of the

new research — represent something like the vanguard of that discussion. They champion an idea called 'marine ice-cliff instability,' or MICI, which maintains that West Antarctic glaciers will eventually crumble under their own weight.

"While the name 'marine ice-cliff instability' might be clunky, the idea is cinematic. It holds that warm ocean waters will eventually chew away the floating ice shelves that gird Antarctic glaciers today.

"Other researchers find this possible future somewhat fantastic. 'We, as European modelers, are slightly more skeptical of the marine-cliff idea,' says Frank Pattyn, a glaciologist at the Free University of Brussels. 'It has not been observed, not at such a scale.'

"Yet even MICI's skeptics agree: Our understanding of sea-level rise is rapidly growing more ominous. In its last major report, in 2014, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projected that oceans could rise two feet by 2100 if greenhouse-gas emissions continue on a worst-case trajectory. That number will almost certainly worsen in the IPCC's next report, which is due in 2021...

"'Nobody's debating that sea-level rise is happening. It's back to how much, how fast,' says Helen Amanda Fricker, a glaciologist at Scripps Institute of Oceanography. 'It's healthy to have this debate.'

"Last month, in a large hall at the same science conference, several hundred researchers gathered to see a set of presentations billed as a series of updates on new glacier and ice models. It was far closer to a proxy debate on the ice-cliff question. Several of the talks had 'marine ice-cliff instability' in the title, and I had heard more than one group of glaciologists gossiping about it days in advance.

"Then came the skeptics. Dan Martin, a computational scientist at Lawrence-Berkeley National Lab, argued that he and his colleagues' work showed ice cliffs might simply be a product of running a computer model

of ice physics at a too-low resolution...

"The meeting arrived at no clear conclusion. 'It still doesn't look good,' Brad Lipovsky, an Earth scientist at Harvard, told me. 'That's what I saw in the talks today. We're still seeing that sea-level rise is going to be a major problem for coastal communities around the world.'

"MICI remains a young idea, first proposed only six years ago. It need not be rejected simply because scientists haven't arrived at hard conclusions yet...

"'It might not happen,' Fricker said. 'But if there's a chance that it could happen, then shouldn't you involve that in your planning? If you're hosting a picnic and it might rain, you don't necessarily move the whole event, but you probably do make a Plan B. If you're planning a city ... you might as well keep this in the back of your mind.'"

### PH climate policy needs to change

The revision of sea-level rise prediction should result in the rewriting of climate policies and programs here in the Philippines. These are principally the charge of the Climate Change Commission, but I am doubtful whether our climate officials are keeping watch.

Filipino officials are notoriously slow in recognizing and acknowledging error.

The hardheadedness is in stark display in the current budget controversy that has been driven by the wild allegations of House Majority Leader Rolando Andaya Jr.

Despite errors in his facts, his language and his understanding of functions, the congressman persists in conducting his own House inquiry in his home turf at public expense.

The prospect of Andaya losing his job in Congress is more likely than the rise of sea levels to apocalyptic heights.

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**P**agtaas ng singil sa tubig ang bumulaga sa ating mga kababayan sa Metro Manila sa pagpasok ng 2019. Kasabay ng ingay ng Bagong Taon ang pag-ingay din ng mga panawagang ipahinto ang implementasyon ng kapasuhan ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage (MWSS) na nagbibigay pahintulot

sa Maynilad at Manila Water na magtaas ng singil sa tubig. Para sa mga karaniwang tagalungsod na bitbit na ng napakaraming alalahanin sa kabi-kabilang pagbulosok ng presyo ng pangunahing bilihan, hindi katanggap-tanggap ang karagdagang gastusin na tulad ng sa tubig.

Matatandaan na inaprubahan ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System o MWSS noong nakaraang taon ang pagtataas ng singil sa tubig ng Maynilad Water Services, Inc. at Manila Water Co. Inc. Magdaragdag ng 0.64 sentimos kada metro kubiko ang Manila Water samantalang

## Pagtaas ng singil sa tubig

sisingil ng karagdagang P1.48 kada metro kubiko ang Maynilad. Nangangahulugan ito ng humigit kumulang tatlo hanggang limang pisong dagdag sa bayarin ng ating kababayan sa tubig kada buwan para sa mga komukunsumo ng hindi bababa sa sampung (10) metro kubiko. Ang Manila Water ay nagsusuplay ng tubig sa humigit kumulang anim na milyon katao sa Silangang bahagi ng Metro Manila, samantalang ang Maynilad naman ang sa Kanlurang bahagi. Nagbibigay ng serbisyo sa tubig ang mga nasabing kompanya ayon sa bisa ng isang kasunduan o concession agreement kung

saan isang partido ang Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Napapanahon marahil na muling bisitahin ang concession agreement sa pagitan ng MWSS at ng Maynilad at Manila Water upang masigurong balanseng napapangalagaan ang interes ng konsyumer at ng mga nabanggit na kompanya. Dapat ipahinto ng MWSS ang implementasyon ng pagtaas ng singil sa tubig at muling pag-aralang mabuti ang mga naging basehan ng mga resolusyong kanilang nilagdaan. Mabigat na pasanin na para sa ating kababayan sa lungsod ang patuloy na pag-akyat

ng presyo ng mga pangunahing bilihan, at ngayon ay kabilang na ang mataas na bayarin sa tubig.

Patuloy kong isinusulong ang pagtatatag ng Department of Water Resources Management hindi lamang upang mangalaga sa ating mga pinagkukunan ng tubig kundi upang maging isang ahensiya rin na magsusulong ng maayos na serbisyo sa tubig, katuwang ang MWSS at LWUA. Kapakanan ng mga konsyumer ang dapat na unang isaalang-alang sa usapin ng pagtataas ng singil sa mga pangunahing utilidad katulad ng tubig.