

15 JAN 2013

DATE :

DAY :

Wednesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



DENR gears up for Manila Bay rehab

P-1

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday held the first ever stakeholders meeting in preparation for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

The meeting gathered around 200 representatives from various national government agencies and local government units (LGUs), including barangay units.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the Duterte administration is determined to rehabilitate the Manila Bay and will not hesitate to file appropriate charges against violators of various environmental laws.

The massive rehabilitation will affect establishments along a 194-kilometer coastline from Cavite to Bataan; a total of 128 local government units in eight provinces in Regions 3, 4-A and the National Capital Region.

At a news conference after the stakeholders' meeting, Cimatu vowed to come up with a list of violators of various environmental laws, particularly Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.

The DENR chief was tasked by President Duterte to lead the massive rehabilitation of Manila Bay following the successful rehabilitation of Boracay Island, the country's top tourist destination in Malay, Aklan last year.

The country's chief steward of the environment and natural resources said a draft executive order creating the task force and outlining its man-

200

The total number of participants in the first ever stakeholders' meeting for the massive rehab of Manila Bay

date will still be submitted to Malacañang for the purpose of bringing back Manila Bay back to its former glory.

Aside from the 13 mandamus agencies, which have been ordered by the Supreme Court to rehabilitate Manila Bay, the Department of Tourism (DOT) will play its part in the rehabilitation effort.

According to Cimatu, the DENR will announce to the public the result of a still ongoing water sampling and laboratory testing in various esteros to determine the coliform level and would work on those so-called "millionaire esteros," or whose coliform level exceed a million most probably number per 100 liter, starting in the Bay Walk area of Manila Bay in Manila, particularly the areas between the Manila Yacht Club and

the US Embassy, which, he said, is the area most visited by tourists.

He said the coliform level in the area is a priority as he vowed to identify establishments that discharge their untreated wastewater in three creeks that drain in the area.

The DENR chief said establishments found violating the Clean Water Act will be charged for specific violations, such as the direct discharge of untreated wastewater, the same way erring establishments in Boracay were dealt with by the DENR.

According to Cimatu, compared to Boracay, rehabilitating Manila Bay is a much bigger challenge, whether in terms of water-pollution level or coastal area to be rehabilitated, explaining why the Manila Bay rehabilitation will take time and a huge amount of money.

Compared to Boracay, which has an area of 1,000 hectares, Manila Bay coastline is approximately 190 kilometers from Cavite to Bataan, he said.

In terms of water pollution, he said, when President Duterte tagged Boracay a "cesspool," the coliform level is about 1 million most probable number/100 milliliters, while in Manila Bay, the highest was about 333 million MPN/100 ml.

"This is 333 times worse than Boracay," he said.

According to Cimatu, the DENR, particularly the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), may revoke the environmental compliance certificates of noncompliant or defiant establishments, particularly those who will not put up their own sewage treatment plants.

Adjust targets

MEANWHILE, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Administrator Reynaldo Velasco said he



P-2

DENR gears up for Manila Bay rehab

will meet with Maynilad and Manila Water, MWSS private water concessionaires, to discuss the possibility of stepping up their compliance of the Supreme Court continuing mandamus on Manila Bay.

The MWSS chief said he will ask Maynilad and Manila Water to adjust their targets to fast track the connection of sewer lines by reviewing and adjusting targets for the years 2022 to 2037.

As agent and contractor of the MWSS, Maynilad and Manila Water are mandated to connect their customers to the sewer line and ensure treatment of wastewater.

But according to the DENR, less than 15 percent of water consumers are connected to proper sewer lines, although both companies are offering free desludging.

Velasco wants Maynilad and Manila Water to ensure 100-percent connection before 2037.

Squatter relocation 'a must'

"THIS will be a continuing process. We will be making some announcement on the 27th as a result of the wastewater tests from the EMB and the LLDA [Laguna Lake Development Authority]," Cimatu said.

Aside from addressing water pollution in Manila Bay, Cimatu said the rehabilitation will involve the massive rehabilitation of mangrove and beach forests, including the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area.

Asked if the interagency body will also look into various reclamation projects along Manila Bay that are in the pipeline, Cimatu said: "Yes. As a matter of fact, it will be part of the process [review of reclamation projects]," he said.

Cimatu said a major challenge faced by the government concerns

raised by LGUs during the meeting involves the informal settlers living along Manila Bay coasts, particularly in Cavite and Bataan.

The DENR chief said the inter-agency task force will prioritize areas that are visibly problematic, or areas that are the subject of various complaints, such as in Bacoor and other coastal areas in Cavite, which have a huge number of informal settlers who would have to be resettled.

In Pampanga, he said, several piggeries would have to be resettled or moved away from rivers and water bodies.

"These informal settlers would have to be resettled away from Manila Bay," the DENR chief said.

Meanwhile, Secretary Eduardo M. Año assured that the resettlement of informal settlers will be carefully planned.

The DILG chief said informal settler governance will be implemented together with concerned LGUs.

"We will make sure that the relocation areas have water and electricity," he added.

For her part, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat said they will hold talks with tourism-related establishments, starting in the National Capital Region to inform them of possible violations.

"We will not issue accreditation if they will not be compliant," the DOT chief said.

She added that some establishments may be unaware of their violation, explaining why the DOT will hold a meeting with owners and managers of hotels and restaurants per area in the next few days.

"We want to inform them if they have a violation, and we will give them time to comply. Otherwise, we will not give them accreditation," she said.



DENR to launch bay rehab by naming polluting firms

Cimatu: Noncompliant companies face closure, up to P200k fine

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

Commercial establishments along Manila Bay face closure or hefty fines if they continue to ignore laws on waste water treatment and other environment-friendly practices, officials warned less than two weeks before the launch of a P42-billion effort to revive the bay from decades of pollution and urban blight.

Secretary Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday addressed the warning to hotels, restaurants and similar establishments located along the coast line.

On Jan. 27, a DENR-led task force will kickstart the massive cleanup and rehabilitation program by releasing an initial list of establishments that will receive "notices of violation" of environmental laws particularly on water and solid waste management, he said.

Closure plus fines per day

"We will examine wastewater discharge [from the establishments] and show them the results. The procedure will be to speak with them and inform them of the requirements, such as the treatment plant," Cimatu



'COMPLY OR CLOSE DOWN' Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu (center) warns business establishments that continue to ignore environmental laws and have added to the pollution of Manila Bay, at a Jan. 15 press conference in Quezon City with Tourism Secretary Berna Romulo-Puyat and Interior Secretary Eduardo Año. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

said at a press briefing. "They have to comply or else we will shut them down."

Aside from closure, violators face fines ranging from P20,000 to P200,000 for every day of violation, beginning on the date the water sample was taken, he said.

A draft executive order for the "Manila Bay Action Plan," which is estimated to cost P42 billion, has been submitted for President Duterte's signature, Cimatu added.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said the department had already taken

water samples from or checked the compliance level of close to 300 establishments.

Gargantuan task

With the rehab effort not limited to the Metro Manila section of the bay, and with thousands of informal settlers adding to the pollution not just on the coastline but also in the estuaries leading to it, the DENR-led interagency task force is facing a gargantuan task.

Last week, the DENR inspected the local government-run Manila Zoo and found that it

had been discharging untreated sewage directly through one of the esteros flowing into the bay. Cimatu then ordered the 59-year-old zoo to immediately construct its own sewage treatment plant, with the city later expressing willingness to build two more of such facilities.

At the same press briefing on Tuesday, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat and her agency would be meeting with hotel and entertainment spot owners who stand to be affected by the rehab.

'Boracay formula'

"We will be following the 'Boracay formula,'" Puyat said, referring to last year's cleanup effort that required the closure of the famous resort island to tourists for months. "Until there is compliance from DENR and Department of the Interior and Local Government, these establishments would also not receive accreditation from DOT."

Results of latest water test on Manila Bay showed that its fecal coliform level stood at 330 million most probable number (MPN) for every 100 milliliters, way off the acceptable level of 100 MPN.

Boracay's waters, when tested prior to the shutdown, was at 1 million MPN. INQ



DOT will not accredit hotels, other establishments if not cleared by DENR, DILG

By MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO
Special to the BUSINESSMIRROR

NO permits, no accreditation. This was the stern warning of Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat to hotels and other accommodation establishments in the Manila Bay area on Tuesday, as environment and interior officials laid out the procedures to be undertaken in the water body's rehabilitation.

"We will not give them [hotels] accreditation without DENR [Department of Environment and Natural Resources] and DILG [Department of the Interior and Local Government] compliance," she told reporters at a press briefing, although she said her agency has "continually been consulting" with the establishments.

Asked whether hotels had already moved to address their possible environmental issues, she said, "We still have to meet with the Tourism Congress of the Philippines. We told them to wait for our advice. What we did in Boracay for all establishments, we will also do here [in the Manila Bay rehab]."

As this developed, Sen. Nancy Binay, chairman of the upper chamber's Committee on Tourism, urged government authorities to carefully plan the rehabilitation of Manila Bay and involve all its stakeholders in the discussion, instead of immediately closing hotels and other tourism establishments.

"Learning from the Boracay experience, let's take the Manila Bay rehabilitation challenge as an opportunity to plan it for the better. *Isantabi na natin 'yung* [Let's do away with] knee-jerk reactions *ng pagpapasara ng* [like closing down] tourist establishments, which has painful impacts on jobs, businesses and the economy," she told the BUSINESSMIRROR.

She added, "After Boracay, I believe we are on the journey to better environmental compliance. Stakeholders are now positively responding to a growing environmental awareness; business establishments are now more engaged in corrective measures; NGOs [non-government organizations] now have a strong green representation in all levels of governance; LGUs [local government units] are listening; media is spreading the green message; and, most important, environmental consciousness is back on the table."

She thus stressed, "*Wag na natin sayangin ang pagkakataong ito.* [Let's not waste this opportunity.] Let's start on the right foot in rehabilitating Manila Bay and waterfronts. Listen better, and plan better to bring Manila Bay back to life."

DENR officials have threatened to close down hotels, condominium units and other establishments found polluting Manila Bay. Fecal coliform levels in the water body, which spans three regions including the National Capital Region, has reached an average of 330 million most probable number (MPN) per 100 milliliters. (See, "DENR has 1-strike policy vs. pollutive bay condos," in the BUSINESSMIRROR, January 11, 2019.)

The agency aims to reduce this level to lower than 270 million MPN/100 milliliters by the end of the year, according to Undersecretary for Attached Agencies Sherwin S. Rigor during the press briefing, contrary to earlier pronouncements. "The secretary [Roy A. Cimatu] wants to reduce it to less than 270 million MPN. [This may be possible] as we will cut pollution at the source. The circulation of salt water also heals Manila Bay. As we will install wastewater-treatment facilities [at key points], the water that will be discharged will already be of SB quality," he added.

SB quality is equivalent to the water in swimming pools, and thus swimmable. He noted that some parts of the bay "will be ready for swimming, but not the whole bay" by the end of the year.

Cimatu, meanwhile, said hotels and other establishments inspected "will be given a notice of violation first," if they have been found discharging untreated wastewater into the bay, "then *mag-uusap* [both parties will discuss]. 'You need to have a treatment plant. How many months are needed [to address the violations]?' As in the Manila Zoo, they were surprised they needed a treatment plant. In the meantime they are not compliant, they are closed."

As in the Boracay Island rehabilitation, establishments need to secure environmental clearances and permits from the DENR and the DILG again, to be able to reopen.

"[Violators] have to pay a penalty for polluting Manila Bay," the DENR chief added, "from P20,000 to P200,000 per day. This is in the Clean Water Act, which we are implementing."

Computation of the fine will begin from the time the establishment is tested and found to be polluting the bay.

While most hotels expressed support for the cleanup of the Manila Bay, underscoring they are required to install sewerage treatment plants on their properties before they are issued permits to operate by LGUs, they cautioned against the changing of parameters governing the STPs as what happened in Boracay. They also asked the DOT to draw up a plan to help tourists relocate in case the hotels they are staying in are suddenly closed, and wish the DENR attacks the major polluters of the bay, the informal settlers, instead of training their sights on tourist establishments. (See, "Most hotels back Manila Bay cleanup, but..." in the BusinessMirror, January 14, 2019.)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

1
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

15 JAN 2013

DATE

Firms polluting Manila Bay face up to ₱200,000 fine per day - Cimatu

By **CZARINA NICOLE O. ONG**

A penalty ranging from ₱20,000 to ₱200,000 per day will be imposed on establishments that are polluting the waters of Manila Bay, Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu revealed Tuesday.

The penalties will be imposed on the

day of water sampling, and the amount will depend on the parameters of the laboratory evaluation.

In the Manila Bay Rehabilitation press conference held at the DENR Central Office in Visayas Avenue, Quezon City, Cimatu said they have already started reviewing all of the establishments that are believed **►8**

to be polluting the waters.

The master list of non-compliant establishments is a "work in progress," but the environment chief said they have already covered a lot of ground and will be making an announcement on January 27 when the rehabilitation of the bay starts.

Cimatu said some of the establishments "might not know" they are causing damage to the waters of Manila Bay.

The first phase of the Manila Bay cleanup would be the cleaning of esteros.

Part of the rehabilitation process would be for the National Housing Authority (NHA) to find a relocation site for informal settlers and for the local government units (LGUs) to successfully implement this move.

To make sure that Manila Bay would remain protected after the clean-up, Cimatu said they would implement an education drive to teach Filipinos the habit and culture of cleanliness.

Boracay formula

On the part of the Department

of Tourism (DOT), Secretary Berna Romulo Puyat revealed they will be adopting the "Boracay formula" in the Manila Bay clean-up.

They will be seeking the assistance of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in issuing permits to hotels and other establishments that would be allowed to continue to operate within the area.

She met with the Tourism Congress of the Philippines on Tuesday to discuss the compliant and non-compliant hotels, and will be meeting stakeholders and "continually consult with them."

Should the rehabilitation project be met with strong objection, Cimatu said they remain unfazed because "we are on the side of the law."

"We are prepared to face them," he simply said.

President Duterte approved during a recent Cabinet meeting about P47 billion in road users fund for the Manila Bay clean-up. He warned establishments near the area to put up water sewerage treatments or face closure.



DENR eyes P.2-M daily fine for Manila Bay polluters

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will impose fines of up to P200,000 per day on establishments found to have contributed to the pollution of Manila Bay, an official said yesterday.

The computation of the penalty will start on the day water sampling is conducted by a team from the agency's Environmental Management Bureau, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said. He added that they have been

continuously identifying establishments that do not comply with the Clean Water Act and will release the list during the launch of the bay's rehabilitation program on Jan. 27. "Those that we have initially identified as violators, we are giving

them three to four months to address the issue of pollution. Establishments need to put up their own sewerage treatment plants or STPs. They cannot discharge their wastewater in the esteros," Cimatu said.

He added that after these estab-

lishments put up their own STPs, then they can apply for a permit with the DENR, the Department of Tourism and the Department of Interior and Local Government to be able to operate again.

- Rhodina Villanueva



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Manila Standard

A1
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

16 JAN 2010

DATE

'Bay rehab to displace 220K families'

By Rio N. Araja

ABOUT 220,000 squatter families will be displaced by the Manila Bay rehabilitation project and will be relocated to Central Luzon and the Calabarzon region, Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año said Tuesday.

"Of course, there will be resistance at first, but we have to do this because they really should not be living in the estero," Año said in an interview with GMA News. "They should be able to understand."

The Department of Environment and

Next page

'Bay rehab...

From A1

Natural Resources will kick off the rehabilitation project to reduce the coliform bacteria in the bay and make it swimmable by December.

At a news conference, Secretary Roy Cimatu said the quality of water at Manila Bay known for its famous sunset is "330 million times" dirtier than the waters of Boracay Island.

"On Jan. 27, we will have an initial announcement of establishments not compliant [with the Clean Water Act]," he told reporters.

"A non-compliant establishment could be penalized with a fine of P20,000 to P200,000 per day," he warned.

Phase one of the rehabilitation effort is the identification of squatter families along Roxas Boulevard for relocation, he said.

The relocation of 20,000 to 30,000 informal settlers in Bacoor, Cavite, and the removal of piggeries along Pampanga River are part of the rehabilitation effort, he added.

"If you go there [in Bacoor], I have been there, you will see too many people staying along the bay," he said.

"Here in the National Capital Region, our effort will involve the cleanup of the Baywalk area between the Manila Yacht Club and US Embassy, where people often and frequently go and swim," he said.

"We hope there would be no bloody removal of the informal settlers. There is no need for such. We are prepared to face them," he added.

Cimatu called on the other stakeholders of Manila Bay to "be part of history" and support rehabilitation efforts.

"This mission is not impossible. This mission calls for dedication and hard work from all those who will help us in this operation," he said.



SKETCHES

ANA MARIE PAMINTUAN

Manila Bay cleanup

My mother's generation talks about the days when rafts could be hired in Pasay to go out to Manila Bay on dates or for family picnics.

Farther south in Parañaque were beach resorts with private rooms where even movie stars dated.

The resorts dotted coastal communities all the way to the southern tip of Cavite. But water pollution must have been a problem dating back to the time of the Philippine revolutionaries under Cavite's favorite son Emilio Aguinaldo – or perhaps even longer, since it was a populated area with no sewerage system or water treatment facilities.

In my childhood during one of my family's beach picnics, we went to one of the resorts in Cavite, where I stepped on a discarded tin can embedded in the seabed, not visible in the turbid water and black sand. I can still remember howling in pain as the doctor in a nearby clinic cleaned and treated the deep cut in the sole of my right foot; the scar remains.

During the Marcos regime, a crony family picked a prime spot and developed it into the exclusive 3,300-hectare Puerto Azul country club in Ternate, which quickly became popular for golf and water sports.

This was only possible because the quality of the water was still relatively good in the 1980s.

After the Marcoses fled, Puerto Azul was sequestered and fell into disrepair, while the water quality in Manila Bay progressively deteriorated.

Swimming has been banned in Manila Bay for many years now, for public health reasons. But we have many images of bay guards watching helplessly as thousands of people swarm the rocky shores of Roxas Boulevard and swim in the murky water, ignoring warnings that they could get the cooties or worse.

Today garbage still washes up regularly on the shores of Cavite. There's a restaurant in Cavite City that I visit regularly because it's beside a spot where fishermen unload their day's catch of shrimp and squid. The place serves good Hawaiian and *sisig* pizza and Cavite coffee and faces the sea. But the lovely sea view is marred by the garbage that always litters the narrow beach. If not for the sea breeze that lifts and carries away odors, the place would stink. If ever President Duterte visits the place, he might mention "cesspool" again.

Local government officials, starting with barangay personnel, should be spearheading the regular cleanup of coastal areas, in coordination with private sector stakeholders. Local officials in Cavite have clearly failed.

Puerto Azul is still being used for golf, but it needs a major facelift. It's a shame because that spot wasn't picked arbitrarily for resort development; it has a great sea view and the natural attraction is still there. It's a relatively short drive from Metro Manila, and once the road leaves the populated areas, the drive is pleasant and the Ternate landscape delightful.

With the government now bent on cleaning up Manila Bay, perhaps the beach resorts in Cavite could be compelled to do their part in cleaning up. The owners' cooperation could be stronger if they realize that clean waters would mean more visitors and a business boom.

Because of the polluted waters of Cavite, people are prepared to take longer drives to the beaches of neighboring Batangas, where local officials and private resort operators are aware of the appeal of ecotourism.



A few years after my foot injury, a relative bought a resthouse in Nasugbu's Tali Beach, with its white sand and the water so sparklingly clear I could see small jellyfish approaching and avoid stepping on the sea urchins. The water quality was so good my father and I could pick oysters from a cave wall, dip them in the seawater and eat them raw without being hit by food poisoning. I never went swimming in Cavite again.

So I'd like to see if the government can make good on its promise to make Manila Bay fit for swimming again.

Environment officials are making the right noises so far on how they plan to go about the cleanup.

President Duterte used his usual *golpe de gulat* to deliver his message, threatening to shut down bayfront hotels that fail to install their own water treatment facilities.

The hotel association has already expressed its members' readiness to comply. There are bigger bay polluters, however, as indicated during typhoons, when tons of garbage wash up along Roxas Boulevard including the service road.

That solid waste does not come from the hotels, but from the informal settlements and fishing communities around the bay. Author Dan Brown's "Gates of Hell" is a charcoal-making slum settlement dubbed Ulingan, facing the bay in Manila's port district.

The garbage also washes out into the sea from the numerous *esteros* or creeks and other waterways in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

You can tell the quality of governance in Metro Manila's cities by the quality of the waterways. In several *esteros*, the water is no longer visible because of a dense carpet of garbage.

Environment officials have said the Manila Bay cleanup will include waterways around it. Commercial and industrial establishments around the bay will also be inspected for garbage management practices and the release of sludge.

Now what about the waste from the country's busiest seaport? All types of vessels enter Manila Bay. No matter how energy-efficient, the ships discharge certain amounts of toxic waste into the water. Manila's Port Area is also heavily polluted.

Still, we should believe that anything is possible if we put our heart into it. A similar campaign was launched to clean up the Pasig River, which used to look like an open sewer where aborted fetuses and corpses of murder victims were often fished out. The joke at the time was that if you jumped into the Pasig, you would die not from drowning but from suffocating in the filth.

The cleanup gained traction during the presidency of Fidel Ramos, who liked to narrate that he used to swim in the Pasig. His wife Ming spearheaded the effort; Gina Lopez, later named environment secretary by President Duterte, continues to be an advocate of the river rehab.

I've been encouraging people to take the river ferry service to see the success of the effort. It still has some ways to go, but the improvement is visible. In some spots such as Guadalupe in Makati, the water quality has improved enough for people to take to fishing not just for their day's meal but also for sport.

Who thought this was possible? We could be in for a similar pleasant surprise in Manila Bay.



Manila Bay watch



CROSSROADS

JONATHAN DE LA CRUZ

YESTERDAY, Department of Environment and Natural Resources ENR Secretary Roy Cimatu hosted a Manila Bay stakeholders' conference to discuss the terms of reference for the proper and responsible (finally) implementation of the 2008 Supreme Court order for the cleanup, rehabilitation and restoration of the 1984-square kilometer bay area with a 140-kilometer coastline extending all the way from Batangas in the south to Bataan in the north.

Considered the country's "heartland," the area is our administrative capital, hosts our major industrial, commercial and service enterprises and is home to over half of our growing population. It is the country's "face" to the world, the mirror of our soul and standing as a nation. Inevitably, how the Manila Bay area looks like, smells and moves is how the outside world will judge us.

Thus, it was not surprising that after Secretary Cimatu made a preliminary presentation of the Manila Bay cleanup program, President Duterte immediately ordered that the same be undertaken with dispatch, instructing in the process the allocation of P47 billion to fund the enterprise over a five-year period. He also designated Cimatu and DILG Secretary Eduardo Año as the principal convenors of a soon-to-be established Task Force to include at least 21 national and local government agencies and business, civic and people's organizations in an effort to mobilize all stakeholders in this enormous undertaking. It is well that the co-convenors are steeped in strategic, organized mobilization having served as armed forces chief at some point in their careers.

As gleaned from the reports, they have divided the entire area into four sectors and made an inventory of the main sources

of waste flowing to or being thrown into the bay area starting with the most visible and essentially violated areas along Roxas Boulevard/R10 from Parañaque in the south to Manila (Smokey Mountain) in the north. In the first "walk through" done by Secretary Cimatu and members of the task group tracing the waste water flow along the Estero San Antonio Abad down to the outfall at the Manila Yacht Club, it was obvious that establishments in the area were either discharging their waste directly to the estero without any treatment or if such "cleaning" was undertaken at all it was inadequate to say the least. And we are talking here of government assets—Manila Zoo and its im-

“How the bay area looks like, smells and moves is how the outside world will judge us.”

provements as well as malls, eateries and private offices which were supposed to be inspected regularly by the sanitary inspectors of each and every local government unit or even the DENR itself. And we are just talking here of one estero in a very limited area (not even one square kilometer) along a very small (not even 500 meters) portion of the main thoroughfare facing the bay. And just the sewage flow at that.

Multiply that with the hundreds if not thousands of esteros, canals and waterways in the entire bay area, the thousands of establishments and millions of households and you will have an idea of the gargantuan task faced by the task force in the effort to reverse years of neglect and restore the Manila Bay area to its earlier state as one of the most beautiful bays in the world. It is abundantly clear as well that government cannot do the clean up alone. This is an undertaking which

should involve all and not just those in the bay area but the entire country if we are to make this truly a legacy program we can all be proud of. Which is why the all-stakeholders conference convened by Secretary Cimatu yesterday is a most welcome first step in this journey of a thousand steps for a cleaner, better and more livable bay area.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Manila Standard

Ad PAGE

TOP LOWER

PAGE 1 STORY

OPINION STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

16 JAN 2010

DATE

EDITORIAL

A legacy worth leaving

WE WELCOME the Duterte administration's ambitious plan to carry out a major P47-billion cleanup of Manila Bay, the most polluted body of water in the country due to domestic sewage, toxic industrial effluents and waste from factories and shipping operations. Over the decades, the pollution of the natural harbor has become emblematic of how we, as a people, have failed miserably to protect our environment and preserve it for our children.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which will lead the effort, says the government will show the same political will that enabled it to undertake the massive rehabilitation of the popular tourist destination of Boracay Island. Given the daunting task ahead, it will

have to—and do so much more.

Urban planner and architect Felino Palafox Jr. in a radio interview, spoke of the magnitude of the effort involved. The catchment area of the bay, he said, is 1.7 million hectares—the size of 26 Singapores or 1,700 Boracays.

In its campaign, which officially begins Jan. 27, the DENR warns that establishments found polluting the waters of the bay could face face closure.

But the problem isn't only the hundreds of businesses that discharge untreated wastewater, it also involves tens of thousands of squatters who live by the shore and the various waterways that flow into the bay.

Results of a recent water sampling showed that restaurants, medical facilities and even the zoo leaked massive amounts of wastewater that end up in the bay. River mouths contained an average of 330 million MPN (most probable number) fecal coliform, way above the baseline level of 100 MPN.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who oversaw Boracay's cleanup, says the Manila Bay rehabilitation project will begin with discussions of a multi-year master plan with various partner agencies.

The DENR will also work with local government units, given that the bay spans parts of Metro Manila, Central Luzon and the Calabarzon region. LGUs are expected to step up their efforts because it is their constituents that will benefit most from a rehabilitated bay, Cimatu says.

The administration's cleanup is in line with the 2008 Supreme Court decision ordering 13 government agencies to clean up Manila Bay and restore its water quality to Class SB or safe for recreational activities such as swimming.

It is a long road ahead, but if the administration can clean up Manila Bay and ensure that it remains clean, it will have done what no other administration before it has done—and that is a legacy worth leaving.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Manila Standard

A4
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BARRIER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

15 JAN 2010

DATE

Needed like yesterday



TO THE
POINT
EMIL P.
JURADO

THE rehabilitation of Manila Bay by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is most definitely a good move, but whether or not Secretary Roy Cimatu is up to it is another question altogether.

Manila Bay, famous for its sunset, is more than a cesspool—how President Rodrigo Duterte described Boracay before its 60-day closure and rehabilitation.

Santa Banana, Manila Bay has become one septic tank! It stinks!

“The rehabilitation of Baguio City has been long overdue.”

Just how the DENR will rehabilitate it is the big question. I ask this because the rehabilitation of Boracay and other resorts in Palawan and Mindoro have always been a joint effort not only of the DENR but the Department of Tourism (because the world-famous sunset is a tourist attraction) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (because it spans so many LGUs).

To my mind, though, a bigger, more daunting task is the rehabilitation of Baguio City—the summer capital of the Philippines.

It would be challenging because it would not be just a simple cleanup. It would also be about making the city accommodate the more-than-one-million visitors during peak seasons.

Over the Christmas holidays I decided not to go to Baguio when I learned that it would take me nine to 10 hours to reach the place—at Edsa-like traffic at that.

A cousin told me that upon check-

ing in at their hotel, all they could do was stay in because of the nightmarish traffic. This is why I only stay at Camp John Hay when I am there.

So what other new things can be experienced in Baguio City? Even the smell of the pine trees is gone.

In dire need of rehabilitation is Burnham Park. There used to be a time when visitors could loiter around it and paddle boats. Mines View Park is another place. It has become an obstacle course of shops, food stalls and ambulant vendors. Meanwhile, Wright Park used to be a place where tourists can ride horses.

Baguio is a dying city. So many establishments are built without any real planning at all. Even well-known hotels and restaurants have no parking spaces.

When I was still in grade school, Baguio City was in its prime. Our family always visited the city in the summer. I saw the tourist attractions in their glory.

I am saddened at what Baguio City proper has become due to neglect and indifference.

Good thing there is that development of Alphaland, Baguio Mountain Lodges. Residents call it the “Forbes Park of Baguio City.”

I must congratulate Alphaland chairman and CEO Bobby Ongpin for the development. The project is surrounded by an eight-foot perimeter fence; there are security guards to ensure safety.

During the first year of the Duterte administration, the Finance Department had plans of privatizing some 47 casinos of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez and Pagcor chairman Andrea Domingo agreed that being a gaming regulator, Pagcor, a state agency, should not be in the gaming and casino business. That’s a clear conflict of interest.

The plan, however, has remained just that. I wonder why.

www.emiljurado.weebly.com



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

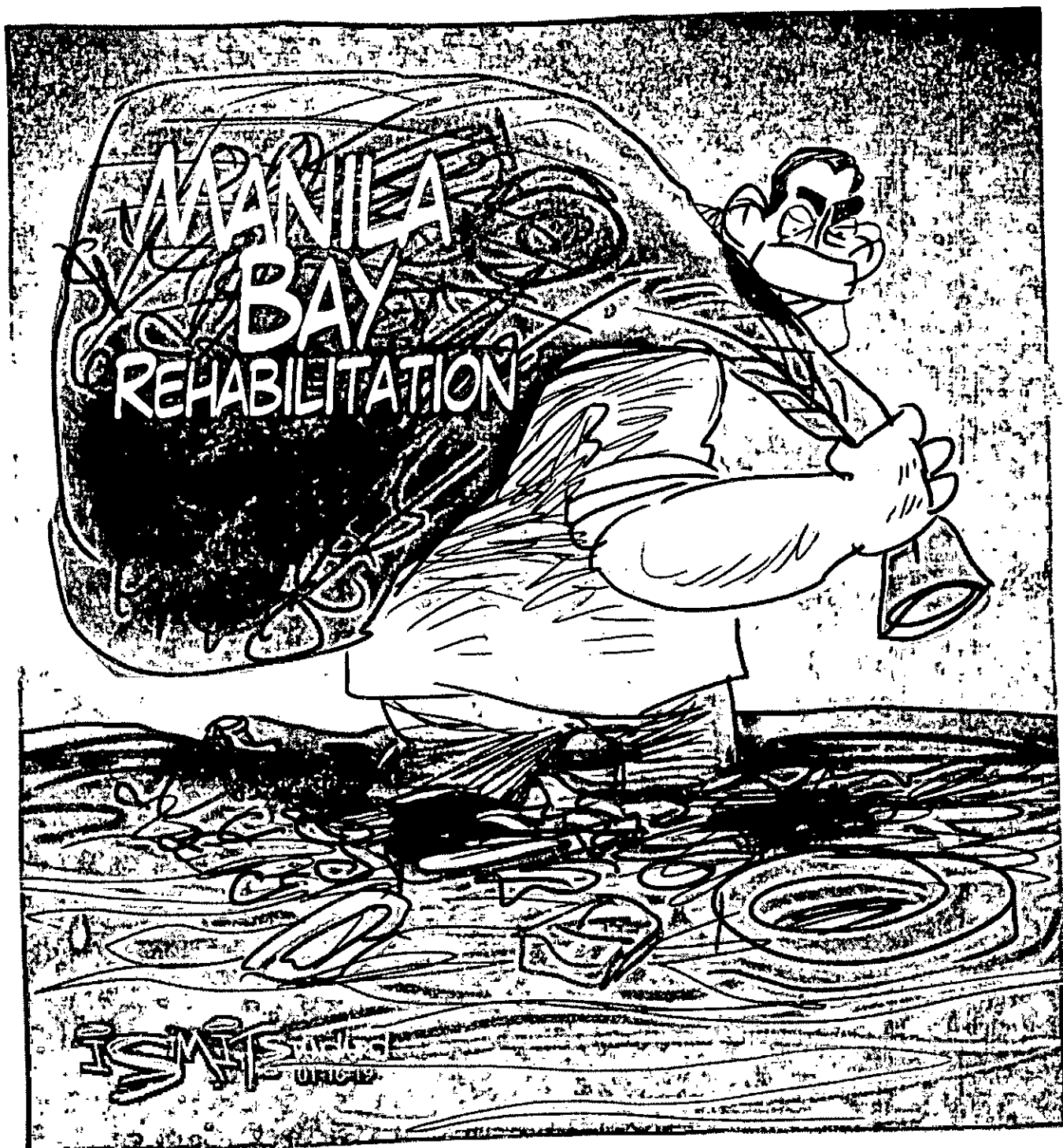
Manila Standard

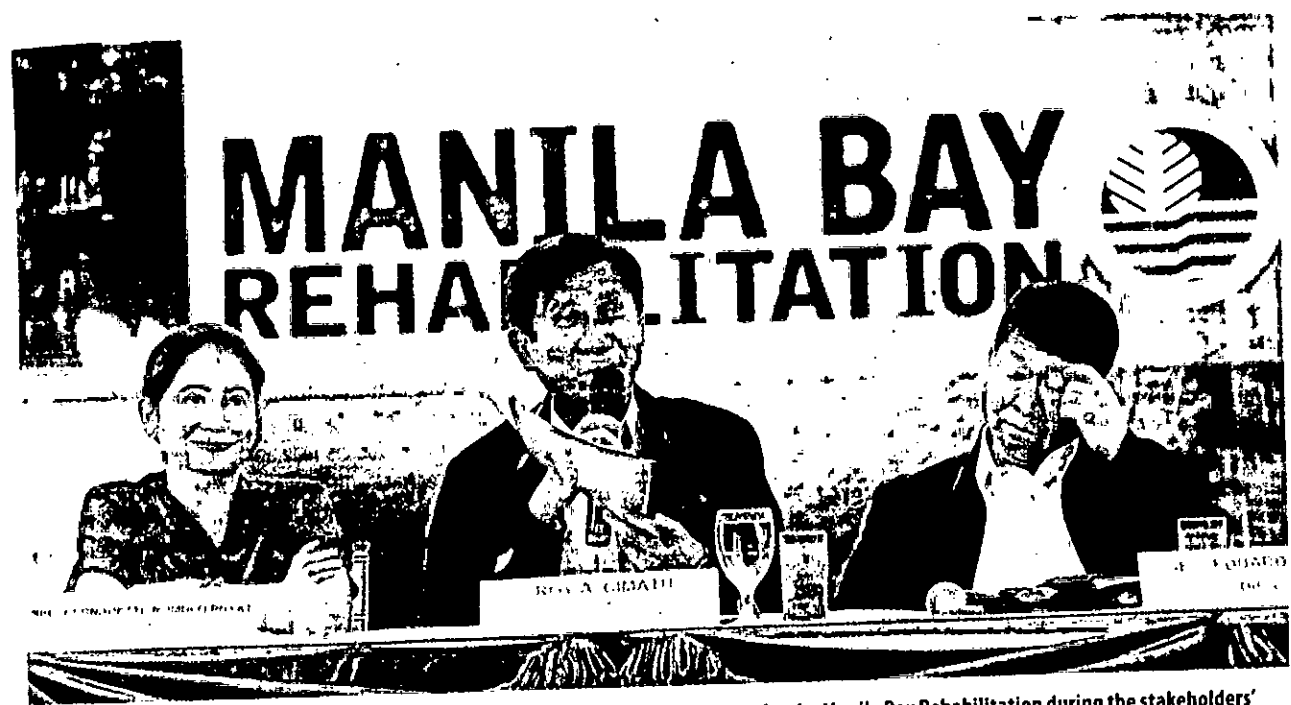
K4
PAGE

UP
 POWER
 PAGE 1
STORY
 BANNER
STORY
 EDITORIAL
 CARTOON

15 JAN 2010

DATE





BAY REHAB Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu shows the draft executive order for the Manila Bay Rehabilitation during the stakeholders' meeting held at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office in Quezon City. He is flanked by Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat and Interior Secretary Eduardo M. Año. See stories on Manila Bay rehabilitation on pages A3 and B1. NONOY LACZA



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Manila Standard

A3
PAGE

OFF
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BRIEF
STORY

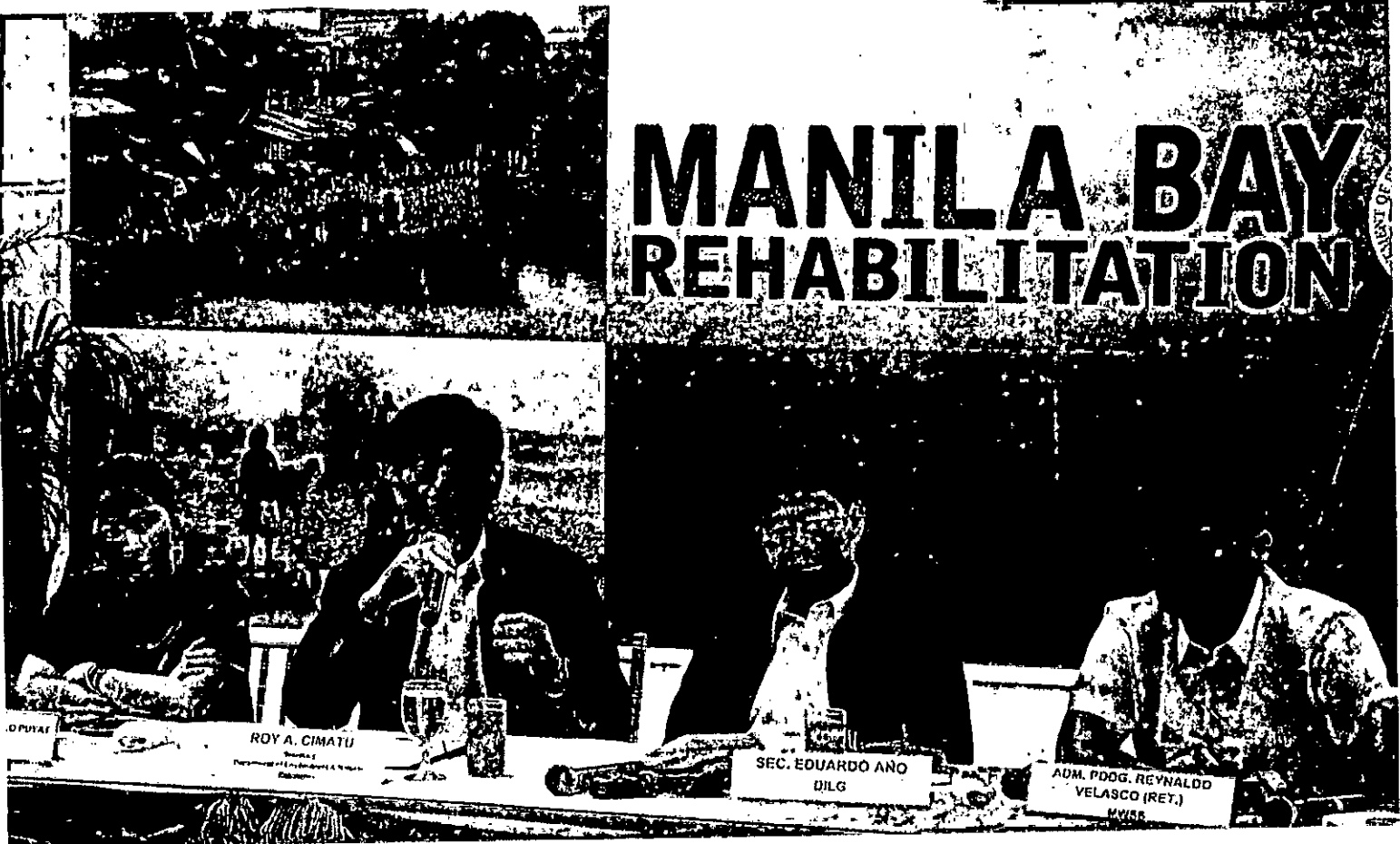
FULL
ARTICLE

CARTOON

16 JAN 2010

DATE

MANILA BAY REHABILITATION



BAY REHAB. Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu (second from left), holds a press conference on the rehabilitation program of Manila Bay on Tuesday, Jan. 15. Cimatu is joined by (from left) Tourism chief Berna Romulo-Puyat, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año and MWSS Administrator Reynaldo Velasco. Manny Palmero



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



12
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

16 JAN 2010

DATE



SANIB PUWERSA sina Environmental advocate at dating senador Eddie Ilarde, Tourism Sec. Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu at DILG Sec. Edgardo Año para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay. Nakipagpulong ang mga ito sa mga may-ari ng hotels, restaurants, community leaders at iba pang stakeholders.
Kuha ni **DANNY PATA**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Remate

ANG DIARYO NG MASA

1
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BARBER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

16 JAN 2013

DATE

KAPABAYAAN NG LGU SANHI NG POLUSYON^{P.2} SA MANILA BAY--DENR



NAGKAPIT-BISIG ang mga opisyal ng iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno para sa programang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay. Kasama sa larawan sina dating Senador Eddie Elarde, Tourism Sec. Bernadette Puyat, Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu, DILG Sec. Eduardo Ano, MWSS Admin Reynaldo Velasco at iba pang opisyal ng gobyerno na ginanap sa tanggapang DENR sa Quezon City.

DANNY QUERUBIN



Kapabayaang ng LGU sanhi ng polusyon sa Manila Bay-DENR

NANINIWALA si DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na may kapabayaang umano ang mga local government unit kung bakit lumala ang problema ng polusyon sa Manila Bay dahil umano sa pagtatapon ng basura sa mga estero ng mga informal settler.

Ayon kay Cimatu may mandato umano ang mga local government partikular ang mga alkalde para pangalagaan ang ating mga estero subalit hindi ito masyadong naipatupad at 'di natutukan.

Sa isang press conference kahapon, sinabi ni Cimatu na hindi darami ang mga informal settler na nakapaligid sa baybayin ng Manila Bay kung ginawa lang ng mga local government partikular na ang mga barangay captain ang kanilang tungkulin na pigilan ang pagtatayo ng bahay sa paligid ng Manila Bay na isa sa pinagmumulan ng basura.

May kapabayaang ang mga local government kung bakit nangyari ang problema

ng Manila Bay ang barangay captain hindi makakukuha ng permit ang mga nagtatayo ng bahay sa estero kundi nagbigay ng permit ang lokal at kung ginawa lang nila ang kanilang mga tungkulin" ani Cimatu.

Sinabi pa ng DENR secretary na bukod sa mga informal settler may mga establisimyento rin ang kanilang natukoy na lumalabag sa Clean Water Law.

Ayon pa kay Cimatu, aabot sa 230,000 pamilya na pawang mga informal settler na naninirahan sa paligid ng Manila Bay ang nakatakda nilang i-relocate upang simulan ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Idinagdag pa nito na aabot sa P42B ang gagastusin ng pamahalaan para sa isasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay kabilang na ang relokasyon ng informal settlers.

Sa naturang press conference, tinukoy nina Department of Tourism Sec. Berna Romulo Puyat at DILG Sec.

Eduardo Año ang kahandaang ipatupad ang batas para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Idinagdag pa ni Cimatu na pangumahing target ng ahensya na mapababa sa 100 million coliform ang bilang ng dumi sa Manila Bay sa sandaling simulan ang rehabilitasyon ng baybayin na sa kasalukuyan ay nasa 313 million coliform.

Tinukoy pa ng secretary na sa Jan 27 malalaman ang figure ng mga establisimyento na lumalabag sa clean water laws at kanilang ilalabas ang mga pangalan ng mga naturang establisimyento.

"We give notice of violation (sa mga establishment) so kailangan nila ng treatment plant para sa kanilang sewage na non-compliance" ani pa ni Cimatu.

Nagbabala rin si Cimatu na kanilang ilalabas ang mga establisimyento na lumalabag sa clean water law sa sandaling makumpleto nifa ang listahan ng mga establisimyento.

SANTI CELARIO



BUMIBIYAHE na pabalik sa South Korea ang nasa 5,000 toneladang basura na ikinaraga sa 51 container van na unang itinambak sa Misamis Oriental.

Ang pamahalaang South Korea ang kusang nagpabalik ng nasabing mga basura bagama't mga pribadong kompanya ng nasabing bansa at nasa Pilipinas ang may gawa ng pagtatambak.

Ang bagong tayong recycling plant na Verde Soko sa nasabing lalawigan ang nag-import mula sa mga pribadong kompanya sa South Korea.

Nauna rito, meron na ring basura na ipinasok sa Cebu nitong nakaraang taon pero prinosta ng mga taga-Cebu at environmentalist kaya pinabalik din ng South Korea.

Kaya salamat sa pamahalaang South Korea sa aksyon nito.

CANADA MANHID

Nakatambak pa ang basurang galing naman ng Canada sa ating mahal na Pinas.

Halos doble sa basurang South Korea ang dami ng itinambak ng mga taga-Canada sa atin.

Unang dumating sa Pinas, sa Port of Manila, ang 50 container van mula Hunyo hanggang Agosto 2013.

Sinundan ito ng 47 container van noong Disyembre 2013 hanggang Enero 2014.

Dahil sa nakatambak lang sa pier ang mga kargamento, binuksan na ng Bureau of Customs noon ding Enero 2014 ang 18 sa mga container van na idineklarang naglalaman ng mga plastik para sa recycling.

Pero lumuwa sa mga container van ang mga adult diaper, plastic bottle, plastic bag, diaryo, basurang pangkusina at iba pa.

Hindi na binuksan ang iba pa dahil tiyak umanong mga basura rin at baka mas nakalalason pa kaysa unang mga nabuksan.

Hiniling na ng magkasunod na administrasyong Aquino at Duterte sa pamahalaang Canada na kunin nito ang mga basura.

Pero tigasin ang pamahalaang Canada sa rasona



SALAMAT SA SOUTH KOREA; SA CANADA, NO THANKS

gawa ng mga pribadong kompanya ang pagtatambak at dapat ang mga ito ang managot.

Mayroon nang mga kaso ng smuggling at paglabag sa batas sa basura ang nakahain.

IPASASARA

Sa ilang araw lang na pag-sasagawa ng imbestigasyon ng pamahalaan sa Manila Bay area, lalo na sa mga lungsod ng Malabon, Navotas, Manila, Pasay, Parañaque at Las Piñas, may natukoy nang mga gusali, establisimyento at iba pang pinanggagalingan ng mga nakalalason ng basura sa nasabing lawa.

Bilang pagbibigay ng pagkakataon, oobligahin ng pamahalaan ang lahat ng ito na ituwid kaagad ang pagtatapon nila ng basura.

Kung hindi sila aaksyon kaagad, malamang na ipasasara ang mga ito --- Boracay style.

Sabi nga ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, hindi pupwedeng gawing rason ang pagdating ng mga turista, dayuhan o lokal, ang pagbabalewala sa mga batas laban sa basura at polusyon.

Lalo na sa dayuhang mga turista, sinabi ng Pangulo na hindi naman tayo mamamatay kung walang turistang darating sa mga hotel, restoran at iba pang mga establisimyento sa nasabing mga lungsod.

RELOKASYON

Malaki ring source ng polusyon at basura ang galing sa nasa 40,000 na nakatira sa dagat, dalampasigan at nakatira sa gilid ng Manila Bay.

Aminin man o hindi ng mga residente at lokal na pamahalaang nabanggit, direkta sa Manila Bay ang mga dumiri, ihi, plastik, kahoy, yero, kemikal at iba pa na itinatapon ng mga residente.

Para ganap na malinis ang lawa, magsasabay ang aksyon laban sa mga hotel, restoran, pabrika at iba pang mga

establisimyento at relokasyon ng 40,000 pamilya.

Gagamitin ang nasa P47 bilyong pondo mula sa mga buwis ng sasakyan na hawak ng Road Board para rito.

Kaya nga, ngayon pa lang ay dapat ihanda na ng mga pamilyang 40,000 ang karilang mga sarili para sa paglilipat.

Balang araw, maliligtas na rin sila sa maruming kapaligiran, panganib ng mga bagyo, baha at habagat sa pagiging iskwater sa sarili nilang bansa.

Ang mga hotel, restoran, pabrika at iba pang mga establisimyento ay inaasahang matutong sumunod sa mga batas laban sa basura, polusyon at distansya sa mga ilog at karagatan.

May binabayaran tayo buwan-buwan sa Maynilad at Manila Water para sa pagsipsip ng mga poso negro nating lahat.

Dapat na maoblig na rin ang mga kompanyang ito na gawin ang obligasyon nilang magtayo ng processing plant nila at gawin ang pagsisipsip sa mga poso negro.

Anak ng tokwa, sa mga pribadong kompanya po tayo nagpapasipsip ng poso negro dahil sa maiimpluwensya lang na nagbabayad ng sewerage fee ang hinaharap ng mga ito.

Meron pa ngang sumbong na may nag-aalok na taga-Maynilad umano sila o taga Manila Water ngunit kailangan mong magbayad ng P1,500 para ka masipsipan.

Totoo ba ito, kayo ryan sa Maynilad at Manila Water?

oOo

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo ay maaring iparating sa 09228403333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com

Return all trash to SoKor, says Misamis solon

TAGOLOAN, MISAMIS ORIENTAL—Rep. Juliette Uy on Monday demanded that the remaining 5,100 metric tons of mostly plastic trash from South Korea be returned to that country before the end of this month.

While expressing elation over the return on Sunday of 1,400 MT of the garbage in 51 containers to South Korea, Uy

said what was shipped back was but "just a small part of the biggest waste dumped in this country."

"All, not just part or some of the total garbage shipments stored at Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT), should be returned. All of it. There should be no gray area in this regard," she said.

The plastic trash, im-

ported by a company whose business is into recycling, arrived last year at the MICT in Tagoloan town, Misamis Oriental province.

The shipments were held by authorities after the Bureau of Customs and the Environmental Management Bureau allegedly found Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp. to have violated the

laws when it imported the plastics from Pyeongtaek City, South Korea.

After a meeting last month, Philippine and South Korean government officials agreed to return the trash to its country of origin.

Uy also said she would "pursue accountability and address problems in our government policy, operations and proce-

dures that allow the importation of solid waste."

She joined another lawmaker, Rep. Frederick Siao of Iligan City, in calling for a congressional investigation of the garbage shipment.

She also asked Customs District Collector Floro Calixihan to explain why he approved its unloading in Misamis Oriental.—*Inquirer*



15 JAN 2013

DATE

✓
UPPER HALF

4

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

4 Customs collector, iniimbestigahan ng NBI sa South Korean garbage

HINDI ligtas sa legal liabilities ang apat na port collectors na dating naninilbihan sa Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT) kung saan dumaong ang dalawang shipment ng imported garbage mula South Korea taong 2018.

Ginawa ng MICT port collector na si John Simon ang katiyakan matapos napaalis na ang libu-libong tonelada ng mga basura na inilagay sa 51 container vans pabalik South Korea mula sa daungan ng Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental noong Linggo ng gabi.

Sinabi ni Simon sa Bombo Radyo na ipinaubaya na ng kanilang Customs officials sa National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) ang pag-iimbestiga laban sa apat na collector na nauna sa kanya na hindi na pinangalanan upang maituwid ang pagkakamali ng ahensya.

Inamin ni Simon na mayroong malinaw na pagkakamali ang kanyang pinalitang mga port collectors kung bakit pinahintulutan makapasok ng tuluyan ang mga basura sa kalupaan ng Misamis Oriental.

Bagama't ayaw ng opisyal na pangunahan ang resulta ng NBI investigation, kumbinsido aniya siya na nagpabaya ang kanyang mga kasamahan kaya malayang nakapasok ang mahigit 5,000 tonelada ng mga basura noong Hulyo at sinundan noong Oktubre 2018.

KAPITBAHAY MO, I-BLIND ITEM MO!

Halo-halong basura nakakalat

Magandang araw.

Didiretsuhin ko na kayo. Sobrang bad trip ako sa kapitbahay namin kaya sumulat ako.

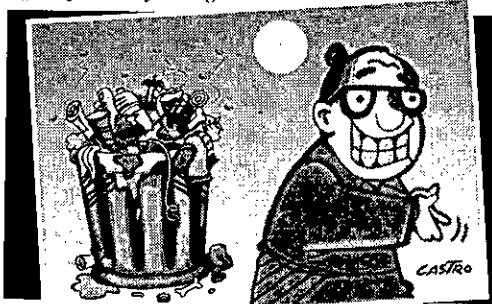
Nakatira kami dito sa Quezon City. Malapit sa school ang area namin.

Malaki ang compound ng kapitbahay kong si

ang iba sa tapat ng bahay namin.

Bago pa makuhang mga trak ng basura ang kalat nila ay pinamamahayan na ng mga langaw, uod at mga daga ang dumi nila gaya ng mga used sanitary napkin at toilet paper na may ebs. Super yuck!!!

Seaman ang hubby ni Lota pero siya ay nasa bahay lang. Wala naman siyang ginagawa pero hindi man lang maayos ang basura nila.



Lota kaya nagpa-pa-bedspace siya.

Selosa si Lota at hindi iyon kataka-taka sa hitsura niya. Halo-halo ang mga bedspacer niya. May girl, boy, tomboy at bakla at sa dami nila sa bahay ay marami rin silang basura.

Wala sanang problema kung malinis siya at may hiya sa sarili. Ang kaso ay hinahayaan lang ni Lota na tambak ang mga basura sa tapat ng compound nila.

At dahil may mga askal ding gumagala sa paligid ng street namin ay kinakalkal ang basura nila at napapadpad

Buti pa ang bansang Korea dahil nagkaroon sila ng kahihiyang na hawiin ang toneladang basura nila sa Pinas pero ang kababayan ko'y walang paki sa tambak niyang kalat.

Cindy ng Quezon City

Kung kayo ay may kapitbahay na may kahanga-hanga, nakakatuwa, nakakaasar o kapanapanabik na kuwento na gusto ninyong i-share dito ay sumulat na agad o mag-email sa 'Kapitbahay mo, i-blind item mo!' E-mail: kapitbahay.tonite@gmail.com.



Protection of '*pawikan*' pushed

By Elmer N. Manuel

A rescue center for the critically-endangered hawksbill turtles or more commonly known as *pawikan* will soon be established in Punta Dumalag in Davao City by the Aboitiz-owned Cleanergy Park to safeguard its continued reproduction.

A memorandum of agreement for the purpose has been signed between Aboitiz, Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte and the Department of Environment

and Natural Resources. Jaime Jose Aboitiz, chief operating officer of Aboitiz Power, cited the Cleanergy Park's role in maintaining biodiversity in the area.

The agreement also covers an education campaign to inform the public on the value of protecting and preserving the critically-endangered species and taking care of wounded and rescued *pawikans* before they are released to the wild.

The population of the hawksbill turtles is dwindling due to unabated poaching for their meat, shell and eggs. Their reproduction has also been hindered by habitat destruction, accidental by-catch, ocean plastic pollution and climate change.

The move by the Cleanergy Park coincides with the goals of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDG) which seeks to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts,

strengthen resilience and take action for restoration to achieve healthy and productive oceans by the year 2020.

The UN-SDG – of which the *Daily Tribune* is a media partner – targets the enhancement of conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources.



SHOCKING News

by EZZERIE PEREZ

CANADIAN TOWN, BINAHA NG STRANDED SEALION

HALOS dalawa sa mahigit 40 mga hayop na lumabas mula sa karagatan ang namatay matapos mabunggo ng isang rumaragasang kotse.

Ang napakaraming bilang ng sealion ay na-stranded sa isang Canadian town matapos ang tubig na gamit nila sa paglalayag ay naging yelo.

Kinumpirma ng pulisya sa Roddickton-Bide Arm, Newfoundland, na dalawa sa malaking grupo ay nasawi at marami pa ang

napinsala sa kalsada. Sinabi ng alkalde sa kanilang bayan na humalo sa daan ang mga sealion, nagkalat sa driveways, backyards, parking lots, doorways, sa businesses.

"Di ko alam na kung may paraan para mabuhay ang seals na ito maliban kung dadamputin sila ng officers at literal na dalhin sa tabi ng yelo."

Kahabag-habag ang mga hayop, hindi pa sila nakakain mula sa ilang linggong pagkawala sa may apat o limang milyong layo ng kara-



gatan. Ang sealion ay nag-migrate sa south mula sa Arctic noong December at nagtipon sa mga baybayin, daungan at dalampasigan.

Wala silang paraan para sila'y makabalik sa kanilang pinanggalingan, ang mga hayop ay napalayo nang napalayo hanggang sa mapadpad sa lupa.

Nagbabala sa mga tao ang kapulisan na huwag hahawakan ang mga sea-lion!

Iniulat ang ilang insidente sa pagbabalik sa mga ito sa karagatan.

Sa kabila nito, nagपालala ang Department of Fisheries and Oceans sa general public dito na illegal na gumambala sa marine mammals.

Bagaman ang mga hayop sa kagubatan ay lumilitaw na friendly in nature, sobra ring mapanganib hawakan o hulihin nang walang proper equipment.



16 JAN 2013



IMBESTIGADaVe

Dave M. Veridiano, E.E.

Manila Zoo, gagawing mall at casino?

NANG marinig kong pinagbibintangan ang Manila Zoo na numero uno umanong pinanggagalingan ng mga duming sanhi ng polusyon sa Manila Bay, biglang naglaro sa aking malikot na isipan ang malungkot na senaryo na tuluyan na itong gibain, upang magbigay-daan sa itatayong malaking mall na may kakambal na mga casino sa paligid nito.

Minsan na rin kasing napag-usapan sa social media ang Manila Zoo dahil sa 'di magandang kalagayan ng mga hayop

dito - na tila napapabayaang umano ng pamunuan ng Lungsod ng Maynila - kaya maraming pro-animal group ang nagpetisyon na ipasara na lamang ito.

May mga patutsada pa nga ang ilang netizen na: "Samantalang ang mga hayop sa Manila Zoo ay namamatay at namamatay sa gutom dahil sa kapabayaang, ang mga hayop naman sa pamahalaan ay naglalakihan ang tiyan sa kabundatan sa kanilang mga ninanakaw sa kaban ng bayan!"

Sana mali ako at 'di totoo, kundi isang malaking tsismis lang, ang ilang beses ko nang narinig na usap-usapan ng mga kaibigan kong madalas makipagtransaksyon sa Manila City Hall, na "in the bag" na umano ang planong gibain at ilipat sa ibang lugar ang Manila Zoo, at ibenta sa grupo ng mga big-time mall at condominium developer ang buong nasasakupan nito.

Narinig ko pa lang ang "tsismis" ay parang may sumundot na agad sa aking dibdib, para sa makasaysayang lugar na ito ng Manila Zoological and Botanical Garden o mas kilala bilang Manila Zoo, na naging

bahagi na ng aking pagkatao - mula pa sa aking kamusmusan, kabataan, hanggang sa ako'y imaging isang ama ng tahanan.

Ang Manila Zoo ay ang pinakamatandang zoo 'di lamang dito sa buong bansa kundi sa buong Asia. Binuksan ito sa publiko sa kinalalagyan nito ngayon, sa kanto ng Quirino Avenue at Adriatico Street sa Malate, Maynila at may sukat na 5.5 hectares (55,000 square meters), noong Hulyo 25, 1959.

Noong nakaraang apat na dekada, dito kasi madalas maganap ang mga pinananabikang "educational tour" ng mga kabataang nasa elementarya at namamasyal ang mga pamilya, dahil sa bukod sa hindi magastos ay may natututunan pa sa mga hayop at halaman.

Masasabi ko kasing parang 'di kumpleto ang pagiging tao mo, lalo na kung dito ka ipinanganak at lumaki sa Metro Manila - kapag 'di mo kilala o naaalala man lang ang pinakasikat na hayop sa Manila Zoo na si KALI, ang Asian elephant na galing Sri Lanka noong 1977, na naging "star of the show" para sa mga bumibisitang estudyante.

Sa ngayon, ang lugar na ito ay tinatahan pa rin ng halos aabot na lamang sa 500 hayop, na binubuo ng 106 species, kasama na rito ang 30 iba't ibang uri ng mammals, 63 na mga reptile at 13 uri ng ibon. Kasama na rin dito ang paborito ng mga bisita - ang mga tiger, lion, at hippo. May mga mahirap na ring makitang hayop dito na gaya ng bearcat, long-tailed macaques at crocodiles.

Nalungkot ako nang todo nang marinig ko mula sa mga eksperto na matagal na palang walang sariling "sewage treatment facility" ang Manila Zoo para sa dumi ng mga tao at hayop, idagdag pa ang ibang basura na galing sa mga puno at halaman. Ang mga duming ito ay dumidiretso sa estero, na dumadaloy naman patungo sa Manila Bay.

Parang ang pakiramdam ko ay pinagkakaisahan ang Manila Zoo upang magkaroon ng dahilan para maalis na ito sa kinalalagyan - na magbibigay kasiyahan naman sa kapritso ng ilang ganid sa ating lipunan!

Mag-text at tumawag sa Globe: 0936-9953459
o mag-email sa: daveridiano@yahoo.com



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1808

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

13
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

16 JAN 2010

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Illegal logs seized in Surigao

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

TAGO, Surigao del Sur – A series of anti-illegal logging operations was launched by the Philippine Army's 36th Infantry (Valor) Battalion (36th IB) in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the area of Lanuza town and Tandag City leading to the confiscation of a total of 3,071 board feet of illegal logs with an estimated market value of ₱126,620.

Lt. Jonald D. Romorosa, Civil Military Operation (CMO) officer of the 36th IB told the Manila Bulletin on Tuesday said the anti-illegal logging operations were launched to help the government in the preservation and protection of the remaining forest in Surigao del Sur. He said these two anti-illegal logging operations happened at 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Friday.

Elements of "Charlie Company" of 36th IB together with DENR Cantilan, Surigao del Sur, as lead agency, launched a joint anti-illegal logging operation at Barangay Sibahay, Lanuza, Surigao del Sur which resulted in a successful confiscation of illegally sawn lumbers and banca keels with a corresponding volume of 1,471 board feet and an estimated market value of ₱96,620.00.

On the same day, another similar operation was launched by the elements of 36th IB troopers with CAA from Pandanon Patrol Base at Barangay Maitom, Tandag City which also resulted in the successful confiscation of illegally sawn Lawaan and Bayang lumbers with a corresponding volume of 1,600 board feet having an estimated market value of ₱30,000, he said.

Since January 2018, troops of the 36th IB conducted 13 successful anti-illegal logging operation in coordination with the DENR and the PNP in the province of Surigao del Sur that resulted in the confiscation of a total of 61,754.54 board feet of illegal logs with an estimated market value of ₱1,547,096.80.

Lt. Col. Xerxes A. Trinidad, commanding officer of the 36th IB said that "The 36th IB will support other government agencies in their mandate to protect the natural environment in our area of operation and we will perform our mandate and support the province of Surigao del Sur to attain peace and a progressive community."

"We are serious in the campaign against anti-illegal logging operation and will support other law enforcement agencies. Let this be a stern warning to all illegal loggers in the Province. Stop your illegal activities or suffer the consequences provided by law," Trinidad told the Manila Bulletin on Tuesday.



Vizcaya, power firm set bamboo plantation project

By Ben Moses Ebreo

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The provincial government and SN Aboitiz Power Magat (SNAP-Magat) will venture into a Bamboo Plantation Project to reinforce denuded areas in the province and provide livelihood for community villagers.

Forester Tito Tanguilig, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources officer, said the BPP will be established in a 10-hectare area inside the Lower Magat Eco-Tourism Park in barangay San Luis in Diadi town.

SNAP-Magat's P700,000 corpo-

rate social responsibility fund was already downloaded to the provincial government to fund the BPP, he said.

Tanguilig also said the BPP will be implemented based on the agreement signed between Governor Carlos Padilla and Engineer Wilhelmino Ferrer, assistant vice president and plant manager of SNAP-Magat.

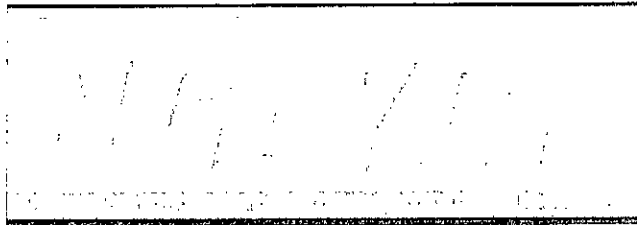
"Based on the MOA, we will be managing the BPP, which will be planted with various bamboo varieties and if this will be successful, we will use these bamboos to strengthen and protect slopping agricultural and protected areas,"

he added.

Tanguilig said they will be tapping farmers and other community organizations in the planting and management of bamboo plantations in various areas.

"These organizations can also partner with us for possible livelihood ventures using bamboo varieties in their areas," he said.

Provincial government officials also added that they will be collaborating with the Department of Trade and Industry and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, among others, for the possible livelihood component of the BPP.



16 JAN 2010

DATE

16 JAN 2010

Magulang pinagtatanim 2 puno kada sanggol

Obligahin na ang mga magulang na magtanim ng dalawang puno sa bawat sanggol na isisilang sa kanilang pamilya.

Ito ay sa sandaling tuluyang maisabatas ang House Bill 8727 o ang Family Tree Planting Act na pinagtibay na ng Kamara sa ikatlo at pinal na pagbasa sa botong 208 unanimous vote.

Layon ng panukala na makapagtakda ang pamahalaan ng mga polisiya na magpoprotekta sa karapatan ng mga Pilipino na magkaroon ng isang bansa na malusog ang ekonomiya.

Sa ilalim ng panukala, itatanim ng mag-asawa ang puno sa kanilang bakuran o sa lugar na itatalaga ng kanilang barangay council na inaprubahan din ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Nakasaad din sa House bill 8727 na ibibigay lamang ng City o Municipal Local Civil Registry ang Certificate of Live Birth ng bata kapag nakapagtanim na ng puno ang mga magulang nito.

Samantala, inaprubahan na rin sa plenaryo sa botong 208 at walang pagtutol ang House Bill 8728 o ang Graduation Legacy for the Environment Act na nag-oobliga sa lahat ng mga estudyanteng magtatapos sa elementarya, high school at kolehiyo na magtanim ng hindi bababa sa 10 puno bilang pre-requisite para maka-graduate. (*Gemma Garcia*)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

13
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

16 JAN 2019

DATE

Unity walk, prayer rally, and covenant signing for HOPE in Zamboanga peninsula

By **NONNOY E. LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The Police Regional Office in Zamboanga peninsula (PRO-9) led the conduct of a “Unity Walk, Prayer Rally and Peace Covenant Signing” in a bid to help promote the holding of an honest, orderly, and peaceful elections (HOPE) in May this year.

PRO-9 Director Chief Supt. Emmanuel Luis D. Licup said that the activities were simultaneously conducted by all other PNP regional offices in the country on Sunday to drumbeat the significance of the May 2019 elections and to herald the start of the election period.

Licup added the Unity Walk and Peace Covenant Signing were part of the PNP advocacy to promote awareness and encourage community sup-

port for the mid-term elections.

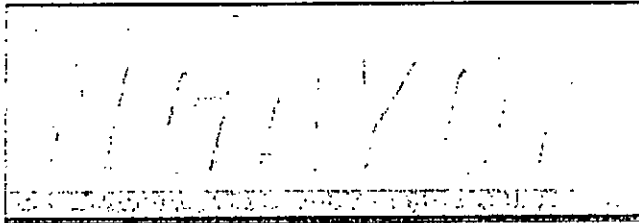
Among the national government agencies that participated in the activity were the PNP, Commission on Elections, National Police Commission, Departments of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Justice, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Department of National Defense, Armed Forces of the Philippines, members of the academe, students, religious groups, force multipliers, non-government organizations, and respective local candidates.

Licup said in Zamboanga City, more than 1,500 participants converged and walked from Zamboanga City Po-

lice office going to Zamboanga Central School SPED Center where a short program was held.

Meanwhile, in Zamboanga Del Norte, close to 1,300 participants met at the Dipolog City hall and walked towards the Dipolog Boulevard, Dipolog City in Zamboanga Del Norte. In Zamboanga del Sur, close to 1,200 participants walked their way from the Comelec office to Taklobo Stage, Plaza Luiz, Pagadian City, where the program was conducted.

In Zamboanga Sibugay, more than 1,000 participants congregated at Ipil Municipal Covered Court, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay and walked their towards the Ipil Covered Court and in Isabela City, more than 300 participants converged at the Isabela City Plaza and walked towards the Isabela City Gymnasium, Isabela City where the program was also conducted.



Holcim Philip- pines launches student contest on sustainable construction

To encourage the next generation of building professionals to have a stronger sustainability mindset, leading cement manufacturer Holcim Philippines, Inc. has launched a design competition that evaluates proposed projects not just on their aesthetic elements and financial feasibility but also on their envisioned environmental and social benefits.

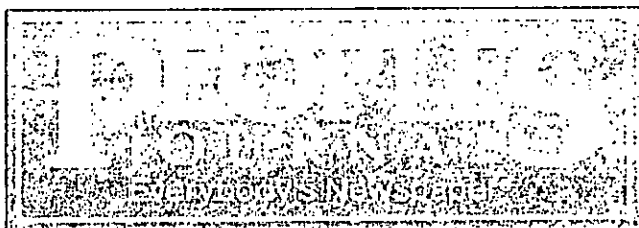
Called the Young Builders Challenge (YBC), the competition is open until April 2019 to engineering and architecture students. Participants must be currently enrolled and at least in third year college.

Projects that have commenced prior to December 2018 and have been entered in other competitions may still be entered in the YBC, provided these have not won any local or regional competitions of the same nature. The contest will have three winners who will receive a cash prize of up to PhP80,000 while PhP 20,000 will be awarded to their schools.

The YBC is inspired by the LafargeHolcim Foundation's Sustainable Construction Awards, a global design contest that encourages construction industry professionals and students to put forward visionary projects and bold ideas for a sustainable future. Each competition cycle spans three years, from announcement to completion with a total of US\$ 2 million in prize money.

Holcim Philippines Vice President for Communications Cara Ramirez: "We believe it is important to instill a sustainability mindset during the formative stage of aspiring industry professionals, and this is one way our company is contributing to this goal. We are excited to receive entries from students from across the country and see their ideas that can address the sustainability challenges we are facing."

For interested participants and for the complete mechanics and guidelines, visit the YBC microsite website at <https://youngbuilderschallengeph.com>.



Arroyo eyes body to monitor urban housing projects

By Ryan Pacpaco

SPEAKER Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will create an oversight committee to monitor the implementation of the National Government Center Housing and Land Utilization Act of 2003 or the law that facilitated urban poor housing in Quezon City.

Speaking during her consultation with beneficiaries of Republic Act (RA) 9207, a law she signed when she was President in 2003 at the National Government Agency (NGC) West in Bgy. Holy Spirit, Quezon City on Tuesday, Arroyo said she will constitute an Oversight Committee on RA No. 9207 at the House of Representatives to make sure that the law is properly implemented.

"When I was studying the law last night in preparation for the meeting today, nakita na meroon pala

oversight committee itong batas na ginawa noong panahon ko. Since meron pang nalalabing problema dito, sabi ko dapat i-constitute ang oversight committee," she said.

Hundreds of urban poor families in NGC were awarded by then President Arroyo their own land as a result of RA 9207. While most of them had already been awarded their own titles, some problems still exist particularly reports of land-grabbing and failure in the reblocking of some properties.

Arroyo has been going around the country to the urban poor housing beneficiaries during her administration.

She signed more than 100 presidential proclamations, executive orders and laws that enabled thousands of urban poor families to acquire the lands they have long been occupying.

Under RA 9207, the Oversight Committee on RA No. 9207 will be chaired in the House by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee Chairman who is currently Cebu Rep. Rodrigo Abellanos



House Speaker forms oversight body on urban poor housing

BY JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ

@joveemarie

SPEAKER Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday said the House of Representatives will create an Oversight Committee on Urban Poor Housing.

In a news statement, Arroyo said the committee will monitor the implementation of Republic Act (RA) 9207, or National Government Center Housing and Land Utilization Act of 2003.

According to the speaker, the RA 9207 is the law that facilitated urban poor housing in Quezon City.

The new Oversight Committee will conduct its first hearing this Monday to thresh out the remaining problems of the residents in Barangay Holy Spirit.

Under RA 9207, the Oversight Committee will be chaired in the House by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee chairman, who is currently Cebu Rep. Rodrigo A. Abellanos. Rep. Winnie Castelo of Quezon City will be a member of the committee and will chair the subcommittee on the concerns of Barangay Holy Spirit because he is the congressman of the said area.

Arroyo said the new oversight committee is consistent with her earlier pronouncement that the Lower House will hold its oversight functions in the remaining months of 17th Congress because they have already passed all the priority bills of President Duterte.

"We already passed many good laws, including my own law in 2003, that's why they are now owners of their property. But



"While most of them had already been awarded their own titles, some problems still exist, particularly reports of land-grabbing and failure in the reblocking of some properties."
—Arroyo

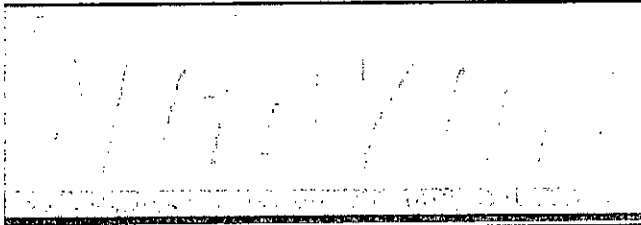
what is important now is to make sure that they are well implemented. So this is part of what I have been saying that that's the task I think the House of Representatives should be doing for the next six months," she said.

Moreover, speaking during her consultation with beneficiaries of RA 9207, a law she signed when she was President in 2003, at the NGC West in Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City, on Tuesday, Arroyo said the Oversight Committee will make sure that the law is properly implemented.

Arroyo said hundreds of urban poor families in Barangay Holy Spirit in Quezon City, were awarded their own land as a result of RA 9207.

"While most of them had already been awarded their own titles, some problems still exist, particularly reports of land-grabbing and failure in the reblocking of some properties," she added.

Arroyo has been going around the country to visit the urban poor housing beneficiaries during her administration. She signed more than 100 presidential proclamations, executive orders and laws that enabled thousands of urban poor families to acquire the land they have long been occupying.



16 JAN 2013

Dep't of Disaster kailangan na

Mismong si Pangulong Duterte ay naniniwala na kailangan na ang isang hiwalay na ahensiya na tutugon sa mga problema at hamon ng kalamidad.

Sa pulong sa Pili, Camarines Sur kama-kailan, sinabi ni Duterte na balak niyang gawing 'regular department' ang kasalukuyang National Disaster Risk and Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Ayon naman kay Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, isinusulong na niya ang panukalang batas na bubuo sa Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR).

Sinabi ni Salceda na bagama't hindi mapipigilan ang pagdating ng mga bagyo sa bansa, maaari namang matugunan kaa-

gad ang pangangailangan ng mga mamamayan kung may kalamidad.

Layunin ng panukala na mapabilis ang pagtugon ng gobyerno kagayag may paparating na bagyo o anumang uri ng kalamidad.

Naniniwala rin si Sal-

ceda na dapat palakasin ang koordinasyon sa pagitan ng national government at mga local government units para epektibong matugunan ang pangangailangan ng mga komunidad bago at pagkatapos ng kalamidad o mga bagyo. (Gemma Garcia)

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



JOEY GALICIA-VENANCIO
Sumbong at Reaksyon...
Phone: 09193297810
Email: venancio.joe@gmail.com

Epalitiko! Tarpaulins ng mga kandidato nagkalat na sa kalye

NAGSIMULA na ang election period. Pero sa Pebrero 12 pa ang simula ng kampanya sa nasyunal at sa Marso 29 pa sa lokal. Ngunit nagkalat na sa kalye ang tarpaulins ng mga kandidato. Ang tawag sa kanila ni dating late Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago ay epalitiko!

Oo! Kahit saang kalye ka ngayon dumaan, sa Metro Manila man o mga probinsiya, makikita mo nang nakabalandra ang mukha ng mga politiko sa tarpaulins. Early campaigning ito.

Ang matindi pa nito, itong mga reelectionist ang nangunguna sa paglabag sa Comelec Election Code. Mga tarpaulin nila ang nakasabit sa mga poste, puno, mga pader, pati sa mga pista ginawang banderitas ang kanilang mga mukha at pangalan. Pwe!

Dito mo makikita kung anong klase ang pagkatao ng isang kandidato/politiko. Sila na nga ang nasa puwesto, sila pa ang nauuna sa pag-iikot, pagkakabit ng tarpaulins, gamit ang mga sasakyan at tao ng munisipyo o lungsod. Grabe talaga!!!

Sa amin lang sa probinsiya ng Romblon, ang numero unong violator o epalitiko ay itong si Budoy Madrona, na after 18 years congressman at 3 years governor at mamahinga ng isang termino, ay kumakandidato uli ngayon bilang congressman sa nag-iisang distrito ng lalawigan. At mga tarpaulin nya ngayon ang nakakalat sa buong lalawigan. Pati sa mga barangay hall, stage at plaza ay nakabalandra ang naglalakihan niyang tarpaulin. Epal talaga!

Itong si Madrona ay nahaharap sa kasong Graft na may kaugnayan sa fertilizer scam sa Sandiganbayan. Nangyari ang kasong ito noong gobernador siya at ang presidente at that time ay ang "mandaraya't mandarambong" na si Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Samantalang ang katunggali ni Madrona na si outgoing Governor Ed Firmalo ay wala ka manlang makitang tarpaulins, may iilan pero greetings lamang nung Christmas season.

Sabi nga nila, ang labanan ngayon sa Romblon, isa ngayon sa Top 10 Most Progressive province sa buong bansa at No. 1 sa MIMAROPA, ay labanan ng "good and evil".

Si Firmalo ang nagpaangat sa Romblon na dati ay No. 4 sa poorest province sa buong bansa. Ngayon ay nasa No. 24 nalang ito. Nagawa itong ibangon ni Firmalo sa loob ng siyam na taon niyang panunungkulan.

At ngayon ay ipinapasa ni Firmalo ang susi ng kaban ng Romblon sa isa pang mapagkakatiwalaang public servant na si Bong Fabella, ang dating mayor ng Calatrava.

Si Fabella ang engineer ng pag-asenso ng napakaganda na ngayong Calatrava town.

Sana itong tandem nina Firmalo at Fabella ay huwag pabayaang ng Romblonanon para tuluy tuloy ang Pagsulong ng Romblon. Mabuhay!