

DATE : 03 FEB 2019

DAY : Sunday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU
INQUIRER

A7
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 FEB 2019

DATE

Metro mayors back Manila Bay cleanup

By **Mariejo S. Ramos**
@MariejoRamosINQ

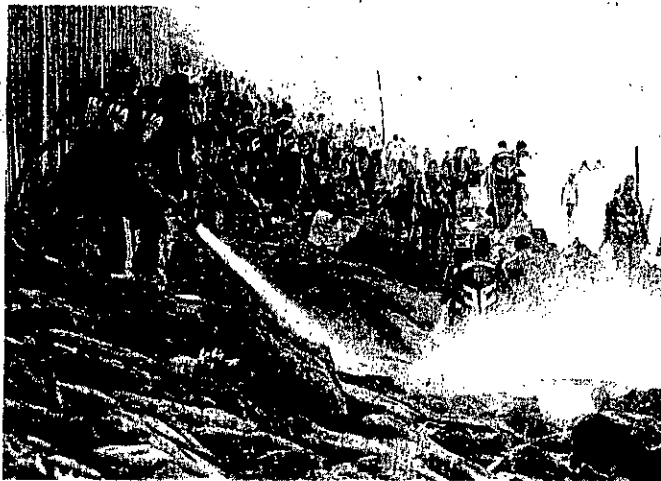
Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Interior Secretary Eduardo Año have met with six Metro Manila mayors who backed plans to “restore the beauty and bounty” of Manila Bay.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Danilo Lim said the two Cabinet officials attended a meeting of the Metro Manila Council on Thursday to discuss plans for the bay.

At the meeting, Mayors Edwin Olivarez of Parañaque, John Reynald Tiangco of Navotas, Rexlon Gatchalian of Valenzuela, Imelda Aguilar of Las Piñas, Robert Eusebio of Pasig and Miguel Ponce III of Pateros expressed support for the plans.

The mayors vowed to continue the cleanup of canals connected to the Pasig River and the bay, the first of three phases of a massive Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

Two other phases involved resettlement of illegal settlers around the bay and long-term



BAY WASH Volunteers help clean up Manila Bay on Feb. 2 to support the government's rehabilitation program for the highly polluted body of water. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

implementation of the program.

GSIS statement

Cimatu asked the mayors to support the Department of Environment and Natural Resource's cease-and-desist orders on businesses violating environmental laws, since local executives can also suspend or cancel business permits.

Even the Government Ser-

vice Insurance System (GSIS) has been given a notice of violation after inspections revealed it was discharging untreated wastewater into the bay.

But GSIS president and general manager Jesus Clint O. Aranas denied the charge and claimed an independent laboratory regularly tests the agency's discharge.

Nonetheless, Aranas said the GSIS would “upgrade its

sewage treatment plant into a more cost-effective and low-maintenance system to support the environment.”

Año said the government would continue inspections and warned that more establishments could be closed if they do not address their wastewater discharge problems.

Año said a separate dialogue with local government units would be held to discuss the relocation of around 220,000 illegal settler families around the bay that cause 80 percent of the pollution.

But fishers group Pam-bansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mammalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pammalakaya) said the plan would benefit only property developers at the expense of fishermen and poor families.

Fernando Hicap, Pammalakaya national chair, accused Cimatu and Año of colluding to hide the real objective, which was to turn parts of the bay into commercial and business hubs that would hurt the environment and livelihood of the poor. —WITH REPORTS FROM BEN O. DE VERA AND JAYMEET. GAMIL INQ



DILG: Inventory Manila Bay's informal settlers

By ROMINA CABRERA

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has directed barangays to conduct an inventory of the informal settler families (ISFs) living along Manila Bay's shoreline and the bay's tributaries, an official said yesterday.

"We have a baseline and if (the number of ISFs) grow higher, we will have basis to file administrative cases against barangay captains who allowed more ISFs in their barangays," DILG Undersecretary for operations Epimáco Densing said in Filipino during an interview over radio *dzBB*.

He said the proliferation of in-

formal settlers along the waterways leading to Manila Bay is an obstacle to the bay's rehabilitation.

Eighty to 85 percent of trash found in the bay's waters are from ISFs living along waterways, Densing alleged.

He said the DILG is trying to balance rehabilitating Manila Bay and implementing the Urban Development and Housing Act.

Densing said rehabilitation is not just a one-time cleanup but a culture change.

Last week, the DILG issued a memorandum requiring barangays to conduct weekly cleanup drives and ensure a good waste management system.

Under Memorandum Circular 2019-09, the DILG directed the country's 178 local government

units or LGUs and 5,714 barangays to fulfill their roles and responsibilities that would contribute to the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay.

Volunteers, non-government organizations and civic society organizations could be tapped in the cleanup drives to help support the rehabilitation initiative, the DILG said.

DPWH to buy trash skimmer

Meanwhile, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is planning to purchase a trash skimmer that would help collect the garbage floating in the waters of Manila Bay.

In an interview over "The Chiefs" aired over Signal TV's *One News*, Secretary Mark Villar said the trash skimmer would be one of the DPWH's

contributions to the government's Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

"We would be deploying heavy machineries in certain areas, we would come up with programs like the trash skimmer. We would bring in an industrial equipment to clean up on industrial scale," he said.

"We need to make it more efficient so we need to buy heavy equipment," Villar added.

He said a machine that could remove tons of trash is needed because removing garbage by hand would take a long time to improve water quality.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu earlier said that it would take seven years before they complete the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

- With Evelyn Macairan



Bong Go sa Manila Bay rehab

POLITICAL WILL HINDI PULITIKA

INIHAYAG ni dating Special Assistant to the President (SAP) at aspiring senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go na tunay na kinakailangan ang political will sa pag-aayos o pagpapaunlad ng bansa at ang isang halimbawa nito ay ang isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng pamahalaan sa Manila Bay.

"Patunay ito na ginagawa ng gobyerno ang lahat para mapabuti ang ating bansa. Dahil ito sa political will at salamat sa volunteers na gusto talagang tumulong," sabi ni Go.

Ginawa ni Go ang reaksyon habang siya at ang kanyang supporters ay nag-aabot ng tulong sa survivors ng dalawang hiwalay na nangyaring sunog sa Litex sa Commonwealth Ave. at Brgy. Talayan, Quezon City.

Sa sunog sa Litex noong January 29, 2019 ay may 50 bahay ang naabo at 100 pamilya ang naapektuhan. May isang bata rin na namatay sa insidente.

Sa Barangay Talayan, 60 bahay naman ang naabo at 154 pamilya ang apektado. Walang iniulat na casualties.

"Kaunting financial assistance mula sa pribadong sektor at mga kaibigan na nagbigay ng grocery packs para mapabuti ang lagay ng mga naging biktima ng sunog," ani Go.



Nangako si Go na sasagutin ang pagpapalibing at iba pang gastusin para sa batang namatay sa sunog sa Litex.

"Itong namatayan naman po, sasagutin natin ang pagpapalibing. Bata (pa man din siya), nakakalungkot," ani Go.

Sinabi ni Kuya Bong na alam niya ang kapasidad o kakayahan ng gobyernong Duterte na makapagpalabas ng magandang resulta na maibalik ang kagandahan ng Manila Bay. (para magsagawa ng cleanup operations). Ngayon, naging maayos, malinis, at makakaligo ka na sa malinis na tubig at (makikitang malinis na) ang kapaligiran, ang daan ay malalapad na, at soon po, matatapos na ang total rehabilitation ng Boracay," paliwanag niya.

"Pinalinis niya (Duterte) ang Manila Bay at (eksakto naman na) mayroon pong mga volunteers (na gusto) talagang tumulong," dagdag niya.

Idiniin ni Go na hindi kailangan ng pulitika at lalo na ang pamumulitika sa Manila Bay rehab

dahil ito na ang tamang panahon para sa pagkalkaisa ng lahat tungo sa maayos na kapaligiran at ligtas na kalikasan.

Nagpapasalamat at pinupuri ni Kuya Bong ang mga ahensiya ng gobyerno, ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at mga volunteers sa pagtutulong-tulong at pagkakapit-bisig

sa tinawag na "Battle for Manila Bay" na sinimulan noong Linggo.

"Kami ni Pangulong Duterte ay sumasaludo sa inyong lahat. Ipagpatuloy natin ang pagkalkaisa para sa kabutihan ng ating minamahal na bayan. Kami ng Pangulo ay handang maglingkod nang walang hinihinging kapalit," ani Go.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

GSIS upgrades sewage system

Aranas cites compliance with LLDA Manila Bay guidelines

Self-testing by state pension fund yielded negative results for pollution

By Joshua Lao and Alvin Murcia

Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) president and general manager Jesus Clint Aranas has assured the public that the state pension fund is doing all it can to help in the rehabilitation and clean-up of Manila Bay.

At the same time, Aranas said the GSIS has been taking taking steps to address a notice served it by the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in line with the government's environmental policies.

The GSIS head office is situated along Roxas Boulevard facing Manila Bay where the rehabilitation and clean-up works are being done.

"I was actually

surprised when I came to know about the notice as we have been religiously monitoring our compliance with the guidelines of the Laguna Lake Development Authority by having our waste waters tested by an independent laboratory," Aranas said.

"In fact, these self-monitoring tests have yielded negative results for pollution in the past three months," he added.

The GSIS chief said they are now upgrading

their sewage treatment plant into a more cost-efficient and low-maintenance system.

"As we speak, GSIS is finalizing the terms of reference to procure the upgrading of its sewage treatment plant that will blaze the trail in complying with the new water guidelines and general effluent standards of DENR," Aranas said.

Moreover, he explained that GSIS is a staunch advocate of environmental protection as it was among its corporate social responsibility programs to participate in the coastal clean-up drive of Manila Bay every year.

Meanwhile, local government units (LGU) are throwing their full support to the Manila Bay clean-up as expressed during the last meeting of the Metro Manila Council (MMC) composed of the various mayors in the National





P-2
CIBIS upgrades sewage system

Capital Region.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chairman Danilo Lim said "local government units have big roles in the success of this undertaking" and that a resolution will be passed by the MMC to support efforts to "restore the bay's beauty and bounty."

Metro mayors vow support for relocation of informal settlers along shoreline, rivers and creeks.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu sought the backing of the mayors following the issuance by the DENR of cease-and-desist

orders against businesses found violating environmental laws in their respective jurisdictions.

According to Cimatu, the various LGU have the authority to issue suspension or cancellation of business permits of commercial establishments polluting the bay.

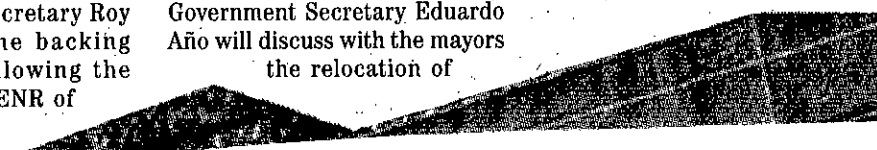
"We have to show that we are one in this effort," Cimatu said as he asked mayors to order barangay captains to conduct regular clean-up activities on esteros and rivers connected to the bay.

Meanwhile, Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año will discuss with the mayors the relocation of

at least 220,000 illegal settler families residing along the Manila Bay.

The mayors had said earlier they would coordinate with the National Housing Authority and the DILG on the relocation of the informal settlers.

In attendance during the meeting were Mayors Edwin Olivarez, Parañaque City; John Reynald Tiangco, Navotas City; Rexlon Gatchalian, Valenzuela City; Imelda Aguilar, Las Pinas City; Robert Eusebio, Pasig City and Miguel Ponce III, Pateros.





Metro mayors all-out support Sa Manila Bay Rehab

NAGPAHAYAG ang Metropolitan Manila Development Authority na mas marami pang lokal na pamahalaan ang susuporta sa kampanya upang malinis ang Manila Bay.

Ito ang napagkasunduan sa ginanap na Metro Manila Council meeting na pinangunahan nina MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu at Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año.

"Magpapasa ng resolusyon ang MMC na sumusuporta sa pangmatagalang programa para maibalik ang ganda at sigla ng baybayin," ani Lim.

Sa naturang pulong, hinling ni Cimatu ang suporta ng mga alkalde sa pag-isyu ng DENR ng cease and desist orders sa mga establisimiyentong mapatutunayang lumalabag sa environmental laws.

Aniya, may kapangyarihan ang mga LGU na mag-isyu ng suspension o kanselasyon ng mga business permit ng mga commercial establishment na nagpaparumi sa Manila Bay.

"Kailangan nating ipakita na nagkakaisa tayo sa haking-bangang ito," saad ng kalihim.

Rerebyuhin din ang compliance o pagsunod ng mga pabrika at iba pang establisimiyento sa balas.

Umapela rin si Cimatu sa mga alkalde na atasan ang mga kapitan ng barangay na magsagawa ng regular na clean-up activities sa mga estero at ilog na kumokonekta sa baybayin.

Samantala, sinabi ni Año na makikipagdayalogo ang DILG sa mga LGU para pag-usapan ang relokalasyon ng nasa 220,000 illegal settler families (ISFs) na nakatira sa paligid ng Manila Bay.

Nagpahayag naman ng suporta ang mga alkalde sa mga akibidad at nangakong makikipag-ugnayan sa National Housing Authority at DILG hinggil sa relokalasyon ng ISFs.

Kasama sa pulong sina Parañaque Mayor Edwin Olivarez, Navotas City Mayor John Reynald Tiangco, Valenzuela City Mayor Rexlon Gatchalian, Las Piñas City Mayor Imelda Aguilar, Pasig City Mayor Robert Eusebio at Pateros Mayor Miguel Ponce III.

Ang malawakang Manila Bay rehabilitation program ay binubuo ng tatlong phase: clean-up, rehabilitation at resettlement at sustainment.

JAY REYES



Ilang hotel at mall sa palibot ng Manila Bay ipasasara - DILG

NAKATAKDANG ipasara ng pamahalaan ang ilang mall at hotel sa palibot ng Manila Bay.

Ayon kay Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año, masusundan pa ang ipinatupad nilang closure sa mga establisimiyento gaya ng Aristocrat at Gloria Maris.

Sinabi ng kalihim na inaasahang hanggang sa susunod na linggo ay mapapasara ang ilang hotel at mall na direktang nagtatapon ng kanilang dumi sa Manila Bay.

Kamakailan ay nagpalabas ng cease and desist order ang Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) laban sa tatlong establisimiyento malapit sa Manila Bay.

(Mula sa DWIZ)



Kunsintidor sa Manila Bay polluters, lagot!

Papanagutin ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) ang mga lokal na opisyal sa Metro Manila na nagpalabas ng business permit sa mga kumpanyang nagpapadumi sa Manila Bay.

Ito ang tiniyak kahapon ni DILG Secretary Eduardo Año kasabay ng utos niyang bumuo ng investigating body, na tutukoy sa lawak ng pananagutan ng mga munisipalidad at lungsod sa Natiional Capital Region kaugnay ng usapin.

Nanindigan din ang kalihim na sasampahan niya ng kasong administratibo

at kriminal ang mga opisyal ng LGU na lumalabag sa environmental law.

"We will see if the violation is new or if it has been going on for a long time. We will determine their accountability," ani Año.

Nauna nang sinuportahan ng mga miyembro ng Metro Manila Council (MMC) sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Nangako rin ang DILG na sususpendihin o kakanselahin ang mga business permit ng mga kumpanyang nagtatapon ng basura o nagpapadumi sa Manila Bay.

Chito A.Chavez



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Abante

UNA SA BALITA



PAGE



UPPER

LOWER



PAGE 1

STORY



BANNER

STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

03 FEB 2010

DATE

Bawal magkalat sa Manila Bay

HINDI pinalampas ng grupong nagbabantay sa Manila Bay ang ginawang pag-iiwan ng kalat ng ilang pasaway na bisita na dumarayo sa lugar para mamasyal.

Nabatid kay Marissa Cristobal ng Department of Public Services (DPS) ng Manila City Hall na may mga tao pa rin silang nasita dahil sa nakitang nag-iiwan ng kanilang basura sa Baywalk.

Kahapon, dumagsa ang maraming tao sa Manila para mag-picnic sa kabila ng malamig na panahon matapos na mabalitaan na malinis na ang Manila Bay.

May iba pang mga tao ang hindi napigilan na mag-swimming sa kabila na ipinagbabawal pa na paliguan ang tubig sa

Manila Bay dahil sa taglay nitong mataas na coliform bacteria.

Una nang ipinagbawal ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila na bawal paliguan ang Manila Bay sa may Baywalk dahil sa panganib ng bacteria na posibleng makuha ng mga taong nais maligo sa dagat.

Samantala, patuloy naman ang pagpapaalala ng awtoridad na huwag nang magkalat sa Manila Bay.

Nagsasagawa pa rin ngayon ng clean-up ang iba't ibang grupo, tulad ng DPS, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), fire volunteer, at maging bike at rider group sa Manila Bay. **(Juliet de Loza-Cudia)**



Abante

UNA SA BALITA



PAGE



UPPER

LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

03 FEB 2019

DATE

Mga LGU na pasaway sa Manila Bay kakasuhan ng DILG

ISANG investigating team na ang binuo ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) na siyang mag-imbestiga sa mga local government unit (LGU) na nagpabaya sa tungkulin at nag-isyu ng business permit sa mga establisimyento nang walang sapat na waste water facility.

Ayon kay Interior Secretary Eduardo Año, malalaman sa gagawing imbestigasyon kung ang naging paglabag sa environmental laws ay bago lamang o dati na, at kung lalabas na dati nang may pagpapabaya ay mananagot dito ang LGUs na walang ginawang aksyon na nagdulot ng lalong polusyon sa Manila Bay.

"DILG will look into the possibility if these companies committed new or other violations based on the result of the inspection.

"We will see if the violation is new or if it has been going on for a long time. We will determine their accountability," paliwanag ni Año, na nagbantang kakasuhan ng ahensiya ng administratibo at kriminal ang mga LGU official na nagpabaya.

Sa oras na matapos ang imbestigasyon ay kakanselahin din ng DILG ang business permit ng mga establisimyento na may paglabag.

Samantala, nagbanta din ang DILG sa mga barangay official na mapapatunayang nagkakanlong ng mga squatter para maging kanilang botante.

Sinabi ni Interior Undersecretary for Barangay Affairs Martin Diño na ipatutupad nila ang batas laban sa informal settlers at ang mga barangay na mapapatunayang nagkakanlong ng squatter sa kanilang lugar ay kanila ding kakasuhan.

Bukod sa pagtukoy sa mga establisimyento na may paglabag sa environmental laws ay tinutukan din ng DILG ang relokasyon para sa may 230,000 informal settler na naninirahan sa paligid ng Manila Bay. **(Tina Mendoza)**



03 FEB 2019

DATE

BOSE NG TAYANG MANILA NG BAYAN

LGUs, LINGGUHANG MAGLILINIS NG MANILA BAY — DILG

INAATASAN na ang mga lokal na opisyal na lingguhang maglinis sa Manila Bay para makatulong sa rehabilitasyon nito.

Sa ipinalabas na memorandum ng Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), inoobliga nito ang mga local government unit (LGU) na magsagawa ng lingguhang cleaning operations.

Ani DILG Undersecretary Epimaco Densing, mayroon silang monitoring system para masigurong nagtatrabaho ang mga opisyal.

Ipinunto ng opisyal na ang mga informal settler ang responsable sa 80 hanggang 85 porsiyento ng polusyon sa Manila Bay.

Kailangan aniya na tiyakin ng LGUs na hindi na lolobo pa ang mga informal settler upang hindi dumami ang mga basura.

Ibinabala pa ni Densing na mahaharap sa kasong kriminal ang mga opisyal ng barangay na hinahayaang dumami ang mga pamilyang informal settler sa Manila Bay.

(Vyne Reyes)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



74
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
 STORY

BANNER
 STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 FEB 2010

DATE

COLIFORM SA MANILA BAY MATAAS PA RIN

NAGBABALA ang Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) na bawal pa rin maligo sa Manila Bay kahit na tuloy-tuloy ang paglilinis dito.

Ang pahayag nito ng LLDA ay makaraang lumabas ang resulta ng ginawa nilang pagsusuri sa mga kinuhang water sample na kung saan ay

nananatiling mataas ang antas ng fecal coliform bacteria sa Manila Bay.

At para maituring na ligtas ang bacteria level sa Manila Bay ay dapat na hindi ito hihigit sa 100 MPN per 100 milliliters, na coliform level.

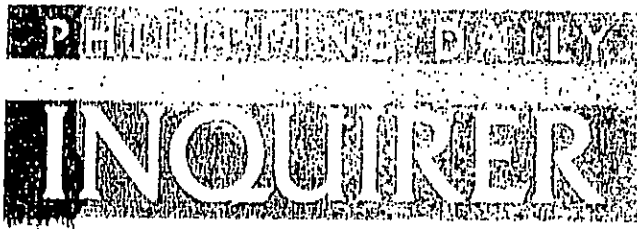
Dahil dito, binigyan naman ng Manila City Hall ng

isang linggo ang mga establisimiyento para ayusin ang kanilang water treatment facilities na malapit sa Roxas Blvd.

Nauna nang sinabi ng LLDA na araw-arawin nila ang pagkuha ng water sample sa Manila Bay bilang bahagi ng patuloy na paglilinis sa kalidad ng tubig sa lawa ng Maynila.



BOLUNTARYONG nagtulong-tulong ang mga tauhan ng MMDA at Angkas sa paglilinis ng basura sa kahabaan ng Manila bay.
Kuha ni **NORMAN ARAGA**



A13
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 FEB 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Saving our oceans

Imagine a country with one of the world's longest coastlines, with countless islands, inlets and fishing areas covering around 2 million square kilometers. This country is Norway—but it is also the Philippines.

Our shared maritime history goes back over 100 years, when Filipino seafarers sailed on Norwegian ships during World War I. Today, this bond is stronger than ever, with around 40,000 Filipino seafarers working on Norwegian-controlled ships, and about 50 companies with Norwegian maritime interests established in the Philippines.

The Philippines, like Norway, has a proud maritime legacy. My new friend Arturo Valdez, former undersecretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications and the leader of the first Filipino expedition to Mount Everest, recently invited me for a ride on a replica of a 4th-century "balangay" ship in Manila Bay one recent Sunday.

The balangay allowed Filipinos to navigate the seas in the South Philippines and beyond, and Arturo even shared that the shipbuilding techniques of the balangay are similar to those of the Norwegian Viking ships which roamed the Atlantic Ocean and beyond for trade and plunder in the 8th century and onward.

This was my first boat trip along Manila Bay. I was fascinated by the impressive feat of precolonial Filipino shipbuilding skills and creativity, and at the same time, I was flabbergasted by the amount of visible plastic pollution at the bay. According to a recent report by Greenpeace, the Philippines is the third largest source of plastic pollution in oceans worldwide.

This is symptomatic of a global problem. Plastic in the world's oceans is an epidemic, and it is set to treble worldwide within a decade unless action is taken. Every minute, 15 tons of litter enter our oceans.

COMMENTARY

BJØRN JAHNSEN

But there is good news as well. All over the world, people are picking up plastic and litter from shores and beaches. In the Philippines, hundreds of thousands of people participate in coastal cleanups every year. The recent government campaign kick-off to rehabilitate and clean up Manila Bay gives grounds for hope. To succeed, sustainable and consistent solutions are needed. Every Juan and Juana must do their part, as the rehabilitation process cannot solely be left to government and enterprises.

The seriousness of the problem hit home for the Norwegian public last year when a large-beaked Cuvier's whale was stranded on a beach on the west coast of Norway. The whale had slowly starved to death. Scientists found more than 30 large pieces of plastic in the whale's belly. A clear wake-up call—and a sad reminder of what we are doing to our environment and to the ocean.

The sustainable use of the oceans is the foundation for Norway's prosperity and the welfare of our population. Ocean industries account for more than 70 percent of Norway's exports.

In the coming years, protecting the oceans and their sustainable use will be at the center of Norway's national and foreign policies. Green technologies, digitalization, innovative uses of marine resources, international diplomacy, and the fight against illegal fishing and plastic pollution are some of the main focus areas. These are also priorities Norway will bring to the UN Security Council in 2021 if we are elected.

And we are putting words into action.

Last year, Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg invited 11 world leaders to join her in a High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy. The aim is to build a shared understanding of the state of the ocean economy and ecology, and to come up with a set of recommendations for building a global and sustainable ocean economy. This year, Norway will host the "Our Oceans Conference" in Oslo in October.

Last spring, Norway took the initiative in the World Bank to make improved waste management and prevention of marine litter focus areas of the Problue-fund. Norway has already pledged about \$200 million over the next four years to cleaning up the world's oceans.

A sustainable ocean economy is critical to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals related to hunger, health, jobs, energy, sustainable communities and global partnerships.

Change starts at home, and we, at the Norwegian Embassy in Manila, are now working with neighbors and suppliers to reduce the use of plastic and waste, and are installing solar panels at the embassy for renewable energy.

My question to you is this: Do you think I will be able to take a boat trip in Manila Bay before my tenure ends in four years, and take a swim in clean waters?

Bjørn Jahnsen is the Norwegian ambassador to the Philippines. Prior to his posting to the Philippines in September 2018, Ambassador Jahnsen worked on the Colombian Peace Process in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo. His diplomatic assignments abroad include Mexico, London and Madrid. Mr. Jahnsen was also the official spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway from 2008 to 2012.

Editorial

I-relocate muna ang squatters sa baybayin ng Manila Bay

NAKIKITA na ang pagbabago sa Manila Bay. Medyo malinis na ito. Bunga ito nang dibdibang kampanya ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at pribadong sector. Nagtulong-tulong ang marami para pulutin ang mga inanod na basura na karamihan ay plastic. Sabi ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, puspusan na ang gagawing paglilinis sa Manila Bay at maaaring sa Disyembre, kapag malinis na ito, puwede nang paliguan. Ipinasara na rin ang Manila Zoo na ayon kay Cimatu ay isa sa mga nagpaparumi sa tubig. Lahat nang dumi ng zoo ay isinusuka sa Manila Bay. Ayon pa kay Cimatu, umaabot na sa 330 milyon ang fecal coliform sa tubig ng lawa. Ibig sabihin, napakarumi ng Manila Bay at hindi puwedeng langyan o gawing paliguan.



Isang araw makaraan ang sama-samang paglilinis sa baybayin ng lawa, may mga nakita na namang lulutang-lutang na basura. May mga basurang plastic na tinangay na naman ng alon at humantong sa breakwater. Tumalikod lamang ang mga naglilis, meron na namang basura. May mga nagtapon na naman na tila walang pakialam sa ginagawang rehabilitasyon. Patuloy ang nakasanayan ng mga walang disiplinang mamamayan na nakatira sa baybayin na pagtatapon ng kanilang basura.

Tiyak na ang mga basura ay itinapon ng mga informal settlers o iskuwater na nakatira sa baybayin ng Manila Bay. Galing din ang mga ito sa mga nakatira sa gilid ng estero at Pasig River. Ang mga itinapon sa estero, sapa at ilog ay aanurin sa Manila Bay. Lahat nang basura, tatapon sa lawa.

Kaya ang pinaka-epektibong solusyon para masiguro na walang aanurin na basura sa Manila Bay, i-relocate ang mga iskuwater. Hindi magiging tagumpay ang paglilinis sa lawa hangga't may mga nakatira sa baybayin. Sayang lang ang pagod sa pagpupulot ng basura sapagkat pagtalikod, nariyan na naman ang basura. Huwag makinig sa sinasabi ng grupong Kadamay kaugnay sa relokasyon ng mga iskuwater.

Para maging matagumpay ang paglilinis, alisin sa baybayin ng Manila Bay ang mga iskuwater. Agaran ding ipasara ang mga establisimento at kompanyang nasa paligid ng Manila Bay na nagtatapon ng lason sa lawa.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



DATE



THE CLEAN-UP CONTINUES - A firefighter joins volunteers in cleaning up the Manila Bay shoreline Saturday. (Mark Balmores)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
REGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Trusted Since 1898

The Manila Times

A2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

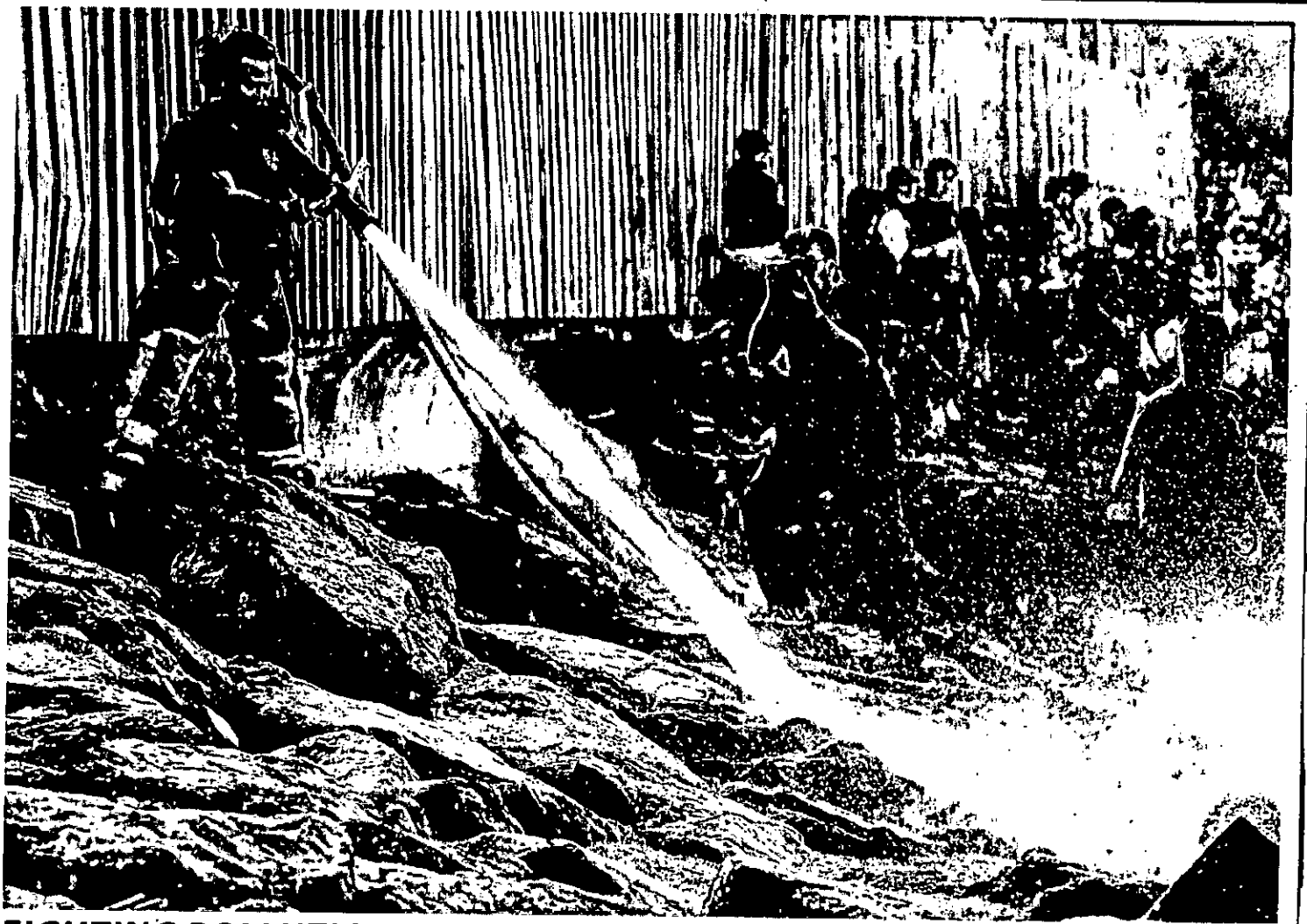
BATTLES
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 FEB 2019

DATE



FIGHTING POLLUTION A firefighter joins dozens of "cleaners" who gathered on Saturday to continue the clean-up operation at the Manila Bay. PHOTO BY RUSSELL PALMA



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



16
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

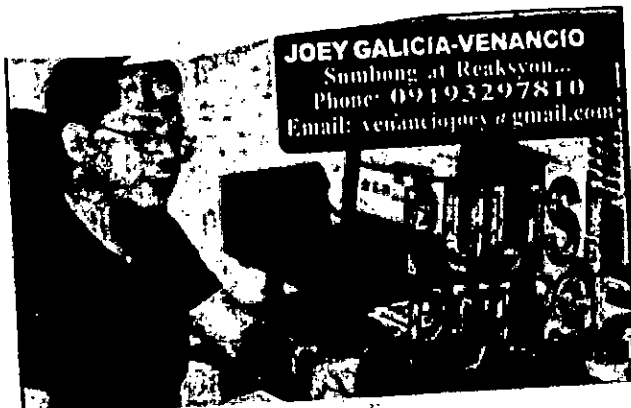
CARTOON

03 FEB 2019

DATE



TUMULONG ang mga volunteer firefighter sa paglilinis sa Maynila Bay na kasalukuyang isinasailalim sa rehabilitasyon ng lokal na pamahalaan at ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).
Kuha ni **NORMAN ARAGA**



DENR Linisin din ang dagat sa Baseco, Parola at Balut

NAPADAAN ako kahapon sa Baywalk sa Roxas Boulevard, malapit sa US Embassy. Marami na ngang namamasyal at naliligo rito, matapos pangunahang linisin ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kaugnay ng P47 billion rehabilitation program sa Manila Bay.

Maliinis na talaga ang dating puros basura. Litaw na litaw na ang buhangin. Wala ka nang makitang kalat pa. Mga ibong tagak nalang ang makikita mong nakakalat sa baybayin.

Oo! Ang gandang tingnan ng lugar lalo pag sunset, tila nagbabaga ang dagat. Pasyalan nyo...

Naisip ko, Usec. Benny Antiporda, pare ko, gawin narin ito ng DENR sa may dulo ng BASECO, Port Area, sa may Gasangan 1. Walisin dito ang mga bahay na nakatirik sa dagat, na ang kanilang mga basura'y pinaanonod lang sa alon. Bagsakan din ng iligal na droga ang mga barong-barong sa dagat dito.

Gayundin sa dulo ng Isla Puting Bato sa Parola Compound, at "Happyland" sa Balut, Tondo. Maraming bahay dito ang nakatuntong na sa dagat at puos basura ang ilalim. Kapag hightide at malakas ang alon ay inaanod ang mga basura at mga dumi ng tao sa may Baywalk.

Kapag naalis ang mga barong-barong sa dagat sa mga nabanggit na lugar, malaki ang mababawas sa mga basurang inaanod sa may US Embassy. Pramis!

Actually ang mga bahay na ito na nakatayo sa dagat sa Baseco, Parola at Balut ay pinaalis na noon, binayaran na sila ng gobyerno, binigyan ng bahay sa resettlement areas, pero muling nagbalikan ang mga loko nang maglaylo ang gobyerno sa paglinis sa mga bahay sa creek at gilid ng dagat.

Ngayong determinado ang gobyernong Duterte sa paglinis sa Manila Bay, makabubuti na isama sa pagwalis ang mga basura sa mga naturang baybayin. Pag nangyari ito, ang gandang tingnan ng coastal ng Manila. Mismo!



Mga establishment tumugon sa utos na water treatment facility

Agad na umakasyon ang ilan sa mga establisimiyento sa lungsod ng Pasay na tugunan ang kakulangan sa wastong pagtatapon ng tubig sa pamamagitan ng pagpapatayo ng sarili nilang pasilidad para sa water at waste treatment. Nabatid na karamihan sa mga establisimiyentong iniutos na isara ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), ang tanggapang nasa ilalim ng pamamahala ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), ay nabigyan ng babala noon pang Setyembre ng nagdaang taon kaya't walang dahilan upang hindi nila matugunan ang nararapat na panuntunan.

Ilan sa mga binigyan ng 'notice of closure' sa Pasay City ang HK Sun Plaza, Tramway Bayview Buffet Restaurant, Gloria Maris Sharkfin Restaurant, Euniverse Entertainment, D Circle Hotel, Malate Bayview Mansion, Summit Ice, Inc. at marami pang iba.

Sa ipinatawag na pulong-bali-taan ni Lolita Borja, general manager ng Euniverse Entertainment, ipinakita niya ang ipinatayo nilang water treatment facility na sinimu-

lang gawin noong pang Nobyembre ng nagdaang taon at ginastusan ng milyong halaga ng salapi upang matugunan lamang ang panuntunang ipinaiiral ng LLDA at DILG. Bagama't hindi pa aniya nasisimulan ang waste treatment na ipatatayo rin nila, handa na silang sumailalim sa panibagong inspeksiyon ng LLDA upang patunayan na sumusunod sila sa inilatag na panuntunan ng mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan.

Ipinakita rin ni Borja ang ginawang pagsasara ng LLDA ng daluyan nila ng tubig na hindi nila ginallow upang patunayan na handa silang sumunod sa mga panuntunan. Napag-alaman ng nagsimula na ring magpatayo ng kani-kanilang sariling water at waste treatment facilities ang ilan pang establisimiyento sa lungsod ng Pasay upang matiyak na malinis ang tubig na dadaloy mula sa kanila patungo sa Manila Bay.

Sinabi pa nito na noong pang Disyembre 6, 2018 sila may pinalalang notice hinggil ditto kaya't agad silang tumugon sa kautusan ng LLDA. (Armida Rico)



Kaugnay ng Manila Bay rehabilitation

PASILIDAD PARA SA WATER AT WASTE TREATMENT, SINIMULAN NA

SINIMULAN na ng mga establisimyento sa Pasay City na tugunan ang kakulangan sa wastong pagtapon ng tubig sa pamamagitan ng pagpapatayo ng sarili nilang pasilidad para sa water at waste treatment.

Napag-alaman na karamihan sa mga establisimyentong iniutos na isara ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) ang tanggapang nasa ilalim ng pamamahala ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ay nabigyan na ng babala noon pang Setyembre ng nagdaang taon kaya walang dahilan upang hindi nila matugunan ang nararapat na panuntunan.

Ilan sa mga establisimyento sa Pasay City na binigyan ng "notice of closure" ang HK Sun Plaza, Tramway Bayview Buffet Restaurant, Gloria Maris Sharkfin Restaurant, Euniverse Entertainment, D Circle Ho-

tel, Malate Bayview Mansion, Summit Ice, Inc. at marami pang iba.

Sa ipinatawag na purolong-balitaan ni Lolita Borja, general manager ng Euniverse Entertainment, ipinakita niya ang ipinatayo nilang water treatment facility na sinimulang gawin noon pang Nobyembre ng nagdaang taon at ginastusan ng milyong halaga upang matugunan lamang ang panuntunang ipinairal ng LLDA at DILG.

Aniya, hindi pa nasimulan ang waste treatment na ipatatayo rin nila, handa na silang sumailalim sa panibagong inspeksiyon ng LLDA upang patunayan na sumusunod sila sa inilatag na panuntunan ng mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan.

Ipinakita rin ni Borja ang ginawang pagsasara ng LLDA ng daluyan nila ng tubig na hindi nila ginalaw upang patunayan na handa silang sumunod sa mga panuntunan.

Nabatid na nagsimula na ring magpatayo ng kani-kani-

nilang sariling water at waste treatment facilities ang ilan pang establisimyento sa lungsod upang matiyak na mali-

nis ang tubig na dadaloy mula sa kanila patungo sa Manila Bay.

(Gina Pleñago)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1800

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

4
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 FEB 2010

DATE

LGUs coddling polluting firms face sanctions

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) will step up its investigation to ferret out the local government units (LGUs) that issued business permits to firms found to be polluting Manila Bay with their wastewater and other pollutants.

DILG Secretary Eduardo Año said DILG will also determine the extent of the violation of the concerned firms.

"We will see if the violation is new or if it has been going on for a long time. We will determine their accountability," Año said.

The chief also vowed to file administrative and criminal cases against local government officials violating environmental laws.

Earlier, members of the Metro Manila Council (MMC) gave their overwhelming support to the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

DILG also vowed to suspend or cancel the business permits of firms polluting the bay.

The department will prioritize the relocation of squatter families living along the waterways flowing into the bay.

"We will prioritize those living along the waterways to remove the source of

wastes from informal settler families (ISFs), which go to the Manila Bay," he said.

Based on DILG records, 230,000 such families reside along the coastline of Manila Bay and its tributaries.

DILG Undersecretary for Barangay Affairs Martin Dino warned barangay officials they will face the full force of the law if they are found coddling squatters.

A barangay chairman for 13 years in Quezon City, Dino said he "could not be hoodwinked by barangay chairmen and officials" employing corrupt acts like the "coddling of squatters."



P-1

NEWS FEATURES



WILD OVER WETLANDS Egrets are among the migratory birds that flock to the Candaba wetlands for food.—PHOTOS BY NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

By **Jhesset O. Enano**
@JhessetEnanoINQ

CANDABA, PAMPANGA—The parched soil tucked between its marshes and rice paddies belies its name, and is the result of the twin threats hanging over the Candaba wetlands in recent years.

Climate change and land conversion have been rapidly redefining the wetlands' postcard-pretty backdrop and threatening the ecosystem that depends on it.

Longtime farmer Gaudencio de Leon recalled a more scenic wetland marked by abundant water, with the sky shimmering with the flight of thousands of migratory birds coming to feed on its bounty.

Comprising an estimated 32,000 hectares, the famed wetlands some 60 kilometers north of Manila is a complex of swamps, marshes, freshwater ponds and rivers that stretch across five municipalities in Pampanga and Nueva Ecija provinces.

Considered a key biodiversity area by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), it is an important staging and wintering area for wild ducks and other threatened waterbirds, making it an irresistible draw to birdwatchers and nature lovers.

During the wet season, usually from May to October, water fills the expanse. The rest of the year, the complex is turned into farmlands, with enough water

to sustain crops and provide a healthy habitat for native and migratory birds, including the endemic Philippine duck.

Seeking warmer climes and a more hospitable food source, migratory birds fly in, including the endangered black-faced spoonbill and the rare great bittern and spot-billed duck.

Drop in numbers, varieties

But prolonged dry seasons have affected the wetlands and the species that rely on this habitat for sustenance, according to Minerva Martinez, the conservation and development division chief of DENR-Region 3.

With little or no food in the Candaba Swamp, the tendency of these birds is "to fly to other wetlands that would have a continuous supply of their needs."

In a visit to Candaba by environment officials and personnel last weekend in celebration of World Wetlands Day, a decrease in the number and species of birds was noted, with the DENR team observing mostly egrets and herons in the area.

While the dry season in February often results in fewer birds in the wetlands, environment officials have noted and recorded a downtrend in migration rates in the area.

Last year, water birds only numbered 1,449, the lowest recorded rate since 2010, according to the 2018 Asian Waterbird Census.

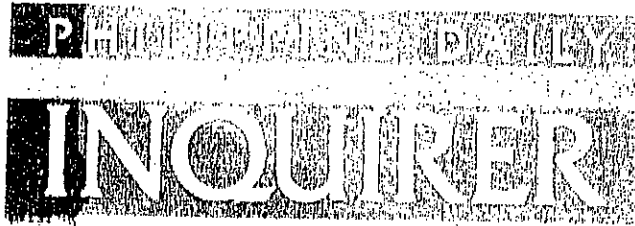
DENR records also showed a

decreasing number of species among migratory birds. From 64 species recorded at Barangay Doña Simang in 2016, the number went down to 42 in 2017, 30 in 2018, and 16 so far this year.

A natural solution

Although more studies should be done to establish a clear link between climate change and reduced biodiversity in the wetlands, both intense flooding and droughts can impact the ecosystems in areas like Candaba, said Amy Lccionés, vice president of the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands.

But while climate change can be a threat to them, the wetlands can actually act as natural



03 FEB 2019

DATE

P-2

Climate Change, Land ~~Resource~~ conversion

solutions to climate change, said Crisanta Rodriguez, director of the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau.

If well-managed, wetlands can reduce floods by absorbing and storing excess rainfall, she explained. They also provide food and water to communities, she added.

Aside from climate change, the threat of land conversion looms large over the wetlands, said Lecciones.

Most of the Candaba wetlands are privately owned, leaving the government with less options for conservation efforts in these areas, she explained.

While the wetlands remain a Ramsar site candidate that would give it international

stature under an international treaty, the Candaba wetlands have yet to be declared a protected area.

Rodriguez said wetlands were often seen as "wastelands," or places that can be drained or burnt off to give way to other land uses, ranging from agricultural to residential and industrial purposes.

Vanishing faster than forests

"Converting them to agricultural lands is OK, as long as the practices are sustainable, because this is how farmers adapt to the nature of the wetlands," said Joy Navarro, DENR senior ecosystems management specialist.

But the continuing reclamation and redevelopment of Candaba and other wetlands into commercial lands can mean the loss of habitat for birds and other species that consider them their home, she added.

According to the Global Wetland Outlook released late last year, wetlands are disappearing three times faster than forests. Since 1970, 35 percent of the world's wetlands have been lost to degradation, with the Philippines included in this global trend.

As environment officials race against time to conserve the remaining wetlands, Navarro said communities should raise awareness about its benefits and threats so as "to empower them" and prod them into action. INQ



PRRD orders review of land conversion procedures

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

President Duterte has ordered his Cabinet to address issues involved in land conversion cases and work to streamline and fast-track land conversion procedures to curb corruption.

In a statement, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said Duterte gave members of the Cabinet marching orders to study and review the existing process and to address the bottlenecks affecting the resolution of land conversion cases.

"The President wants to get rid of corruption in land conversion cases, and he understands how delays in processing can be equated with corruption," he said.

"This is why we have been tasked to improve the current systems so that delays can be avoided," he added.

According to the Palace official, there has been a steady increase in conversion applications since 2003. As of 2018, there remained 140 pending conversion cases with the agrarian reform department.

Nograles noted that at present, different agencies are involved in land conversion — namely the departments of Agriculture (DA), and Agrarian Reform (DAR) for classification and conversion of land from agriculture to other uses; and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for environmental clearances.

"The challenge is to get everyone on the same page so that we can identify the choke points in the process and handle these appropriately," he said.

"Once you know what the problems

are, coming up with solutions becomes easier — and this is what the agencies involved have been doing," he added.

Nograles said delays can be attributed to the acceptance of applications with insufficient documentary requirements, redundant processes, delays in the completion of the posting of the billboards and notices due to opposition from interest groups, and open-ended periods for deliberation in the various levels or offices involved in the evaluation of applications.

"Under the current set up, the various steps involved take weeks and even months to process. Kaya umaabot ng (That's why it takes) 26 to 36 months to process an application," he said, reiterating the President's words that this period is unacceptable.

Nograles revealed that in discussions with the DA, DAR, and DENR, proposed measures to address these delays could shorten the whole conversion application process to 30 working days from receipt of the application with complete supporting documents.

"We are now working with the concerned agencies so that the DAR can finalize and implement the new streamlined procedures. The results of the new procedures will be reported to the President in the next few weeks," he said.

Among the proposed measures to shorten the application period are the deletion of redundant processes, the acceptance of applications that are accompanied by complete supporting documents, and fixing the time limits for each phase of the application process.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

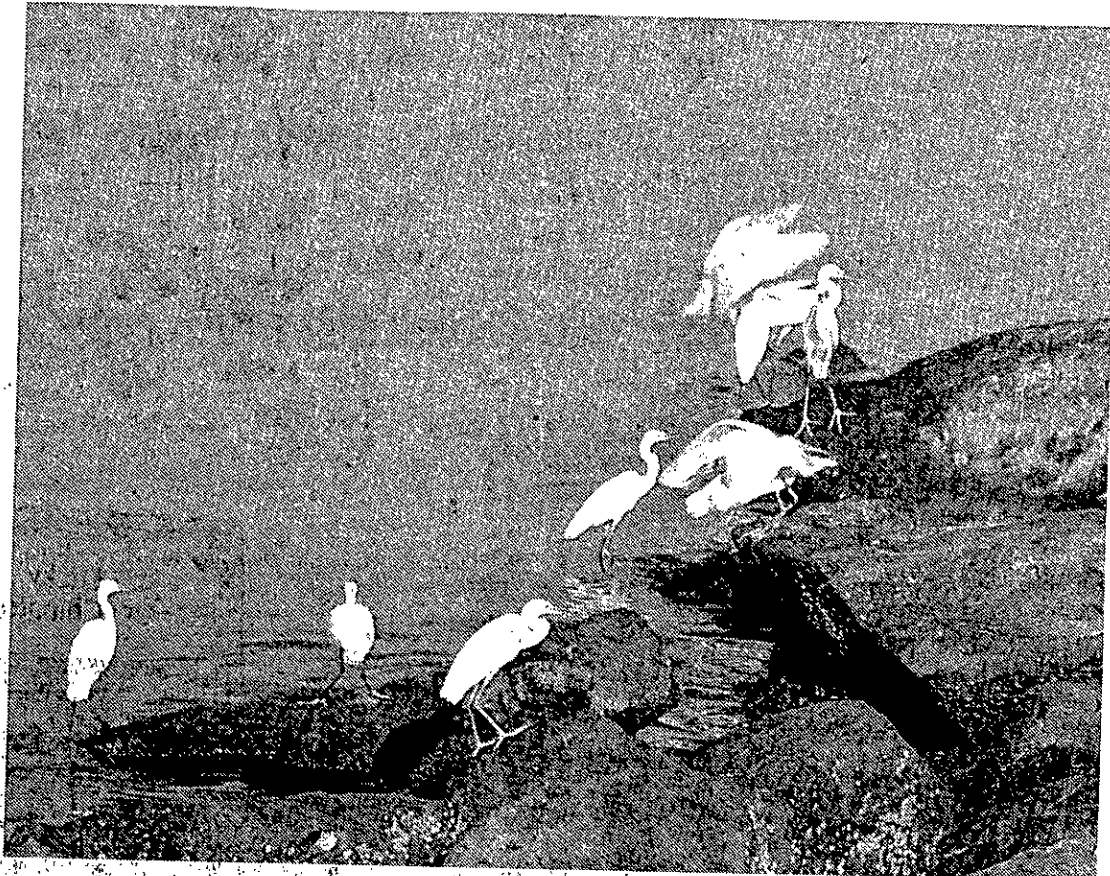
Daily Tribune

www.DailyTribune.com



03 FEB 2019

DATE



Bird station Sea gulls flock to the shores of a cleaner Manila Bay that may indicate the lost ecosystem in the body of water returning.

AL PADILLA



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

PAMPANGA DAILY INQUIRER

A9
PAGE

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| UPPER | PAGE 1 | BANNER | EDITORIAL | CARTOON |
| LOWER | STORY | STORY | | |

03 FEB 2017

DATE

Cutting of pine trees divides Pampanga townsfolk

At least 49 pine trees were felled last month at a public park in Magalang town, Pampanga province, prompting residents to take to social media to vent their anger or support the clearing. On Facebook, Ma Ed "condoled with nature and with all the innocent trees." Lyka Camille Lising Mendiola, a resident, said she grew up with the trees and wondered what happened. But Rosario Pangili-nan Castro, another resident, supported the cutting, saying this "eliminated the risk or danger that may be caused by uprooted trees or broken branches during unfavorable weather conditions." Mayor Ma. Lourdes Lacson confirmed she applied for a tree-cutting permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources after the town council approved the rehabilitation of the plaza as a tourism project. —TONETTE OREJAS



Toward a sustainable bamboo enterprise



THE participants and training coordinators at the E-Bamboo production Center in Cardona, Rizal. DOST-PCAARRD PHOTO

ALTERNATIVE materials for wood for the handicrafts, furniture and construction industries are very much in demand. One of such materials is bamboo.

The high demand for bamboo is brought about by the scarcity of wood due to the depletion of timber resources, and the strict implementation of Executive Order 23 that bans logging in natural forest.

However, the growing interest in bamboo as wood alternative can lead to overharvesting, material wastage and other unsustainable practices.

With the growing importance of bamboo, there is a need to strengthen the capacity for operating the whole business of producing, harvesting, processing and marketing the material, while ensuring the sustainability of its resources and the enterprises that depend on it.

To address this concern, the Forestry and Environment Research Division of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCAARRD) conducted a training-workshop.

Twenty-seven participants representing various agencies and bamboo farm owners from different regions attended the five-day training workshop titled, "Sustainable Small and Medium-Scale Bamboo Enterprises for the Green Economy."

Dr. Ramon A. Razal and Prof.

Rosalie C. Mendoza, both professors of the Department of Forest Products and Paper Science of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, served as the overall facilitators for the training-workshop.

The facilitators imparted to the participants various skills and techniques in establishing and marketing sustainable bamboo enterprises through lectures and hands-on training about nursery establishment and bamboo-plantation development, bamboo innovations for entrepreneurship and marketing of bamboo-based products, among others.

"The training-workshop provided us new knowledge on the production of various bamboo products, such as charcoal, musical instruments, furniture, wood carvings and even food from bamboo 'shoots,'" Visayas State University instructor Andy Phil said.

Participants from the private sector, on the other hand, said they appreciated the training course because of the topics on marketing and cost-benefit analysis of bamboo-based products.

In support of the DOST-PCAARRD's capability building and R&D governance banner program, the training-workshop aimed to provide the participants knowledge on the use of bamboo for its various products, while sustaining our bamboo resources for a greener economy.

Eirene Grace C. Zaragoza/S&T Media Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Founded Since 1998

The Manila Times

A6
PAGE

UPPER
TOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

RASTER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 FEB 2019

DATE

Electronic devices outnumber humans and trigger a surge in e-waste

BY THALIF DEEN

UNITED NATIONS: The widespread innovations in modern digital technology have a devastating downside to it: the accumulation of over 50 million tonnes of electronics waste (e-waste) globally every year.

And that's greater in weight than all of the world's commercial airliners ever made, or enough Eiffel Towers to fill the borough of Manhattan in New York city, warns a new report released at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, January 24.

Currently only 20 percent of e-waste — including desktop computers, cell phones, laptops, television sets, printers and a wide variety of household electrical appliances — is formally recycled.

If nothing changes, the United Nations University (UNU), one of the authors of the report, predicts e-waste could nearly triple to nearly 120 million tonnes by 2050.

The study says it is difficult to gauge how many electrical goods are produced annually, but just taking account of devices connected to the internet, they now number many more than humans, whose total world population now stands at over 7.7 billion.

The joint report, titled "*A New Circular Vision for Electronics – Time for a Global Reboot*," and backed by seven UN agencies, points out that rapid innovation and lowering costs have dramatically increased access to electronic products and digital technology, with many benefits.

This has led to an increase in the use of electronic devices and

equipment. And the unintended consequence of this is a ballooning of electronic and electrical waste.

The study says e-waste is now the fastest-growing waste stream in the world. Some forms of it have been growing exponentially.

Asked how feasible is it for countries to have mandatory legislation on recycling e-waste, Dr. Ruediger Kuehr, co-author of the report and director, UNU-ViE SCYCLE, Sustainable Cycles Program, told IPS mandatory e-waste recycling legislations are in place, for example, in the European Union (EU).

As per such, 85 percent all e-waste generated in the EU must be recycled in 2019. However, this target is not going to be reached at all, he noted.

Collection is the biggest challenge and recent attempts to substantially increase it by forcing, for example, retailers to accept obsolete e-products have not substantially increased collections.

Hence, he said, e-waste recycling legislations must come together with innovative and rewarding collection systems; consumer awareness (for example, not for storing obsolete equipment at home, but returning it early on) but also new systems to consume electronics such as dematerialization — purchasing the service instead of the product.

This will ease collection, because the ownership of the product would remain with the producer, he added.

He also said such systems are necessary in the long-run, because extend-collection systems by returning equipment with re-



Founded Since 1938

The Manila Times

A6
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

FEATURE
STORY

COLUMNIAL

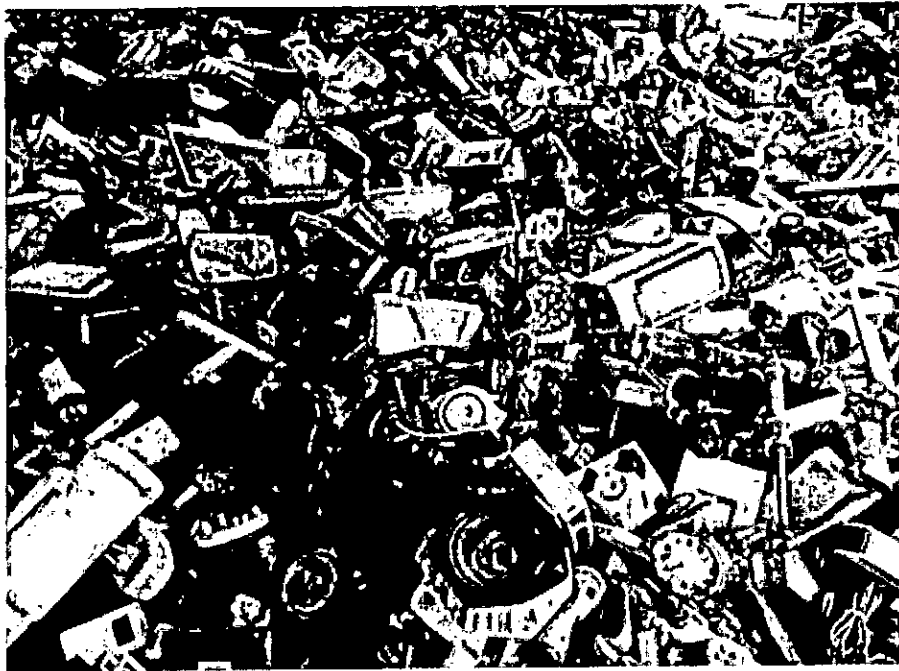
CARTOON

03 FEB 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

P-2 Electronic devices outnumber humans and
trigger a surge in e-waste



tailers; recycling points or collection bins have proved to be key, but do not provide the necessary breakthrough.

"In consequence, the pure e-waste legislation will not change things, especially also because in many countries their enforcement is lacking," Dr Kuehr warned.

In terms of material value, says the study, e-waste presents an opportunity worth over \$62.5 billion per year, more than the GDP of most countries and three times the output of the world's silver mines.

There is 100 times more gold in a tonne of e-waste than a tonne of gold ore, according to the report.

The study calls for a new vision for electronics based on the circular economy and the need for collaboration with major brands, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), academia, trade

unions, civil society and associations, in a deliberative process to change the system

The joint report supports the work of the E-waste Coalition, which includes: the International Labor Organization (ILO); the International Telecommunication Union (ITU); the UN Environment Programme (UN Environment); the UN Industrial Development Organization (Unido); the UN Institute for Training and Research (Unitar); the UNU, and the Secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions.

The Coalition is supported by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Economic Forum and coordinated by the Secretariat of the Environment Management Group (EMG).

Asked if the issue of e-waste

should be on the agenda of the UN General Assembly in order to motivate firm commitments from the 193 member states, Dr. Kuehr told IPS that some stakeholders in politics and industry are of the standpoint that the e-waste issue is sustainably solved, though all numbers speak a different language and are alarming.

And though e-waste has moved up on the political agenda, also within the UN, it is still regarded as a niche issue. International and globally harmonized attempts, partly revolutionary, are required for sustainable solutions, he argued.

"And the UN General Assembly could play an important role in taking the discussion to the next level, also illustrating the urgency for regional and national action."

"But we must also take further attempts in greening the blue, by also re-considering our UN internal consumption of electrical and electronic equipment".

Seeing the UN as a large consumer, he said, "we can have a say in what products and services we want from the producer. But so far, it is hardly reflected."

However, national governments, companies and other

stakeholders must do substantially better in researching the e-waste challenge and coming up with sustainable solutions, declared Dr Kuehr.

Meanwhile the study cites several concrete examples in the battle against e-waste in a "circular economy".

The Nigerian government, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNEP have jointly announced a \$2.0-million dollar investment to kick off the formal e-waste recycling industry in Nigeria. The new investment will leverage over \$13 million dollars in additional financing from the private sector.

According to the ILO, up to 100,000 people in Nigeria work in the informal e-waste sector.

This investment is expected to help create a system which formalizes these workers, giving them safe and decent employment while capturing the latent value in Nigeria's 500,000 tonnes of e-waste.

Unido is collaborating with a large number of organizations on e-waste projects, including UNU; ILO, ITU, and WHO, as well as various other partners, such as Dell and the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA).

In Latin America and the Caribbean, a Unido e-waste project, co-funded by GEF, seeks to support sustainable economic and social growth in 13 countries.

From upgrading e-waste recycling facilities, to helping to establish national e-waste management strategies, the initiative adopts a circular economy approach, whilst enhancing regional cooperation.

IPS



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 Strategic Communication Initiatives Service

Founded Since 1908

The Manila Times

A3
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BATTER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03 FEB 2019

DATE

BORACAY HUBS TO OPEN IN APRIL

THE Tourism Congress of the Philippines (TCP) said establishments that were closed for the rehabilitation of Boracay would be fully operational in April.

A total of 10,982 establishments have been allowed by the Department of Tourism (DoT) to operate since the tourist destination was reopened in October last year.

"I would say... at least by the end of the first quarter, in time for Holy Week, all establishments would be fully operational," TCP President Jose Clemente 3rd told *The Manila Times*.

Hotels, resorts and other tourism hubs were shut down to give way for the massive clean-up and rehabilitation of Boracay.

Clemente said the establishments have been warned by the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force to be compliant with

easement regulations or the distance allowed for establishments to operate from the beach.

"All standards [set by the government] are already being followed by these establishments. In the said rules, there are penalties that range from a fine or closure, depending on the severity of the violation," he said.

Clemente said with almost 80 percent of all establishments open, tourists are again flocking to Boracay.

"We're experiencing the influx of visitors already. If you ask hotels and other establishments in Boracay, they're either on high occupancy or fully booked [status]," he said.

"I think business is back as far as Bora[cay] is concerned," he added.

NEIL JAYSON N. SERVALLOS