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DAY : Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Cimatu to lead Cabinet cluster meeting for eight climate-vulnerable provinces

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

SECRETARY Roy A. Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will lead a resiliency planning and convergence budgeting meeting for eight priority climate-vulnerable provinces in the Philippines.

The high-level meeting will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2019, at the DENR.

Expected to attend the meeting are governors of the eight climate-vulnerable provinces and key officials of national government agencies, namely: Departments of Public Works and Highways, Agriculture, and Interior and Local Government.

Cimatu acts as chairman of the Cabinet Cluster on Climate

Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR).

The eight priority provinces are Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Samar, Sarangani, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands. These provinces have been listed as vulnerable based on their high poverty incidence, high susceptibility to climate hazards, and are situated in critical watersheds.

The meeting will tackle climate vulnerabilities in the priority provinces, and reinforce government thrust for a more prudent and targeted spending by fostering collaboration among agencies in planning, budgeting and implementing priority resilience programs and projects in the said provinces.

The Cabinet Cluster CCAM-

DRR Roadmap for 2018 to 2022 aims to establish climate and disaster resilient communities. By the year 2022, the CCAM-DRR Cabinet Cluster anticipates the enhancement of climate- and disaster-resilient communities in the 19 climate-vulnerable provinces, and major urban centers (Metro Manila, Cebu, Iloilo and Davao).

The said concerned national government agencies, with the provincial governments, are actively taking part in ensuring the achievement of these goals. The proposed Risk Resiliency Program key investment projects for 2020 are in the areas of community livelihood and enterprise continuity; integrated water resources management; enhancing coastal protection; and climate information services.



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Ihahanda sa kalamidad

DENR TUTOK SA 8 PROBINSIYA

PAGTUTUUNAN ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang 8 probinsiya bunsod ng panganib na nakaamba sa kanilang lugar na madalas daanan ng kalamidad.

Tinukoy ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu ang walong prayoridad na probinsiya gaya ng Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Samar, Saranggani, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte at Dinagat Islands bunsod ng panganib dulot ng pabago-bago ng panahon.

Nakatakdang magpulong ang DENR para sa resiliency planning at convergence budgeting sa Hwebes katuwang ang Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Agriculture (DA) at Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) para mabalangkas ang plano at upang

maibsan ang mga nakaambang problema tuwing may trahedy sa mga naturang probinsiya.

Inaasahan namang dadaluhan ng mga gobernador ang nasabing pagpupulong upang maging kaagapay ang DENR at iba pang mga nasabing ahensiya.

Pakay ng Cabinet Cluster CCAM-DRR Roadmap para sa 2018-2022 na maisaayos at magkaroon ng climate at disaster-resilient communities nang maging handa ang bawat isa sa pagprotekta ng coastal areas, water resources management, community livelihood at iba pang pagnenegosyo at mapalakas din ang 19 climate vulnerable provinces at major urban centers maging sa Metro Manila, Cebu, Iloilo at Davao.

BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.



DENR to fence off Manila Bay

Cleaner shoreline enticing locals to swim in the still very polluted water

By Kuhlin Ceslie Gacula

Since some people cannot be prevailed upon from swimming at Manila Bay, the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will go to the extent of fencing off areas frequented by swimmers.

While an ongoing clean-up of the bay has resulted in a cleaner shoreline, Manila Bay's water remains unfit for swimming with the presence of fecal coliform at a minimum of 330 million MPN (most probable number) per 100 milliliter (ML).

Some tests have put the fecal coliform at Manila Bay at a staggering 1.3 billion MPN per 100ML. Boracay Island's water had been tested of late of having coliform at a mere 8 MPN per 100ML from a high of 300 MPN/100ML when it was ordered closed last year.

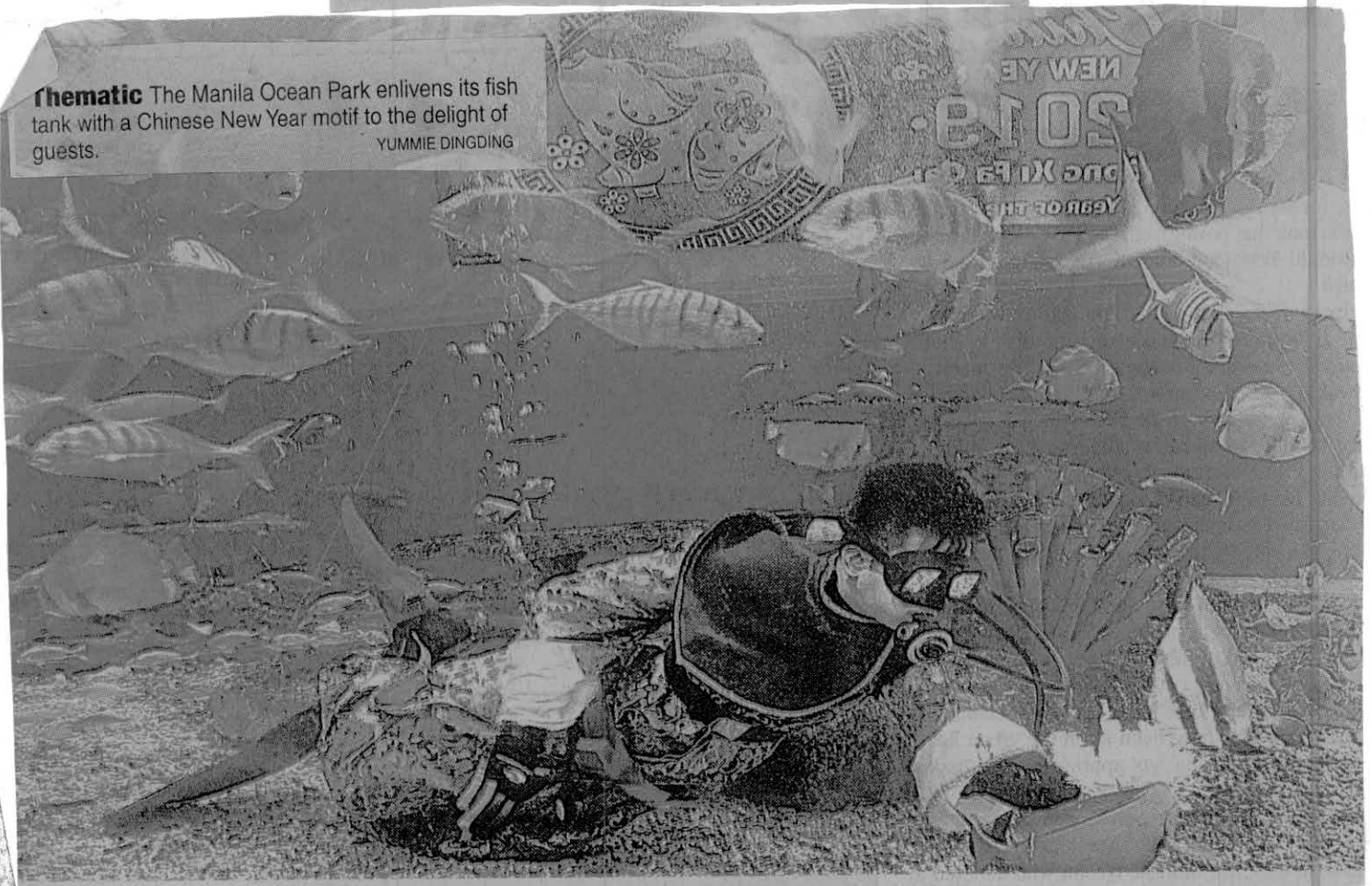
The pollutants in Manila

Bay's water come primarily from untreated sewage piped by establishments into its tributaries like the Pasig River and the many creeks feeding the river.

The DENR has already given notice of violations to a number of establishments, private and public, for contributing to the bay's pollution, classified into solid, like trash, and liquid as in chemicals and untreated sewage. Mostly locals have taken to swimming in the bay, lured by its relatively cleaner shoreline.

Aside from the DENR, the Department of Health (DoH) has also issued a warning against swimming in the bay, which is being rehabilitated at the cost of billions of pesos for the coming years. Diseases that could be contracted from swimming in the bay include cholera, diarrhea and skin infections.

Thematic The Manila Ocean Park enlivens its fish tank with a Chinese New Year motif of the delight of guests.
YUMMIE DINGDING





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More bay polluters face closure

DILG says that after restaurants, next on its list of targets are hotels and malls

By Jaymee T. Gamil
@JGamilINQ

Hotels and malls that contribute to pollution in Manila Bay are the government's next targets in its ongoing cleanup campaign.

"There are hotels and even malls we will order closed due to their water discharge failing [standards] and worsening pollution on Manila Bay," Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said in a speech at the Barangay Summit on Peace and Order in Palo, Leyte, last week.

Last month, the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) issued cease-and-desist orders against three popular restaurants along the bay—Aristocrat and Gloria Maris in Manila and The Esplanade (San Miguel by the Bay) in Pasay City.

The LLDA ordered the shutdown of the restaurants' water sources and discharge facilities after they were found to be

dumping untreated wastewater into Manila Bay.

Earlier, the LLDA also issued notices of violations to an inn, a seaside restaurant, and establishments under the SM Group of Companies in Pasay City.

Local governments also liable

Año said that the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) would look into the possible administrative and criminal liabilities of local governments found to have issued permits to errant establishments.

In a memorandum circular issued on Jan. 24, he also ordered officials of the 178 cities and municipalities and 5,714 barangays along Manila Bay and its inland tributaries in Metro Manila, Calabarzon and Central Luzon to conduct cleanup drives on the coasts every Saturday.

"We will be measuring the trash hauled away [from the wa-

already swim in its waters.

According to the DOH, further tests were needed on the water's chemical and physical quality as well as its coliform levels.

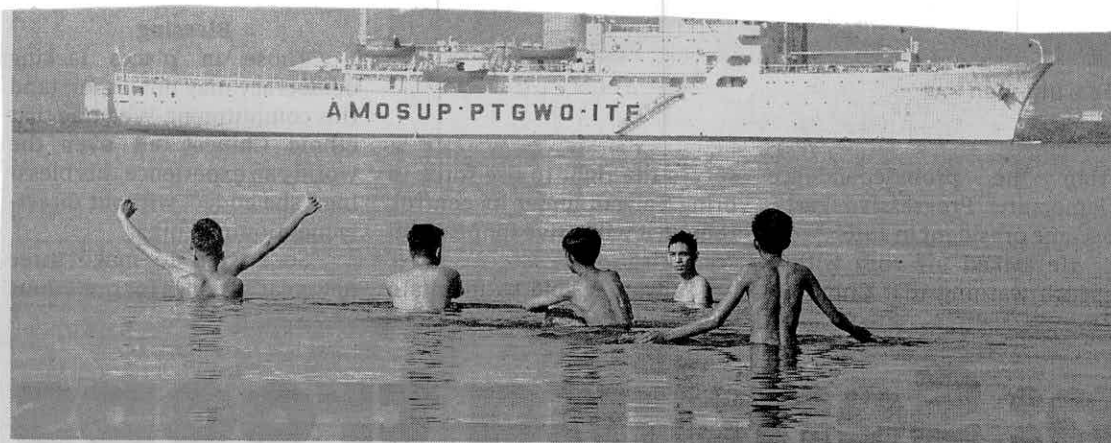
DOH warning

"While the cleanup is ongoing, the public is strongly advised to wait until the waters are deemed safe for recreational swimming," it said.

The DOH added that for the bay to be deemed safe for bathing, its waters should have a coliform level of less than 100 mpn (most probable number) per 100 milliliters.

However, earlier results showed that its level of coliform, or contaminants present in the water such as fecal matter, was at 330 million mpn.

The DOH said that swimming in the bay might lead to gastrointestinal diseases and skin infections. —WITH A REPORT FROM JOVIC YEE INQ



TOXIC WATERS A group of men go swimming in Manila Bay despite the health department's warning that bathing in its water can lead to gastrointestinal and skin diseases. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

ter bodies)... We will do this until the garbage is all gone and until discipline and cleanliness are just a part of life for the communities," Año told summit delegates.

The 178 local government officials with jurisdiction over the Manila Bay watershed area will attend a meeting on the rehabilitation campaign on Feb. 8.

In an advisory on Monday, the Department of Health (DOH) said that while parts of the bay might be free of trash, this did not mean that the public could



Manila: Volunteers need permit for bay cleanup

By REY GALUPO

The city government of Manila clarified yesterday reports circulating on social media that it is asking volunteer groups to secure and pay for a permit before they can help clean up Manila Bay.

City administrator Erickson Alcovendaz said local and foreign groups have started asking how they can contribute to the cleanup. "We are not asking for any fee.

What we are trying to do here is for these interested groups to coordinate with the city hall so that we can arrange the schedule. We cannot just allow groups to go

there because it would attract so many people. What we ask is for them to secure a permit for their activities," Alcovendaz said.

He also warned the public not to swim in the bay because the water is still contaminated.

Bambi Purisima, media information officer, said reports on social media "are fake stories geared to besmirch" President Duterte's Manila Bay rehabilitation pro-

gram, launched on Jan. 27.

Lawyer Trixie Cruz-Angeles asked in a Facebook post if the reports are true. The post garnered 322 shares and more than 300 comments, many of them derogatory.

Purisima said the rumors were made up by people who want to muddle the issue, but stopped short of blaming groups who were against the bay's rehabilitation.



A diver dressed as Caishen, the Chinese god of prosperity, entertains visitors at the Manila Ocean Park on the eve of the Chinese New Year yesterday.

EDD GUMBAN



DBP offers assistance for Manila Bay cleanup

State-run Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) is extending the necessary financing to all establishments located near Manila Bay in support of the government's efforts to rehabilitate the area.

DBP president and chief executive officer Cecilia Borromeo said the bank's loan programs on environment protection and its experience in bankrolling water treatment and sanitation projects would be beneficial to companies seeking to comply

with existing environment rules and regulations.

"DBP is ready to provide the necessary financial and technical assistance to all establishments near or along the coast of Manila Bay to ensure compliance to environmental laws and regulations," Borromeo said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently spearheaded a massive cleanup of the 2,000 square kilometer Manila

Bay, which has degraded over the years due to domestic sewage, toxic industrial effluents and leachate from dumps.

DBP recently joined the inauguration of the bank-funded Parañaque Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) of the Maynilad Water Services Inc. which is the pioneer large-scale biological nutrient removal-compliant wastewater treatment facility in the country.

The plant uses Conventional Activated Sludge technol-

ogy to remove pollutants from wastewater currently collected from about 100,000 Maynilad customers in Parañaque City before its discharge to the Malabon Creek, which eventually flows out to Manila Bay.

Borromeo said DBP would further coordinate with the DENR, the local government units, other government entities, and the private sector in finding a sustainable solution to improve water quality in Manila Bay.



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DBP 'willing' to help fund Manila Bay cleanup

By Julito Rada

STATE-RUN Development Bank of the Philippines, the eighth-largest lender in terms of assets, said it is willing to provide the necessary financing to all establishments located near Manila Bay in support of the government's efforts to rehabilitate the area.

DBP president and chief executive officer Cecilia Borrromeo said in a statement Monday the bank's loan programs on environment protection and its experience in bankrolling water treatment and sanitation projects would be beneficial to companies seeking to comply with existing environment rules and regulations.

"DBP is ready to provide the necessary financial and technical assistance to all establishments near or along the coast of Manila Bay to ensure compliance to environmental laws and regulations," Borrromeo said.

"DBP is prepared to do its share in this inter-sectoral initiative to clean up, rehabilitate, and improve the water quality of Manila Bay and its tributaries," Borrromeo said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources recently spearheaded a massive cleanup of the 2,000-square kilometer Manila Bay, which has degraded over the years due to domestic sewage, toxic industrial effluents and leachate from dumps.



DBP offers water treatment funding for companies polluting Manila Bay

By **BIANCA CUARESMA**
@BcuaresmaBM

GOVERNMENT-OWNED Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has expressed its readiness to provide the necessary funding needed by establishments located near Manila Bay to make their businesses more environment-friendly and avoid the risk closure.

Just last week, the government threatened to close firms that are discharging untreated wastewater into the bay after an interagency task force launched the operation to save Manila Bay.

The move came after President Duterte designated Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu to lead the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

"DBP is ready to provide the

necessary financial and technical assistance to all establishments near or along the coast of Manila Bay to ensure compliance to environmental laws and regulations," DBP President and Chief Executive Officer Cecilia Borromeo said in a statement released on Monday.

Borromeo said the bank's loan programs on environment protection and its experience in bankroll-

ing water treatment and sanitation projects would be beneficial to companies seeking to comply with existing environment rules

and regulations.

She said the DBP will further coordinate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources,

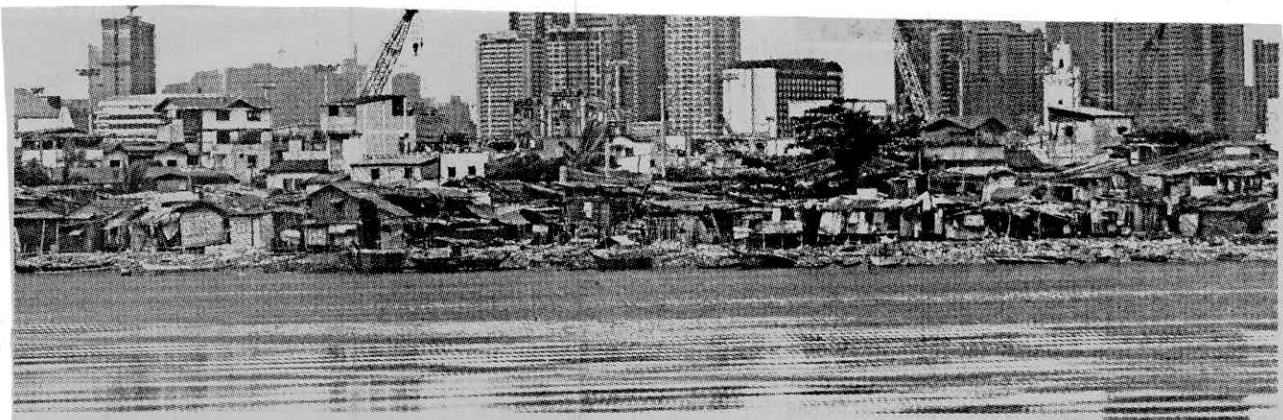
the local government units, other government entities and the private sector in finding a sustainable solution to improve

Manila Bay's water quality.

"DBP is prepared to do its share in this inter-sectoral initiative to clean up, rehabilitate, and improve the water quality of Manila Bay and its tributaries," Borromeo said.

Aside from the DENR, the other agencies tasked to help save Manila Bay are the Departments of Agriculture, Public Works and Highways, Interior and Local Government, Education, Health, and Budget and Management, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Local Water Utilities Administration, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police-Maritime Group and Philippine Ports Authority. These agencies are collectively referred to as "mandamus agencies."

To recall, on December 18, 2008, the Supreme Court ordered 13 government agencies to "clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to SB level to make them fit for swimming, skin diving and other forms of contact recreation."



ILLEGAL settlers contribute to the piles of garbage on Manila Bay. Thirteen agencies will start discussion on a plan to rehabilitate Manila Bay, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. FILE PHOTO



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GSIS vows action over pollution tag

Government Service Insurance System president and general manager Jesus Clint Aranas assured the public that it will immediately take steps to address the notice of violation served to its head office in Pasay City.

The GSIS head office is situated along Roxas Boulevard facing Manila Bay where rehabilitation and cleanup 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 (LLDA) by having our wastewater tested by an independent laboratory. In fact, these self-monitoring tests have yielded negative results for pollution in the past three months," Aranas said.

The pension fund chief said the GSIS is set to upgrade its sewage treatment plant into a more cost-effective and low-maintenance system to support the environment.

"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."

The pension fund chief said the GSIS is a staunch advocate of environmental protection, one of its corporate social responsibility programs. "Every year, GSIS never fails to participate in the coastal cleanup drive of Manila Bay."



Duterte's great Manila Bay rehab

“It is only President Duterte who has shown the political will to clean up this important Manila landmark

Finally, a no-nonsense rehabilitation program for Manila Bay is in the horizon under President Rodrigo Duterte.

Manila Bay is one of the most picturesque maritime landmarks in the world. Its famous sunset distinguishes it from other tourist attractions both locally and in Asia.

It is also a strategic body of water because it is a natural harbor, i.e., it is very deep even from a short distance from the seawall. This makes it ideal for even the biggest of the big ships.

Manila Bay is also historic. It is the site where in 1898, the American navy under Admiral George Dewey defeated the Spanish naval armada. America's victory over a European power in the Battle of Manila Bay made the United States a world power overnight.

During the middle part of the martial law years, Manila Bay hosted the so-called “Floating Casino,” a gambling outlet inside a luxury yacht. It was the only casino operating in Manila during the martial law period.

Until about the 1970s, Manila Bay was clean enough for swimming and to support marine life. The segment of Manila Bay in Pasay and Parañaque served as a private beach for the houses constructed beside the sea. Bayside strollers could savor the clean, crisp sea breeze. Residents in nearby streets in Ermita and Malate shared the same experience.

Beginning in the 1970s, dirt, trash and debris polluted the bay. Many commercial establishments



THE SCRUTINIZER
Victor Avecilla

not only along the boulevard but also those half-a-kilometer away from the seawall used the bay as their septic tank. Petroleum leaks from ships at the Port Area added to the pollution. Informal settlers in the vicinity converted the bay

into a communal toilet.

During her administration, President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino failed to check the problem. Presidents after Aquino either ignored the bay pollution problem or paid lip service to it.

When Lito Atienza was Manila mayor, he converted the bay walk area into a restaurant row. This added to the sewage problem in the bay. The restaurant row was dismantled when Atienza was no longer city mayor.

The extensive reclamation in Manila Bay since the 1990s has created more land in the area. Half of the original seawall along the boulevard, the one along Pasay City, has been pushed back towards the water. Only the seawall between the United States Embassy and the Manila Yacht Club remains of the original structure.

Today, commercial malls, hotels and buildings are all over the reclamation site. This, of course, adds to the problem of bay water pollution, unless the establishments concerned are complying with waste water treatment laws and regulations.

So far, it is only President Duterte who has shown the political will to clean up this important Manila landmark. Under the clean-up, establishments found to be contributors to the pollution of the bay, the Manila Zoo included, have been temporarily

shuttered and directed to comply with wastewater treatment regulations.

Judging from the way many establishments have been ordered closed or instructed to fix their sewerage systems and considering that the informal settlers have been ordered relocated, Duterte's plan to clean up Manila Bay may turn out successful. Since Duterte has done it before in the excesspool that was Boracay, there is no reason to doubt his success in Manila Bay.

Many city locals, the young ones in particular, are already looking forward to swimming in the bay or at least see it clear of pollution.

“Once Manila Bay is clean again, its majesty will surely call on many to visit the bay area and take pride in the nation's beauty

While President Duterte is at it, the seawall behind some of the seaside restaurants in the reclamation area should be made more accessible to promenaders. The existing seawall there blocks the view of the sunset.

The ships at the Port Area should also be checked for pollutants.

From all indications, President Duterte is certain to succeed in Manila Bay, even if the pessimists who make up the moribund Liberal Party and their like-minded allies do their best to undermine this long overdue clean-up program.

Once Manila Bay is clean again, its majesty will surely call on many to visit the bay area and take pride in the nation's beauty. Indeed, a clean Manila Bay will be one of the greatest legacies of President Duterte to the Filipino people.



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Trusted Since 1898

The Manila Times

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The bay of our discontent

THE members of the Makabayan bloc in the House of Representatives drew the ire of many when they filed a resolution asking the Duterte administration to suspend the rehabilitation of Manila Bay. Cited as the main reason is that the rehabilitation is only a pretext for eventual massive reclamation projects which, they said, will benefit Dennis Uy — who in a Senate hearing admitted to being a personal friend of the President — even as it will displace thousands of poor informal settlers. In response, Malacañang through presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo defended the planned reclamation project by citing its economic benefits and the jobs that it will generate.

Malacañang and the Makabayan bloc are both missing the point.

They must be told. People do not want to save Manila Bay only to be reclaimed by rich developers, or to be freely colonized and claimed by informal settlers.

Sal Panelo should have been more circumspect in making a quick defense of the reclamation project, more so that the reported developer is a friend of the President, the same one who was part of the group that won the bid for the third telco. It is one thing for the President to rally the people's sense of civic duty to volunteer their time, or express support, for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay in order to restore it to its natural beauty and rehabilitate the ecological functions of this natural landscape. And it is another to give the impression that such rehabilitation is just a prelude to the eventual alteration of a significant portion of that rehabilitated landscape. And it is even a bit dishonest to simply focus on the favorable economic effects and the jobs that will be created, and not admit that it will also bring a hefty profit bonanza to the developer. This can easily be used against the President, who can be accused of



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using an environmental issue to sugarcoat the entrenchment of his own set of cronies.

For their part, members of the Makabayan bloc should have tempered their political biases that appear to be so fixated on painting the administration as a coddler of special interests, without properly looking at the manner in which they deliver their advocacies. The progressive left which the Makabayan bloc represents must realize that while "beauty without justice" arguments are valid criticisms of a kind of environmentalism that privileges nature over social justice, the timing and the wording of their initial salvo are just so politically unattractive. It is a fact that informal settlers contribute significantly to the pollution of the bay. Any ocular investigation would prove this. Any attempt to rehabilitate the bay would necessarily include a massive relocation of these settlers. Yet, the Makabayan bloc made it appear — at least initially before they recalibrated their stance but only after suffering a terrible backlash — that they opposed rehabilitation precisely because it will displace these informal settlers, and that it would be unjust in the face of the massive reclamation projects that will benefit someone close to the President. Hence, what appeared as a valid concern became easily positioned as simply the usual leftist rant. Thus, a valid issue of social justice became easily diminished as a plain partisan attack on the President, and that the left is nothing but an obstructionist, useless force in Philippine politics.

It must be emphasized that rehabilitating Manila Bay is less of a materialistic, economic concern. It is about recuperating our national heritage, and saving the Bay from further degradation. This is the primary, and for many, the only driver that needs to be celebrated as the main inspiration.

It certainly doesn't look good if the government's move to clean up the bay is simply a front act for the main event of massive land reclamation, more so that one of the first beneficiaries is someone who self-identified himself as a friend of the President. And certainly, it doesn't make for good optics that this is being done at the expense of other stakeholders, including the poor informal settlers.

But it is also not correct to use the informal settlers as an argument against rehabilitation, even as it is equally incorrect to conduct rehabilitation without due regard to their welfare. Relocation is an option, even as maintaining in-situ sustainable settlements can take the place of relocation, but only when feasible and ecologically acceptable. Models for community-based coastal resource management strategies are already in place from which the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the local government units (LGUs) can learn.

However, if we are serious about rehabilitating Manila Bay as a natural landscape and in optimizing its ecological functions, we should go beyond opposing massive reclamation projects and pushing for either relocating informal settlers or managing them as sustainable settlements and as active partners in protecting the bay. The entire basin that extends beyond Metro Manila and includes Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan and Cavite, and even as far as Laguna, Rizal and Batangas, have to be examined and assessed. Unsustainable and ecologically

problematic practices should be corrected, if not stopped, even as communities and localities in these areas should be harnessed and tapped as partners in protecting the bay.

Much focus is directed towards commercial and business establishments. Eventually, this net must be widened to include even private residential complexes, and local communities. The root cause of much of the pollution in Manila Bay lies in the lack of an adequate sewage system, and the problem of solid waste management. Thus, at the forefront of those that should be held accountable should be those who were granted concessions not only to provide supply of water, but to ensure that we have a working sewage system.

In the end, if there are institutions that need to be held the most accountable, it must be those tasked by law to enforce environmental safeguards. It behooves us to ask why licenses and environmental clearances were granted or renewed despite blatant violations of national environmental laws and local environmental ordinances. The Supreme Court has already ordered government agencies to ensure that these laws be followed to protect Manila Bay. If there are people who need to be taken to task, it must be those who failed to obey the order of the court.

It appears that even the Senate of the Republic that is housed in the GSIS complex contributes to the pollution of Manila Bay, this according to the Laguna Lake Development Authority itself.

In fact, it is more appropriate for the current government to conduct an inspection of all government facilities first, including Malacañang Palace, the Supreme Court, and the regional offices of NCR and Region IV-B of the DENR along Roxas Boulevard, and Manila and Pasay City Halls, as a firm commitment to the principle that, in rehabilitating Manila Bay, no one is above the law, not even government itself.



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Dinadagsa na ang Manila Bay

SAKSI tayo sa pagdagsa ng mga namamasyal at naliligo sa Manila Bay, sa may US Embassy o Baywalk sa Roxas Boulevard.

Malinis na nga ang baybay ng Manila Bay, malinaw na rin ang dagat. Pero sa ibabaw lang ang malinis, sa ilalim ay marumi parin, sabi ng taga-DENR. Kaya non stop ang paglilinis dito ng mga volunteer. Hinigpitan din ang mga nagkakalat ng basura. Ang mahuli, pinagko-community service. **Ayos!**



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Balita

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANGSA

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Tumalima sa LLDA para sa rehab

Umaksiyon na ang ilang establisimiyento sa Pasay City kaugnay ng ipinaskil na "notice of closure" mula sa Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), ang ahensiyang nasa ilalim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na nangangasiwa sa kampanya upang linisin ang Manila Bay.

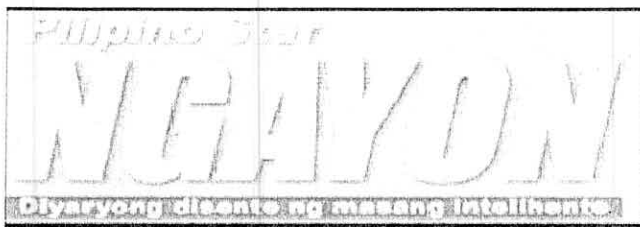
Kabilang sa mga establisimiyento sa Pasay na nabigyan ng naturang notice simula noong Setyembre 2018 ay ang Euniverse Entertainment.

Sa pulong balitaan kamakailan, ipinakita sa mga mamamahayag ni Lolita Borja, general manager ng Euniverse Entertainment, ang milyun-milyong pisong water treatment facility na ipinatayo noong Nobyembre, bilang

pagtalima sa ipinaairal na panuntunan at pamantayan ng LLDA at Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Ayon kay Borja, ang kanilang kumpanya ang unang nag-comply sa LLDA para sa wastong pagtatapon ng tubig bilang suporta sa isinasagawang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay.

Bella Gamotea



Pagligo sa Manila Bay hindi pa rin ligtas – DOH

Hindi pa rin ligtas pagliguan ang Manila Bay.

Ito ang binigyang diin ng Department of Health matapos na dumagsa ang mga naliligo at lumalangoy nang maisailalim ito sa rehabilitasyon.

Ayon kay Health Undersecretary Eric Domingo, bagamat nagsagawa ng clean up, hindi pa nakatitiyak ang publiko na malinis na ang katubigan.

Aniya, kahit pa natanggal na ang sandamakmak na basura, hindi pa rin natitiyak na bumaba na ang lebel ng bakteryang fecal coliform sa Manila Bay.

Dagdag pa ni Domingo, hindi pa "for human recreational use" ang tubig sa Manila Bay.

Sa water sampling na isinagawa noong Enero, lumabas na naglalaman ng average na 330 milyon MPN (most probable number) fecal coliform ang Manila Bay, malayo sa katanggap-tanggap na antas na 100 MPN.

Hinihintay pa nila ang resulta ng pinakabagong water sampling para matukoy ang kasalukuyang fecal coliform level ng Manila Bay. (Doris Franche)

PIM

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Manila Bay 'di pa ligtas pagliguan

Nagbabala ang isang opisyal ng Department of Health na hindi pa ligtas ang pagligo sa Manila Bay kasunod ng malawakang clean up drive o paglilinis dito noong nakaraang buwan.

Matapos na malinis ay marami na ang nagsimulang maligo o mag-swimming sa naturang katubigan.

Pero ayon kay Health Undersecretary Eric Domingo, kahit pa natanggal na ang sandamakmak na basura, hindi pa rin natitiyak na bumaba na ang libel ng bakteryang fecal coliform sa Manila Bay.

"Huwag po munang mag-swimming dahil hindi pa po for human recreational use ang tubig sa Manila Bay," sabi ni Domingo.

Sa water sampling na isinagawa noong Enero, lumabas na naglalaman ng average na 330 milyon MPN (most probable number) fecal coliform ang Manila Bay, malayo sa katanggap-tanggap na antas na 100 MPN.

Ayon kay Domingo, hinihintay pa nila ang resulta ng pinakabagong water sampling para matukoy ang kasalukuyang fecal coliform level ng Manila Bay. -Doris Frauche-Borja-



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2,000 PAMILYA NA MAPAPAALIS SA MANILA BAY, MAY MALILIPATAN

AABOT sa limang ektaryang lupa sa Tondo, Manila ang maaaring malipatan o relokasyon para sa mga pamilyang mapapaalis sa Manila Bay dahil sa rehabilitasyon nito.

Tiniyak ito ng Philippine Ports Authority sa isinagawang pagdinig ng Oversight Committee on Housing and Urban Development na ipinatawag ni House Speaker Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

May 2,000 pamilya sa Isla Puting Bato ang nakatakdang paalisin.

Ang lupang kinatitirikan ng mga residente

sa lugar ay pagmamay-ari ng PPA.

Ani PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago, naglaan din sila ng P1 milyon para sa social preparation ng mga residente bago ang paglilipat sa mga ito.

Nauna nang ipinatawag ni Arroyo ang pagdinig para unghatin ang kabiguan ng National Housing Authority (NHA) na maigawad sa mga residente sa Parola, Compound, Tondo ang bahagi ng lupain na ipinamamahagi na sa ilalim ng proklamasyon na inilabas may 15 taon nang nakalilipas.

(V. Reyes)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Balita

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANGSA

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CARTOON

05 FEB 2019

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5 ektaryang lupain para sa aalisin sa Manila Bay

Nagkaroon ng pag-asa ang may 2,000 pamilyang illegal settler sa bahagi ng Manila Bay, na sumasailalim ngayon sa rehabilitasyon ng pamahalaan, nang kumpirmahin ng Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) na may malilipatan sila.

Ibibigay ng PPA sa 2,000 apektadong pamilya ang limang ektaryang lupain sa

Tondo, Maynila.

Sa isinasagawang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay, paaalisin ang mga nasabing pamilya sa Isla Puting Bato.

Nakarating sa kaalaman ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Usec. Benny Antiporda ang kumpirmadong ulat, at pinasalamatan ng kagawaran si PPA

General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago.

Naglaan kasi si Santiago ng P1 milyon para sa social preparation ng mga residente bago ang paglipat.

Ito ay resulta ng isinulong ni Santiago sa Oversight Committee on Housing nang ipatawag siya sa Kongreso kamakailan.

Jun Fabon



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Makabayan bloc against bay cleanup



POINT OF
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TULFO

NOT one among the previous five administrations ever lifted a finger to alleviate Manila Bay's degradation over three decades. None of the five presidents did even a lip-service to address this environmental issue.

It was not until the Duterte administration that true voices of the people were heard, crying out for government action to breathe life into the historic Manila Bay.

Neither the outspoken progressive groups ever said anything about it, and now openly protesting the launching of "Battle for Manila Bay" rehabilitation program.

In my humble opinion, the left-wing group's argument against the bay's rehabilitation is simply flimsy and frivolous, making it sound like anti-poor.

To say that said undertaking should be canceled or postponed until after informal settlers are "consulted" and awarded relocation is unreasonable and counter-productive.

This squatter problem in our country is worse than anywhere in the world. Anyone can put up a house just anywhere they want, be it along the coast of Manila Bay or esteros,

which violates the Clean Water Act of 2004.

And before we clear up the water pollution, Makabayan insists we have to consult the people who make a lucrative business out of it, renting out rooms in squatter areas.

For all we know, many of the illegal occupants had been given relocation and cash assistance to various areas outside Metro Manila, like Bulacan, Cavite and Laguna, but they come back to squat wherever they choose to.

Makabayan also points out the murky waters of Manila Bay are a source of livelihood for scavengers who gather recyclable materials washed ashore. And for that reason, we should not clean the mess up.

I often interview some Makabayan bloc representatives in Congress and I respect their opinion. I beg to differ on this issue and I tend to agree with DILG Asst. Sec. Jonathan Malaya's observation that the leftists are unfairly politicizing the environmental issue on Manila Bay.

Unfortunately for them, their alarmist assertions have failed to gather public support ahead of an election campaign.

They were quick to accuse the government of mounting the bay cleanup as a prelude to expanded reclamation projects. This is a total lie—nothing but fake news.

I suggest the Makabayan leaders and supporters, instead of grandstanding, chill out and enjoy a better Manila Bay against the backdrop of its beautiful sunset.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES

NAKATUTUWANG makita ang mga mamamayan na namamasyal, naliligo at tumutulong sa pagpapanatili ng kalinisan sa Manila Bay makaraang masimulan natin ang clean-up drive sa lawang ito.

Sabik na sabik ang mga tao na makiulayaw sa kalikasan at kapaligirang matagal nang pinabayaan at sadyang dinumihan ng mga walang pakialam.

HOY, BAWAL PA
Dumarami na nga ang mga namamasyal at naliligo sa Manila Bay.

Pero, hoy kayo riyang, ang totoo, bawal pa ang maligo sa Manila Bay.

Lalo na sa mga bahaging talaga namang malakas ang polusyon.

Yun bang === may maraming ebak, kemikal at iba pang dumi.

Kahit kitang-kita na malaki ang ipinagbago ng mga dalampasigan dito gaya ng malinis sa plastik at iba pang mga basura, pero hindi garantiya ito na ligtas ang tubig-lawa sa lugar.

Umiikot ang tubig bawat galaw nito sa mga oras ng high at low tide at dala ng hangin.

Kaya naman umiikot at namamasyal din ang polusyon.

Yang mga mata ng tao, delikadong mata-man ng polusyon.

Ang mga nagmumog at nakaiinom ng tubig diyang, delikado rin.

Maaari silang malason at magkasakit sa balat.

Ang mamasyal para lumanghap ng sariwang hangin, pwede pa.

Pero please lang, huwag munang maligo.

TAGUMPAY KAUNTI PA LANG

Kusa nang namumulot ng mga plastik at iba pang basura ang mga namamasyal sa mga dalampasigan.

Talaga namang hindi gusto ng mga mamamayan na marumi ang kanilang kapaligiran.

Pero paano ang mga lugar, lalo na ang mga sapa, drainage at ilog na lumuluwa sa Manila Bay na may grabeng basura at polusyon?

Nakokontrol na natin nang paunti-unti ang mga polusyon kemikal, ebak at iba pa ngunit sa mga malalapit pa lang sa dalampasigan.

Yun bang === ka-kaunti pa lang ang nagagawa nating tagumpay dahil sa mga nasa looban at malayo sa Manila Bay, grabe pa rin



ULTIMATUM Ni BENNY ANTIPORDA

BAWAL PANG MALIGO SA MANILA BAY AT RELOKASYON

ang pagtatapon ng sari-sari at nakalalasong basura papunta sa lawa.

Ang mga ito ang malaking kontribusyon sa pagdumi ng lawa.

Kaya nga, bawal pang maligo, magmumog at uminom.

RELOKASYON

Seryoso ang pamahalaan sa relokasyon ng mga informal settler na direktang nakatayo sa ibabaw ng dagat at dalampasigan.

Napakalaki ang kontribusyon ng mga ito sa pagdumi ng Manila Bay.

Nasa 220,000 katao lahat ito o nasa 40,000 pamilya.

Hangga't hindi nare-resolba ito, malinis man natin ang Manila Bay, kaunti lang.

Kaya naman, isang prayoridad ng pamahalaan ang relokasyon.

MAHIGPIT NA TULUNGAN

Sa relokasyon magkaroon ng mahigpit na tulungan ng pambansa at mga lokal na pamahalaan.

Sapagkat napakalaking gastos ito na huhugutin mula sa salaping bayan.

Hindi dapat na ipagkait ang relokasyon na maaayos para sa mga informal settler dahil tungkulin ng pamahalaan na bigyan ang mga ito ng maaayos na pananahanan.

Ang totoo, wala mang gaanong buwis ang mga ito sa real property tax, lalo na sa lupa, nagbubuwis pa rin ang mga ito sa kanilang mga binibili.

At ibabalik lang natin sa kanila ang dapat nilang pakinabang sa kanilang mga buwis na ikinaabuhay rin ng buong pamahalaan.

PANLOOB NA RELOKASYON

Gaya ng City of Marikina noong nakaupo si dating Mayor at ngayong Congressman Bayani Fernando, gusto nating walang i-relocate na informal settler sa labas ng lungsod na kanilang nilakhan.

Kaya nga, may mga pag-uusap na ngayon sa pagitan ng pambansa at mga lokal na pamahalaan kung paano isasagawa ang "in city relocation."

Pero maaari ring mapipilitang may ilalabas at isa sa mga posibilidad na

relocation area ang Cavite.

Mapipilitan dahil wala nang ispasyo sa lungsod para sa kanila.

Si Mayor Joseph Erap Estrada, sanay na sa ganitong proyekto at may mga relocation site na ang pamahalaang lokal niya ang bumibili mismo ng lupa para pagdalhan ng mga relocatee.

Ang punto, hindi na dapat maging iskwater sa sariling bayan ang mga Pinoy.

At kung maganap ito, kusang tutulong ang mga ito sa pagtiyak ng malinis na kalikasan at kapaligiran.

BAGONG PROYECTO

Maituturing na bagong proyekto ng mga pambansa at lokal na pamahalaan ang relokasyon ng mga nasabing mga pamilya sa Manila Bay.

Gusto nating ipatupad ito sa pinakamaagang panahon.

Ang mahalagang tanong: may aktuwal bang pondo ang nasabing mga pamahalaan para isagawa ito?

Wala pang nakatititay dahil nakabimbin ang national budget sa Kongreso dahil nag-aaway ang mga kongresman at senador sa mga isiningit nilang "pork barrel" daw nila.

Sinasabi ng mga kongresman na may P190 bilyong isiningit ng mga senador na pork barrel samantalang sinasabi naman ng mga senador na may P50B para sa mga ito at gustong magkaroon ng P160 milyon ang bawat kongresman.

Kung maaayos ang awayan sa Kongreso, maaaring mailakad ang supplemental budget para sa relokasyon sa pambansa at mga lokal na pamahalaan.

At dito tayo makakilos para bigyan na, once and for all, ng solusyon ang problema sa paninirahan sa dalampasigan at ibabaw ng lawa.

oOo

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



KINAKAILANGAN MAY SARILING STP ANG MGA ESTABLISIMYENTO

MAHIGPIT na ipatutupad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang Clean Water Act upang maging matagumpay ang gagawing paglilinis sa Manila Bay.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng Republic Act 9275 o mas kilala bilang Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 ay isa sa mga paraan upang maresolbahan ang problema sa maruming tubig sa makasaysayang karagatan.

Nagsagawa ng ocular inspection si Cimatu sa Estero de San Antonio de Abad sa Malate, Manila at nadiskubre na direktang itinatapon ng mga establisimiyento ang kanilang maruming tubig sa Manila Bay.

"Establisimiyento have to put up their own sewage treatment plants (STPs). They cannot discharge their wastewater in the esteros. "We are giving them three months to put up their own STPs," sabi pa ni Cimatu.

Aniya, sisimulan ang gagawing rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay sa pamamagitan ng pagtingin kung saan nanggagaling ang maruming tubig na napupunta sa Manila Bay.

Tatlong bahagi ang gagawing rehabilitasyon sa

Manila Bay kung saan ay sisimulan ito sa "water quality improvement" susundan ng rehabilitation at ang pangatlo ay ang protection at sustainment.

Noong nakaraang buwan, sinimulan ng DENR ang Phase 1 sa pamamagitan ng paglilinis sa mga esteros at iba pang daanan ng tubig patungong Manila Bay, pagbawas sa fecal coliform at nakalalasong kemikal mula sa mga establisimiyento, paglalagay ng temporary sanitation facilities para sa mga informal settlers na nakatira sa mga esteros at tabi ng Manila Bay kung saan plano ring ilipat sa mga relocation sites ang mga naninirahan sa pa-



ANG INYONG LINGKOD

DR. HILDA C. ONG

ligid ng Manila Bay.

Nagsagawa na rin ng inspeksiyon si Cimatu sa Parañaque at Don Galo rivers na parehong patungo ang tubig sa Manila Bay at nadiskubre ang mataas na fecal coliform level ng tubig sa mga ito.

Noong 2008 nang maglabas ng kautusan ang Supreme Court (SC) na nag-aatas sa DENR at 12 pang kagawaran ng gobyerno na kinabilangan ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Education, Health, Agriculture, Public Works and Highways and

Budget Management, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police Maritime Group, Philippine Ports Authority, MMDA, MWSS at Local Water Utilities Administration upang linisin ang Manila Bay hanggang sa maaari na itong mapaliguan ng mga tao.

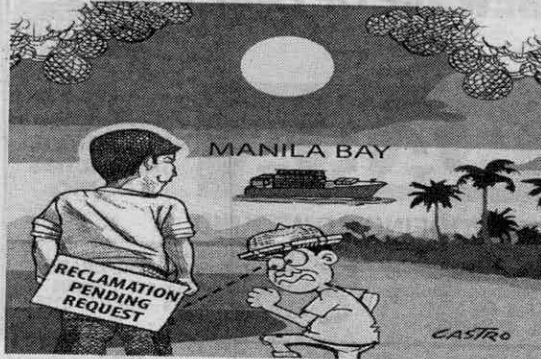
Sa kasalukuyan ay umaabot sa 330 million MPN (most probable number) kada 100 milliliters ang fecal coliform level ng tubig sa Manila Bay habang ang katanggap-tanggap na lebel ay 100MPN/100ml at plano ng DENR na maibaba ito sa 270 pagsapit ng December 2019.

Noong ika-27 ng Enero, sa paglunsad ng Manila Bay Rehabilitation, makikita sa larawan na nakiisa ang mga kawani ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay.





EDITORIAL



Ilabas ang totoong kartada sa Manila Bay!

Tama na ang pang-uuto sa tao!
Nakakapikon itong sobra-sobrang propaganda ng ilang local government sa ginagawang paglilinis sa Manila Bay. Kesyo gusto nilang ibalik ang ganda nito, lalo na raw ang nakakabighaning sunset sa baybayin.

Sino nga naman ang aayaw kung ganito ang plano? Sino ba ang kokontra sa malinis at maaliwalas na Manila Bay? Basta para sa kaliksan, papalangkapan talaga ng tao 'yan!

Kahit nga palayasin ang mga nakatira at gibain ang mga barong-barong na bahagi ng paglilinis, hindi ito papalagan basta ilipat lang sila sa maayos na bagong tirahan.

Pati ang mga hotel at restaurant at mga commercial establishment hindi makakapalag kung talagang may mga violation sila sa pangangalaga sa kalikasan.

Pero ibababalik nga ba ang natural na ganda ng Manila Bay? 'Yun lang ba ang balak diyan?

Itong mga city government ng Maynila, Pasay at Parañaque, kaya niyo bang gumawa ng Manila Bay Pact kung saan pipirma kayo ng kasunduan na iri-restore niyo talaga ang natural na ganda ng Manila Bay at hindi ito tatayuan ng naglalakihang gusali at istruktura na malinaw na hindi pro-environment?

Kasunduan na hindi n'yo tatambakan ng lupa ang dagat ng Manila Bay para tayuan ng mga 'world-class amusement park' o mga mala-Las Vegas/Macau na casino.

May press release pa kuno na picnic ng magpapamilya sa Manila Bay, hanggang kailan 'yan? Ang linaw ng pending request n'yo para sa reklamasyon at pagtatayo ng mga gusali sa Manila Bay, inuuto n'yo pa rin ang publiko na para sa kalikasan ang galawan diyan.

Klarong negosyo 'yan! Walang pinag-iba sa gusaling photobomber sa likod ng monumento ni Gat Jose Rizal at sa pag-convert sa Lacson underpass ng Quiapo bilang mall na bukas lang sa publiko sa mga mall hour.



Office of President takes over reclamation projects

President Duterte has placed the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) under his direct supervision days after some lawmakers claimed the rehabilitation of Manila Bay would pave the way for reclamation projects

that will displace thousands.

The transfer of PRA to the Office of the President (OP) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is contained in Executive Order 74 signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea by authority of Duterte last Feb. 1.

The order also delegates to the PRA Governing Board the president's power to approve all reclamation projects.

Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada welcomed the move, saying he believed this would hasten the implementation of reclamation already approved by the city government.

"It will cut red tape and hasten the implementation of reclamation projects. I thanked President Duterte for issuing EO 74. I am 100 percent supportive of that," he said.

He added that this would create jobs and bring billions of pesos as income to the city government.

Malacañang clarified that the delegation should not be viewed as diminishing the president's authority to modify, amend, or nullify the action of the PRA Governing Board.

"It is the policy of the state to increase its competitiveness, promote ease of doing business, and rationalize and streamline functions of agencies to facilitate efficient delivery of government services," the order read. "There is a need to rationalize the approval process for reclamation projects toward an economically and environmen-

tally sustainable resource development."

The order will apply to all reclamation projects, including those initiated by local governments, for which there are no contracts or agreements executed between the government entity and a private sector proponent before it took effect.

The order came as members of the Makabayan bloc at the House of Representatives urged the Duterte administration to postpone the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

In a resolution, Representatives Ariel Casilao of Anakpawis, Carlos Zarate of Bayan Muna, Emmie de Jesus and Arlene Brosas of Gabriela, Antonio Tinio and France Castro of ACT Teachers and Sarah Jane Elago of Kabataan, warned that the rehabilitation could be a "prelude" to 43 reclamation projects under the government's infrastructure program.

- With Alexis Romero, Jose Rodel Clapano, Rhodina Villanueva



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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05 FEB 2019

DATE

Reclamation projects will now be under the President

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**

The Office of the President (OP) will now have control and supervision over the Philippine Reclamation Authority

(PRA) based on a new order issued by President Duterte.

In Executive Order (EO) No. 74, the President also delegated to the PRA Governing Board **▶10**

Reclamation projects will... ◀1

the power of the President to approve the reclamation projects in a bid to rationalize operations for a sustainable resource development.

The new presidential directive repealed two past executive orders that placed the PRA under the control of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and its power to approve projects held by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

"The PRA shall be under the control and supervision of the OP, while the power of the President to approve all reclamation projects, shall be delegated to the PRA Governing Board. Such delegation, however, shall not be construed as diminishing the President's authority to modify, amend, or nullify the action of the PRA Governing Board," the order read.

"There is a need to rationalize the approval process for reclamation projects towards an economically and environmentally sustainable resource development," it added.

The order also highlighted the State's policy "to increase competitiveness, promote ease of doing business, and rationalize and streamline functions of agencies to facilitate efficient delivery of government services."

Under EO 74, the President has

mandated PRA to seek the "advisory opinions" of three concerned government agencies on any proposed reclamation project.

It must get the opinion of NEDA on consistency of the project with national and regional development planning and programming, and established national priorities of the government; the DENR on the environmental sustainability of the project and compliance with environmental laws; and, Department of Finance on the economic and fiscal viability of the project.

The order covers all reclamation projects including those initiated by local government units and other government entities allowed under existing laws to reclaim land, "for which there are no contracts/agreements yet executed between the government entity concerned and a private sector proponent prior to the effectivity of this Order."

EO 74 also stated that no reclamation project shall be approved without the required area clearance and environmental compliance certificate issued by the DENR. All reclamation projects must also undergo competitive public bidding.

Proposed reclamation projects must also be evaluated by PRA based on cumulative impacts instead of specific

project basis. "Every proposed reclamation project shall be accompanied by hydrodynamic modelling, except for relatively small reclamation projects of less than five hectares, and detailed horizontal and vertical development plans," the order read.

The PRA has also been ordered to craft a National and Regional Reclamation and Development Plan (RDP) that will take into consideration the environmental, social and economic impacts of proposed relocation projects. These plans, in coordination with the DENR, NEDA and affected local government units, must undergo public consultation and shall be consistent with the greater public interest.

The same EO also enjoined the PRA Governing Board to set aside five percent of its net earnings to develop its capability and expertise to reclaim lands. A five-year development to transform the PRA into a "premier reclamation authority" has also been ordered by the President.

The order, signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, took effect immediately.

The President's latest directive comes amid the ongoing cleanup of Manila Bay and the looming reclamation projects in the area. Some environmental groups have called on the government to halt the planned reclamation projects to protect Manila Bay's environment.



PRA regains power over reclamation

EO No. 74 also directs the PRA to ensure that all reclamation projects undergo a stringent public bidding for transparency.

By Tina Maralit and Elmer N. Manuel

In a move seen to speed up various pending reclamation proposals and projects, President Rodrigo Duterte has returned to the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) the power to approve, oversee and supervise every initiative and activity relative to the same.

Executive Order 74 which was signed last 1 February also placed the PRA under the Office of the President (OP). The EO took effect immediately.

EO No. 74 also directs the PRA to ensure that all reclamation projects undergo a stringent public bidding for transparency.

"All proposals for reclamation projects shall be evaluated by the PRA based on their cumulative impacts rather than on a specific project basis," it stated.

Sought for comment on the execution and release of said order, presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said this is to "streamline operations and "ensure a more effective process."

To recall, the PRA through its governing board used to approve reclamation projects on behalf of the chief executiv.

However, former President Benigno Aquino III on November 2013 took that power from the PRA and delegated it to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board.

Chaired by the President of the Philippines, the NEDA Board is the premier social and economic development planning and policy coordinating body of the government.

Under Duterte's executive order, the PRA shall be under the control and supervision of the OP, while the power of the President to approve all reclamation projects, shall be delegated to the PRA Governing Board.

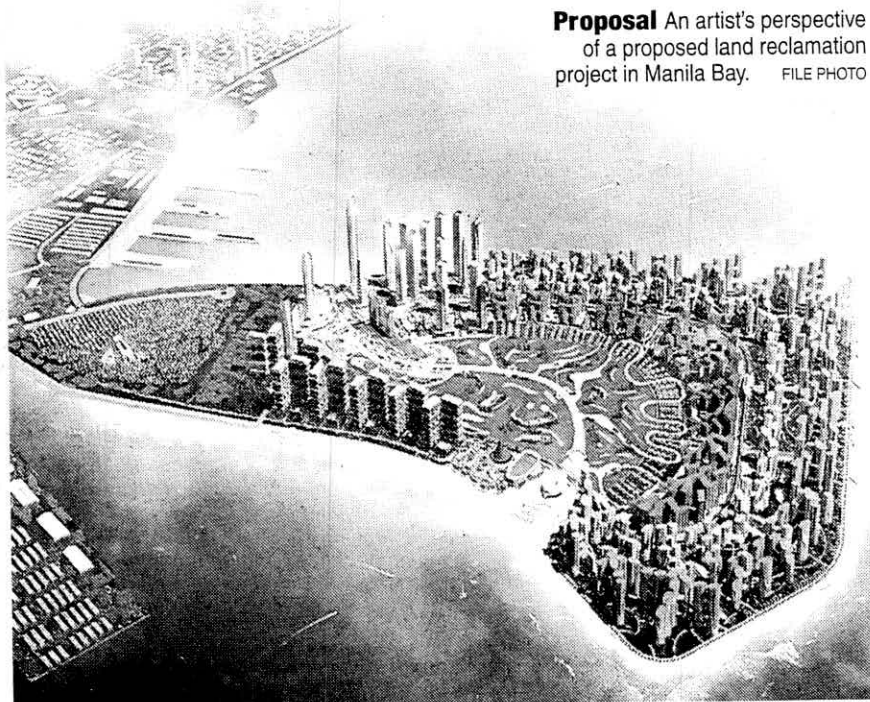
The same EO, however, made it clear that such delegation shall not be construed as diminishing the President's authority to modify, amend or nullify the action of the PRA governing board.

The PRA is also mandated to seek advisory opinions from the NEDA, Department of Finance, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources on any reclamation project.

Duterte's EO comes at a time when massive reclamation projects along Manila Bay have been given the green light. Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada has approved three major projects.

One of these is the 407-hectare New Manila International Community, a smart "city within a city," a project which involves the family of Jose Kho, the Chinese tycoon who donated a drug rehabilitation center in Bukidnon.

Proposal An artist's perspective of a proposed land reclamation project in Manila Bay. FILE PHOTO





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05 FEB 2010

OP now has jurisdiction over 'reclamation body'

By Nat Mariano and Rey E. Requejo

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has transferred the Philippine Reclamation Authority under his control and supervision to make the agency "more effective," the Palace said on Monday.

In Executive Order No. 74, Duterte moved the PRA to the Office of the President, delegating the PRA Governing Board the power of the President to approve reclamation projects and other purposes, aiming to rationalize operations for sustainable resource development.

The PRA used to approve reclamation projects on behalf of the chief executive, but Duterte's new directive repealed the two previous executive orders that placed the PRA under the control of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the National Economic and Development Authority.

"The PRA shall be under the control and supervision of the OP, while the power of the President to approve all reclamation projects shall be delegated to the PRA Governing Board," the EO

read.

"Such delegation, however, shall not be construed as diminishing the President's authority to modify, amend, or nullify the action of the PRA Governing Board," it added.

According to the EO, there is a need to "rationalize the approval process for reclamation projects towards an economically and environmentally sustainable resource development."

The order also underscored the government's policy "to increase competitiveness, promote ease of doing business, and rationalize and streamline functions of agencies to facilitate efficient delivery of government services."

In order to integrate, direct, and coordinate all reclamation projects for and on behalf of the State, the PRA shall seek the advisory opinions of the NEDA,

DENR, and the Department of Finance.

The PRA must seek the opinion of the NEDA on consistency of the project with national and regional development planning and programming, and established national priorities of the government; the DENR on the environmental sustainability of the project and compliance with environmental laws; and, Department of Finance on the economic and fiscal viability of the project.

The order also applies to all reclamation projects, including those initiated by local government units and other government entities allowed under existing laws to reclaim land, "for which there are no contracts/agreements yet executed between the government entity concerned and a private sector proponent" before the effectivity of the said order.

"No reclamation project shall be approved by the PRA without the required Area Clearance and Environmental Compliance Certificate to be issued by the DENR. The DENR shall ensure transparency and inclusivity in the conduct of the Environmental Impact Assessment which shall include public disclosure and multi-stakeholder engagement," the document read.



Reclamation agency placed under Duterte office

BY BERNADETTE D. NICOLAS
@BNicolasBM

PRESIDENT Duterte has transferred the power to approve reclamation projects to his office in a bid to fast-track the land-reclamation process, as critics see the Manila Bay rehabilitation as a prelude to clearing the way for pending reclamation projects.

Under Executive Order 74 signed by the President last February 1, the Philippine Reclamation Authority

(PRA) was placed "under the direct control and supervision" of the OP, while the power of the President to approve all reclamation projects shall be delegated to the PRA Governing Board.

The EO added: "Such delegation, however, shall not be construed as diminishing the President's authority to modify, amend or nullify the action of the PRA Governing Board."

The PRA was previously with the Department of Environment

and Natural Resources (DENR).

The issuance of the EO comes amid the pending land-reclamation projects in Manila Bay, which is also recently being rehabilitated by the national government.

While Malacañang defended the EO as a means to streamline the services of government agencies, Presidential Spokesman and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador S. Panelo was also quick to dismiss that the EO was meant to favor anyone or any group.

"Any executive order issued by the President is favorable to the Filipino people, not to any particular individual or group," Panelo said on Monday.

The Makabayan bloc has already filed a resolution urging the government to suspend the rehabilitation program, saying this could be a prelude to the 43 reclamation projects covering more than 32,000 hectares in the bay under the President's "Build, Build, Build" program.

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According to the lawmakers, the 265-hectare Pasay Harbor City joint venture involving Davao-based businessman Dennis Uy is included among the list of reclamation projects.

Uy was one of the main campaign contributors of President Duterte.

The new EO also applies to all reclamation projects, including those initiated by local government units and all other agencies, government-owned or -controlled corporations or any government entity allowed under existing laws to reclaim land, for which there are no contracts or agreements yet executed between the government entity concerned and a private-sector proponent prior to the effectivity of the said EO.

Panelo, however, did not categorically say if the pending Manila Bay reclamation projects will be covered by the EO but noted that those projects with agreements, such as memorandum of agreement (MOA), will not be covered.

"If there is a MOA, then that is not already covered because that is considered a contract. You cannot impair the contracts entered [into] by the city government or the national government," he said, noting that a memorandum of understanding is not considered a contract.

In November, it was reported that two cities led by Manila Mayor Joseph E. Estrada and Pasay City Mayor Antonino Calixto signed a MOA to pursue together with "utmost effort to cooperate with each other and extend mutual assistance" to their separate

partnerships with private groups to reclaim huge swathes of the Manila Bay to develop a valuable coastal real estate, as well as generate employment and other economic opportunities in the two premier coastal cities in Metro Manila.

Moreover, the EO states that pursuant to its mandate to integrate, direct and coordinate all reclamation projects for and on behalf of the national government, the PRA is also "mandated to seek advisory opinions from relevant national government agencies on any proposed reclamation project."

These agencies include the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Finance. The Neda Board approved reclamation projects prior to the issuance of the EO.

No reclamation project shall also be approved by the PRA without the required Area Clearance and Environmental Compliance Certificate to be issued by the DENR.

All reclamation projects shall also undergo competitive public bidding and shall be evaluated by PRA based on their cumulative impacts rather than on a specific project basis.

The PRA governing board is also enjoined to allot at least 5 percent of its net earnings to develop its capability and expertise to reclaim land, including the modernization of its dredging and reclamation technologies.

The PRA shall also craft and implement a five-year development plan to transform PRA into a premier reclamation authority.



05 FEB 2019

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Reclamation agency now under Office of the President

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has signed an executive order transferring the power to approve reclamation projects to the Office of the President.

Duterte signed on Feb. 1 EO 74 transferring the Philippine Reclamation Authority to the OP.

Previously, the PRA was under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources while the National Economic and Development Authority Board was given the power to approve reclamation projects even as the PRA was allowed to continue to process, eval-

uate and recommend the approval of all proposed reclamation projects to the NEDA Board.

EO 74 repeals the EOs designating power to the DENR and NEDA Board over the PRA.

In signing EO 74, the President argued that "there is a need to rationalize the approval process of reclamation projects towards an economically and environmentally-sustainable resource development."

The EO also mandates the PRA to seek advisory

opinions from the NEDA, DENR, and Department of Finance on any proposed reclamation project.

It states that no reclamation project shall be approved by the PRA without the required area clearance and environmental compliance certificate from the DENR.

The EO applies to "all reclamation projects, including those initiated by LGUs and all other agencies, government-owned or controlled corporations or any government entity allowed under ex-

isting laws to reclaim land, for which there are no contracts/agreements yet executed."

The President's move to transfer the PRA under the OP came just as Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada approved three reclamation projects along the Manila Bay.

Leftist lawmakers warned that the ongoing efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay was just a prelude for the rise of reclamation projects in the famed body of water.

Efren Montano



MGA PROYEKTONG BUBURA SA MANILA BAY

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---|----------------|---|
| Manila North Harbour Center (extension) | 50 ektarya | RH Builders Inc., P7.4B | Rosario Reclamation | 200 ektarya | |
| Manila Bay Reclamation Project (Pasay/Paranaque) | 600 ektarya | SM Prime Holdings Inc., P106B | Horizon Manila Project | 419 ektarya | J. Bres. Construction, P100B |
| Sea Barrier & Flood Control System (NCR-Bataan) | | San Miguel Corp. (SMC), P336.8B | New Manila Bay International Community | 207.42 ektarya | UAA Kinming Group Development Corp. |
| Don Galo, Paranaque | 300 ektarya | SM Land Inc. | Manila Solar City Project | 148 ektarya | Manila Gold Coast Development Corp. |
| Los Pinas/Paranaque Critical Habitat Ecotourism Area | 1,600 ektarya | SMC | Manila Waterfront City | 318 ektarya | Waterfront Manila Premier Development Inc. |
| Manila Baseco | 10 ektarya | F.F. Cruz Company | Sangley Point International Airport (Philippine Global Gateway) | 2,980 ektarya | All Asia-Resources and Reclamation Corp. P1.3-T |
| Freeport Area of Bataan | 531 ektarya | SMC | Navotas Boulevard Business Park (NABP) | 650 ektarya | Triple One Construction, P37-B |
| Los Pinas-Bacoor Road Widening Project | 1,435 ektarya (635 (sa Pinas), 800 Bacoor) | | Bulacan Aerropolis International Airport Project | 2,500 ektarya | SMC |

Source: PAMALAKAYA-Philippines

Manila Bay reclamation hihigpitan

HAWAK na ngayon ng Office of the President (OP) ang Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) na nasa dating pang-

ngasiwa ng National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

Bahagi umano ito ng inisyatiba para higpitan ang approval ng mga nakalinyang reclamation project sa Manila Bay.

"Si Presidenté naman gusto niya palaging compliant of the law. Ayaw niya ng brasuhan, aniya ng palakasan. Palaging kung ano 'yung batas sundin na lang natin," paliwanag ni Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo.

Nilinaw din ni Panelo

na walang kinalaman sa ikinakasang reclamation project sa Manila Bay ang naging hakbang ng Malacañang na ilipat sa kontrol ng OP ang PRA.

Kabilang sa nakapila sa PRA ang approval ng tatlong higitang reclamation project sa Maynila at Pasay City. Ito ay kinabibilangan ng 148 hektaryang reclamation project ng Goldcoast Development Corp.; 300 at 60 hektaryang proyekto ng SM Prime at Pasay City government at ang 265 hektaryang Pasay

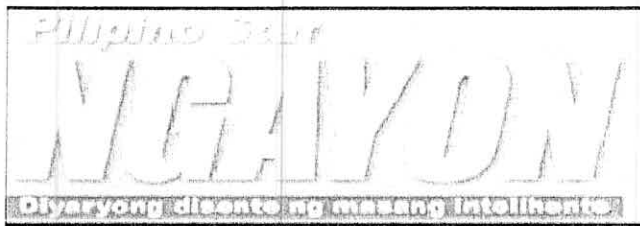
Harbor City project.

Nabatid na ang Pasay Harbor City project ay joint venture ng Pasay City government at ng China Harbour Engineering Company Limited, Ulticon Builders, Inc. at Udenna Corp. ng Davao businessman na si Dennis Uy.

Noong 2013, inisyu ni dating Pangulong Benigno 'Noynoy' Aquino III ang Executive Order 146 upang ilipat sa NEDA board ang approval ng mga reclamation project.



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Reclamation body inilipat sa OP

Inilipat sa ilalim ng pangangasiwa ng Office of the President (OP) ang Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Nakasaad sa Executive Order no. 74, hindi naman inaalis sa PRA governing Board na mag-apruba ng mga proyekto na may kinalaman sa reclamation subalit ang pinal na pasiya ay nasa tanggapan pa rin ng Presidente.

Ipinawawalang-bisa ng EO 74 ang EO 798 na nilagdaan noon sa panahon ni dating Pangulong Gloria Arroyo na kung saan, inilipat naman sa DENR mula sa DPWH ang Philippine Reclamation authority. (Rudy Andal)



Reclamation authority inilipat sa Office of the President.

Nasa ilalim na ng kontrol at superbisyon ng Office of the President (OP) ang Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) batay sa bagong kautusan na inilabas ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Sa Executive Order No. 74, hindi inalis ng Pangulo sa PRA Governing Board ang kapangyarihan na mag-apruba ng mga proyekto na may kinalaman sa reclamation pero nasa OP ang pinal na pagpapasya.

Ipinawawalang-bisa ng bagong presidential directive dalawang nakalipas na executive orders na isinailalim ang PRA sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at sa kapangyarihan nitong mag-apruba ng

mga proyekto na hawak ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

"The PRA shall be under the control and supervision of the OP, while the power of the President to approve all reclamation projects, shall be delegated to the PRA Governing Board. Such delegation, however, shall not be construed as diminishing the President's authority to modify, amend, or nullify the action of the PRA Governing Board," nakasaad sa kautusan.

"There is a need to rationalize the approval process for reclamation projects towards an economically and environmentally sustainable resource development," ayon pa dito.

Saklaw ng pag-apruba ngayon ng OP ang reclamation projects na inisyatibo ng Local Government Units (LGUs), Government Owned (GOCC) at ilan pang ahensya ng pamahalaan.

Ang kautusan, nilagdaan ni Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, ay agad na magkakabisa.

Inilabas ang huling direktiba sa gitna ng nagpapatuloy na paglilinis sa Manila Bay at napipintong reclamation projects sa ilang lugar. Ilang environmental groups ang nanawagan sa gobyerno na ipatigil ang planong reclamation projects para protektahan ang Manila Bay.

Beth Camia
at Genalyn D. Kabiling



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MARAHIL ay nagtataka kayo kung bakit halos nakatuon ang kolum ko sa isyu ng reclamation projects sa Manila Bay. Sa totoo lang, matagal ko nang inaasam-asam na magkaroon ng ganitong klaseng proyekto sa Manila Bay upang maibalik natin ang ningning ng mga lungsod sa nasabing dalampasigan. Dati ay ito ang pinapasyalan ng mga turista at taga-Metro Manila. Subalit dahil sa kapabayaang lumipat na ang pasyalan natin sa mga makabagong lugar tulad ng BGC, Ortigas at Makati.

Ang huling reclamation project ay nangyari noong panahon ni dating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos. Ang Filipinas ay isa sa mga nauna sa ganitong klaseng teknolohiya sa Southeast Asia. Dahil sa ginawa ni Marcos, gi-

naya tayo ng mga ibang bansa sa Asya tulad ng Singapore, Malaysia at iba pa. Ang tinutukoy kong mga proyektong reclamation ay 'yung malalaking sakop na lupain upang maaaring magtayo ng matataas na gusali at sentro ng turismo tulad kung saan ngayon nakatayo ang Cultural Center of the Philippines at ang Mall of Asia ng SM at iba pang commercial establishments na nakapaligid doon.

Simula nang pagtuunan ng administrasyon ni Duterte ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay, dito umusbong ang posibleng buhayin ang plano na dagdagan ang reclamation sa Manila Bay. Nagkaroon ng plano ang lungsod ng Maynila at Pasay upang magkaroon ng joint venture sa mga malalaking

RECLAMATION PROJECTS ISINAILALIM NA KAY DUTERTE

korporasyon na planong magsagawa ng reclamation sa Manila Bay na aabot na halos 10 beses ang laki ng Bonifacio Global City o BGC. Malaking proyekto ito!

Subalit ang mga makakaliwa at militanteng grupo ay tutol dito. Napakakitid naman ng rason at pag-iisip ng mga ito. Ayaw nila ng progreso at nilalagyan nila ng kulay na posibleng paraan ng korupsiyon ang nasabing proyekto dahil bilyon-bilyong piso ang halaga ng pinag-uusapan dito. May punto sila rito.

Upang tanggalin ang ganitong uri ng hinala, nag-utos si Duterte na isailalim ang lahat ng reclamation projects sa kanyang opisina. Sang-ayon ako rito. Hindi naman sa pinagdududahan natin ang mga lokal na pamahalaan, subalit posibleng mangyari ito kung hahayaan lang natin ang mga gani-

tong kalaking proyekto sa kanila. Kung magkaroon ng kalokohan o kapal-pakan dito, nakatiwang-wang ang isang malaking proyekto na pihadong sasaluhin ng national government. Kaya mabuti ay sa umpisa pa lang ay isailalim na nila ito.

Kaya naman pumirma ng isang executive order si Duterte na ilipat nga sa kanyang opisina ang pag-apruba ng lahat ng reclamation projects sa ating bansa. Ayon sa EO 74, ang Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) ay nasa ilalim na ng Office of the President. Tanggal din ang kapangyarihan ng National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) sa pag-apruba ng mga reclamation project at ibinigay na ito sa PRA.

"The PRA shall be under the control and supervision of the OP, while the power of the President to approve

all reclamation projects shall be delegated to the PRA Governing Board. Such delegation, however, shall not be construed as diminishing the President's authority to modify, amend or nullify the action of the PRA Governing Board," ayon sa EO.

Dagdag pa rito ay ang PRA ay nangangailangan ng opinyon ng NEDA at DENR at DOF sa lahat ng mga panukalang reclamation projects sa bansa. Kailangan din ng istriktong clearance at environmental compliance certificate (ECC) mula sa DENR. Kailangan ding dumaan ito sa matinding public bidding upang maiwasan ang posibleng pagpabor sa iba.

Ayan. Malinaw pa sa sikat ng araw na sinisiguro ng pamahalaan ni Duterte na maayos at malinis ang planong reclamation project sa Manila Bay.



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Environmental laws

IF floods, landslides and typhoons continue to claim the lives of many people in the country, blame it partly on the inability of state authorities to strictly enforce environmental laws, rules and regulations.

Thus, concerned public servants, including the officers and men of the Philippine National Police (PNP), which is civilian in nature but national in scope, would do well to go after environmental law violators.

In the view of many, what is important is for the government to hit hard at these hard-headed people, who have absolutely no concern for the health, welfare and safety of the more than 100 million Filipinos.

And that's what the PNP, headed by Director-General Oscar D. Albayalde, is doing. In fact, agents of the PNP-Maritime Group (MG) have been ordered to step up their enforcement of environmental laws.

PNP-MG director Chief Supt. Rodelio Jocson said this is to sustain the Duterte administration's ongoing multi-sectoral clean-up and rehabilitation of historic and sun-kissed Manila Bay.

The other week, Albayalde led a contingent of police officers and men during the launching of the highly-ambitious program aimed at restoring the health, beauty and splendor of the heavily-polluted bay.

Albayalde assured the public that similar clean-up activities will be held every Sunday thereafter.

"The PNP is among government agencies that are the subject of a continuing mandamus by the Supreme Court to implement four-pronged strategies for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay to be fit for swimming, diving, and other forms of contact recreation," he said.

As a well-meaning Filipino, we cannot much longer remain silent while some of our countrymen continue to violate environmental laws, rules and regulations despite the worsening of climate change.

Without doubt, hitting hard at environmental law violators is a step in the right direction.



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Fewer birds spotted in Cagayan wetlands

RECENT BIRD monitoring activity revealed lower population of waterbirds in Palau island and in Buguey wetlands in Cagayan province compared to the previous year. According to environmental group Haribon Foundation, one plausible reason for the decrease in population is the habitat change of birds in Buguey wetlands due to the recent monocropping of mangroves in the area. However, the number of bird species spotted this year increased compared to 2018. Twenty-seven species of birds were sighted in Buguey wetlands and 15 species were recorded in Palau Island, among which are the vulnerable (Vu) Chinese Egret and the near threatened (NT) Northern Lapwing, respectively.



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SGMA new bill seeks shark conservation in PH

SPEAKER Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has pushed for the enactment of a bill regulating the catching, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, importation, and exportation of all sharks, rays, and chimaeras in the country.

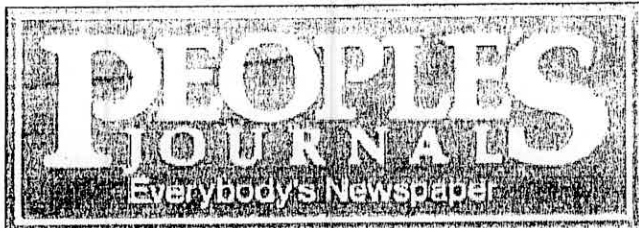
Arroyo's HB 8926 which is expected to have passed on third and final reading before Congress adjourns on Wednesday, aims to address the extinction of marine wildlife and achieve a balance between human needs and the integrity of the Philippine marine ecosystem. It shall provide for the conservation of sharks, and related classes, as well as the threats to their existence. The bill was passed on second reading last week.

"Sharks are typically depicted as apex predators that have significant top-down effects on food webs. They help keep prey populations healthy by feeding on weak, sick, or old fishes, and prevent overgrazing of critical marine habitats," Arroyo said.

Arroyo added that "the removal of sharks from an ecosystem has the potential to create significant changes to predator-prey interactions, affecting the whole system. Aside from ecological benefits, sharks and rays have also been proven to boost local economies through sustainable tourism activities, and through fisheries in many developing countries." **Maricel V. Cruz**



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House okays Shark Con- servation Act

A BILL that seeks to regulate the catching, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, importation, and exportation of all sharks, rays, and chimaeras was approved on third and final reading in the House of Representatives.

House Bill 8926 or the Shark Conservation Act of the Philippines principally authored by Speaker Gloria-Macapagal-Arroyo got a vote of 174-0.

The bill aims to address the extinction of marine wildlife and achieve a balance between human needs and the integrity of the Philippine marine ecosystem.

It shall provide for the conservation of sharks and related classes, as well as the threats to their existence.

Jester Manalastas



House OKs shark conservation bill on second reading

The House of Representatives has approved on second reading House Bill No. 8926 or the proposed "Shark Conservation Act of the Philippines" which seeks to regulate the catching, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, importation, and exportation of all sharks, rays, and chimaeras in the country.

Authored by former President now House Speaker Gloria M. Arroyo, HB 8926 mandates swift action in addressing the extinction of marine wildlife and achieve a balance between human needs and the integrity of the Philippine marine ecosystem.

Arroyo is confident the House will pass the measure on third and final reading soon.

"Sharks are typically depicted as apex predators that have significant top-down effects on food webs. They help keep prey populations healthy by feeding on weak, sick, or old fishes, and prevent overgrazing of critical marine habitats," Arroyo said in the explanatory note of the bill.

She explained that "the removal

of sharks from an ecosystem has the potential to create significant changes to predator-prey interactions, affecting the whole system."

"Aside from ecological benefits, sharks and rays have also been proven to boost local economies through sustainable tourism activities, and through fisheries in many developing countries,"

the highest House official said.

Under the bill, the Department of Agriculture shall have jurisdiction over the regulation of the consumption and preservation of sharks, rays, and chimaeras in all Philippine waters.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

of the DA shall be the lead agency for the implementation of this proposed Act.

The measure provides that no person or entity shall be allowed possession of a shark unless proven that they have the financial and technical capability and facility to maintain the species. (Ben

R. Rosario)



ARROYO



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SM Marilao workers join local waterway cleanup



Employees from SM City Marilao participate in the cleanup drive held at Barangay Ibayo in Marilao, Bulacan. The project was spearheaded by the local government of Marilao and Barangay Ibayo to restore and clean-up the town's waterways. **Jun David**

EMPLOYEES of SM City Marilao trooped to local waterways in Marilao, Bulacan on Saturday to participate in a massive cleanup drive.

Volunteers gathered as early as 6 a.m. at Barangay Ibayo and started cleaning as well as collecting garbage and hazardous waste from creeks and waterways.

Joey Amador, Brgy. Ibayo Captain, said the activity was part of the local government's project to clean-up the rivers and waterways in Marilao.

"The cleanup drive in Marilao was part of our mandate. We will be doing this as often as needed and we will be coordinating and collaborating with private sectors, schools, organizations as well as other LGUs to help us with the cleanup and rehabilitation effort," Amador said.

Truckloads of garbage were collected during the four-hour activity. **Jun David**



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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700 volunteers help clean Tacloban downtown coastal areas

By **MARIE TONETTE MARTICIO**

TACLOBAN CITY - Over 700 volunteers flocked to the coastal areas of Sabang and Siren districts in this city for a cleanup activity spearheaded by the city government and An Waray.

Five trucks of garbage were hauled from the clean-up drive which the group aims to sustain every month.

Rhoel Ladera, Eastern Visayas Tourism Association Public Information Officer urged other businesses to participate in the said activity as part of their social responsibility.

"We can make this a regular activity for different groups whole year round rather than just one big time. We can make a schedule or calendar of activities wherein everyone who is willing to help can join," he said.

Aside from the said cleanup, bio-fences were installed along Mangonbangon Bridge to prevent the wastes from going directly into the sea.

An Waray also distributed garbage bins to villages in the reclamation area.

Corazon Macabenta, DENR 8 Coastal Management Marine Division Chief urged barangay officials in the area to be involved in the clean up by invoking their responsibilities under the Solid Waste Management Act (RA 9003).

"Sad to say these settlers kulang ng diiplina at walang pakialam, tapos basta lang nagtatapon ng basura. They should implement the full force of the law," she said.



Metro Pacific Foundation shores up Balayan Bay ecosystem

AS PART of its corporate social responsibility, Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC) Foundation through its Shore It Up program, recently received a donation of 40 eco-reef modules which will be installed in Balayan Bay, one of the country's top scuba diving destinations.

Since 2016, MPIC Foundation has been nurturing a Coral Restoration Field Laboratory in Bgy. Solo in Mabini, Batangas to help restore the marine ecosystem of the area.

In the past two years, it has laid 12 modules which has provided valuable data to help in the flourishing of aquatic life in the barangay.

Eco-Mer artificial reef units are made of marine concrete which has better larval attachment, higher survival rates of coral recruits and wider niche range for higher species diversity, beyond any other commercial artificial reefs. The laboratory serves as an underwater work station for volunteer divers to study the fluid dynamics, study coral growth potential at Eco-MER units per depth and other scientific diving related to monitoring and coral restoration for Mabini.

The artificial coral reefs undergo monitoring and scientific activities to help enrich the Bay's ecosystem by setting up marine sanctuaries.



Volunteer divers and local Bantay Dagat who will serve as technicians of the underwater laboratory were certified by the National Association of Underwater Instructors. Mooring buoys will also be installed in dive sites to prevent damage to corals caused by dropping of anchors.

According to MPIC vice president for PR and corporate communications Melody Del Rosario, Shore It Up started in 2009 as a coastal cleanup movement in the Anilao dive spot, and

has expended into a comprehensive marine biodiversity conservation program which covers underwater cleanups, mangrove propagation, giant clam rearrangement, artificial reef restoration, and community livelihood projects.

She added that coral restoration is one way of responding to the effects of climate change and help working on solutions for sustainable use of the sea as a source of food and livelihood for fishermen and ocean stakeholders.

Shore It Up has been held in key coastal areas such as Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro; Subic Bay Freeport Zone; Hundred Islands National Park in Alaminos City, Pangasinan; Del Carmen in Siargao Island; Panglao and Pamilacan Islands in Bohol; Surigao City; Medina, Misamis Oriental; and Cordova, Cebu.

For the past 10 years, it has mustered over 85,000 volunteers from the Metro Pacific group of companies, national government agencies, local government units, law enforcement agencies, the academe, civil society groups, and dive industry stakeholders. A good number of these volunteers are recruits in the Junior Environmental Scouts (JES), an environmental education initiative for school children.

To sustain these environmental undertakings, the Foundation helped establish Mangrove Propagation and Information Centers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao which can be located in Alaminos City, Pangasinan and Del Carmen, Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte and the third in Cordova Cebu.



GOOD RIDDANCE

ni ARLIE CALALO

TIANGCO BROS. PUSH NAVOTAS CLEAN-UP DRIVE

NAVOTAS Mayor John Rey Tiangco and brother, Rep. Toby Tiangco, a front-runner in May 13 polls and said to succeed the former, have been consistently pushing a massive clean-up drive all over the city.

Mayor JRT, himself, was pre-occupied in appreciating the city schools led by their officials for encouraging students and teachers to participate in a clean-up drive every first Friday of the month.

"Our surroundings are an extension of our home. As we keep our homes tidy, we should also make sure that we maintain the cleanliness of our surroundings."

The Tiangco brothers have always been credited by many for their consistent partnership in gearing Navotas towards progress as shown by cleanliness and massive decrease in flooding problem owing to various flood-control projects like the establishment of several pumping stations in strategic areas.

"Even during my term

as mayor in the city, I carried out programs and projects designed to keep the city clean and flood-free and Navotas has enjoyed all these because my brother did not stop from implementing the same and I intend to do the same in a much bolder way if I'm given chance to serve again as mayor," Cong. Toby said.

The city's campaign, titled "Navotas Ko, Love Ko," aimed to instill in Navoteños the values of stewardship and care for the city. It participated in a massive clean-up to help rehabilitate and preserve the Manila Bay. Some 23,036 kilograms of waste were collected from the simultaneous coastal and riverside clean-ups conducted by the 18 barangays late last month.



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Clean-up drive ng mga paaralan ikinatuwa ni Mayor Tiangco

PINURI ni Mayor John Rey Tiangco ang sektor ng edukasyon sa Navotas sa pagsimula ng kampanya na makatutulong sa pagpapanatili ng kalinisan sa lungsod.

Sa kanyang talumpati, nagpasalamat si Tiangco sa Navotas Schools Division Office sa pangunguna nito sa proyekto na naghihimok sa mga estudyante at guro na makilahok sa clean-up drive tuwing unang Biyernes ng buwan.

"Ang ating kapaligiran ay karugtong ng ating mga tahanan. Sa pagpapanatili nating malinis ang ating mga bahay, dapat sinisiguro rin nating malinis ang ating paligid," aniya.

Sabi ni Tiangco, simula 2011, nagpatupad na ang pamahalaang lungsod ng clean-up sa mga tabing-dagat at tabing-ilog dalawang beses sa isang buwan.

Layunin ng kampanya, na pinangalanang "Navotas Ko, Love Ko," na maikintal sa mga Navoteño ang pagpapahalaga at pagmamalasakit sa lungsod.

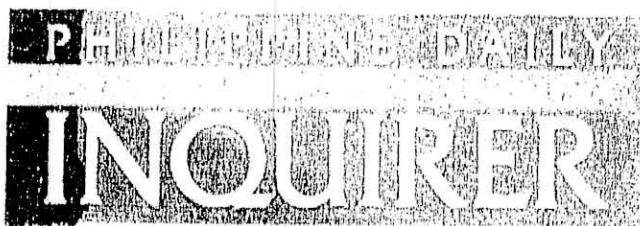
"Karamihan sa ating mga basura ay napupunta sa mga kanal at dumideretso sa karagatan, na unti-unting sumisira ng buhay sa dagat. Dahil nakadepende ang ating kabuhayan sa karagatan, napakaimportante para sa atin na sundin ang tamang pagtatapon ng basura," ani Tiangco.

Kamakailan, nakilahok ang Navotas sa malawakang clean-up para tulungang buhayin at mapangalagaan ang Manila Bay.

Umabot sa 23,036 kilo ng basura ang nakolekta mula sa magkakasabay na clean-up na isinagawa ng 18 barangay sa lungsod noong 27 Enero. (**JUN DAVID**)



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From zero to millions

When Myrna (“Manay Nina”) Folo first embarked on their community enterprise with nine other women neighbors from Barangay Buhatan, Sorsogon City, just over four years ago, they had nothing but dreams to build on. As barangay captain then, she took the challenge of Gina Lopez—later to become environment secretary—to clean up the heavily trash-polluted Buhatan River and make an asset out of it, when Lopez visited in 2014 as guest of the city on the invitation of Mayor Sally Lee.

“River pollution had reduced the fish and prawns that our menfolk would catch to earn a living for their families,” she recounted to our group of weekend tourists in Filipino. “We knew we had to do something, and we knew it was not going to be easy.” Manay Nina’s group started going around their barangay and neighboring Barangay Cabid-An to convince the residents to stop dumping their trash into the river. She also harnessed volunteers from the community fishermen to gather up the river’s floating trash.

For six months, practically all they did was to work on the river cleanup campaign. Even as they saw definite reduction in the river trash, much of it kept floating in from Sorsogon Bay, over which they had no control. They thought of installing nets near the river mouth to catch the bay trash, but it proved difficult and futile. Thus they had to rely mainly on manual gathering and sustaining the campaign to stop trash dumping from the river barangays. They also mobilized the community to rehabilitate the dwindling mangroves and revive the fish population.

Lopez’s Bantay Kalikasan gave them



NO FREE LUNCH

CIELITO F. HABITO

building materials, mostly of bamboo and nipa, to build a structure near the river’s mouth to the bay that could serve as restaurant and rest house. The local men provided *bayanihan* labor as sweat equity to build it. Their first “cabana” was a covered bamboo river raft fitted atop two bancas, which was to carry visitors over the 3.7-kilometer river stretch from the highway bridge to the restaurant. The idea was to offer guests a river cruise that would culminate in a meal at their “resto.” At daytime, the 45-minute river cruise would give guests a view of their rehabilitated river with its various interesting wildlife, including migratory birds and iguana. At night, fireflies hovering around trees along the river stretch would be the primary attraction.

By mid-2015, the key elements of their river cruise tour were coming into place. The group began to worry: “What if no one comes to take our cruise?” Ever the optimist, Manay Nina egged them on, declaring: “We will be our own first customers. Our own families can take turns going on

the cruise and having a picnic at our resto!” They officially opened in October 2015, initially relying on word-of-mouth to gain paying visitors—and they soon found their fears to be unfounded.

With business picking up, they registered with the Cooperative Development Authority in April 2016 as the Buhatan River Eco Adventure Service Cooperative, earning a million pesos that year. This more than doubled the following year, and visitors continue to grow in number as word goes around, now aided by a Facebook page. From the original 10 women, the cooperative now has 75 members. Their fleet has grown to seven cabanas, each floating on 16 steel drums and able to carry about a dozen passengers. They have since planted 15,000 mangroves and seeded the river with 20,000 tilapia fingerlings.

Current barangay captain Edwin Divina works closely with Manay Nina, who continues to devote her time to the highly successful venture. An active Bantay Dagat group maintains the river’s cleanliness, as the residents find the tourism enterprise even more lucrative than their original livelihoods of fishing, which they continue to engage in. And they have yet to fully tap the opportunities from ancillary businesses like souvenirs.

Just over four years ago, Manay Nina and her group started with nothing. “*Ngayon, marami na kaming pera* (now we have a lot of money),” Manay Nina told our group with a wink—a living testament to what dreams, determination and cooperativism can do to uplift lives, bring communities together, and save the environment.

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SHOOTING STRAIGHT

BOBIT S. AVILA

I already pointed out clearly in this corner that I have not yet began to demand for the cleanup of the esteros and rivers of Metro Cebu until I see that the 13 Mandamus government agencies are truly serious about their rehabilitation of Manila Bay. But apparently the Cebu City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CCENRO) headed by Ma. Nida Cabrera was looking for volunteers to coordinate with her office. The Office of City Mayor Tomas Osmeña was also enticing people in his Facebook page seeking for volunteers? Accordingly they want the Lahug River, the Guadalupe River and the Bulacao River to undergo a thorough cleanup.

But in yesterday's editorial in *The Freeman* entitled, "Saving our Dying Rivers," it pointed out, "Well, it's unfortunate that it's only now the city is embarking on the cleanup drive. For decades, these rivers have been dying because of human abuse and environmental authorities have never lifted a finger to save them. In nearby Mandaue City, the local government is also rushing to save the Butuanon River from the suffocating industrial waste and trash from informal settlers living along its banks."

What could have motivated Mayor Osmeña to suddenly move for the cleanup of these rivers when for a long time when he was mayor he really didn't care to clean it up? Could it be that he learned that the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) would issue show cause orders to 107 local government officials, including two mayors in Metro Manila, for their alleged failure to prevent the pollution of Manila Bay, as pointed out by DILG Undersecretary for barangay affairs Martin Diño? Hence, they believe that it is a matter of time for the DILG to also ask the LGUs in Metro Cebu a similar show cause order to explain why they should not be held liable for failure to strictly enforced provisions of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001? *Abangan!*

* * *

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Iwasang malasin sa toxic lucky charms

Ni Mary Ann Santiago

Binalaan kahapon ng isang anti-toxic watch group ang publiko na magingat sa pagbili ng lucky charms, para sa pagdiriwang ng Chinese New Year ngayong araw, dahil sa posibilidad na nakakalason ang mga ito at magdudulot ng panganib sa kalusugan.

Ayon kay Thony Dizon, chemical safety campaigner ng EcoWaste Coalition, baka sa halip na suwerte ay malas pa ang ihatid ng mga naturang pampasuwerte sa mga taong bibili nito, matapos matuklasang ilan sa mga ito ay may taglay na nakalalason kemikal, tulad ng cadmium at lead.

Isinailalim ng grupo sa pagsusuri ang 20 iba't ibang klase ng lucky charms at amulets mula sa mga retailers sa Binondo at Quiapo sa Maynila, kung saan natuklasan na 15 sa mga naturang items ay kontaminado ng lead at cadmium, na mas mataas sa itinakdang 90 parts per million (ppm) limit para sa lead at 100 ppm limit para sa cadmium, alinsunod sa regulasyon ng European Union (EU).

Kaugnay nito, pinayuhan din ng EcoWaste ang publiko, na kung talagang gustong bumili ng lucky charms at amulets, ay pumili na lang ng may plastic laminate para maprotektahan ang sarili laban sa mga kemikal.

Nabatid na ilan pa sa mga lucky charms na natuklasan ng EcoWaste na may taglay na nakalalason kemikal ay ang stainless

steel necklace na may pig pendant, red fabric bracelet na may pig adornment, stainless steel necklace na may money pouch pendant, red fabric bracelet na may twin cherry adornment, holy gourd lucky object, lucky peach trinket, dragon lucky object, lotus flower lucky object, windhorse lucky object, 3-legged frog lucky object, golden lucky coin, good luck pat-kua, at lucky golden dragon.

Una nang nagbabala ang World Health Organization (WHO) na sa sandaling malantad sa lead ang mga bata, kahit pa sa mababang antas lang, maaaring magresulta ito ng brain damage o pinsala sa utak, na nagdudulot ng mabagal na development ng mga ito, gayundin ng behavioral problems.

Sa mga buntis naman ay maaari itong magdulot ng miscarriage, habang ang mga lalaking malalantad naman sa lead ay maaaring magkaroon ng pagbaba ng sperm count.

Maaari rin itong magdulot ng alta-presyon at iba pang problema sa kalusugan.

Samantala, ang cadmium naman ay isa sa itinuturing na nakapagdudulot ng cancer, gayundin sa pagbaba ng birth weight, premature birth, stillbirth, spontaneous abortion, at birth defects.



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ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP NAGBABALA VS NAKAKALASONG LUCKY CHARMS

Kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng Chinese New Year, nagbabala ang environmental group na EcoWaste Coalition ukol sa pagbili ng lucky charm o pampasuwerte na may lamang nakalalasang mga kemikal.

Ayon kay Thony Dizon, chemical safety campaigner ng EcoWaste Coalition, lumalabas sa pagsusuri na mataas ang nilalamang cadmium at lead ng 15 sa 20 lucky charms na kanilang binili sa Binondo at Quiapo sa Maynila.

Kabilang umano sa mga nabiling "lucky charm" na may mataas na antas ng lead at cadmium ay red fabric bracelet, stainless steel necklace na may pig pendant, at stainless steel necklace na may money pouch pendant.

Ani Dizon, na may naidudulot umanong panganib sa kalusugan ang lead at cadmium at kung hindi naman umano maiiwasan ang pagbili ng mga lucky charm, mainam umanong piliin ang mga lucky charm na may plastic laminate. **-Doris Franche-Borja-**



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Duterte approves law reapportioning Leyte

By Nat Mariano

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte, born in Maasin, Leyte on March 28, 1945, has signed a law reappportioning the province of Southern Leyte into two legislative districts, according to a document released by Malacañang on Monday.

The Republic Act 11198 was approved by the President on Friday, three months before the May midterm elections.

Under the law, the first legislative district shall be composed of the City of Maasin and the seven other municipalities such as Macrohon, Padre Burgos, Limasawa, Malitbog, Tomas Oppus, and Bontoc.

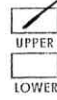
The towns of Sogod, Libagon, Liloan, San Francisco, Pintuyan, San Ricardo, Saint Bernard, Anahawan, San Juan, Hinundayan, Hinunangan, and Silago shall complete the second legislative district.

"The incumbent Representative of the Lone Legislative District of the Province of Southern Leyte shall continue to represent the legislative district until the new representatives of the first and second legislative districts shall have been duly elected and qualified," the RA read.

The Commission on Elections shall then issue necessary rules and regulations for its implementation within 30 days upon the Act's effectivity.



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Good news ng mga nagtatrabaho sa gobyerno!

NGAYONG 2019, nakatak dang i-release ang fourth tranche ng salary adjustment para sa mga empleyado ng pamahalaan.

Subalit, hindi nasunod ang schedule ng salary increase na dapat ay noong January ipinatupad.

Ayon sa Department of Budget and Management, ang delay ay dahil sa hindi pa rin naipapasa ang General Appropriations Act.

Pero, napag-alaman natin kay Sen. Loren Legarda, chairperson ng Senate Finance Committee na puwedeng kunin ang pondo para sa salary increase mula sa Miscellaneous Personnel Ben-

efit Fund (MPBF).

At least P75 billion ng MPBF ay nakalaan para sa "payment of compensation adjustment" at "funding requirements for staffing modifications and upgrading and salaries," na maaaring gamitin ng DBM para sa increase.

Base sa estimate ng DBM, aabutin ng P40 hanggang P50 bilyon ang kailangan para sa salary increase ng government workers. Ibig sabihin, may matitira pa.

Kaya, umaasa tayo na ngayong February ay mairerelase na ang fourth tranche ng salary increase.

Malaki ang maitutulong nito lalo pa at nalalapit na ang pasukan at para

na rin makapag-adjust ang mga government employee sa taas ng presyo ng mga bilihin.

Mabuti na lang at nagbigay na rin ng commitment si DBM Sec. Benjamin Diokno na ire-release nila ngayong buwan ang fourth tranche ng salary increase sa pagkakapasa ng GAA.

Tayo naman, sa mababa at mataas na kapulungan ng Kongreso ay may commitment din na ipasa ang GAA bago mag-session break.

We realize the urgency of passing the budget soon. Asahan ninyo na patuloy tayong kumikilos para masiguro na maipapasa ang budget na gagamitin para sa sama-sama nating pag-unlad.

May katanungan ka ba, reklamo o nais ihingi ng tulong? Sumulat sa SERBISYONG TUNAY ni Nancy Binay, BULGAR Bldg., 538 Quezon Ave., Quezon City o mag-email sa serbisyongtunay.bulgar@gmail.com