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IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Manila Standard



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MM mayors vow to help relocate Bay area families

By Joel E. Zurbano

MAYORS in Metro Manila have agreed to help the government relocate at least 220,000 squatter families living along Manila Bay.

In a meeting held at the Metro Manila Development Authority main office in Makati City, the local chief executives expressed support for the simultaneous cleanup operations and promised to coordinate with the National Housing Authority and the Department of Interior and Local Government on the relocation.

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

The local government units also agreed to extend support to the long-term plan to clean the bay.

Apart from actually cleaning the foreshore areas of Manila, the campaign seeks to educate the public on the need to properly manage their garbage and avoid these from reaching Manila Bay.

Authorities attributed the heavy pollution to residents and squatters living along and near Manila Bay.

MMDA chairman Danilo Lim said there is a need to change the habit of people, particularly squatters living near esteros, of disposing their waste into the bay.

Lim said an integrated effort is needed for Manila Bay's restoration and "local government units have big roles in the success of this undertaking."

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu had also sought the backing of the mayors when his agency issues cease and desist orders to business establishments found violating environmental laws.

Cimatu said LGUs have the authority to issue suspension or cancellation of business permits of commercial establishments polluting the bay.

"We have to show that we are one in this effort," said Cimatu.

Moreover, compliance of factories and other business establishments with environmental laws will also be reviewed.

He also appealed to the mayors to order barangay captains to conduct regular cleanup activities on esteros and rivers connected to the bay.



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A policy of accommodation



TO THE
POINT
EMIL P.
JURADO

The rehabilitation of Manila Bay should be done in a holistic manner. The reason it became what it is now is a confluence of events.

First, there are so many establishments around the Bay that are contributing to the pollution. They must be stopped. Secretary Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is already doing that by issuing cease and desist orders.

Second, and this is the most difficult of all, relocate all the squatters living around the bay.

Still, this is not enough since the waterways and tributaries that flow into Manila Bay are also full of squatters. Local government units along the Pasig River have been incompetent and negligent.

And then, there is the Bulacan River. Surveys show it is one of the most polluted rivers in the world.

Indeed strong will is needed to rehabilitate both the Pasig and Bulacan Rivers.

The problem is the incompetence of local officials.

Rehabilitating Boracay, compared to this, was easy.



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Saving the bay



BELIEVE it or not: When I was a preschooler and until I entered primary school, we could go for a swim in the clear waters of Manila Bay, at the spot (since reclaimed) where the road to the domestic airport intersects then Dewey Boulevard.

Later, we could still swim at the Malibu Beach resort in Parañaque, before Las Piñas. And in high school days, Noveleta in Cavite was yet a popular destination for week-end swimmers. Now the sand has turned to mud (burak).

Farther off in college, Tanza was still good enough for swimming (and all-night drinking). Now, even Matabungkay in Batangas is no longer the pristine white sand and pink coral beach it once was.

What has happened since?

Into Manila Bay empties Pasig River, which is connected to several esteros or canals which in the 19th century was still used as a river transport system for produce coming from the nearby provinces of Bulacan and Pampanga in the north as well as Rizal and Laguna in the south. Even Pres. Cory Aquino's grandfather, a Chinese rice merchant in Malolos, Bulacan, used to send casks laden with rice using the Malolos River, towards Manila Bay, and into the estero beside what is now the Divisoria market.

The esteros no longer serve any transport purpose, except to ferry passengers through man-made and rope-hauled barges from one side of the smelly waterway to the other side, as in Binondo and Divisoria. Why, even the President of the Republic has to suffer the stench of the Pasig while being ferried by a motor launch between his office in Malacañang Palace to his official residence inside Malacañang Park.

At certain times of the year, even the garbage thrown by mindless residents into the streams and tributaries of Cavite and Batangas are carried by currents into Manila Bay, like some kind of a water closet flush bringing detritus into a septic tank.

The "premier" city of Manila and even Pasay are serviced by an MWSS sewerage system, much of it built even as far back as the 19th century, expanded during the 20th by colonial masters. Through the years, there have been patchwork improvements, mostly for flood control purposes, built in Manila, Pasay, the reclamation areas, even Malabon and Navotas.

But all these, it is clear, are not enough to clean the bay which boasts of a magnificent sunset, especially in the months of December until February when the orange orb of a dying sun is at full glory before it buries itself into the horizon to welcome the envelope of dark.

That is another direct effect of population gone haywire due to uncontrolled births and unmitigated migration from poor provinces to what used to be "rich" mega-Manila.

Rep. Lito Atienza, a three-term mayor of Manila from 1998 till 2007, asks the now-private water concessionaires, Manila Water and Maynilad, why they have not yet constructed new sewerage systems complete with state-of-the-art wastewater treatment systems for the metropolis. Instead, Maynilad Water for instance offers free septic tank sludge extraction should household customers request the same. Oh, those small mercies.

But first, how many know about this service which is not widely disseminated?

Second, where does the water concessionaire throw the sludge?

Weeks back, the DENR announced that it would start the Herculean task of cleaning up Manila Bay, until it becomes "swimmable" once again. And after a week of removing tons and tons of garbage floating in the nearby sections of Manila Bay, residents "discovered" that there was a beachfront after all in some portions beside the Roxas Boulevard baywalk.

True to form, many Manilenos started flocking to the newly discovered "beach" to bathe just before the Lunar New Year, even if the same is yet prohibited. *Tigas talaga ng mga ulo!*

And in their wake, left garbage and plastic bags behind. See how difficult the job is for DENR and other government agencies involved in the massive clean-up and rehabilitation effort?

Some noise was generated by the "cease and desist" order for Gloria Maris at the CCP complex and the iconic Aristocrat in Roxas Boulevard. In the case of the latter, it was discovered that they were actually releasing wastewater to the M.H. del Pilar sewerage pipe of Maynilad, because that was where the pipes were located, since at the time the Aristocrat was constructed, no pipelines were embedded underneath the Roxas side, which sits on reclaimed land.

"See what political will can do?"

But beyond apprehending certain establishments in the bay area, the task of cleaning Manila Bay is a much, much bigger project, and we ought to thank President Duterte for ordering the cleanup. That restoration project will not be finished within his term which ends in 2022, but he and his officials must proceed without let-up, and produce tangible results that will make it an irreversible program, no matter who succeeds Duterte.

This brings to mind what Mayor Bayani Fernando, and then his wife Marides, did for Marikina. The renewal and re-development efforts were so tangible and beneficial for Marikina residents that even if the couple are no longer at the city's helm, successors could not but pursue the program.

The Manila Bay restoration and rehabilitation project is a lot more difficult because it would require the relocation of thousands of informal settler families living in the banks of esteros and rivers, as well as the communities in the Manila Bay shoreline, from Navotas in the north to Cavite City in the south.

Secretaries Cimitu and Ano should implement the President's directive without let-up and compel the mayors of the towns and cities that contribute to the mega-cesspool that is Manila Bay to do their part. The same goes for Laguna Lake Development Authority CEO Joey Medina, the former mayor of Pateros.

It is one lasting legacy that future generations will be grateful for, if sustained. See what political will can do?



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New Battle of Manila Bay



VIRTUAL
REALITY
TONY
LOPEZ

“This effort is now the be-all and end-all of Duterte’s presidency.”

ONE of the best policy decisions Rodrigo Duterte has made in the first 31 months of his six-year presidency is his order to clean and rehabilitate Manila Bay.

About P47 billion has been allotted for the job over the next 12 months. The huge amount shows you how serious Duterte is about cleaning up Manila Bay.

The rehab of Manila Bay comes a few months after the successful cleanup of Boracay which Duterte had described as

a cesspool.

Manila Bay is also a cesspool—1,700 times worse than Boracay.

In my TV interview Monday night, environmental planner and architect Jun Palafox described the enormity of the Manila Bay rehab job:

“The coastline from Cavite to Bataan is 190 kilometers, the surface water is

180,000 hectares, and the land area of the watershed catchment area is 1,700,000 hectares—equivalent to 24 Singapores and 1,700 Boracays.”

If Duterte succeeds in rehabilitating Manila Bay, it will enshrine him as the best president we ever had. Forget about the thousands killed in the name of illegal drugs, forget about the slowing economy, forget about the failure of TRAIN, forget about Congress becoming more rapacious and less transparent during his watch, forget about the failure to contain the Muslim separatists and the communist New People’s Army, forget about bad jokes about the Catholic Church and its beliefs, bishops and priests, forget about his questionable China pivot.

Turn to A5

New...

From A4

Manila Bay is now the be-all and end-all of Duterte’s presidency.

The President has invested his enormous political will to succeed with Manila Bay. He has harnessed the full force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the skill, experience and command structure of retired military men to get the job done. At the top of this structure is retired general Roy Cimatu, the secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Cimatu plans to employ ground troops and ground commanders to carry out the DENR rehab plan. Literally thus, we have a new Battle of Manila Bay.

To be sure, it is not that Duterte has suddenly become pro-environment.

The President is actually implementing an order of the Supreme Court dating back to Dec. 18, 2008 to 14 government agencies to clean and restore Manila Bay, including eight cabinet-level departments and agencies—the DENR, Metro Manila Development Authority, and the departments of Education, Public Works, Agriculture, Budget, and Local Governments, along

with the MWSS, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Ports Authority, and BFAR.

In ten years, these departments and agencies failed to comply with the Supreme Court mandamus. And so Manila Bay deteriorated. The pollution, dirt, and sewage at the bay is three times that is allowed for humans to live. So it is a wonder why humans who bathe and live there remain alive.

The high court mandamus of 2008 stemmed from its affirming an RTC and Court of Appeals rulings on the original case filed by environmentalists on Jan. 29, 1999 before the Cavite Regional Trial Court.

That case sought an order to the defendant government agencies “to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to SB level (Class B sea waters per Water Classification Tables under DENR Administrative Order No. 34 [1990]) to make them fit for swimming, skin-diving, and other forms of contact recreation.”

The RTC issued a mandamus in September 2002 which was upheld by the CA and later by the SC. Palafox explains why Manila Bay matters:

“Considered as one of the best natu-

ral harbors in the world, Manila Bay has been our country’s premier gateway to the west and to neighboring countries in Asia. It holds much significance in our history, and it has played a vital role in shaping our nation and our identity as it has witnessed countless momentous events dated as far back as 9th century A.D. such as the commencement of trade with China, the arrival of the Spaniards, the Galleon Trade, and the Battle of Manila, among others.”

“In spite of its economic and cultural endowment, Manila Bay’s environment has been deteriorating at an alarming rate. It is severely polluted with marine, domestic, industrial, and commercial waste—threatening marine life and the livelihoods primarily dependent on the Bay’s resources. According to the most recent water samples and laboratory tests conducted by the DENR, Manila Bay’s coliform level is 330-million MPN—exceptionally way beyond the acceptable level of less than 100 MPN!

This wide-scale project presents numerous opportunities for waterfront development from which we can all reap long-term benefits.”

biznewsasia@gmail.com



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JARIUS BONDOC



Manila Bay island-building to sink inland homes - expert

Huge obstacles deter President Rody Duterte's Great Manila Bay Rehab. Thirty-eight reclamations totaling 26,234 hectares are planned along almost the entire coastline. Environment lawyer Tony Oposa prefers calling the near-shore schemes "tambak" or landfilling. For, those are virtually island constructions for eventual high-rises. "The Bay is a nearly enclosed water body," he says. "If islands are piled all over, then water flow all the more would be blocked, and waste and stink kept bayside."

The island-building contradicts the Supreme Court order to clean up the Bay, that Oposa and 14 youths fought for starting 1999 - for future generations. Obstructed too is the Executive's order for 178 cities and municipalities, and 5,714 barangays along the Bay and its inland tributaries in Metro Manila, Calabarzon, and Central Luzon to join in.

It defies science. About this time two years ago I wrote about the damage that Manila Bay reclamations would wreak. Not only coastal communities would be prone to storm surges. Those many kilometers inland also could be flooded. Liquefaction can sink the artificial islands during earthquakes. All those were from Dr. Kelvin S. Rodolfo's 2015 study "On Geological Hazards that Threaten Existing and Proposed Reclamations of Manila Bay." Rodolfo is professor emeritus of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago. The following year he presented a visual abridged version, "Dangerous Aspects of Reclamations along Manila Bay," before the National Academy of Science and Technology. Both articles are online.

* * *

Excerpts from my column of Mar. 13, 2017:

Four of 38 reclamations are about to commence: two in Manila, one in Pasay, and one in Cavite. The new real estate would bring mega-profits to the proponents. But wait, warns the Philippine government's "Balik-Scientist" Kelvin Rodolfo. Millions of residents in Metro Manila, Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, and Cavite would be left in misery.

Three disasters loom:

- Seawater will flood coastal communities.

Due to sea temperature warming, sea levels are rising, especially near the equator. In the Philippines the rate of rise is as much as 14.7 mm a year, or above an adult's ankle in ten years. At the same time, the Bay area is fast sinking. Unbridled extraction of groundwater is causing the surface to subside. The rate of subsidence in Greater Manila is about 19.2 mm a year, or deeper than an adult's mid-leg in ten years. (Rodolfo likens that subsidence to the sinking of California's San Joaquin Valley by eight meters, or a three-story house, due to groundwater overuse in the 1920s to 1970s.)

Manila Bay coastal plains slope up inland very gently. Ten to 20 km of land from the shore are only one meter above sea level. The combination of rising sea levels and land subsidence would make seawaters advance inland. Large swaths of the Bay area perpetually would be in knee-deep seawater in ten years.

Reclamations, being soft earth, would be susceptible to the combination of rising sea levels and subsidence. They would even hasten and deepen the flooding in other parts of the Bay area, as natural outflows of rivers and high tides would be clogged. Rodolfo cites the experience of Dagat-Dagatan in Navotas, Metro Manila. Starting in the

1970s the government poured billions of pesos for landfill and dikes - all for naught. Today more areas of the city are flooded than before.

- Storm surges would lash the coastal communities.

Typhoons are becoming stronger than ever due to climate change. Most at risk from storm surges and giant waves are coastal plains that slope up very gradually, like the Manila Bay area. History has shown evidence of typhoon destruction. Ships have been unchained from anchors and crashed against each other or onto Roxas Boulevard due to strong waves. Reclamations artificially would change the coastal contour, making them prone to storm surges and destructive waves.

- Liquefaction would sink coastal areas into the water in case of earthquake.

Liquefaction is when loose, saturated soil and sediments lose cohesion and temporarily behave like liquid. That's what happened when buildings in downtown Dagupan City, beside Lingayen Gulf, sank as deep as one meter from the 1990 Luzon earthquake. Yet the epicenter was one hundred kilometers to the east, near Cabanatuan. In case the Big One strikes when Greater Manila's West Valley Fault moves, reclaimed areas could suffer liquefaction. Structures could collapse.

Rodolfo warns against the reclamation of Sangley Point in Cavite, at the southern tip of Manila Bay, for a new airport. Such earth-filling could sink large parts of the heavily populated urbanized province due to hastened seawater rise, land subsidence, storm surges and waves, and earthquake liquefaction. Rodolfo cites Japan's engineering fiasco at Kansai Airport, built on a reclaimed island off the bay coast of Osaka. More than \$20 billion - 40-percent over-budget - was spent to reclaim land from the sea, pave two runways, build the terminals - and trying to outpace the sinking. Still it sunk, by 11.9 meters, or a four-story building. Ten percent of the cost went to waterproofing alone to save basements. The island continues to sink to this day.



Groups hit Palace order empowering Duterte to OK land-reclamation deals

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

MILITANT groups on Tuesday criticized Malacañang's move to take over the Philippine Reclamation Authority's (PRA) newly restored powers to approve land-reclamation projects.

Sought for reaction on the recent issuance of an executive order signed by President Duterte recently, the Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan-PNE) said the move reveals Duterte's hand in promoting what it described as a destructive coastal activity.

Duterte has signed Executive Order 74 transferring the power of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) to approve reclamation projects back to the PRA and placing the latter from the supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to the Office of the President.

During a news conference prior to the launching of Battle for Manila Bay on January 27, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said part of the rehabilitation of Manila Bay is the reforestation of mangroves and beach forests, and a review of all approved land-reclamation projects along the 190-kilometer coastline from Cavite to Bataan. Many of the PRA-approved development projects requested by local government units through the Public-Private Partnership program involve land reclamation, also called dump-and-fill.

Land reclamation causes enormous damage to coastal ecosystems and the death of habitat-forming species like mangroves, seagrasses and corals, the group said.

"This is alarming knowing full well that there are many oligarchs close to Duterte who have interests in reclamation. Davao-based businessman Dennis Uy and San Miguel magnate Ramon Ang, known friends of Duterte and campaign finance contributors, have multibillion-peso reclamation deals across the bay," Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan-PNE, told the BUSINESSMIRROR.

The group noted that no new regulation was introduced in the executive order, indicating that Duterte "intends to wield the PRA in its business-as-usual mode of indiscriminately promoting reclamation projects."

"This puts the so-called Battle for Manila Bay rehab program under question. How can you achieve the Supreme Court-mandated objective of restoring Manila Bay's coastal ecosystems if your end game is to dump, fill, and pave them for big-ticket infrastructure and economic zones?" Dulce asked. "If the Duterte government is sincere in rehabilitating this historic water body, the current reclamation projects should be canceled and a moratorium should be imposed until a rational coastal resource management policy is put in place," he added.

For its part, the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said Malacañang's latest move has become apparent that behind the efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay is the government's plan to privatize it in the form of an environmentally destructive reclamation.



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'Make Manila Bay reclamation-free'

A local fisherfolk group reiterated its call for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay under a framework that will genuinely restore the traditional use of the historic bay into a fishing ground, as well as its natural environment protected from privatization by big business firms via reclamation.

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) expressed its support for House Resolution (HR) 2452 calling for the government to ensure important measures such as declaring Manila Bay as "reclamation-free zone."

The HR also supports the holding of a public consultation among marginalized stakeholders, and drafting of a genuine and democratic program that will sincerely rehabilitate Manila Bay without violating the socio-economic rights of fisherfolk and coastal settlers.

"The problem with this rehabilitation drive of the government is we were not consulted what are the components of the campaign," Pamalakaya national chairperson Fernando Hicap said.

He said that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources announced plans to relocate at least 300,000 Manila Bay residents without consulting the latter about it.

"We have been calling on past and present administrations to genuinely rehabilitate the deteriorating Manila Bay but our collective clamor seems to fall on deaf ears," Hicap said.

"We are ever-ready to propose and initiate our own effective and sincerest way of rehabilitating Manila Bay as long as we are assured that no single fishing family or coastal settler will be demolished from their community," he added.

(Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz)



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BUKOD sa binabayarang buwan-buwan ng mga kostumer na environment charge, mayroon pa ba silang babayaran iba kung magpasipsip sila ng mga poso negro?

Ito ang tanong sa mga water concessionaire na Maynilad at Manila Water sa gitna ng akusasyong kabilang sila sa mga malalaking dahilan kung bakit may polusyon ang Manila Bay.

Sa panimulang pagdinig ng Kamara ukol sa responsibilidad ng mga concessionaire na ito, lumalabas na 20 porsyento lang ng kanilang milyon-milyong kostumer ang kanilang malilinis ng poso negro kung sabay-sabay na magpalinis ang mga ito.

Ayon sa mga mambabatas, malapit nang magtapos ang unang panahon ng konsesyon subalit hanggang sa ganitong antas pa lang ang kakayahan ng sewerage system ng dalawang concessionaire.

Ang isang kahulugan nito, paliwanag ng mga mambabatas, ay limpak-limpak ang kinikita ng mga concessionaire pero kulang sa serbisyo sa mga kostumer.

Sa ibang salita, may pandaraya kaya sa mga kostumer?

P1,500, TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

May mga nagpapapating sa atin mula sa Caloocan City na nangingil ang mga tauhan ng Maynilad ng P1,500 sa sinomang gustong magpalinis ng poso negro.

Taliwas ito sa anunsiyo ng Maynilad at Manila Water na libre ang pasipsip.

Anak ng tokwa, take it or leave it ang peg ng mga ito.

Problema nga lang, hindi na bumalik ang mga ito para sana maverify kung totoong taga-Maynilad nga sila o mga peke.

Baka katulad lang sila ng mga pekeng wrecker ng mga sasakyan na may karatulang rehistrado o accredited sila sa Metro Manila Development Authority o lokal na pamahalaan pero hindi pala.

Pag-aari lang pala ang mga ito ng mga iskalawag na pulis o protektado nila.

MAYOR BF

Noong Mayor, pa ng



MAYNILAD, MANILA WATER AT MGA RELOKASYON

Marikina City si Congressman Bayani Fernando, walang puwang ang basura sa lungsod.

Sa napakaikling panahon sa una niyang pagkamatay, nagkasunod-sunod na ang parangal na natamo ng kanyang lungsod ukol sa kalinisan at kaayusang pangkapaligiran.

At isa sa laging sinasabi nito na libre ang pagpasipsip ng Maynilad o Manila Water sa mga poso negro.

Ang dahilan, buwan-buwang may binabayaran ang mga kostumer para rito, ang sewerage fee o environment charge.

Sa atin, siya ang isa sa mga kauna-unahang mayor na nagdidiin sa pagpapalala sa mga kostumer ng nasabing mga concessionaire ukol sa "bayad" ng pasipsip at i-avail mo na lang ito.

ANG TAMAAN 'WAG MAGALIT

Hindi lang miminsan na nakahuli ang mga awtoridad ng mga nagtatapon ng dumi mula sa poso negro sa Manila Bay.

Anak ng pitong putakte, makaraan silang magpasipsip, diretso pala ang mga ito sa Manila Bay para itapon ang kanilang nasipsip.

Ang dapat, may planta para sa paglilinis ng mga duming ito at kapag safe na, pupwede nang itapon sa dapat pagtapunan.

Tanong: May mga taga-Maynilad o Manila Water o mga pribadong kompanya?

Maganda kung malinawan ito at lalong maganda kung wala nang gumagawa nito.

Ang clue rito, nagkahulihan bago dumating ang administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Isang araw lang ang balita at nanahimik na ito pagkatapos.

Bakit kaya?

RELOCATION AREA DUMARAMI

Nagsimula nang maghanap ang mga lokal na pamahalaan, maging ang mga pambansang ahensya ng mga posibleng relocation area ng 220,000 katao na binubuo ng 40,000 pamilya na nakaiskwat sa dalampasigan

at ibabaw ng Manila Bay.

Ang Philippine Ports Authority ay nag-aalok ng limang ektarya para sa nasa 2,000 pamilya.

Tumutulong na rin ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa paghanap ng relocation site sa labas ng Metro Manila.

Ang mga lokal na pamahalaan, tinitingnan ang posibilidad para sa "in city relocation."

Ang isang sagabal dito ay ang kawalan o kakapusan ng pondo.

Sana, magawan ito ng paraan upang makakilos ang lanat para sa pambiling lupa, kahit kaunting kapital at pagsimulan ng mga relocatee at pagtatayo ng mga bahay.

MATAAS NA GUSALI

Para sa ULTIMATUM, dapat na ikonsidera ang pagtatayo ng mga matataas na gusali para sa mga relocatee.

Halimbawa ang gusaling may apat na palapag na may probisyon para sa mezzanine o allowance para sa kwarto malapit sa iba-ba ng bawat floor.

Ang mga gawa sa Mandaluyong City na gusali ang ehemplo nito.

Sa rami ba naman ng anak ng mag-asawang Pinoy, kailangan ang matutulugan, bukod sa mga regular na kwarto.

Kapag nagkaroon ng mga pabahay na bungalow type lahat, napakalawak ang kakainang lupa ng relocation.

Basta hindi bababuyin ang paggawa ng mga gusali, matitibay ang mga ito at kayang magtagal ng daang taon.

Kung matibay ang lahat, hindi rin basta masisira ng kahit mga lindol at kung maganda ang mantinansya, maiiwasan ang mga sunog.

O paano?

oOo

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



REKLAMASYON NG MANILA BAY TARGET NG EO74

ni GERRY BALDO

MABILIS na reklamasyon ng Manila Bay ang tunay na pakay ng paglabas ng Executive Order No. 74 para sa mga kaibigang negosyanteng Chinese ng Duterte administration.

Ayon kay Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao kasama sa mga mapapaboran ng EO 74 ay ang 265-hectare Pearl Harbor City project sa Pasay City na pagmamay-ari ng kaalyado ng pangulong si Dennis Uy.

Ang Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), ang ahensiyang nangangasiwa dito ay may planong 43 reclamation projects sa Manila Bay.

Bago maglabas ng EO 74 ang reclamation projects ay pinangangasiwaan ng PRA at ng National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), ngayon nasa ilalim na ito ng Office of the President at ang lahat ng reclamation projects ay magkakaroon ng approval ng pangulo.

Ayon kay Casilao, pakitang tao umano ang paglilinis ng Manila Bay at ang tunay na pakay ay reclamation projects.

Kaugnay nito kinonodena ni Casilao ang planong demolisyon sa higit 100 kabahayan ng

mga mangingisda at maralitang lungsod sa Cavite City kaugnay sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay.

Ani Casilao, higit sa 300,000 pamilya ang maaapektohan ng proyektong ito.

Aniya ang ipinapakita ng gobyerno sa taong-bayan ay dalawang kilometrong dalampasigan sa Malate habang itinatago ang apat na kilometrong breakwater na isinapribado malapit sa SM Mall of Asia patungong Okada sa Parañaque City.

PRA ISINAILALIM SA PANGULO

TINANGGAL sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang kontrol sa Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) at inalis din sa kapangyarihan ng National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) ang pag-aproba sa reclamation projects.

Inililpat sa kapangyarihan ng Pangulo ng

Filipinas ang kontrol at pamamahala sa PRA maging ang pagbibigay ng 'go signal' sa reclamation projects, batay sa Executive Order No. 74 na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

"There is a need to rationalize the approval process for reclamation projects towards an economically and environmentally sustainable resource development," rason sa EO 74.

Isinaad pa, "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.'"

Sakop ng EO 74 ang lahat ng reclamation project kasama ang isinusulong ng mga lokal na pamahalaan at iba pang ahensiya ng pamahalaan.

Ang kautusan ay inilabas ng Palasyo isang linggo matapos manawagan ang ilang mambabatas na itigil ang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay at nag-akusa sa pamahalaan na inihahanda ang 43 reclamation projects sa Manila Bay na nasungkit ng malalaking negosyante.

(ROSE NOVENARIO)



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Mga Chinese makikinabang sa Manila Bay reclamation

Nangangamba ang isang kongresista na panghimasukan din ng China ang mga reclamation project sa Manila Bay.

Pinagdududahan kasi ni Magdalo Party-list Rep. Gary Alejano ang pagsasailalim sa Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) sa Office of the President.

Aniya, nabahiran ng hindi magandang intensyon ang mabuting hangarin para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay lalo na kung magbubukas na naman ito ng panibagong pagkakataon para makapasok ang mga Chinese.

"I will not be surprised if later on we will find out that Chinese investors will be the ones benefitting from the speedy approval of reclamation projects," komentado ni Alejano.

Samantala, ipinahayag naman ni Anakpawis Party-list Rep. Ariel Casilao na tumibay ang batayan na reklamasyon ang tunay na pakay sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay matapos isalin ang pagmamando ng PRC sa Office of the President alinsunod na inilabas na Executive Order No. 74.

Naniniwala ang mambabatas na sa pamamagitan ng EO 74 ay mas mapapabilis ang mga reclamation project sa Manila Bay.

Nauna nang inihayag ng Makabayan bloc sa Kamara na umaabot sa 43 reclamation project ang gagawin sa Manila Bay. **(Aries Cano)**

KUWENTAS KLARAS



Antonio Tinio

TWITTER: @tonchi

Mariin ang pagtanggig ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), isa sa mga ahensyang namumuno sa inter-agency task force para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, na may kinalaman ang paglilinis ng look sa pagsusulong ng reklamasyon. "Again this is clearly misinformation," ani DILG spokesperson Jonathan Malaya. "There is no place for reclamation in the rehabilitation pro-

Rehabilitasyon hindi reklamasyon!

gram. In fact, Secretary Año is personally opposed to reclamation projects."

Sa kasamaang-palad para kay Malaya, tuwirang kinontra ng Malacañang ang pagtatwa umano ng DILG sa reklamasyon. Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo, "positive development" daw ang mga proyektong reklamasyon na nakahanay sa Manila Bay. "With respect to reclamation, even the government will benefit from that... that will generate income for the government and will generate jobs."

Hindi natapos sa pahayag ang interes ng Malacañang sa reklamasyon. Noong Pebrero 1, limang araw matapos pormal na ilunsad ang kampan-

yang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, nilagdaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang Executive Order 74. Kanyang binawi sa NEDA ang kapangyarihang aprubahan ang mga proyektong reklamasyon at inilipat ito sa Philippine Reclamation Authority, na kanya namang tinanggal sa DENR at direktang ipinailalim sa Office of the President. Malinaw na kagustuhan ni Pangulong Duterte ang mas direktang kamay sa pag-apruba ng mga kontrata sa reklamasyon.

Sa kagyat, may tatlong malaking proyektong nakahanay. Noong Oktubre 2018, nilagdaan nina Mayor Joseph 'Erap' Estrada ng Maynila, Mayor Antonino Calixto ng Pasay, at mga pribadong mamumuhunan

ang isang Memorandum of Agreement para sa tatlong malaking reclamation project sa Manila Bay. Ito ang 148 ektaryang Solar City project ng Manila Gold Coast Development Corp. ng pamilya Tieng; ang 360 ektaryang proyektong SM Prime Holdings ng pamilya Sy; at ang 265 ektaryang proyektong Pasay Harbor City consortium, na kinabibilangan ni Dennis Uy, ang negosyante ng Davao na pinakamalaking campaign donor ni Pang. Duterte at lag-ing nasa eksena kapag malaking kontrata ng gobyerno ang nakasalang. Sa bisa ng EO 74 ni Duterte, kailangan munang dumaan sa kanya ang mga proyektong ito.

Bakit nananabik ang administrasyong

Duterte na magpatupad ng reklamasyon? Mula sa punto de bista ng mga opisyal ng gobyerno, mula antas lokal hanggang Malakanyang, na nais samantalahin ang kanilang posisyon upang magpayaman, madaling unawain kung bakit kaakit-akit ang mga proyektong reklamasyon. Sa pamamagitan ng reklamasyon, ang dagat, nagiging lupa. Ang lupang ito, na lupang publiko, ay maaari nang isapribado. Kapag may pagsisipribado, kailangang may kontrata sa pagitan ng gobyerno at pribadong sektor. Kapag may kontrata, may posibiidad ng komisyon.

Huwag gamitin ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay bilang balatkayo ng malawakang reklamasyon!



PALILIGO SA MANILA BAY BAWAL PA RIN

HINDI pa rin inirerekomenda sa publiko ng Department of Health ang paliligo sa Manila Bay, kahit wala nang mga basura dahil sa ginagawang paglilinis doon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Ayon kay Health Undersecretary at Spokesperson Eric Domingo, hindi pa rin ligtas paliguan at nananatili pa rin ang polusyon sa Manila Bay.

Batay aniya sa huling pagsusuri ng DENR, napakataas pa rin ng coliform level

ng Manila Bay, kaya't mapanganib pa rin ito sa kalusugan ng mga taong maglulunoy rito.

Babala pa ng DOH, ang paglulunoy sa maruming tubig ng Manila Bay ay maaaring magdulot ng sakit sa balat, gastroenteritis, typhoid fever at hepatitis A.

Nabatid na bago itunsad ang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay, ang tubig nito ay may mataas na coliform level na 330M most probable number per 100 milliliters, gayung ang ligtas na lebel ay nasa 100 MPN per 100 ml.

Kaugnay nito, inihayag ni

DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda na hindi nila inirerekomenda ang paliligo sa Manila Bay.

Bilang paunang hakbang ay magkakabit sila ng bakod at karatula sa kahabaan ng Baywalk para mapigilan ang mga tao na maligo roon.

Giit pa ni Antiporda sa pagdinig ng House committee on Metro Manila development na marumi pa rin ang tubig sa Manila Bay.

Sa nabanggit na pagdinig ay nagmosyon si BUHAY partylist Rep. Lito Atienza na pagsumitehin ang dalawang water concessionaires ng kanilang mga nakolekta sa mga consumer sa loob ng 21 taon.

**MACS BORJA AT
MELISSA MALUNTAG**



Bawal pa ring maligo sa Manila Bay

HINDI pa rin maaaring paglanguyan ang Manila Bay dahil mataas pa rin ang coliform level nito.

Ito ang muling babala ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu kasabay ng panawagan sa mga local government unit (LGU) partikular sa Lungsod ng Manila na ipagbawal muna ang paliligo sa Manila Bay upang makaiwas sa sakit.

"Those waters aren't yet swimmable. Three outfalls along Baywalk are still discharging dirty effluent into Manila Bay -- making it dangerous to swim there at present," pahayag ni Cimatu.

Matapos matanggal ang mga basura ay dinarayo na ngayon ang Manila Bay kung saan may ilan ang nakikitang naliligo kasama ang mga bata na edad 2-anyos pababa.

Ani Cimatu, marami pang burak at tambak na basura sa Manila Bay at nananatili pa rin sa milyon ang coliform level nito na sobrang taas sa 100 MPN na standard level, hindi pa rin umano nalilinis ang mga estero na konektado dito kaya patuloy ang pagpasok ng maruming tubig, bukod pa dito ang pagsasaayos ng water waste facility ng mga establisimyento na nasa paligid.

Una nang nagpaalala ang Department of Health (DOH) sa publiko na hintayin muna ang water test result ng Manila Bay bago mag-swimming sa lugar dahil kapag nakainom umano ng maruming tubig ay maaaring pagmulan ng waterborne gastrointestinal diseases gaya ng diarrhea, cholera, typhoid, dysentery, skin diseases at eye infections. **(Tina Mendoza)**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



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 CARTOON

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Mataas pa rin ang coliform

MANILA BAY 'DI LIGTAS PALIGUAN

HINDI pa rin inirerekomenda sa publiko ng Department of Health (DOH) ang paliligo sa Manila Bay, kahit wala ng mga basura dahil sa ginagawang paglilinis doon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ayon kay Health Undersecretary at Spokesperson Eric Domingo, hindi pa rin ligtas paliguan at nananatili pa rin ang polusyon sa Manila Bay.

Batay sa huling pagsusuri ng DENR, napakataas pa rin ng coliform level ng Manila Bay, kaya't mapanganib pa rin ito sa kalusugan ng mga taong maglulunoy rito.

Babala pa ng DOH, ang paglulunoy sa maruming tubig ng Manila Bay ay maaaring magdulot ng sakit sa balat, gastroenteritis, typhoid fever at hepatitis A, at matagal na rin namang naglabas ng ordinansa ang lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila, na nagbabawal sa paliligo sa Manila Bay.

Nabatid na bago ilunsad ang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay, ang tubig nito ay may mataas na coliform level na 330 million most probable number (MPN) per 100 milliliters (ML), gayung ang ligtas na lebel ay nasa 100 MPN per 100 ml.

Inaasahan namang magsasagawa muli ng water sampling upang matukoy kung bumababa na ang antas ng coliform level sa dagat.

Matatandaang ka-

makailan ay sinimulan ng DENR ang rehabilitasyon at paglilinis sa Manila Bay sanhi upang mawala na ang mga basura roon.

Simula naman nang luminis na ang Manila Bay ay dumami na ang mga taong namamasyal sa lugar, at may mga naliligo na rin.

**ANA ROSARIO
HERNANDEZ**

**SAGABAL
SA REHAB, 'DI
SASANTUHIN**

TAHASANG sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na ilan pang grupong kontra sa administrasyong Duterte ang patuloy pa ring nagiging hadlang at nang-iintriga sa umuusad na Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

Kasunod ito ng pagsasampa ni Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao ng House Resolution 2452 para suspendihin ang ginagawang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay bunsod ng kanilang natuklasang plano ng gobyerno na magkaroon umano ng 43 reclamation projects sa lugar base na rin sa kanyang mga nakalap na impormasyon mula sa National Reclamation Authority (NRA).

Aniya, "mas mabuti pang lumabas sila ng Kongreso at sumama sa aming kampanya na linisin ang Manila Bay kaysa hadlangan ang magandang proyekto na 'yan.'" Hinikayat din nito ang mga kritiko na makiisa sa programa upang mapadali ang paglilinis

ng Manila Bay at isantabi muna ang mga intriga sa isyu ng reclamation project.

"Walang sinumang presidente ang makagagawa ng ganyang kaser-yosong proyekto para tuluyang malinis ang Manila Bay kundi si Pangulong Duterte lamang at suporta ng taumbayan, tumulong na lang sila at baka sakaling maisalba pa natin ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon ng Manila Bay," dagdag pa ni Antiporda.

Kamakailan lamang ay naging matagumpay ang Manila Bay rehabilitation na dinaluhan ng libo-libong sibilyan kasama ang iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno katulad ng DENR, DOT, MMDA, DPWH para puspupang maibalik sa dating ganda nito.

Samantala, sinabi din ni Antiporda na handa nilang habulin ang mga establisimiyento na patuloy na lumalabag at nagbibigay kontribusyon para magkaroon ng polusyon sa Manila Bay.

Aniya, wala silang sasantuhing mga establisimiyento sino man ang tamaan nito 'pag mapatunayang may paglabag ang o masilip nilang direktang nagtatapon ng dumi sa Manila Bay tulad ng hotels, restaurants at iba pa upang kanilang mabigyan ng cease-and-desist order (CDO) at notice of violation (NOV) para sa tuluyang pagkakasara ng mga ito.

**BENEDICT
ABAYGAR JR.**



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MMDA 'di sakop ang pagbabawal sa publikong maligo sa Manila Bay

NILINAW ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) na hindi na sakop ng kanilang mandato ang pagbabawal sa publiko na maligo sa Manila Bay.

Ito'y sa gitna ng isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) katuwang ang iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno kabilang na ang MMDA.

Gayunman, ayon kay MMDA Traffic Manager Bong Nebrija ay nagtalaga ang kanilang ahensya ng anti-littering unit personnel sa kahabaan ng Manila Bay na layong sitahin o hulihin ang mga bumibisitang nagkakalat sa paligid ng Manila Bay.

Dagdag pa ni Nebrija, maaari naman aniyang palawigin ng mga enforcers ang kanilang operasyon oras na maglabas ng ordinansa ang lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila hinggil sa naturang usapin.



Maypagasa sinuportahan ang Manila Bay rehab

Ang bagong-inilunsad na proyekto sa DENR na binansagan "Battle for Manila Bay" ay tumanggap ng malakas na suporta mula sa kilusang Maypagasa, isang multi-sektoral na grupo umaako sa adbokasiya para sa mabuting pamamahala, malinis na kapaligiran, at sa pag-unlad ng pamayanan (sa pamamagitan ng mabuting kalusugan ng mamamayan, mabuting ekonomiya, at seguridad sa pagkain).

Binanggit nito ang kamakailan-lamang na pahayag ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, binigyang-diin na "lutasin ng ahensya na maibalik ang Manila Bay sa dati nitong kaayayang tanawin at malinis na kapaligiran". Gayundin naman ang Kilusang Maypagasa ay suportado ang Philippine Clean Air Act at iba pang environmental laws. Na kung saan ay kasama sa "core values" ng Maypagasa upang makamit ang tunay na tranpormasyon sa lahat ng aspeto ng buhay ng mga Filipino sa kasalukuyan at paghahanda sa darating pa na henerasyon.

Ayon sa balita, noong nakaraan pang buwan inaprubahan ng Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay na minungkahi ng DENR. Ang ibang departamento ng gobyerno ay inatasan din sa programa ng paglilinis ng Manila Bay, katulad ng tourism, interior & local government, trade & industry, defense, at science & technology.



SPECIAL REPORT

Katas ng basura malaking hamon sa Manila Bay rehab

MAKIKITA na seryoso ang gobyerno sa ginagawang paglilinis ng Manila Bay.

Sinusuri ng bawat ahensiya ng pamahalaan na kalahok sa adbokasiyang ito, kaisa ang ilang pribadong sektor na nag-iingat sa kalikasan ang mga hakbangin para maisakatuparan ang hangaring maibalik ang sigla ng Manila Bay.

Ang Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pangunahing ahensiya ng gobyerno na nakatutok dito, katuwang ang Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), mga lokal na pamahalaan at iba pang sangay ng gobyerno na may kinalaman sa programang ito.

Ang Greenpeace Philippines ay

sa isang mandamus na inilabas ng Korte Suprema noong 2008.

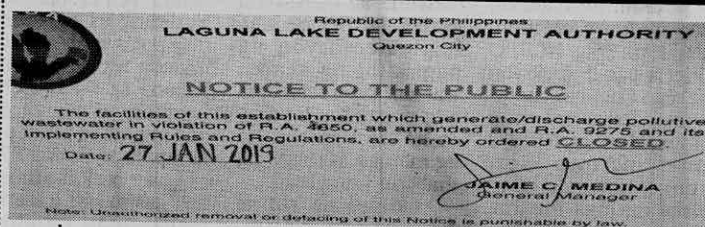
Kung kaya't dito kakailanganin ng kagawaran ang tulong ng mga opisyal ng lokal na pamahalaan na kanselahin ang mga permit sa negosyo upang isara ang mga establisimyento.

Mahalaga dito ang pagtutulongan ng iba't ibang departamento ng gobyerno upang maging matagumpay at ganap na maisakatuparan ang programa.

Ilang pasaway na establisimyento, ipinasara ng DENR

Sa unang bugso ng pagkilos ng DENR, agad na kinastigo ang mga lumabag sa batas ng kapaligiran,

MGA ESTABLISIMYENTONG IPINASARA





Special Report continuation
page 2

ilan lamang sa makakalikasan na natuwa sa hakbang ng DENR na mainit tumanggap sa paglilinis ng mga basura mula sa tubig ng Manila Bay ngunit binigyang-diin ng grupo na ang baybayin ay nananatiling mabigat sa pamamagitan ng hindi nakikitang basura na nagmumula sa mga negosyo na hindi sumusunod sa mga batas ng kalikasan.

Una nang sinabi ni Greenpeace regional oceans campaigner na si Sonny Batungbacal, ang problema sa Manila Bay ay ang mga basura na hindi nakikita, lalo na ang mga natutunaw o katas ng basura na maraming bakterya.

Ito aniya ang dapat pagtuunan ng pansin at tama ang ginagawa ng DENR na ipasara ang mga establisimyento na hindi sumusunod sa Clean Water Act at mga patakaran o pamantayan sa batas ng kalikasan.

DENR limitado ang kapangyarihan

Sa mga naunang ulat, ilang establisimyento na pansamantalang ipinasara dahil sa walang habas na pagtatapon ng kanilang mga basura direkta sa Manila Bay ay patuloy pa rin sa kanilang operasyon sa kabila ng mga palatandaan (temporary closure) na inilagay sa lugar.

Ipinaliwanag ng DENR na ang kapangyarihan ng kanilang awtoridad na isakatuparan ang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay ay limitado lang

iniutos ng kagawaran ang pansamantalang pagpapasara sa dalawang establisimyento at isang waste treatment facility malapit sa Manila Bay.

Ilan sa establisimyentong unang ipasara ay ang Aristocrat Restaurant sa Roxas Boulevard, Gloria Maris Restaurant malapit sa Folk Arts Theater, at isang water treatment facilities ng Esplanade (San Miguel By The Bay) sa Mall of Asia Complex sa Pasay City.

Nabatid na ang Aristocrat Restaurant ay ipinasara ng DENR sa pamamagitan ng LLDA dahil sa pagtatapon ng maruming tubig sa naturang baybayin.

Ang pagpapalabas ng kautusan ng DENR ay nag-ugat mula sa umano'y paglabag ng tatlong establisimyento sa Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.

Sinabi ni LLDA General Manager Jaime Medina ang tatlong establisimyento ay naglalabas ng kontaminadong tubig sa Manila Bay.

Binanggit pa ni Medina na kapag bumagsak sa water pollution sa testing na ginagawa, agad silang magmumultahin ng maximum P200,000 kada araw.

Ayon pa sa ulat, ang mga establisimyento na mabibigong sumunod at ayusin ang mga alalahanin ay nanganganib na hindi mabigyan ng environmental compliance certificate (ECC), babawiin ang Mayor's Permit at mapapasara ang kanilang mga negosyo.

(Itutuloy)



Txt Brigade P. 3
**Coron sa
Palawan dapat
ding i-rehab
ng DENR**

**Txt
BRIGADE**
Mga reporter ng bayan
I-text sa 09293852536
Maging reporter ng inyong lugar. I-text lang ang inyong mga nakikitang iligal, katiwalian at krimen para makarating sa mga awtoridad. Ang inyong celfone number at seguridad ay aming pangangalagaan.
- Editor

✓ **Seryosong pakikipagkaisa
para malinis ang Manila Bay**

Kung nais natin maibalik ang linis ng tubig sa Manila Bay, kailangan ang seryosong pakikipagkaisa sa sama-samang pagkilos na may pagmamalasakit ang lahat ng sektor ng lipunan. Ibalik natin ang pagmamahal at pag-iingat sa lahat ng dinadaluyan ng tubig: kanal, sapa, ilog, lawa, batis at dagat. Ang lahat ng establisimiento, gusali, paaralan, o anomang negosyo ay dapat maglagay ng waste water treatment para masala ang maruruming tubig bago mapunta sa mga bodies of water. Ang mga drainage na nakadirekta sa mga kanal at ilog ay kusa nang alisin o isara. Arestuhin, pagmultahin at ikulong ang mga magmamatigas. Tapos na

ang pagsasawalang kibo sa mga lumalapastangan sa kalikasan. Kailangan na ang kamay na bakal sa pagpapatupad ng mga batas na nangangalaga sa kapaligiran. Suportahan ng lahat ang pagsisikap ng gobyerno na malinis ang lahat ng marumi. Sa unity, may victory. - Rey Martinez, Rawis, Tdo.. Mla

**Naniningil ng parking ng
walang resibo sa Luneta**

PARA SA DIRECTOR NG LUNETASANA: TANGGALIN NA PO YUN PARKING SA MARIA OROSA. ANGYAYABANG PO YUN NAGBABANTAY NA WALA NAMAN SILA TIKET NABIBIGAY. NAGAGALIT PO SILA AYAW PO KAMI MAG-PARKING SAKANILA. NAGYAYABANG PANA HAWAK SILANG TOURIST POLICE. MAY TARA RAW PO SILA SA ISANG LINGGO P3,000. SANA NAMAN PO CITY HALL PARKING NALANG BANTAY. KASI PAG NAGKAROON NG PROBLEMA HINDI SILA MANAGOT, KC COLORUM PO SILA PAGDATING SA HAPON. - Concerned driver

✓ **Coron, Palawan dapat
din i-rehab ng DENR**

Ang bayan ng Coron sa Palawan na isang tourist destination ay dapat din i-rehab. Grabe na ang nakalutang na basura sa dagat, nadadaan ng mga nag-island hoping. Walang aksyon ang LGU Coron. - Concerned citizen



Report Card

Ni **ATTY. ERNEST MACEDA**

E-mail: ernest.maceda@macedalaw.com



Ilusyong linis

SABIK na sabik ang mga residente ng lungsod na makapasyal sa natatanging beach na tila sumulpot na lamang sa magdamag. Dagsa ang mga taga-Maynila, Pasay at iba pang karatig lungsod sa Roxas Boulevard upang masilayan ang bagong anyong Manila Bay.

Malaking sektor ng lipunan ang nagkapit-kamay upang linisin ang mga basurang nakasanayan nang makita sa tubig o inaanod sa buhangin. Siyempre, malaking bagay na kapanahunan ngayon ng hanging amihan. Ito ang tagalang tumutulak padagat sa karamihan ng mga kalat.

Kung mukhang kaaya-aya ang kundisyon ng tubig, walang naniniwalang permanente na ito. Babalik din ang dumi kapag nagpalit ang ihip ng hangin. Ang habagat

ang tutulak sa kalat pabalik ng pantalan. Ang kalat ay manggagaling pa rin sa dating ugat nito – ang mga iba't ibang ilog sa Metro Manila – Pasig, Parañaque, Angat, Bocaue, etc -- na pawang sa Manila Bay dinideposito ang kanilang agos.

Hindi ang Manila Bay ang problema. Kung mayroon mang mga gusali at institusyon sa paligid na direktang nagluluwa sa Manila Bay, agad naman itong sinita ng mga tauhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Ang tunay na problema ay ang lahat ng duming lumalabas mula sa ating mga tahanan at sa mga negosyo at industriyang gumagamit ng tubig. Sa kalahatan, tungkulin dapat ng Maynilad at Manila Water ang mabigyan tayo ng tamang sistema ng wastewater treatment. Sinisingil nga tayong lahat ng charges para sa sewerage tuwing nagbabayad tayo ng tubig. Subalit mula nang naningil sila ng sewerage fees nang taong 1997 – mahigit 20 years na tayong nagbabayad, itong 2018 ay 20% pa lamang ng buong concession area nila ang nalalagyan nila ng maayos na tubo.

Samakatuwid, ang duming galing sa ating mga ini-
(Sundan sa pahina 5)

REPORT CARD... Mula pahina 4

doro, lababo etc. ay direktang lumalabas sa mga ilog na wala nang linis-linis. At tumutuloy lahat sa Manila Bay. Habang hindi naaayos ng Maynilad at

Manila Water ang kanilang pangakong wastewater treatment, hindi magiging malinis ang Manila Bay kahit tanggalan pa ito ng kalat araw araw.



Solon sets review of govt's concession agreement with Manila Water, Maynilad

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

AMID the Duterte administration's bid to rehabilitate Manila Bay, members of the House Committee on Metro Manila Development have agreed to conduct a thorough review of the contract between water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad Water Services Inc. and the Philippine government.

During last Monday's panel hearing, Senior Deputy Minority Leader and Buhay Rep. Lito Atienza affirmed that the two water concessionaires—Manila Water and Maynilad Water Services Inc.—are responsible for the continued deterioration of the waters of Manila Bay.

"We have been saying since day one that the continued degradation of Manila Bay is due to the nondelivery of the two water concessionaires, Manila Water and Maynilad Water Services Inc., of their contractual obligation to provide wastewater-treatment facilities. What is worse is they have been charging consumers for this nonexistent service for the past 21 years," he said in a news statement.

"This wastewater-treatment facility should be treating, processing and cleaning sewage from over 2 million households and commercial establishments before it is released back into the bay," said Atienza, also a former mayor of Manila.

According to Atienza, the bay has suffered from the lack of these facilities. Their contract with the Philippine government states that they should not only be providing water service to consumers, but sewage treatment, as well.

"They have failed to do this," the lawmaker said.

Upon a motion by Atienza, the committee members unanimously agreed to compel the two concessionaires to submit the following documents, namely: 1) A full accounting of their collections from consumers since 1997; 2) Total amount of loans secured from the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, Jica and other funding agencies in the name of the Philippine

Republic; 3) Report on the status of completion of the construction of wastewater-treatment facilities; and 4) Total money spent on the construction of facilities related to wastewater treatment.

Atienza said representatives of Manila Water and Maynilad reported a measly 20-percent delivery at present and estimated that it will take them until 2037 to deliver fully.

"You have been collecting from all of us for the past 21 years and you have even borrowed money in the name of the Philippine government by way of sovereign guarantee—meaning if these two companies fail to pay, it is the Filipino people who will pay for it. Now you are asking us to wait another 18 years for you to deliver on your obligation?!" said Atienza.

Earlier, Atienza said President Duterte should use his executive powers to coerce compliance—so that both Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc.—will finally provide adequate sewage-treatment plants.

Alarm

MEANWHILE, Atienza expressed alarm over news video clips showing thousands of people swimming in the bay.

"We saw thousands of adults and their children swimming in Manila Bay. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has been saying that they are cleaning the bay, but they have merely started removing the garbage and solid waste along the shores. But the waters still pose a health risk and would endanger people who make the mistake of thinking that it is safe to swim in. The two water concessionaires should be made to face the consequences of their continued failure," Atienza added.

"It is horrible to see Manilans diving into the waters, believing that the waters are already clean enough to swim in. The removal of solid garbage is just the first step. But to clean the water, we have to stop the continued outflow of untreated household and commercial waste into the bay. We need wastewater-treatment facilities to do this!" he said.



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2 water concessionaires blamed for Manila Bay's degradation

HOUSE senior Deputy Minority Leader and Buhay Hayaang Yumabong (Buhay) party-list Rep. Lito Atienza has accused the two water concessionaires, Manila Water and Maynilad Water Services Inc. of being behind the continued deterioration of the Manila Bay.

"We have been saying since day one that the continued degradation of Manila Bay is due to the non-delivery of the two water concessionaires of their contractual obligation to provide wastewater treatment facilities. What is worse is they have been charging consumers for this non-existent service for the past 21 years. Their contract with the government states that they should not only be providing water service to consumers, but sewage treatment as well. They have failed to do this," a visibly angry Atienza pointedly said during the hearing of the House Committee on

Metro Manila Development chaired by Quezon City Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo.

Upon a motion by Atienza, the Committee members unanimously agreed to compel the two concessionaires to submit the following documents, namely: 1. a full accounting of their collections from consumers since 1997; 2. total amount of loans secured from the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, JICA and other funding agencies in the name of the Philippine Republic; 3. report on the status of completion of the construction of wastewater treatment facilities; and 4. total money spent on the construction of facilities related to wastewater treatment.

Atienza likewise expressed alarm over news videos showing thousands of people started to swim in the bay.

"We saw thousands of adults and their children swimming in Manila Bay.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has been saying that they are cleaning the bay, but they have merely started removing the garbage and solid waste along the shores. But the waters still pose a health risk and would endanger people who make the mistake of thinking that it

is safe to swim in," Atienza added.

Castelo and committee members such as Reps. Jesulito Manalo, Bernadette Herrera Dy and Arnolfo Teves, Jr. unanimously agreed that a thorough review of the contract between the two companies and the government. **Ryan Pacpaco**



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NEW TOURIST ATTRACTION? Since the start of the government cleanup, people have been flocking to Manila Bay despite a plea from authorities not to go swimming because of the high level of contaminants still in the water.
—JOAN BONDOC

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PEOPLE paddle through the waters of Manila Bay along Roxas Boulevard in Manila as they take advantage of the special non-working holiday, Chinese New Year, Tuesday. (Czar Dancel)



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Tiangco lauds Navotas schools' cleanup drive

By Jun David

MAYOR John Rey Tiangco has lauded the Navotas education sector for initiating a campaign to help keep the city clean.

In his speech, Tiangco thanked the Navotas Schools Division Office for spearheading the project that encourages 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," he said.

Tiangco noted that since 2011, the city government has implemented a twice-a-week clean-up along coastlines and riversides.

The campaign, titled "Navotas Ko, Love Ko," aimed to instill in Navoteños the values of stewardship and care for the city.

"Most of our trash go to street canals and end up in our oceans, slowly killing marine life. As we depend largely on our seas for our livelihood, it is crucial for us to practice proper waste disposal," Tiangco said.

Previously, Navotas 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 of the city on January 27.



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EMB 7 releases findings on quality of water in Cebu rivers

By **MINERVA BC NEWMAN**

CEBU CITY – The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Central Visayas released its findings on the quality of the water of rivers and other bodies of water in Cebu City, including the Butuanon River, Bulacao River, Downstream of Candulawan Footbridge up to the mouth area, Guadalupe River, Upstream of Sandayong Bridge, Downstream of Sandayong Bridge, Kinalumsan River, and Mahiga Creek.

The report bared that the upstream areas for Butuanon, Bulacao, and Guadalupe Rivers all met the water quality guidelines based on its classification un-

der the 2018 Water Quality Status Report.

However, the downstream portions did not conform to the guidelines.

Factors considered and observed included presence of illegal settlers, solid waste mismanagement, and unregulated discharge of untreated wastewater mostly generated domestically, the report read.

According to the report, the water quality results for Kinalumsan River and Mahiga Creek were included in the proposal for official classification of the said water bodies.

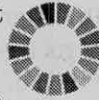
Both were proposed by EMB-7 for Class D classification for downstream portion and Class C for the upstream area. The said proposals are still pending for approval by the EMB Central Office.



Candaba swamp climate change buffer

By Elmer N. Manuel

The Candaba swamp in Pampanga is not only a wintering refuge for various migratory birds. It is seen by the Department of environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as part of the possible solution to survive the impact of climate change.



Migratory birds coming from as far as China, Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand prefer the Candaba swamp as a feeding and breeding area from October to March to escape the cold winter.

It is located 60 km northeast of Manila and encompasses about 32,000 hectares of freshwater ponds, swamps and marshes surrounded by seasonally flooded grasslands. The entire area becomes submerged underwater during

the wet season.

The DENR, through its Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), said that healthy wetlands, in general, provide natural solutions in coping with climate change while peatlands, mangroves, swamps and seagrass beds are the world's most effective carbon sinks.

Healthy wetlands, in general, provide natural solutions in coping with climate change.

The Environment department explained that peatlands cover three percent of the earth's land yet store approximately 30 percent of all land-based carbon which is twice the number of all the world's forests combined.



MIGRATORY birds use the Candaba swamp as feeding and breeding area as well as to escape wintry conditions in other countries.

FILE PHOTO



Int'l body accused of economic sabotage for listing Tawilis as endangered species

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR**

Switzerland-based International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has been accused of economic sabotage for listing *Sardinella tawilis*, the only freshwater sardine in the world, as an endangered species, stakeholders said.

The United Stakeholders of Taal Lake, which includes fishermen, vendors, restaurant owners and residents of communities surrounding Taal Lake, has "strongly condemned" the IUCN's report in a position paper.

"It is not true that Tawilis is an endangered species. It is baseless and it is causing economic sabotage and social injustice among the Filipino people," the group said.

IUCN said in its report that Tawilis, which is endemic to Taal Lake, has become endangered "due to overexploitation, pollution, and predation with introduced fishes, resulting in continuing declines in habitat quality and number of mature individuals."

In the report, the international organization noted the significant decline in the catch of tawilis

since 1998, with harvest declining by about 49 percent over the past 10 years.

The United Stakeholders of Taal Lake has denied this, saying Tawilis continues to thrive in Taal Lake and is a main source of livelihood for many communities in the area.

Josie Mendoza, a 58-year-old fish vendor, said in the statement that Tawilis has been thriving in Taal Lake since she was a child.

"Fishing of Tawilis is seasonal, because they disappear from the surface during cold season or from December to February. This is because they go deeper in the lake during this time to reproduce," Mendoza said.

Mendoza said that during the hotter months of April to August, the population of Tawilis returns to the surface, providing fishermen with abundant catch.

"They are so plenty that prices become so low and we almost give them away," she said.

The group also asked IUCN to disclose its methodology and how it conducted the research on Tawilis.

"Who conducted the research in the first place? Did experts

counter check the data and information? Did they conduct proper coordination with regulatory agencies and policy makers? Did they use global protocols such as social preparation, identification of the problem and root causes of the problem, definition of short-term and long-term objectives and threat analysis," the group asked.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has proposed a three-month fishing ban on tawilis since 2013 but it was never implemented. Following the IUCN report, BFAR has revived the proposal to impose the said ban.

Oceana Philippines, the largest international organization working exclusively to protect and restore the world's oceans, said that seasonal closure will contribute to reviving the stock but it must be supported by other fisheries management measures to ensure long-term sustainability of the area.

These measures include tight control on fish pens, regular monitoring of water quality, prevention of invasive species, and no-nonsense enforcement of environmental laws.



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LACK OF MONEY LEAVES MOST PH HOUSEHOLDS UNPREPARED FOR DISASTERS

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

Despite the country being one of the world's most vulnerable to disasters, most Filipino households reported feeling unprepared for calamities and natural hazards because of lack of funds, according to a recent Harvard study.

The first of its kind that measured household preparedness for disasters, the nationwide survey done by Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) Disaster-Net Philippines reached 4,368 households across the country in 2017.

According to the report, only 36 percent of respondents felt fully prepared in the face of disasters, while 33 percent reported that they were somewhat prepared when calamities strike.

The remaining third claimed that they were only slightly or not at all ready for natural hazards, including typhoons, earthquakes, floods and landslides.

HHI said that over 9 million Filipinos had been affected by a disaster in the past five years. However, nearly 47 percent of the respondents said they had done nothing to prepare for

these calamities.

While a majority of respondents claimed to have discussed emergency plans with family members, most of them still do not have "go bags," or emergency bags or even first aid kits, the report said.

Main barrier

For most of the surveyed households, money was considered the main barrier that prevented them to prepare for disasters.

"On average, people did not feel that they had enough resources to cover investment in disaster preparedness, which is unsurprising as nearly half the population did not feel able to meet basic needs: food, water and shelter," said the study published in June 2018.

Over 70 percent of respondents said they were unable to invest in disaster preparedness, mostly due to lack of funds (47.5 percent) and lack of time. (20 percent).

In the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, a staggering 92 percent said insufficient funds prevented them from preparing for disasters.

Production assistant Sara Bangayan said while seminars

and dry runs in school and at work had personally prepared her, she felt that her family's overall readiness for disasters was still lacking.

Even though floods from Tropical Storm "Ondoy" swept away most of her family belongings in Marikina City in 2009, Bangayan said her household still had a lot to work on in terms of readiness.

"As long as we know that we remain relatively safe, we don't

usually talk about disaster preparedness at home," she said. "I feel worried when disaster strikes, especially now that we have several pets that we need to include in our evacuation plans," she added.

Family in Iloilo

But the hard lessons from past storms—"Frank" in 2008 and "Yolanda" in 2013—have changed the game plan for Jude Ryan Seares and his family

when it comes to disasters.

Equipped with go bags and first aid kits, the family living in Iloilo City now stores all important documents in plastic envelopes. Each family member also carries a whistle at all times.

Seares' readiness after experiencing disasters was reflected in the survey as well. Those polled in areas frequently struck by typhoons perceived themselves as being more prepared.

Readiness in E. Visayas, Bicol

More than 50 percent of residents in Eastern Visayas felt very ready, a perception shared in the regions of Bicol (49 percent) and Western Visayas (44 percent.)

"We don't want to be caught unprepared again," Seares, 30, said. "Our readiness means saving each others' lives."

Gap

Rodne Galicha, country manager for Climate Reality Project Philippines, said the report clearly showed the gap between households and disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) plans that should be crafted at both local

and national levels.

"While national agencies have not been lacking in information campaigns, the gap remains at the barangay or city levels," Galicha said.

"Local governments must be transparent and participatory, with households involved in the crafting of their local DRRM plans," he added.

Galicha said Filipinos should also go beyond reactive attitudes when it comes to disasters.

"For some, as long as they are not affected, they would not do anything. But once they lose lives, shelter, food and livelihood, that's when they begin to look into preparedness seriously," he said.

Improve policies

Even as Congress is considering the creation of a new department on disaster resilience, Galicha said it was more necessary to review and improve on existing policies.

"Instead of a new department, I think Congress should formally have a sunset review of the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act and look into its gaps and gains," he said.



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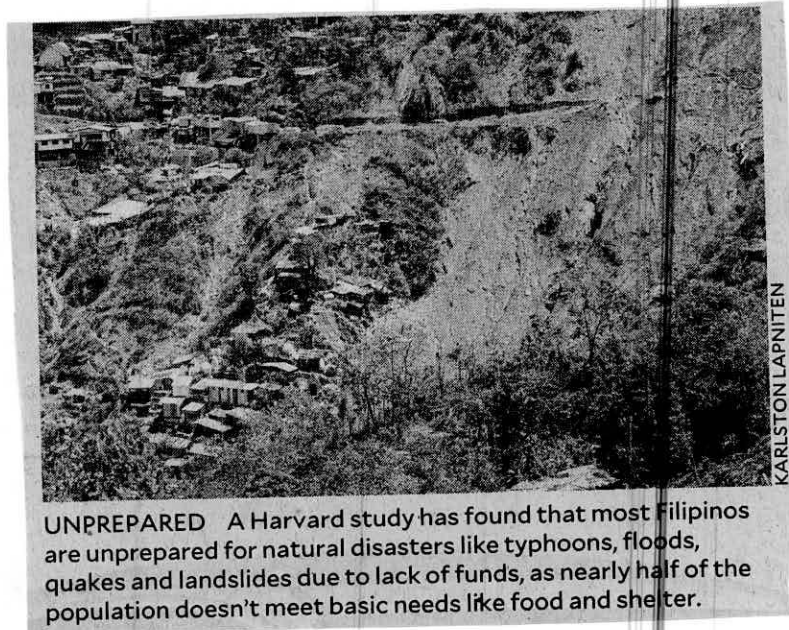
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UNPREPARED A Harvard study has found that most Filipinos are unprepared for natural disasters like typhoons, floods, quakes and landslides due to lack of funds, as nearly half of the population doesn't meet basic needs like food and shelter.

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PINNACLE MARKET INSIGHT FOR Q1 2019

What's shaping PH real estate market?

Boracay Closure

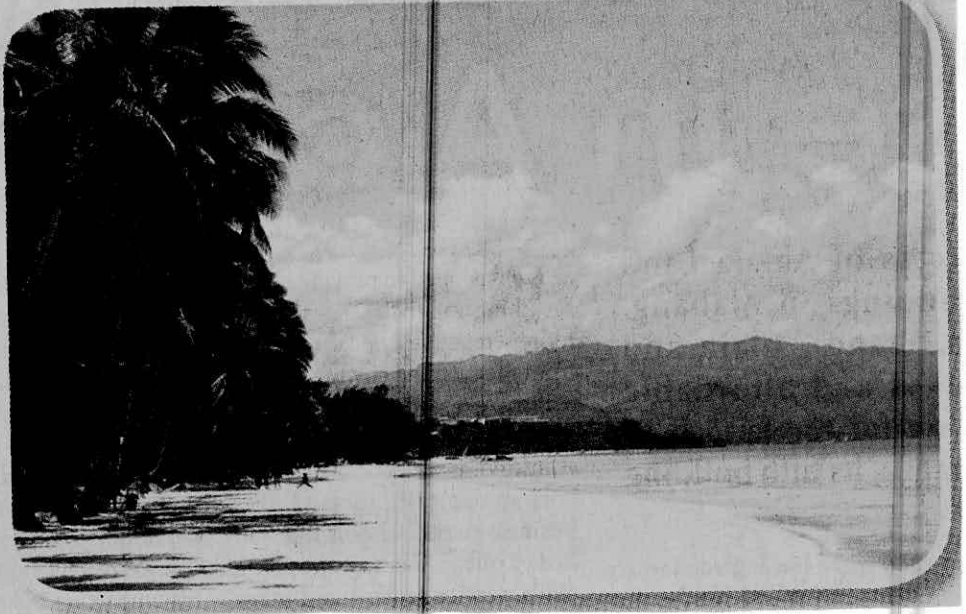
In April 2018, the government ordered the closure of Boracay Island for a period of six months to rehabilitate it.

Boracay reopened to the public in October 2018, and the government is now enforcing stricter rules and regulations in the operation and maintenance of the island in order for its tourism industry to be sustainable.

Major changes are the reduction of the daily tourist capacity and accreditation of resorts, hotels, and other lodging facilities to ensure they are environment-friendly before they operate.

Pinnacle said the closure and rehabilitation of Boracay might have encouraged sustainable and responsible tourism as the government closely monitors the situation in El Nido and Coron in Palawan, Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro and Panglao in Bohol.

■ The closure and rehabilitation of Boracay Island may have encouraged sustainable and responsible tourism in the country.





Army riders out to prove worth without Joven

ARMY-Bicycology will try to prove its worth without skipper Cris Joven when it competes in the LBC Ronda Pilipinas 2019 set to start this Friday in Iloilo City.

Joven, 31, injured his left elbow in training in Cavite two weeks ago, leaving the Armymen minus their leader and top rider as they race against some of the best riders not just in the country but in Asia and the world as well.

Warren Bordeos will fill the spot left by Joven while Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Alfie Catalan takes over as captain for a team composed of Reynaldo Navarro, Marvin Tapic, Mark Julius Bordeos and

Robinson Estevez.

"Cris Joven will be a big spot to fill because he's our best rider and leader of this team," said Army-Bicycology manager Eric Buhain, who has sponsored the Armymen for the second straight year.

"But we will do our best to be as competitive without him because we will not only represent Army but the country as well," he added.

Army-Bicycology will have its hands full against not just local competition from Navy-Standard Insurance, Tarlac, Team Franzia, Bike Xtreme and 7-Eleven Cliqq-Air21 by Roadbike Phls but a strong foreign challenge as

well from Terengganu, Matrix, Nex Cycling Team, Korail Team Korea, Custom Cycling Indonesia, Cambodia Cycling, PGN Road Cycling and Sri Lanka Navy Cycling Team.

For the first time after eight editions of the annual race considered as the biggest in the country, Ronda will be sanctioned by the UCI and will stake qualifying points to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The event is presented by LBC, powered by MVP Sports Foundation and supported by Versa 2-Way Radio, Juan Movement Partylist, Joel P Longares Foundation, Standard Insurance,

Bike Xtreme, Green Planet, Pro-lite, Celeste Cycles, Maynilad, 3Q Sports, Boy Kanin, Mega World, Festive Walk, Seda Atria and LBC Foundation and in partnership with the Department of Tourism, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Iloilo City and the Province of Guimaras.

The race starts with the 197.6-kilometer Iloilo-Iloilo Stage 1 on Feb. 8 and will continue with the 101.8km Guimaras-Guimaras Stage 2 the next day.

The peloton will return to Iloilo for the 179.4km Iloilo-Roxas City Stage 3 on Feb. 10 followed by the 146.9km Roxas-Roxas Stage 4 on Feb. 11.