

DATE

09 FEB 2010

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Saturday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



P-1

# RIISING OPPORTUNITIES AT 'BAY'

By Amy R. Remo and Marielle Medina  
GOING PROGRESSIVE

The iconic Manila Bay has found itself, again, at the center of many heated discussions in recent months. Reportedly at stake are 43 reclamation projects covering some 32,000 ha in Manila Bay, which has a 190-kilometer coastline running through several Metro Manila cities and nearby provinces. If these push through, hundreds of billions of pesos are expected to be invested, while thousands of fresh jobs are seen to be generated. Add to that the additional taxes to be paid to both the local and national governments.

**Why the clamor**  
But there is a resounding clamor to put these reclamation projects on the back burner, coming mostly from civil society groups, environmentalists and other critics who have condemned these projects. Just last Thursday, members of the House Makabayan opposition bloc filed House Bill No. 9067, which seeks to declare the waters of Manila Bay Area as a "reclamation-free zone."  
Eduher, Panalukaya national chair Bernando Uteap also expressed opposition to these reclamation projects, which he said would displace thousands of families in coastal communities. Others further claimed that the projects would likewise destroy the coastal ecosystem. Much furor was further raised when President Duterte issued on Feb. 1 Executive Order No. 74. The said EO gave the Office of the President control and supervision of the Philippine

Reclamation Authority (PRA), which has jurisdiction over 43 reclamation projects in Manila Bay alone. The EO further delegated the power of the president to approve reclamation projects to the PRA governing board. EO 74 repealed directives that placed the PRA under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Also

repealed was the power of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to approve reclamation projects. The said directive likewise stressed the government goal "to increase competitiveness, promote ease of doing business, and rationalize and streamline functions of agencies to facilitate efficient delivery of government services." B2-2

## FAST FACTS: MANILA BAY RECLAMATION

**1** BILLION  
Estimated investment of the New Manila International Airport along Manila Bay in Subic Bay



**500,000**  
Estimated new jobs created by the reclamation project in Manila Bay

**17** CITIES  
Metro Manila, Cavite and Cebu at Luzon provinces that claim their waters into the bay

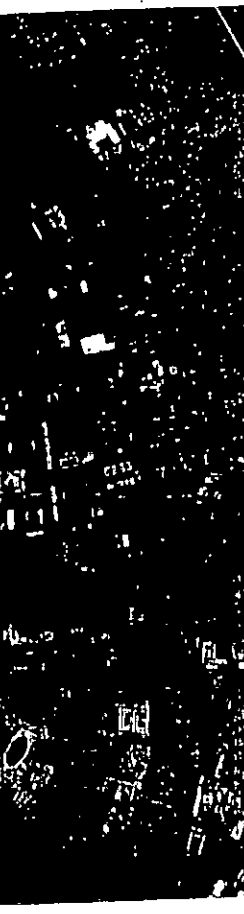
**43** RECLAMATION PROJECTS

**11,600** INFORMAL SETTLERS  
Living in the bay

**190** KILOMETERS  
Length of the bay's coastline

**194,400** HECTARES  
Area of Manila Bay, PH

**32,000** HECTARES  
Total reclaimed area covered by the reclamation projects in Manila Bay





# PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU INQUIRER

B2-1  
PAGE

UPPER  
TOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

09 FEB 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

*Rising opportunities at "Bay" P-2*

## FROM B2-1 Slammed the transfer

However, the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) slammed the transfer, noting that the "newly signed executive order will hasten not only the approval of reclamation projects in Manila Bay and throughout the archipelago, but as well as the destruction of marine environment and displacement of fishing communities."

The alliance of fisherfolk said the transfer likewise raised doubts about the real score in the government campaign to rehabilitate Manila

Bay, an Inquirer report stated. The Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment meanwhile pointed out that apart from displacement, the reclamation projects are expected to lead to the clearing of hundreds of mangrove trees, which serve as habitat for fish and crustaceans that are food for migratory birds and humans.

### LGU cooperation

Despite these protests, the local governments of Manila and Pasay have already signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to cooperate and extend assistance to the proposed

reclamation projects of three private groups in Manila Bay. Projects are said to benefit the two premier coastal cities.

The MOA was signed in November 2018 by Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada, and Pasay City Mayor Antonino Calixto, along with representatives from the three reclamation project proponents, namely Manila Goldcoast Development Corp., SM Prime Holdings Inc. and the Pasay Harbor City consortium.

The projects include the MGDC's 148-ha reclamation project involving the southern part of the Manila-Cavite Coastal Road and Reclamation

Project-North Sector, or the Solar City project; the SM Prime Holdings' 300-ha and 60-ha projects, or the SM project; and Pasay Harbor City consortium's 265-ha reclamation project, or the Pasay Harbor City project.

Meanwhile, among the proposed reclamation projects in Manila Bay as listed by Pamalakaya and which were approved by the PRA include:

- P700-billion New Manila International Airport, an aerotropolis in Bulacan (3,668 ha)
- P399.7-billion Manila Bay Integrated Flood Control Coastal Defense and Expressway (18 ha)
- P27.3-billion Navotas City

Coastal Bay reclamation (650 ha)

- P7.4-billion Expansion of Manila Harbor Centre (50 ha)
- Baseco Rehabilitation & Dev't Inc. (BRADI) Reclamation (50 ha)
- City of Pearl Reclamation Project in Baseco (407 ha)
- The PRA Baseco Reclamation Project (40 ha)
- Waterfront Manila Bay Reclamation Project (318 ha); and
- The P26.2-billion Las Piñas-Parañaque Coastal Bay reclamation project (635 ha)

Clearly, there is much at stake here in these projects and the government should thus extend the discussions to ensure that all potential impact,

whether adverse or beneficial, will be assessed cautiously, thoroughly and accordingly.

At the end of the day, it will boil down to the question of whether the economic benefits will far outweigh any potentially damaging and destructive impact of these reclamation projects. Or, at the very least, if there are compromises that can be taken so we can have a win-win solution on the table.

Sources: Inquirer Archives, Pamalakaya Pilipinas, NEDA, PRA



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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# Manila Standard

44  
PAGE

UPP  
Jefred

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

004 FEB 2010

DATE

P 1

## The Manila Bay challenge



EAGLE  
EYES  
TONY  
LA VINA

AMID the euphoria that the massive cleanup of Manila Bay has generated among netizens, we are once again faced by the rude reality that the problem of cleaning up Manila Bay is not only gargantuan but is so complex that it requires more than a simple makeover. Removing tons of garbage and dredging the sludge in Manila Bay are not enough because the overwhelm-

“ *May we not betray the trust reposed in us by future generations.* ”

ing stench and pollution of the Bay is symptomatic of a much bigger metropolitan problem such as poverty, government neglect, commercialism, etc. This notwithstanding, it is good that the government is once again putting some effort into solving the problem of pollution in Manila Bay which has been ordered by the Supreme Court ten years or so ago.

I welcome this effort, appreciate President Duterte prioritizing this as his predecessors did not, and trust in the leadership and integrity of the men who will be the field generals of this effort, former generals (pun intended)

and now Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Local Governments Secretary Eduardo Año.

One must recall that ten years ago, on Dec. 18, 2008, the Supreme Court promulgated a decision in *Concerned Citizens vs MMDA*, a case that was filed a decade earlier in January 29, 1999, when concerned residents of Manila Bay—UP Law students and colleagues of the great environmental lawyer and Ramon Magsaysay Awardee Tony Oposa—filed a complaint before the Regional Trial Court in Imus, Cavite against several government agencies for the clean-up, rehabilitation and protection of the Manila Bay.

The main allegation of the complaint was that the water quality of Manila Bay was no longer within the allowable standards set by law through Presidential Decree No. 1152 or the Philippine Environment Code. This fact was not denied and was in fact supported by testimony from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, officials of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), and the Philippine Ports Authority.

On ruling in favor of the concerned citizens, the Supreme Court, speaking through the visionary Associate Justice Presbitero Velasco, was unequivocal: it issued for the first time a writ of continuing mandamus that ordered several government agencies and local government units to clean and rehabilitate Manila Bay. The mandamus was to continue until the goal of a clean and sustainable Manila Bay was achieved.

Turn to A5



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

40 PAGE  
 PDP  
 PAGE 1 STORY  
 BANNER STORY  
 EDITORIAL  
 CARTOON

09 FEB 2010

DATE

P-2

## The Manila Bay Challenge

According to the Court: "The cleanup and/or restoration of the Manila Bay is only an aspect and the initial stage of the long-term solution. The preservation of the water quality of the bay after the rehabilitation process is as important as the cleaning phase. It is imperative then that the wastes and contaminants found in the rivers, inland bays, and other bodies of water be stopped from reaching the Manila Bay. Otherwise, any cleanup effort would just be a futile, cosmetic exercise, for, in no time at all, the Manila Bay water quality would again deteriorate below the ideal minimum standards xxx"

The Court also observed: "The high level of fecal coliform confirms the presence of a large amount of human waste in the dump sites and surrounding areas, which is presumably generated by households that lack alternatives to sanitation. To say that Manila Bay needs rehabilitation is an understatement."

Finally, the Court concluded with strong words:

"The importance of the Manila Bay as a sea resource, playground, and as a historical landmark cannot be over-emphasized. It is not yet too late in the day to restore the Manila Bay to its former splendor and bring back the plants and sea life that once thrived in its blue waters. But the tasks ahead, daunting as they may be, could only be accomplished if those mandated, with the help and cooperation of all civic-minded individuals, would put their minds to these tasks and take responsibility. This means that the State, through petitioners, has to take the lead in the preservation and protection of the Manila Bay.

The era of delays, procrastination, and ad hoc measures is over. Petitioners must transcend their limitations, real or imaginary, and buckle down to work before the problem at hand becomes unmanageable. Thus, we must reiterate that different government agencies and instrumentalities cannot

shirk from their mandates; they must perform their basic functions in cleaning up and rehabilitating the Manila Bay."

Two years after this decision was issued, following the advice of the Manila Bay Advisory Committee (MBAC), there was a resolution supplementing the 2008 decision with specific guidance and orders to the relevant mandamus agencies on what they needed to do to achieve the clean-up. MBAC was chaired by Justice Velasco. I was a member, appointed by Chief Justice Reynato Puno, together with former Environment Secretary Bebet Gozun and Dr. Gil Jacinto of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute.

Ten years after the main decision and eight years after that resolution (I will summarize that in the next column), there has been no discernible improvement in the state of Manila Bay. In fact, as Tony Oposa has pointed out in a recent article, things are much worse now.

What happened? Well, it's obvious. The Mall of Asia and casino complex areas became bigger and more populated. Thousands more live, work, and visit the Bay area than ten years ago. Population density has increased in Manila, Pasay, Malabon, Navotas, indeed all of Metro Manila, and all of Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Bulacan, and Bataan which comprise the Bay region. Government efforts simply have not been able to catch up with the unsustainable development of the region.

Four things are clear if we are to succeed in the whole of country project of cleaning, rehabilitating, and sustainably developing Manila Bay: First, we will not be able to clean or rehabilitate Manila Bay if we there is no 100% sewerage coverage of Metro Manila. We must demand this of MWSS and the two water concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water. Second, there must absolutely be no more reclamation projects in the Manila Bay area. Approving such projects is immoral, even criminal because it will threaten wetlands, biodiversity, the historic sites of Manila, and people. Third, there must be a jus

transition for informal settlers; they should not be targeted first and instead they should be assisted to be relocated within the city, near their jobs and schools. Fourth, decisions on Manila Bay must be based on a long-term vision and a masterplan that is based on current facts and projections of the future (including climate change considerations). That is why it is a serious error for the President to have transferred the authority to make reclamation decisions from the National Economic Development Authority to the Philippine Reclamation Authority. It will lead to even more unsustainable development.

I have said many times that it does not take rocket science to clean, rehabilitate, and sustainably develop Manila Bay. It requires good natural science which we have—accurate data and precise modeling for example. But it also needs solid political science—not just political will but good economics, sociology, and social psychology—an understanding of what motivates people and how to move them together to a better place.

In 2008, the Supreme Court, quoting the earlier decision *Oposa vs Factoran*, stated that "the right to a balanced and healthful ecology need not even be written in the Constitution for it is assumed, like other civil and political rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, to exist from the inception of mankind and it is an issue of transcendental importance with intergenerational implications. According to the Court: "Even assuming the absence of a categorical legal provision specifically prodding petitioners to clean up the bay, they and the men and women representing them cannot escape their obligation to future generations of Filipinos to keep the waters of the Manila Bay clean and clear as humanly as possible. Anything less would be a betrayal of the trust reposed in them."

My hope is that we, not just government, do not betray this trust reposed in us by future generations.

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08 FEB 2019

TITLE:

PAGE /

DATE

# SEARCH FOR TRUTH

ERNESTO P. MACEDA, Jr.

## Lost and found

A beach disguised as a septic tank. Residents had to be restrained from surging toward the inviting seascape unexpectedly unearthed through the heroic efforts of Manila Bay rehabilitation volunteers. Who knew that underneath all that years of debris lurked a stretch of sand?

For now, the surface pollution has been vacuumed. The bay water looks like any other beach of the 7,107 (save the Boracays and El Nidos). But the pollutants in the water itself, those invisible to the eye, are far from being cleansed. The coliform remains at toxic levels. Prior to the clean up effort, readings were at 330 million mpn (most probable number) per 100 ml. The highest reading from 8 quality monitoring stations as of last week was 35 million. Recall that the safe level is 100 mpn per 100 ml. Its like taking a dip in your own toilet.

The Manila Bay inter agency task force has suddenly assumed legislative powers it does not possess by prohibiting swimming in the bay. It is actually the local government, the City of Manila, that is empowered by law to have its ordinances apply over the expanse of the bay abutting the City's coastline, i.e. Roxas Boulevard.

The City does prohibit bathing in the Bay, and in the Pasig river, by way of an ordinance passed back in 1956. The ordinance, though, does not contain any penal provisions. I'm sure that the City's avowed purpose even at that time was to protect the health of the bathers. This is in contrast to the same types of ordinances at the turn of the century which also prohibited bathing, washing but for a different legislative purpose: the protection of our water supply.

Apart from relying on its own public works infrastructure, the national government, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is tapping prominent businesses to cooperate in River rehabilitation to augment the efforts in cleaning the bay. This is an improvement over the palliative care approach of bay or river clean ups. Initially, Taipans Ramon Ang and Lucio Tan have been approached.



★



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

16 PAGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UPPER LOWER	<input type="checkbox"/> PAGE 1 STORY	<input type="checkbox"/> BANNER STORY	<input type="checkbox"/> EDITORIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> CARTOON
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09 FEB 2019  
DATE

PAGBABAGO

## Heroes of the environment

By FLORANGEL ROSARIO BRAID

(Part Two)

**J**UST as we were in a celebratory mood after the successful clean-up of Manila, our euphoria was jarred by the announcement that the Office of the President had taken over all reclamation projects in the country. Which means that it would have direct control and supervision over the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) which has jurisdiction over the 43 reclamation projects of Manila Bay.

We do not know as yet the full implication of EO 74 delegating the power of the President to approve reclamation projects to the PRA Governing Board, except that it repealed directives that placed the PRA under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The new directive also repealed the power of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to approve reclamation projects.

The Palace explains that the reason for this shift is that it wanted to streamline services of agencies under the executive branch and that the President wanted to be more "hands-on and facilitate efficient delivery of government services." The new directive covers all reclamation projects, including those initiated by local governments and other entities allowed under existing laws to reclaim land.

But while most everyone hailed the

earlier move to rehabilitate the Manila Bay, oppositionist groups, notably, Pamalakaya, a fisherfolk association, now expresses doubt about the true intent of the campaign of government to clean up Manila Bay. "It will displace coastal communities. The newly signed executive order will hasten not only the approval of reclamation projects and the subsequent destruction of marine environment and displacement of fishing communities," according to Fernando Hicap, national chair of Pamalakaya, who further noted that the Las Piñas-Paranaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area, the first critical habitat to be declared in the country, would be adversely affected by the proposed projects. The group also accused the government of turning a blind eye to the chemical and toxic wastes being discharged by industrial and commercial structures on a regular basis and called for a genuine rehabilitation of Manila Bay in a form of mangroves restoration and rejecting all destructive projects such as land reclamation.

Malacanang spokesman Salvador Panelo countered these arguments, saying that the government will get 65 percent share of gains from the reclamation which would then be used in generating jobs and building new structures.

But seven party-list congressmen have filed a resolution urging government to suspend the Manila Bay rehabilitation program as this could lead to the implementation of the 43

reclamation projects covering more than 32,000 hectares under the "Build, Build, Build" program. The lawmakers who included Rep Arel Casilao, Isagani Zarate, Emmie de Jesus, Arlene Brosas, Antonio Tinio, France Castro, and Sarah Jane Ela, cited the 265-hectare Pasay Harbor City estimated to cost P62 billion, a joint venture involving Davao-based businessman Dennis Uy as among those in the list of reclamation projects.

We are again faced with the dilemma of having to choose between two options, both of them challenging. The advocates of land reclamation present us with a vision of benefits - job opportunities, growth of tourism, creation of new roads, as well as prevention of storm surges and flooding as structures can act as barriers against sea-level rise - in short, the benefits outweigh risks.

But environmentalists and concerned citizens show a different picture - that ecologically unsound projects could further damage the country's marine ecosystem, thus affecting food production capacity as well as endanger lives of those living in coastal areas. And losing as well views of mountains and seas, and the beautiful sunsets in Manila Bay.

The decision is whether we want to build cities and communities that are sustainable. It is not yet too late to do something about it.

My e-mail, [florangel.braid@gmail.com](mailto:florangel.braid@gmail.com)





## Politics of reclamation

**“ Moreover, the PEA-Amari scam also best serves as an important cautionary tale for people in this administration.**

Reclaiming land from the sea almost always is vulnerable to the game of high politics. The current reclaiming of land from Manila Bay will suffer the same fate too if only for the fact the bay had already been embroiled in just such a game some 28 years ago.

In all probability, Mr. Duterte had this game of reclamation and high politics in mind when he placed directly under his office this week all planned or ongoing massive reclamation projects in the bay and elsewhere, surprising everyone.

Mr. Duterte, in an Executive Order, said he was putting “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/agreements yet executed.”

Besides yanking control over reclamation projects from the National Economic Development Authority to the Philippine Reclamation Authority, Mr. Duterte also made it clear he would be “hands on” in any bay reclamation project.

Offhand, politics is immediately evident here as the 43 land filling projects slated for the bay involve the interests of scores of local government kingpins and hotshot businessmen.

The more than 32,000 hectares set to be reclaimed from the bay involve such personalities as Manila Mayor Joseph “Erap” Estrada and Chinese investors, with one of three projects set to start this August.

It will be very interesting how things pan out politically with such personalities around, how local government kingpins and influential businessmen maneuver or manage their relationship with the tenant in Malacañang.

Interesting as this type of politicking is, it nonetheless will have to compete for attention as the reclamation projects are also expected to entangle powerful personalities of the national government itself.

As it is now, Malacañang argues “there is a need to rationalize

the approval process of reclamation projects towards an economically and environmentally sustainable resource development.”

Concern for the environment is a sound justification as any more reclamation projects in the heavily-polluted bay, now undergoing a massive clean-up, means additional pollutants to the bay’s already precarious ecology.

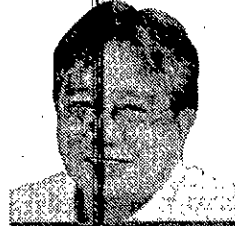
On the economic side, while the projects promise jobs for thousands, it also displaces thousands of fisherfolk, the main contention of the Makabayan bloc in Congress in seeking the suspension of all bay projects.

Vocal critics, meanwhile, are wary about Mr. Duterte’s control over reclamation projects. The uneasiness, however, has not yet been fully articulated. Even so, the uneasiness can be attributed to a previous bay reclamation scandal, the Public Estates Authority (PEA)-Amari scam.

A throwback, as the millennials fondly say, of the PEA-Amari scam, dubbed “the grandmother of all scams,” is worthwhile. Knowing what went before will anchor us on how to approach what is at stake when reclaiming portions of the bay.

The PEA-Amari land scam was about a 1995 billion-peso joint venture between the PEA, the government agency then in charge of public lands, and the Italian-Thai firm Amari for the development of some 77,344 hectares of still submerged areas in Manila Bay.

It was not at all an innocent project. Soon enough, ugly revelations about the project vomited lurid tales of crooked deals, massive bribes, illicit commissions and shameless, sweet-talking wheeler dealers. The scam eventually put at political risk high officials of the Ramos administration.



**OUT AND ABOUT**  
Nick V. Quijano Jr.

Writing about the scam, investigative journalist Sheila Coronel wrote then, “That from 1995 to 1997, as much as P3 billion in bribes and commissions were paid by Amari to a cast of brokers, government

bureaucrats and politicians, making this the single biggest scam in memory, dwarfing the amounts made in single transactions by the most avaricious of Marcos’s cronies.”

After a series of riveting Senate investigations, court cases were filed and by 2002, the Supreme Court declared the PEA-Amari land deal violated constitutional provisions expressly prohibiting the sale of foreshore and submerged areas of Manila Bay for being “inalienable lands of the public domain.”

“It is now time to write finis to this grandmother of all scams,” the High Court dramatically said of its decision.

The PEA-Amari scam eventually clouded the reputations and legacies of both Fidel V. Ramos and former House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

While the PEA-Amari scam can be argued away as having little or no relationship with present reclamation projects, it does give a general framework on what we are to look for should just one of 43 reclamation projects go haywire.

An instance of this is how the PEA-Amari scam was sold to the public. Amari wanted to build the “Centennial City,” a “new city complete with skyscrapers, parks, a marina, a golf course and casinos that would rise out of Manila Bay.”

Eerily, the “Centennial City” marketing idea is practically the same marketing idea of the “New Manila Bay – City of Pearl” which Estrada approved last year.

Moreover, the PEA-Amari scam also best serves as an important cautionary tale for people in this administration, a warning to handle with extreme care all the planned reclamation projects as all are political powder kegs.





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# Abante

UNA SA DALITA



09 FEB 2010

DATE

*Ocean Park, Sofitel, Midas damay!*

## Makchang, Networld Hotel sumalaula din sa Manila Bay

NAGPALABAS kahapon ng cease and desist order (CDO) at notice of violation (NOV) ang Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) laban sa 17 pang establisimyento sa paligid ng Manila Bay dahil sa paglabag umano sa mga water pollution law.

Ang tatlong establisimyento na binigyan ng CDO ay ang Makchang Korean Restaurant, Legend Seafood Restaurant at Networld Hotel.

Nangunguna naman umano sa listahan ng mga violator ng water pollution law ang Breeze Residences ng SM Development Corporation; pati na rin ang Harbour View Square, China Oceanic Inc. Philippines-Manila Ocean Park, Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Philip-

pine International Convention Center (PICC), Midas Hotel and Casino, Carwash by Benjas, Sogo Hotel at Harrison Mansion na napatunayang nagtatapon ng maruming tubig sa baybayin.

Nagpalabas naman ng CDO ang LLDA laban sa Makchang Korean Restaurant, Legend Seafood Restaurant at Networld Hotel na maaari pa ring mag-operate pero hindi na papayagang magtatapon ng kanilang waste water sa Manila Bay.

Ayon kay LLDA General Manager Joey Medina, kailangang maglagay ng kanilang sariling sewage treatment plant ang mga kompanyang naisyuhari ng CDO para maging normal ang kanilang operasyon. (Mia Billones/Tina Mendoza)



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## Sayang ang P47 billion sa Manila Bay rehab kung ire-reclaim naman

ALL-OUT support tayo sa P47 billion Manila Bay rehabilitation ng gobyernong Duterte.

Pero sayang naman yata ang napakalaking halagang ito kung pagkatapos malinis ay tatambakan lang din ng lupa. Right?

Ang P47 billion ay taxpayers' money, makapagpapa-gawa na ng maraming kalsada at tulay sa mahihirap na lalawigan, pabahay sa mahihirap, provincial hospitals at municipal health centers. Kaya huwag sana sayan-gin ang halagang ito ng ganun, ganun lang, Mr. President.

Kung may nakaambang reclamation sa Manila Bay, huwag nang gastusan ito sa paglinis. Gamitin nalang ang bilyones na budget sa ibang makabuluhang proyekto, Mismo!

Oo! Matunog na matunog na kasi ang reclamation sa Manila Bay, ang "kumpare" pa nga yata ni Pangulong Digong na taga-Davao ang nakakuha ng kontrata eh, si Dennis Uy.

Tuwang tuwa rin dito si Manila Mayor Erap. Kikita raw ng P50 billion ang lungsod sa reclamation na ito. Ang laki nito, takaw plunder. Hehehe...

Actually, panahon pa ni ex-Mayor Fred Lim naka-programa ang reclamation sa Manila Bay. Mayroon na ngang ipinakitang "blueprint" sa amin noon si idol Fred. Hindi lang ito natuloy dahil sa pagpalit ng administrasyon. Siempre kapag bagong gobyerno, ibang usapan na naman...buhay ang projects.

Pero mukhang makabalik si Lim pagkatapos ng Mayo 13. Hehehe... Goodluck, Sir!



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09 FEB 2019

DATE

*Ang aming pananaw...*



## **NAKATATAKOT ANG TSUNAMI SA MANILA BAY**

*NANGANGAMBA* si Senadora Cynthia Villar na humantong ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay sa malawakang reklamasyon ng look na nakahuhumaling ang tanawin sa paglubog ng araw.

Kapag nangyari ito, nagbabala ang senadora na lalabanan niya ang sinumang magtatangkang tabunan ang Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area para buksan sa mga negosyante bilang reclamation area.

Giit ni Villar, haharangin niya ang anumang reclamation proposal at ipepreserba niya ang kanyang parke.

Nakabibilib ang tapang ni Villar hindi katulad ng mga taga-Bulacan na gustong patabunan ang bahagi ng Manila Bay sa gawi ng Bulacan, Bulacan para pagtayuan ng paliparan, na bubura sa malaking bahagi ng lalawigan.

Hindi ba naisip ng mga lider ngayon sa Bulacan ang mangyayari kapag tinabunan ang malaking bahagi ng coastal towns ng lalawigan? Kung binabaha ngayon ang malaking bahagi ng Bulacan kapag may bagyo, saan tatakbo ang tubig kapag binaha ang naturang proyekto?

Maghinay-hinay sana sa mga proyektong reklamasyon dahil may naturaleza na 'water seeks its own level' at wala tayong magagawa kapag tinamaan halimbawa ng tsunami ang Manila Bay.



## Villar, pinangunahan ang ground-breaking ng Wetland Center

**PINANGUNAHAN** ni Sen. Cynthia Villar ang groundbreaking ceremonies para simulan ang konstruksyon ng Wetland Center Las Piñas-Paranaque Wetland Park.

Kasabay ng groundbreaking ang World Wetlands Day, taunang pagdiriwang tuwing February 2 upang gunitain ang Ramsar Convention sa Wetlands na simulan noong 1971. Tema sa taong ito ang "Wetlands and Climate Change."

Matatagpuan sa wetland center na donasyon ng Villar Family ang isang restaurant, training center, museum, souvenir shop at satellite office ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Sinabi ni Villar, chair ng Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, na pangtingin ng wetland center mga programa

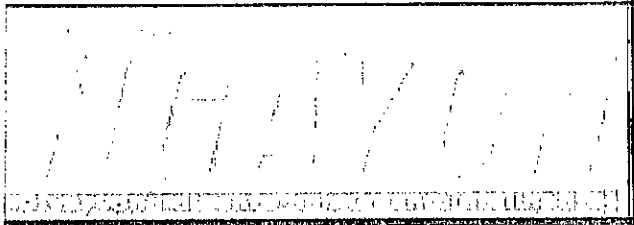
sa edukasyon at conservation para sa kaalaman ng publiko sa kahalagahan ng wetlands.

Idineklara ng Ramsar Convention na Wetland of International Importance ang 175-hectare Las Piñas-Paranaque Wetland Park dahil sa kritikal nitong papel para mabuhay ang "threatened, restricted-range at congregatory bird species."

Makikita rito ang isang porsiyento ng natitirang black stilts o 1,000 sa natitirang 100,000 sa buong mundo.

Sa ngayon, may 11 uri ng mangroves sa lugar. Idineklara rin itong it "protected areal sa ilalim ng Republic Act 11038 o ang batas na nagpapalawak sa National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS).

(Mylene Alfonso)



## DENR, DILG, taumbayan vs environment pollution

ANG pagkakaroon ng malinis na kapaligiran ay hindi lang tungkulin ng isang sektor ng pamahalaan o ng lipunan. Ito'y pananagutan ng lahat, lalo na ng mga mamamayan.

Siyempre may mga lead agencies upang manguna sa kampanya sa paglilinis ng katubigan at hangin na nilalanghap.

Ang ilog at karagatan ay nilalason ng mga itinatapong basura ng ilang mamamayan at mga chemical wastes ng mga industriya. Pero paksain natin ang may kinala-

man sa basura.

Ang mga local governments ay may mandatò para bumuo ng sampung taong solid waste management program sa mga distritong nasasakupan. Ito'y para sa seryosong rehabilitation plan ng kanilang mga lugar laban sa walang habas na pagtatapon ng basura hindi lang ng mga residents kundi ng mga commercial establishments.

Ngunit iniulat na may 108 lokal na pamahalaan ang hindi nakasunod sa mandatang ito. Kaya nagpalabas ng show cause order ang DILG sa mga alkalde na pinagpapaliwanag sa kanilang pagkabitong bumuo ng plano.

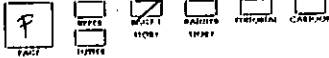
Nakikita natin ang pagiging determinado ng administrasyon sa gawaing linisin ang Pilipinas, hindi lamang sa mga opisyal na "asal basura" kundi sa mga literal na basura na nagpapapangit sa bansa bukod sa nagdudulot din ng panganib na sakit sa taumbayan.

Sana'y makiisa ang bawat Pilipino sa kampanyang ito. Kung hindi tayo makatulong sa paglilinis, huwag na lang tayong maging contributing factors sa pagpaparumi ng ating paligid.



Local Health

# The Manila Times



09 FEB 2019

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PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES DIVISION

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132 PAGES  
VOL. 120 NO. 320  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2019

# The Manila Times

www.manilatimes.net

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## NO MORE SWIMMING

Police stands guard along the shoreline of the Manila Bay, stretching from the US Embassy to the Manila Yacht Club, which was declared by authorities 'unsafe' for swimming due to high levels of fecal coliform. Authorities have begun barricading the seawall. PHOTO BY OJ DIOSHIA.





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

PAGE  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

PATHER  
STORY

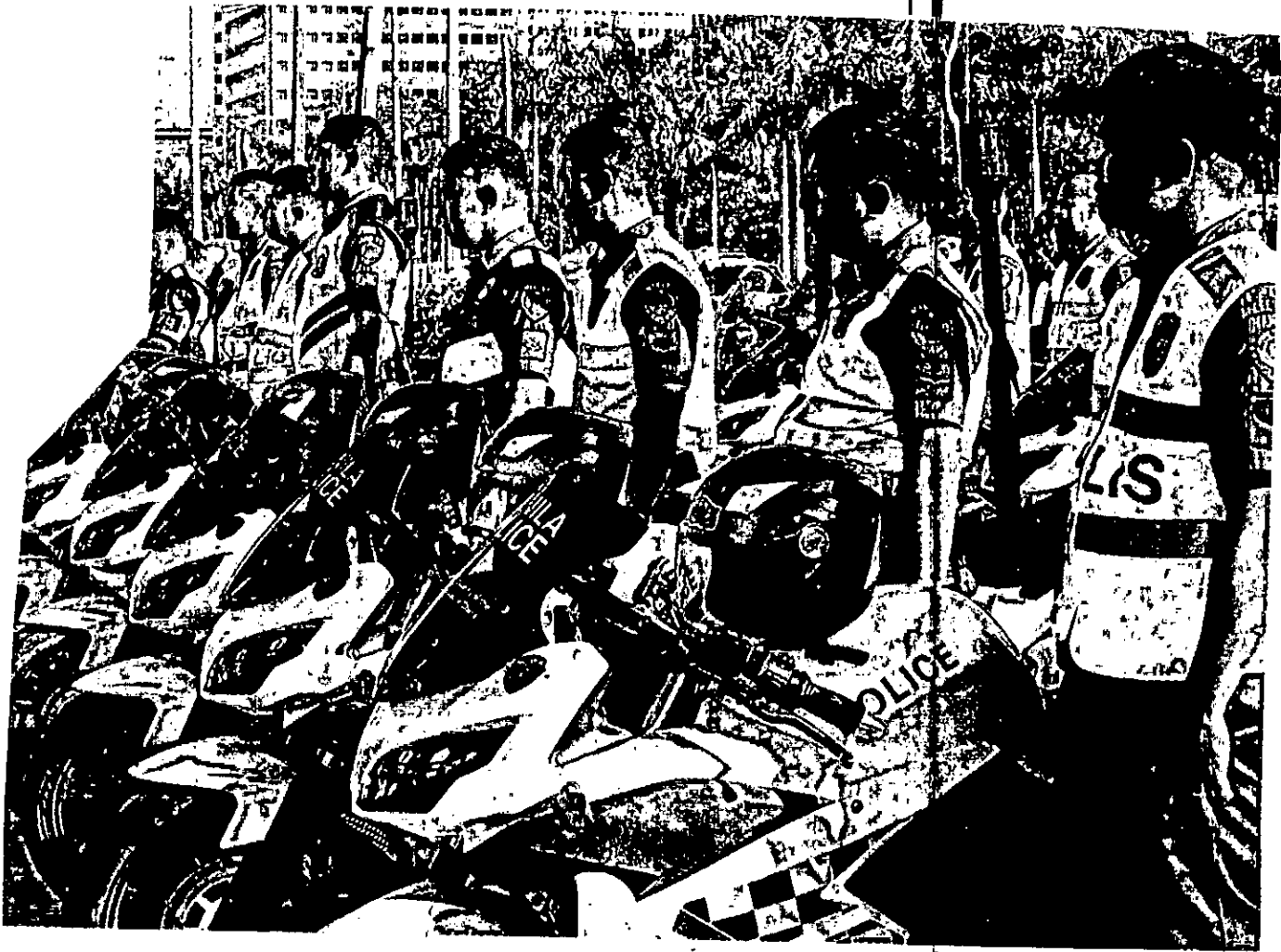
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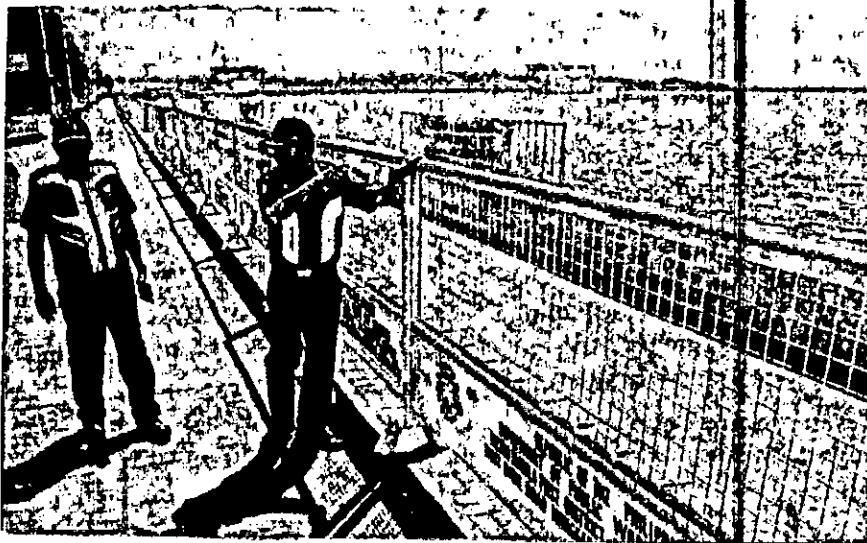
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# BAYWATCH

Manila Police District officers stand next to their e-motorcycles during their deployment to the Manila Bay area yesterday. Dubbed the Baywalk Patrol, the unit will secure the coast to discourage swimmers and bathers during the rehabilitation of Manila Bay. Inset shows Metro police chief Guillermo Eleazar inspecting newly installed barriers at the Baywalk.

EDD GUMBAN





Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

09 FEB 2010

DATE



**MAY 50 units ng e-motorcycle ang ipinagamit sa mga miyembro ng Manila Police District para bantayan ang Manila Bay sa Roxas Blvd. mula sa mga naliligo sa lawa na ipinagbabawal habang isinasailalim ito sa rehabilitasyon. Kuha ni **NORMAN ARAGA****





Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# INQUIRER

A-10 PAGE  
 UPPER  
 LOWER  
 PAGE 1 STORY  
 BANNER STORY  
 EDITORIAL  
 CARTOON

09 FEB 2019  
DATE

## REVIVING DEAD WATERWAYS

# RIVER REHABILITATION UNDER WAY IN CEBU, PANGASINAN

By Nestle Semilla  
and Yolanda Sotelo  
@Team\_Inquirer

Government agencies and communities in Cebu and Pangasinan provinces are reviving rivers classified "biologically dead" due to heavy pollution in their areas.

In Cebu, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Visayas region said the Lahug River in Cebu City's north district and the Bulacao River in the south would be subjected to an intense two-month cleanup.

The Guadalupe River, a 12-kilometer waterway which traverses the mountain area around Metro Cebu and discharges into Mactan Channel, will also be rehabilitated, the DENR said.

Gilbert Gonzales, DENR regional director, said the cleanup

would not be as huge as what was done in Manila Bay, where at least 40 tons of garbage were collected by more than 5,000 government employees and volunteers during the launch of the bay rehabilitation project on Jan. 27.

### Community support

"Manila Bay is so wide and needs an extensive overhaul. Here, we can mobilize more than enough volunteers for our needs," Gonzales said.

He urged local communities and other agencies to support the cleanup after securing the commitments of the local governments of Cebu City and Cebu province to help in reviving the rivers.

Gonzales said 10 rivers in the Central Visayas provinces of Cebu, Bohol, Siquijor and Negros Oriental needed to be cleaned up.



**MAJOR CLEANUP.** The Guadalupe River in Cebu City is among the three waterways that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is planning to rehabilitate starting this month. —JUNJIE MENDOZA

In Pangasinan, residents of Barangay Bued in Calasiao town cleaned the Parongking River, hoping it could still be revived and teem once more with aquatic life.

The weekly cleanup, which

started on Jan. 20, had drawn 300 volunteers who waded into the murky water to remove garbage from the riverbed.

So far, volunteers have collected more than 200 sacks of garbage, including a television

set, a dead cat and loads of plastics.

But Bued village chair, Carlito Dion, said the cleanup would not cover the entire stretch traversing the village and would need the help of volunteers from every "pulok" (sitio).

To keep the 2-km river free from garbage, Dion said residents were encouraged to report to the barangay council anyone throwing trash into the river.

### Water for farms

Parongking River has no headwater as it has been dammed in the upstream. Its water is used for irrigating rice lands. It is dependent only on water coming from the sea (from Dagupan City) for water change.

The river traverses several villages in Sta. Barbara and

Calasiao towns and Dagupan City, where it is known as Bayaoas River.

The portion of the river crossing Bued was once declared biologically dead because of domestic and industrial waste.

A minidam has been built to collect water runoff from farmlands. The plan is to open the dam twice a month to flush out polluted water, Dion said.

Several long-term plans, like dredging the river and even paving the riverbed with concrete, have been recommended to revive the waterway. "But those plans would cost a lot of money and definitely the barangay could not afford them," Dion said.

"What we can do now is discipline ourselves and not consider the river as a dump. We have done it in the past and we can do it again," he said. INQ



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

6  
PAGE

UPPER  
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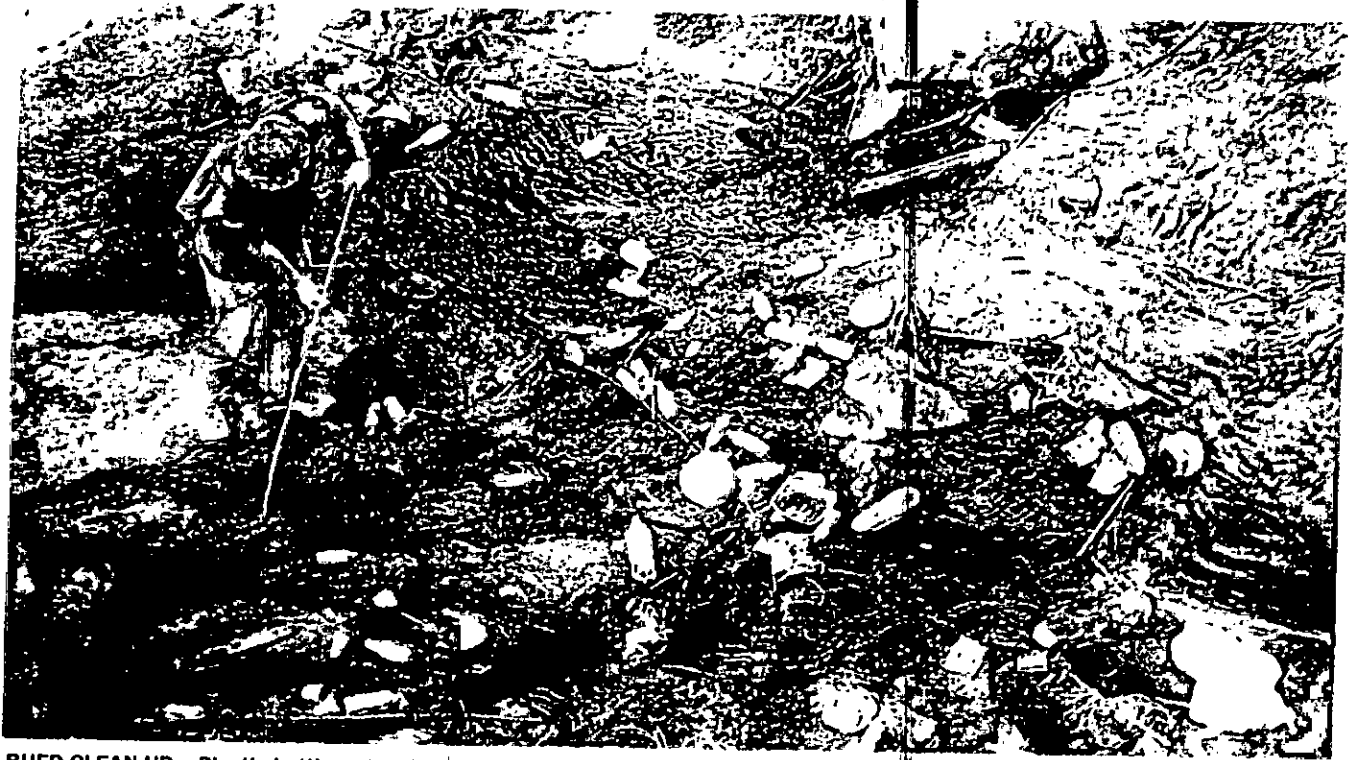
PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

09 FEB 2010  
DATE



**BUED CLEAN-UP** - Plastic bottles, styro boxes and plastic discards are among the items collected by volunteers from the Bued River near the Kennon Rd. in Baguio City. The clean-up was part of the celebration of World Wetlands Day Friday. (JJ Landingin)



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

9  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

09 FEB 2019

DATE

P-1





Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1898

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



09 FEB 2010

DATE

P-2

## Harvesting rainwater, an abundant renewable resource

**W**E have such an abundance of rain in this country that floods are a perennial problem. With the floods come landslides as days of heavy rains loosen the earth and mountainsides come sliding down to bury entire communities.

Our rains are among our most bountiful natural resources, along with sunlight, our seas and rivers, our winds, even the underground heat of our volcanoes, and, of course, our minerals from our mountains and wood from our forests.

We have long exploited the power of our rivers with dams producing electric power, the geothermal heat beneath our volcanoes, our winds turning fields of wind mills, and the sun's heat harvested with solar panels.

We depend on our rains to fill our dams each rainy season, to provide water for our farmers, our power plants, and our industrial and household needs. But so much of our rains is wasted as they flood our cities and lowlands before flowing out to sea.

A bill has now been filed in Congress by Rep. LRay Villafuerte of Camarines Sur to require commercial, institutional, and residential estate developers to set up rainwater retention facilities in their coming projects. This will help reduce flooding but the greater significance is that this will make use of so much water that is now simply wasted.

Under the proposed law, a developer of a new project in Metro Manila and other major cities with an area of at least 1,500 square meters is required to develop and maintain at least 3 percent of the area as a rainwater harvesting facility.

"Rainwater is a free, abundant, and a regular natural resource that the Philippines is fortunate to receive year in and year out," Congressman Villafuerte said. "It is high time that we make use of it for the general advantage of our people."

He said California in the United States has a Rainwater Capture Act with which it saves rainfall to help address the widespread drought that it suffers during the dry season. In Australia, he added, most buildings use captured rainwater for fountains and for flushing toilets.

We already have a Renewable Resources Law, enacted in 2005, encouraging the production and use of renewable energy, providing incentives such as reduction or cancellation of certain government fees, and requiring grid operators to provide them access to the grid. So many renewable power plants - wind, solar, biomass, etc - have since been established in our country.

With House Bill 8088, we will add rainwater - an abundant resource in our islands - to these renewable resources while helping to reduce the danger they pose during the flood season.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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SINCE 1888

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

4  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

09 FEB 2012

DATE

## Gov't moves to shorten land use conversion

By GENALYN D. KABILING

**T**he government is preparing a joint memorandum circular that aims to shorten the application period of land use conversion to 30 days from the usual two to three years.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles announced Friday that the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and several other government agencies would craft the proposed circular to streamline the procedures of land conversion.

The latest action was reached after President Duterte unleashed an outburst about the slow land conversion in the country due to bureaucratic red tape and threat of communist rebels during a Cabinet meeting last Wednesday.

"Several agencies are now working hand in hand to streamline the process involved in land conversion. The DAR reported to the Cabinet that there is an urgent need to streamline the current process for land conversion to address pending applications and to fast-track the approval and/or disapproval of new applications," Nograles said during a Palace press briefing.

"To do this, different departments namely the DAR, DILG (Department of Interior and Local Government), DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources), DOE (Department of Energy), HUDCC (Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council), NCIP (National Commission for Indigenous Peoples), NHA (National Housing Authority), LRA (Land Registration Authority), HLURB (Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board) and SHF (Social Housing Finance Corp.)

have decided to work together to draft a joint memorandum circular that will streamline the process of approval or disapproval of land conversion applications from the current 24 to 36 months to 30 days," he said.

The memorandum circular will be finalized and presented to the President for his approval within 30 days, on or before the next Cabinet meeting, according to Nograles.

Nograles also explained that the President was "exasperated" with the many requirements needed for land conversion when the matter was discussed during the recent Cabinet meeting. He said the President understood the "tedious" processing of land conversion application following presentation by concerned officials before the Cabinet.

"Because of that, the Cabinet has resolved to immediately come up with the memorandum circular to hopefully speed up the processes," he said.

He acknowledged that the previous moratorium on land conversion contributed to the delays in the processing of applications.

Also, Nograles said Agrarian Reform Secretary John Castriciones still enjoys the trust and confidence of the President despite his concerns about the sluggish land conversion.

He noted that Castriciones presented proposals to speed up the process, including the acceptance of applications that are accompanied by complete supporting documents.

The President walked out of a Cabinet meeting last Wednesday after expressing frustration over the sluggish government transactions due to red tape and corruption.



# The battle between retention and reacquisition

In 1974, Nato migrated to Canada where he became a Canadian citizen by naturalization.

Upon his retirement, Nato and his wife returned to the Philippines. In 2000, they purchased from Dith's family a beach lot from Oriental Mindoro, where they constructed a residential house. In 2004, however, Nato discovered that the portion where they built their house is public land and part of the salvage zone.

Nato was then constrained to file a Miscellaneous Lease Application (MLA) over the subject land with DENR at the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO). In the said application, Nato indicated that he is a Filipino citizen.

Dith opposed the application on the ground that Nato, a Canadian citizen, is disqualified to own land. Angered by such representation, Dith also filed a criminal complaint for falsification of public documents under Article 172 of the Revised Penal Code (RPC) against Nato.

Meanwhile, Nato reacquired his Filipino citizenship under the provisions of Republic Act No. 9225 in 2007.

Nato, in his defense, claimed that at the time he filed his application, he had intended to re-

acquire Philippine citizenship and that he had been assured by a CENRO officer that he could declare himself as a Filipino.

He further alleged that he bought the property from Dith's family who misrepresented to him that the subject property was a titled land and that they have the right and authority to convey the same. The dispute had in fact led to the institution of civil and criminal suits between him and Dith's family.

**Q: What is R.A. 9225?**

**A:** RA 9225 is also known as the "Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003."

**Q: What are some of the salient provisions of RA 9225?**

**A:** Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State that all Philippine citizens who become citizens of another country shall be deemed not to have lost their Philippine citizenship under the conditions of this Act.

Sec. 3. Retention of Philippine Citizenship. Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, natural-born citizens of the Philippines who have lost their Philippine citizenship by reason of their naturalization as citizens of a foreign country are hereby deemed to have reacquired Philippine citizenship

ization in a foreign country is one of the ways by which Philippine citizenship may be lost.

**Q: Did Nato retain or reacquire his Philippine citizenship?**

**A:** Nato reacquired his Philippine citizenship.

Since Nato became a Canadian citizen in 1974, before RA 9225 took effect, he reacquired his Philippine citizenship.

As its title declares, RA 9225 (which took effect in 2003) amends CA 63 by doing away with the provision in the old law which takes away Philippine citizenship from natural-born Filipinos who become naturalized citizens of other countries and allowing dual citizenship, and also provides for the procedure for reacquiring and retaining Philippine citizenship.

In the case of those who became foreign citizens after RA 9225 took effect, they shall retain Philippine citizenship despite having acquired foreign citizenship provided they took the oath of allegiance under the new law.

**Q: May Nato be indicted for falsification for representing himself as a Filipino in his Public Land Application despite his subsequent reacquisition of Philippine citizenship under the provisions of RA 9225?**

**A:** Yes. Nato made the untruthful statement in the MLA, a public document, that he is a Filipino citizen at the time of the filing of said application, when in fact he was then still a Canadian citizen. Under CA 63, the gov-



## PROPERTY RULES

MA. SOLEDAD  
DERIQUITO-MAWIS

upon taking the following oath of allegiance to the Republic:  
xxx xxx xxx

Xxx xxx xxx

Natural-born citizens of the Philippines who, after the effectivity of this Act, become citizens of a foreign country shall retain their Philippine citizenship upon taking the aforesaid oath.

**Q: What is the significance of the quoted provisions?**

**A:** While Section 2 declares the general policy that Filipinos who have become citizens of another country shall be deemed "not to have lost their Philippine citizenship," such is qualified by the phrase "under the conditions of this Act."

Section 3 lays down such conditions for two categories of nat-

ural-born Filipinos referred to in the first and second paragraphs.

**Q: What is the difference between reacquisition and retention?**

**A:** Under the first paragraph are those natural-born Filipinos who have lost their citizenship by naturalization in a foreign country who shall re-acquire their Philippine citizenship upon taking the oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines.

The second paragraph covers those natural-born Filipinos who became foreign citizens after R.A. 9225 took effect, who shall retain their Philippine citizenship upon taking the same oath.

The taking of oath of allegiance is required for both categories of natural-born Filipino citizens who became citizens of a foreign country, but the terminology used is different, "re-acquired" for the first group, and "retain" for the second group.

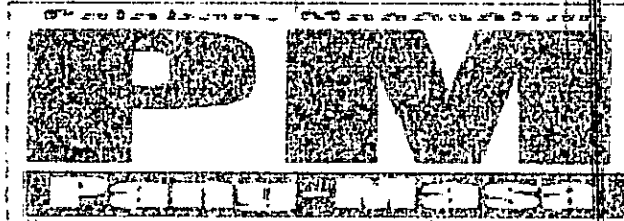
The law thus makes a distinction between those natural-born Filipinos who became foreign citizens before and after the effectivity of RA 9225.

In fine, for those who were naturalized in a foreign country, they shall be deemed to have reacquired their Philippine citizenship which was lost pursuant to CA 63, under which natural-

izing law at the time he was naturalized as Canadian citizen, naturalization in a foreign country was among those ways by which a natural-born citizen loses his Philippine citizenship.

While he reacquired Philippine citizenship under RA 9225 six months later, the falsification was already a consummated act, the said law having no retroactive effect insofar as his dual citizenship status is concerned.

(Source: David vs. Agbay, G.R. No. 199113, March 18, 2015)



09 FEB 2019

DATE

## ***Kemikal na gamit sa tarpaulin iwasan***

Nagbigay nang paalala ang EcoWaste Coalition sa publiko na mag-ingat sa nakalalasang kemikal na Cadmium na ginagamit sa mga tarpaulin ngayon panahon ng kampanya sa nalalapit na midterm election sa Mayo 13.

Sinabi ng EWC, maraming mga tao ang nagharimunan para gamitin ang mga ikinakabit na tarpaulin ng mga pulitiko sa kabila na ito ay kontaminado ng Cadmium na mapanganib sa kalusugan.

Sinabi ni Thony Di-

zon, chemical safety campaigner ng grupo, bukod sa makakadagdag na sa plastic pollution ay may panganib pang dala sa kalusugan ang mga naturang plastic tarpaulin dahil na rin sa taglay nitong kemikal.

Nabatid na ang Cadmium ay heavy metal na may high toxicity ay kabilang sa listahan ng World Health Organization (WHO) ng "ten chemicals of major public health concern."

Maaari umanong magdulot ang naturang kemikal

ng panganib sa renal, skeletal at respiratory systems, at klasipikado pang human carcinogen.

Nabatid na sa isinagawang pagsusuri sa limang tarpaulin sample na nagkakahalaga ng P100 hanggang P150 ang grupo, natuklasang mayroon itong taglay na cadmium na may 515 hanggang 1,038 parts per million (ppm), na lampas sa 100 ppm limit, na itinatakda ng European Union (EU) para sa cadmium sa plastics. -Doris Franche-Borja-