

10 FEB 2019

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IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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NEW DOT PROMO TO BE LAUNCHED FEB. 18

FROM DUTERTE, A SUGGESTION TO MAKE TOURISM AD MORE FUN

By Christine O. Avendaño
@10avendanoINQ

Apparently for President Duterte, it will be more fun if the three secretaries on top of the country's big-ticket environment cleanups, such as Boracay and Manila Bay, appear in the advertisement refreshing the slogan "It's More Fun in the Philippines."

"The President made the joke and said that (Environment) Secretary (Roy) Cimatu, (Interior) Secretary (Eduardo) Año and I should be in the commercial," Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat told the Inquirer.

Conceptualized to lure more tourists into the country, the new 18-second advertisement will be launched on Feb. 18.

The triumvirate of Cimatu, Año and Puyat spearheaded the massive rehabilitation of Bora-

cay after Mr. Duterte described the island last year as a "cesspool," and is now focused on cleaning up Manila Bay.

Puyat said the President made the joke after she presented during last week's Cabinet meeting the new advertisement of the Department of Tourism (DOT) that would kick off the reinvention of the catchy, world-renowned tourism campaign "It's More Fun in the Philippines."

Continuity from P-Noy years

The slogan was coined in 2012, during the administration of former President Benigno Aquino III.

In a text message, Puyat said it didn't matter that she would be the third tourism secretary to embrace the slogan, adding she believed in the "continuity" of a thing that "works."

"All the other countries nev-

er change their slogan like Malaysia's 'Truly Asia' tourism campaign, as well as that of India's 'Incredible India,' she said.

The department's new campaign would focus on sustainable tourism, she added.

"Whereas it was our domestic tourists who made the 'It's More Fun in the Philippines' memes trend back when it was first launched, now foreign tourists will play a very big role in our campaign," Puyat said.

In the new commercial, she said, about 4.3 million people who have used the slogan obliged to have their pictures taken.

Despite Boracay shutdown

At the Cabinet meeting, Puyat said the President was "happy" that despite the six-month closure of Boracay Island last year, tourist arrivals increased



Bernadette Romulo-Puyat

by 7.6 percent in 2018.

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said at a recent Malacañang briefing that 7.1 million tourists visited the country last year, up 7.65 percent over the 6.6 million arrivals in 2017.

It was the biggest number of tourist arrivals in a year in the country's history.

Puyat said rehabilitation of Boracay, the country's flagship destination, opened opportunities for alternative attractions, such as Siargao, Iloilo, Palawan, La Union, Romblon and Siquijor.

"This is a time that celebrates the 7.1 million tourist arrival count, the highest ever in our country's history," Puyat said in a statement.

Koreans, Chinese top visitors

South Korea remained the country's top source of tourists, with 1,587,959 arrivals, while China was a most improved market, growing by 29.62 percent, with 1,255,258 arrivals, for second spot.

The United States remained in third place with 1,034,396 arrivals, followed by Japan, 631,801; Australia, 279,821; Taiwan, 240,842; and Canada, 226,429.

Completing the Top 12 were

the United Kingdom with 201,039 arrivals; Singapore, 171,795; Malaysia, 145,242; India, 121,124; and Hong Kong, 117,984.

Puyat said that since the DOT had a modest budget to promote the country, it was partnering with big corporations to help the government attract more tourists.

She said Jollibee—"which has introduced the Filipino palate to more people across the world"—was helping in the DOT campaigns and had actually made a DOT commercial using its own resources.

"We also have a campaign with Cebu Pacific on sustainable and responsible tourism. Bench decided to shoot [its] summer ads all over the country and is also using [its version] of 'It's More Fun in the Philippines,'" Puyat said. INQ



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MANILA BAY WOES

PUT PEOPLE IN REHAB PLAN—GROUPS

By **Mariejo S. Ramos**
@MariejoRamosINQ

Twelve people's organizations joined forces and formed the Kilusan para sa Makataong Rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay to demand a propeople rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

The organizations that signed the unity statement included Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng Mangingisda (Pangisda), Greenpeace, Oceana Philippines, Focus on the Global South, Tambuyog Development Center and Lilak.

The alliance demanded that the government "put the people back into the discourse" and develop a "truly sustainable plan" that included more than 200,000 families in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) that depended on the bay for their livelihood.

Questions

Pangisda spokesperson Pablo Rosales said the billion-peso reclamation projects in the pipeline raised serious questions.

President Duterte last week signed Executive Order No. 74 that transferred the power of approving reclamation projects from the National Economic and Development Authority to the Philippine Reclamation Authority.

On Jan. 29, the Makabayan bloc in the House filed Resolution No. 2452 seeking a postponement of the bay rehabilitation. INQ



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Culture change needed to restore Manila Bay

By **ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ**

Culture change among Filipinos is needed if the polluted Manila Bay is to be restored and preserved for the long-term, according to Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu.

"If they ask me what is the most difficult part in rehabilitating Manila Bay, I would say it is to change our people's behavior and attitude," Cimatu pointed out.

However, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) chief said the seeming enthusiasm and willingness of a lot of people to take part in the effort to rehabilitate Manila Bay shows that there is still hope for such change.

Last January 27, over 5,000 people joined a massive cleanup activity along Roxas Boulevard in Manila to mark the launch of the three-phase Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

At least P42 billion is allotted for the implementation of the project within three years and at least 13 government agencies will be working together to carry out the mission dubbed as "Battle for Manila Bay."

According to Cimatu, around P6 billion, or roughly 14 percent of the allocation, will be used for cleanup activities,

including information and education campaign on the importance of keeping Manila Bay clean.

The remaining P36 billion will be spent for relocation and provision of support systems like access to jobs and livelihood and construction of town centers with recreational areas, markets, church, schools and hospitals.

"The more difficult part is the relocation of over 220,000 households. But the most difficult is to maintain and sustain its clean condition for the next generation," Cimatu said.

He pointed out that the immediate goal is to reduce the coliform levels in the bay and its connecting estuaries and creeks.

Fecal coliform level in Manila Bay, prior to the launching of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation, was at 330 million most probable number (MPN) per 100 milliliters (mL). The acceptable level for Class SB water is 100 MPN/100 mL.

"There are about 47 esteros leading to Manila Bay and we will be cleaning all these esteros one at a time or simultaneously," Cimatu said.

The concentration of the rehabilitation efforts will be along the stretch of the bay area from the Manila Yacht Club to the United States Embassy, where all solid and water pollutants converge and the fecal coliform count is highest.



Eleazar says bars bar dippers

Eleazar added while most of the garbage were cleaned up, Manila Bay remains polluted and not conducive to swimming

By Elmer N. Manuel

National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) director Chief Supt. Guillermo Eleazar yesterday said the barricade they installed along the walk area of Manila Bay was designed to prevent people from taking a dip in what he described as still polluted water.

Eleazar added while most of the garbage were cleaned up, Manila Bay remains polluted and not

conductive to swimming.

"We put up barricades for the sole purpose of preventing people to swim in Manila Bay," Eleazar said.

"We did it despite the fact that there are already ordinances which state that swimming in Manila Bay is prohibited," he added.

This follows after some queries regarding the police actions to put up barricades weeks after the relatively clean Manila Bay had drawn in hordes of

people to enjoy the clean surroundings, with some even taking a bath in the murky water.

Manila Bay which underwent a two-day clean-up recently has been transformed dramatically, drawing attention from residents and visitors who wanted to enjoy its clean surroundings and to watch its fabled sunset.

Eleazar clarified the barricade is railing type and people can still enjoy the sight at the "new" Manila Bay.

He said the barricade could also deter dumping of garbage on the shoreline by visitors, thus cleanliness in the area would be maintained.

Meanwhile, at least 17 more establishments were

cited for violation of pollution laws, as the massive government-led clean-up of the area continued.

Cease and desist orders were served on Makchang Korean Restaurant, Legend Seafood Restaurant and Network Hotel all in Pasay City.

Laguna Lake Development Authority general manager Joey Medina, said notices of violation will also be issued against Harbor View Square, China Oceanic Inc, Philippines and Manila Ocean Park.

Also, to be served with notices of violation are SM's Breeze Residences, Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Philippine International Convention Center, Midas Hotel and Casino, Carwash by Benjas, Sogo Hotel and Harrison Mansion.

Bathing not allowed Scenes like this will not be seen again for a time being unless the water of Manila Bay is declared clean and safe by authorities. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





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Manila Bay Rehabilitation program gets support from Calabarzon

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) massive plan to rehabilitate the Manila Bay found thousands of supporters in different places sharing the same goal—to clean up the polluted Manila Bay.

In full support of DENR's Manila Bay Rehabilitation program, officials and employees of MGB IV Calabarzon, together with members of the Eastern Rizal Miners Association (ERMA) and Rizal Quarry Academy Inc. trooped to Angono to put up a trash-trap curtain to address the source of rubbish that contributes to the pollution of Manila Bay.

Spearheaded by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Calabarzon Region, the 50-meter trash-trap curtain captures trash before it flows downstream.

"Manila Bay pollutants come from different sources, and aside from the cleanup of its coastline, we believe it is crucial to directly fix the source of pollution, which are in various areas all over the country," said MGB IV Calabarzon Regional Director Samuel Paragas.

The Manila Bay Rehabilitation program was approved by President Rodrigo Duterte with an allocated budget of P42.95 billion that will include cleanup activities, relocation



of illegal settlers as well as apprehension of establishments that violate the Philippine Clean Water Act and other environmental laws.



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THE SUN RISES ON MANILA BAY

How Manila Bay is going to be saved, one day at a time

By **KAYE ESTOISTA-KOO**

A woman in her 50s remembers the time their pilot-father would take the family out for a drive along Roxas Boulevard, roll down the windows, and tell them, "breathe in your vitamins, breathe in the air." They would stay for a couple of hours on the shores of Manila Bay, letting the sun provide some vitamin D.

Another longtime Manilaño reminisces the time he would go out fishing with his father on the far side of the breakwater of Manila Bay.

Still, another recalls when families would take their children into the water to swim.

It is perhaps with these fond memories that many regular citizens joined the 5,000-plus strong contingent last Jan. 27 to officially launch Save Manila Bay, a seven-year rehabilitation plan led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Sec. **Roy Cimatu**.

Save Manila Bay started as a germ of an idea by Commodore **Bobby Lim Joseph** of the Manila Yacht Club (MYC). As soon as he started his two-year term last November, he started telling all his friends, especially in media, about his ideas for Save Manila Bay. He imagined a six-month timeline doing this before seeing anything concrete happen.

But thanks to newspaper articles that kept talking about Save Manila Bay, the campaign was brought to Sec. Cimatu's attention, who promptly went to MYC to meet with Joseph.

“ In news reported before the launch of Save Manila Bay, Maynilad is set to invest P26.4-B for new STPs in the next five years, with new sewer lines in Caloocan, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, and Kawit. Cavite.”

As a quick background, the Save Manila Bay plan is backed up by a legal case, one that environmental lawyer **Tony Oposa** filed in 1999 and won 10 years ago in the Supreme Court—the Concerned Residents of Manila vs. the Philippine Government for the cleaning of Manila Bay.

In 2008, 13 government agencies were ordered to cleanup Manila Bay, reporting their progress every three months until the waters are fit for swimming.

But it is only this 2019 that we see something happening on this scale, with President **Rodrigo Roa Duterte** coming in a month after he learned of Cimatu's initial meeting with Joseph.

“General Cimatu is my answered prayer. Instead of six months, things happened in less than a month. He is honest and charming, very goal-oriented. This is his biggest challenge, and I know he will make it,” enthuses Joseph.

“The first meeting between Sec. Cimatu sparked the organizational wheels that ended up involving several government departments including DILG, DPWH, DND, PNP, and MMDA, aside from the DENR—enough to launch an inter-agency battle cry on the last Sunday in January this year.

The commodore says that more than the launching on Jan. 27, the key to understanding Save Manila Bay starts with prevention. “We are not looking at the cleanup first, we are looking at the prevention. It is where the different hotels, restaurants,

and *barangays* should have their own Sewage Treatment Plants or STPs.”

With Sec. Cimatu's hands-on and aggressive approach to Save Manila Bay, all outflows and tributaries are monitored by the DENR, with samples taken regularly to determine water safety and quality levels.

“Once the outflow is not good, DENR checks the property and, if above standard, okay, no problem. But if the STP is very small compared to the water that comes out, they would have to change the STP. Those in violation will be given a couple of months to rectify,” remarks Joseph.

STPs, as reported earlier in January by Environment Usec. **Sherwin Rigor**, is an important compliance requirement for all hotels and industries along Manila Bay, an area covering Metro Manila, Bataan, Bulacan, Cavite, Pampanga, and Zambales. The standard and safe water quality level (swimming pool quality) is 1,000 most probable number (MPN)/100 ml while the fecal coliform in the bay stands at 330 million MPN/100 ml, or 329,999 percent above standard!

The DENR, as Joseph reveals plans with Cimatu, will build more STPs, diverting the water so that treated water gets double-treated in an effort to ensure water safety.

The second step is for Maynilad and Manila Water to speed up the setting up of more STPs, intended to remove harmful substances from the waste water generated by the consumers, something that Joseph says can't wait till 2032. In news reported before



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the launch of Save Manila Bay, Maynilad is set to invest P26.4-B for new STPs in the next five years, with new sewer lines in Caloocan, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, and Kawit, Cavite.

This is because even if you live in Caloocan or Zambales, your water or solid waste finds its way back into the bay eventually.

The third step in ensuring the success of Save Manila Bay involves the proper education of all *barangays* in Metro Manila and the surrounding provinces that are part of Manila Bay. "Some areas will have to be cordoned off so that they don't just throw water, teaching them to separate waste, and putting up toilets, because a lot don't even have this."

Speaking as part of the Rotary Movement led by Rotary Club of Manila, Joseph says they are adopting Save Manila Bay to contribute to protecting the environment. "All rotary clubs and tourism organizations, we will go to the *barangays* for value-formation seminars, to change their attitude toward cleanliness, discipline, and love of country."

The segregation of just waste and plastics alone will make a huge difference. "The wet and the hard, the dry, we take that out," he adds. "We will reduce the problem by more than 60 percent. If you give the dry to the *basureros*, they can have that recycled and it does not go into the water. With the wet we can learn to make our own compost. If everyone does this, we solve 40 to 60 percent of the problem nationwide, if

only we have the discipline both in our homes and offices."

Likewise, the manner by which human waste is being dumped is where *barangay* and local governments come in to strictly enforce the law.

Another aspect of Save Manila Bay is that it does not just involve the bay area on Roxas Boulevard. "We will be desilting Pasig River, like all the other waterways and canals. We have about 10,000 people to do that," he says.

The end goal for 2019, for example, is to have a specific area that will meet the standard and safe water quality level, an area to be assessed by DENR.

DILG has already started visiting big communities of dwellers in waterways to teach them procedures they have to follow in relocation.

The MMDA, likewise, has started dredging and pumping out dirt and garbage at the hole by MYC, which goes out into the bay, where the worst of the waste has passed through for the past decades.

The MYC will have its own movable STP as well, something that Joseph says has gained more support.

The approach to all this, at the start and in the end, is *Bayanihan*. "*Bayan* for the community," he says. "And all of us are heroes. It is the Filipino who will win. This is bigger than EDSA, this is a turning point. The NCR has 20 million people and with each one having human waste every day."

Imagine the change if all the 20 million did something good for the environment every day, consistently and with passion.



KEEPING TRASH AT BAY Volunteers flock to help clean up the Manila Bay. Bottom right: DND Sec. Delfin Lorenzana (left, with cap) Join Manila Yacht Club commodore Bobby Lim Joseph and DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu (center)



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Time to move on with the fish pens in Laguna de Bay



WHY NOT?
DR. EMIL Q. JAVIER

There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask why... I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?
- Robert Kennedy

the dismantling of the fish pens/cages in the lake. As reported by the press, the premise was fish farming (aquaculture) was fouling the lake, and unduly depriving poor fisherfolk of fishing grounds.

In response, the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) passed a resolution ordering the dismantling of illegal and non-compliant fish pens and a moratorium on the stocking of fish seedlings on those that remain. To date the LLDA resolution has not been rescinded and the bonafide fish pen operators anxiously wait for LLDA's final decision.

Fish farming as a sustainable means of helping clean Laguna de bay

Fish farming is not the culprit in the fouling of the waters of Laguna de Bay. As reported by a panel of experts led by UP Los Baños forester and Academician Rodel Lasco, about 80 percent of the nitrogen load of the lake comes from sewage and municipal wastes; 19 percent from irrigation water and industry effluents, and the remaining one percent accounted for by other sources, including fish farming.

The obvious first priority just like in Manila Bay is requiring the local governments, the water concessionaries and the communities around the lake to install sewage systems and stop dumping their wastes into the lake. But the waters of the lake are already heavily laden (polluted) with nutrients. In the meantime, the only practical means to take out these nutrients (mainly nitrogen and phosphorus) is to harvest the planktons and plant biomass which absorb the nutrients by raising plant-feeding fish like bangus and tilapia.

Therefore on the contrary, fish farm-

ing properly regulated and monitored could be a sustainable means of cleaning the lake.

This was precisely the original rationale for the introduction of bangus and tilapia pen/cage culture in Laguna Lake. Thus in addition to helping arrest the growing eutrophication of the waters, we realize the additional benefit of raising affordable fish for poor people in the lake towns of Rizal and Laguna, and for Metro Manila.

Recognizing that fish farming is an ecologically sound, equitable and productive complementary use of Laguna lake, LLDA led by its energetic general manager Jaime Medina conducted a series of stakeholders consultations involving the fisherfolk of the surrounding communities, the fish pen operators, the affected local governments, the relevant national agencies as well as representatives from academe on how best to proceed.

These consultations led to a draft program with the following key features: 1) limit fish pens and cages to 9,200 hectares out of the lake's total of 90,000 hectares, 2) 60% of the area for pens/cages be reserved for small fishermen and their cooperatives, and the rest (40%) for commercial fish pen operators, and 3) relocation of pens/cages in designated zones in the respective bay areas (i.e. east, central, west and south bay) in neat regular patterns, allowing for sufficient distances between pens/cages and providing for wide, navigation lanes for water transport.

The rationale for these provisions are as follows:

The estimated fish biomass potential of Laguna de Bay based upon a 20-year study by LLDA is about 300,000 tons per year. At an average production of four tons

During the first State of the Nation Address (SONA) of the President two years ago, before the closure and rehabilitation of Boracay, and now the order to clean up Manila Bay, President Duterte took a similar step to address pollution of the waters of Laguna de Bay. He ordered



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Time to move on with the fish pens in Laguna de Bay

per hectare per year the 9,200 hectares of pens and cages will account for 36,800 tons fish per year, well under the 300,000 tons potential, leaving plenty for capture fisheries.

The 60% set-aside of pens and cages for small fishermen and their cooperatives will reserve 5,520 hectares for their exclusive use. Plus the 80,800 hectares of open fisheries, the small fisherfolk of the lake will benefit from 86,320 hectares (i.e. 96% of the waters of the lake). This is more than full compliance in spirit and substance with the constitutional provision that small farmers and fisherfolk be accorded priority access to natural resources.

The commercial fish pen operators are amenable to the two equity provisions but the last contentious issue as far as some of them are concerned, is the requirement to relocate their existing pens to the designated zones. They consider this re-arrangement of fish pens cosmetic and unnecessary, and costly.

However, there is a ready win-win solution to this minor impasse. The pens usually have a useful life of five years. In 2-3 years most of the stakes of existing pens would have rotten and need to be replaced anyway. Thus it is a matter of providing a reasonable transition of, say, two years for the current fish pen operators to relocate to their new designated areas. This will allow them time to fully recover their installation costs while setting up their new pens. Additionally, there will be no gap in their incomes, and as importantly no disruption of fish supply to Metro Manila.

Two years are long enough. The LLDA board ought to act on the draft resolution

before them which had benefitted both from the consultations with the lake's stakeholders and based on the scientific studies LLDA and Philippine Council for Agriculture and Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (PCARRD-DOST) have commissioned and conducted by researchers from Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA) and the UP System. The second observation is significant because in fairness to LLDA, over the years the agency had endeavored to base its policies and rules and regulations on scientific research.

There is a cost to procrastination. As reported in a study by Rico Ancog (SESAM, UP Los Baños) and Alice Joan Ferrer (UP Visayas) presented last week to the lake's stakeholders, between 2016 and 2018 the area occupied by pens/cages has declined from 16,041 to 10,188 hectares. Consequently, fish production dropped from 60,635 tons in 2016 to 38,103 tons. The loss of 22,532 tons of fish for Metro Manila could have contributed to the dramatic rise of inflation late last year. This research was funded by the PCAARRD-DOST and supported by LLDA itself.

What is the LLDA board waiting for? Time to move on with the fish pens in Laguna de Bay!

Dr. Emil Q. Javier is a Member of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and also Chair of the Coalition for Agriculture Modernization in the Philippines (CAMP).

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Where's sustainable people's participation in the battle for Manila Bay?

THE rehabilitation of the famed Manila Bay, dubbed the "Battle for Manila Bay," has begun in earnest. Some 5,000 government workers and private volunteers participated in the inaugural kick-off of the weekly clean-up drive. Tons of trash were reportedly collected during the initial clean-up effort.

In the latest round of planning for the future, environmental experts are calling for legislative action such as law on Manila Bay rehabilitation and policy on water discharge to the Bay. As usual, stiffer penalties on industrial and commercial polluters, the relocation of illegal settlers and strict implementation of zoning regulations are on the table.

The Department of Information Technology (DICT) is weighing in by providing the tools such as sensors and CCTVs to help win today's most celebrated battle for the environment. In his speech at the launching ceremonies of the clean-up drive, acting ICT Secretary Eliseo Rio said the sensors would be used in monitoring the coliform level of the water to make the Bay "swimmable" again. The CCTV cameras will be installed to catch litterers.

Connectivity is at the heart of DICT's contribution to the cause so information can reach the command and control center of the proper authorities.

The President has allocated a total of P47B for the seven-year period of that project that will



TECH SPACE

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cover rehabilitation, restoration and conservation. While the City of Manila is at the forefront of this massive initiative, parallel rehabilitation activities will be undertaken in some parts of Metro Manila as well as in specific towns of Bulacan, Bataan and Pampanga.

The project does not stop at removing garbage from the bay. The City of Manila Phase 1 calls for the clean-up of *esteros*, reduction of coliform level and the start of relocation of hundreds of thousands of informal settlers.

Phase 2 will entail the rehabilitation of old sewage lines and construction of sewage

treatment facilities by concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water. The third phase is for sustained law enforcement and monitoring, continuing education and information campaign and completion of infrastructures in earlier stages of the project.

Curiously, the term organized community participation is nowhere to be found in the news releases nor on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) website and its attached agencies. Why quibble? One, it's because community organizing is a proven weapon to win the hearts and minds of

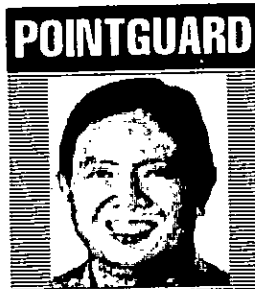
stakeholders to sustain victory through the succeeding generations. Two, DENR, the lead agency of the Manila Bay rehabilitation project, has the experience in community participation with the various successes in its agro-forestry and aquatic resources-development program over the years.

As it is, the Manila Bay project looks spearheaded by the usual triumvirate of local government intervention, the iron hand of the law and the financial might of big business. The few times the human factor is mentioned refer to the removal of informal settlers from the scene and their typically problematic transfer aka dumping in other areas. In this regard, a number of municipalities in Rizal province have been heard to be crafting local legislation to stop national government agencies from designating them as relocation sites.

The adoption of technology in environmental programs is well and good. Let's not just miss the opportunity to also gather the affected communities around the undertaking and strengthen their participation in an inclusive fight for a cleaner, better environment.



Huwag maligo sa Look ng Maynila



NI MAGI GUNIGUNDO

KULANG na kulang ang isang taon para mapabaha ang coliform bacteria mula sa tinatayang 330 milyon units per cubic meter sa ligtas na 100 units per cubic meter, para mapagpaliguan, malangyan at mabuhay na muli ang isda sa look ng Maynila na pinagmamalaki ng ating bansa na may pinakamagandang tanawin sa paglubog ng araw.

Bagamat matagumpay ang isinagawang paglilinis ng basura sa baybayin ng look ng Maynila, nananatiling peligroso ang tubig nito na tinaguriang inidoro ng dumi. Hindi ko papayagan ang anak ko na lumangoy sa swimming pool na punong-puno ng dumi. Ang mga pamilya na

nagkamali ng akala na ligtas langyan ang look dahil wala ng basurang nagkalat at nakalutang sa tubig ay punong-puno ng pagsisisi. May mga nakainom ng tubig nito sa kanilang paglangoy at agad na dinapuan ng "waterborne" na karamdaman. Maraming taon pa at maraming kilos pa ang dapat gawin ng pamahalaan at ng sambayanang Pilipino para makumpleto ang rehabilitasyon ng makasaysayang look batay sa Manila Bay Coastal Strategy na binabantayan ng Korte Suprema.

May dalawang dekada na ang lumipas nang mag-sama-sama ang ilang mga estudyante ng batas para ipagsakdal ang pamahalaan sa Korte upang utusan ito na linisin ang look ng Maynila. 1999 pa lang nirereklamo na ang baho, basura, at maruming kulay ng tubig ng look na may 1 milyon Unit ng bacteria kada cubic meter ng mga panahong iyon.

Umabot sa Korte Suprema ang usaping ito at pinagbigyan ang panawagan ng mga estudyante noong 2008. Naghaba ng "continuing mandamus" ang

Korte Suprema para utusan ang 11 ahensiya ng pamahalaang nasyonal at mga lokal na pamahalaan na linisin at buhayin ang look ng Maynila at magsumite kada 90 araw ng quarterly progress report.

Inatasan ang DENR na magbalangkas at ipatupad sa lalong madaling panahon ang isang Manila Bay Coastal Strategy. Si Mahistrado Velasco Jr. ang ponente at si Punong Mahistrado Renato C. Corona ang nangasiwa sa En Banc session na nagpalabas ng kautusan na sinang-ayunan ng lahat ng mahistrado ng Korte Suprema (MMDA et Al vs Concerned Residents of Manila Bay, G.R No 171947-48, Dec. 8, 2008, 574 SCRA 661).

Ang bantog na abogado Antonio A. Oposa Jr. na dalubhasa sa public interest environment law ang pangunahing abogado ng mga estudyanteng nagrekalamo sa kaso. Isa siyang 2009 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee at pinarangalan ng United Nations nuong 1997 na makasama sa UNEP Global 500 Roll of Honor dahil sa kanyang "path-breaking and pas-

sionate crusade to engage Filipinos in acts of enlightened citizenship that maximize the power of the law to protect and nurture the environment, for themselves, their children, and generations yet unborn".

Ang parangal ng UN ay bunga ng ginawa ng abogado sa Oposa vs Factoran (G.R No 101083, July 30, 1993, 224 SCRA 792) kung saan 43 mga batang Filipino ang nagsampa ng reklamo laban sa Kalihim ng DENR para makansela ang mga "Timber License Agreements" o TLA at mapahinto ang paglabas ng mga bagong TLA.

Kinilala ng Korte Suprema sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon ang "doctrine of intergenerational responsibility on the environment". Kilala rin ito bilang Oposa doctrine: may karapatan ang mga bata na magsampag ng kaso para sa kanilang mga sarili at mga susunod pang henerasyon na isisilang pa lang sapangkat bawat henerasyon ay may responsibilidad sa susunod na henerasyon na pangalagaan upang mapanatili ang kalikasan.

Sundan sa Pahina 5

HUWAG... Mula sa Pahina 4

Si Oposa ay may tatalong mungkahi dapat tutukan para sa rehabilitasyon ng look ng Maynila: 1) basura 2) "sewage and septage" (dumi sa alkantariya/ poso negro) 3) relokasyon ng mga squatter o informal settlers. (How to rehab Manila Bay-earth lawyer Oposa, Gotcha, Jarius Bondoc, Philstar, January 18, 2019).

Ayon kay Oposa, parangalan ang mga makakalikasang pamayanan sa tamang pagtatapon at pagreresiklo ng basura. Kabilang dito ang mga nakatira sa mga subdivision at condominium, at townhouses na masigasig sa waste segregation, composting at recycling. Simple lang ang layunin: tularan ang mga modelong pamayanan at turuan ang iba pa. Iyong mga pasaway, hu-

linin at parusahan ng pamahalaan.

Trabaho ng MWSS ang pagsipsip ng mga poso negro. Ang ahensiyang ito ang nakabantay sa Manila Water Co at Maynilad Water Resources. Mula pa 1997, naniningil ang dalawang ito ng sewerage fees na kasama sa billing na binabayaran ng mga kustomer nila. Ang sewerage fees na ito ay dapat gamitin sa pagpapatayo ng mga sewage treatment

plants upang malinis na tubig lang ang dadaloy patungo sa look ng Maynila. Dapat pagpaliwanagin ang Manila Water at Maynilad kung saan napunta ang pera at bakit ang bacteria Level ay tumaas mula 1 Milyon units nuong 1999 sa 330 milyon units ngayon 2019. Libu-libong poso negro ang dapat itayo at hindi ito kayang malapos sa loob lamang ng 12 buwan.

Ang relokasyon ng mga

informal settlers ay tungkulin ng mga opisyal ng Housing at mga Mayor at Gobernador ng mga lokal na pamahalaan. Kailangan ang paglilipatan nila ay may sapat na sewerage system, palaruan, open space, at madaling makasakay sa pampublikong transportasyon at makapaglakbay sa palaran, palengke, ospital at opisina.

Tama lang na ipasara muna ang Manila Zoo na

60 taon ng walang poso negro. Ang dumi ng mga hayop at tao ay tumutulong sa Estero de San Antonio Abad na dumadaloy sa look ng Maynila. May 1.3 bilyon parts per liter ng coliform bacteria sa estrong ito. Pinagsabihan

na ng DENR ang ilang malls at hotels na wala rin sapat na sewerage system na ayusin ang problema ng ito kung hindi ay ipapasara sila.

Hindi ko alam kung

sinama ng DENR si Oposa sa pagbalangkas ng Manila Bay Coastal Strategy. Kung hindi pa, mainam na isali siya. Maraming kilalang dalubhasa sa kalikasan si Oposa na

makatutulong para sa ating layunin na mapaliguan, malangyan at makapangisda sa look ng Manila. Sa takbo ng pangyayari, huwag tayong mangako na sa loob lamang ng 12 buwan ay makakamit natin ito.



Remate

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



Pindot AT Sundot

ni JR Reyes

HINDI maikakaila na malaki na ang ipinagbago ng Manila Bay dahil unti-unti na itong nanunumbalik sa dating ganda kaya't nagsimula na ring dagsain ng maraming tao, hindi lang para mamasyal kundi para maligo na rin.

Nangangamba tuloy ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na nawalan ng saysay ang puspusang paglilinis lalo na't marami pa ring pasaway na nag-iwan ng kanilang basura, hindi lang sa baybayin kundi sa mismong dagat.

Hindi naman nagkulang ang Department of Health sa kanilang paalala na hindi pa ligtas ang palilligo sa look dahil mataas pa rin ang coliform level nito na masama sa kalusugan lalo na sa mga bata.

Sabi ng DENR, tatad-tarin nila ng mga signages ang Manila Bay para paalalahanan muna ang mga tao na bawal mungang maligo hangga't hindi pa tapos ang kanilang clean-up operation habang mamamahagi naman ng mga flyers ang Metropolitan Manila Development

DISIPLINA, PAKIKIPAGTULUNGAN KAILANGAN

ment Authority (MMDA) sa mga namamasyal hinggil sa kakaharapin nilang kasong pagmumulta o pagkakaloob ng community service para makaiwas sa kulong sa oras na mahuling nagkakat sa baybayin.

Maging ang mga motorista ay binalaan ng Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau hinggil sa pagbabawal na pumarada sa paligid ng baywalk at hindi sila mangingiming batikin ang mga sasakyan at dalhin sa kanilang impounding area.

Kung tutuusin, ilang taon na ring nagdusa ang mamamayan sa mabahong amoy ng Manila Bay na tinagurian pang dagat ng basura pero dahil sa

pagmamahal at magmamalasakit sa kapaligiran at likas na yaman, ipinairal ng Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang kanyang paninindigang pulitikal at inutos sa DENR at iba pang ahensiya ng pamahalaan ang paglulunsad ng Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project.

Sa mensahe ngang tinanggap ng Pindot at Sundot sa mga mambabasa, pawang mga papuri at pasalamat ang kaniyang ipinaabot sa gobyerno, lalo na kay Pangulong Duterte.

Sa text nga ng isang reader na may numerong +629084073..., nagpasalamat siya sa Pangulo at idinalangin na magtagumpay aniya sa mis-

yon ang Pangulo dahil ka-hit hindi perpekto ay ginhawang malaki at tagumpay raw ito ng bayan.

Ayon naman sa isa pang reader, paborito raw niyang lumibot sa Luneta mula pa sa kanyang pagkabata pero nadismaya siya sa mabahong amoy sa tabing dagat kaya nawalan na siya ng gana pero dahil na-miss niya ang lugar, muli siyang lumibot at nakita ang mababagong pagbabago.

oOo
Maaring magpadala ng inyong puna at reklamo sa aking email address na jrreyes.0428@gmail.com o pwede rin magpadala ng mensahe sa 0998-2025510.



CIMATU: "PARA SA PAGBABAGO NG MANILA BAY, BAGUHIN ANG PAG-UUGALI AT NAKASANAYAN NG MGA TAO"

NANINIWALA si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na ang pagkakaroon ng "cultural change" ang kailangan upang iinisin at buhayin ang Manila Bay.

"If they ask me what is the most difficult part in rehabilitating Manila Bay, I would say it is to change our people's behavior and attitude," sabi ni Cimatu sa ginanap na flag ceremony sa tanggapan ng DENR sa Quezon City noong Lunes (Pebrero 4).

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang pagiging masigasig at kagustuhan ng maraming tao na maging parte sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay ang nagbibigay ng pag-asa sa kanya para maibalik ang dating ganda at linis ng naturang karagatan.

Nitong nakalipas na Enero 27, mahigit sa limang libong katao ang nakiisa sa malawakang cleanup activity sa kahabaan ng Roxas Boulevard sa Manila upang markahan ang paglulunsad ng tatlong bahaging rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay na sinusuportahan ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Naglaan si Pangulong Duterte ng mahigit P42 billion para sa implementasyon ng tatlong-taong proyekto na pagtutulong-tulungan ng 13 ahensiya ng gobyerno upang magampanan ang misyon sa tinawag na "Battle for Manila Bay".

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu, ang P6 billion o 14% ng alokasyon ay gagamitin sa cleanup activities kabilang na rito ang pagkakaroon ng Information at education campaign kung ano ang kahalagahan ng paglilinis sa Manila Bay.

Ang nalalabing P36 billion naman ay gugugulin para sa



ANG INYONG LINGKOD

DR. HILDA C. ONG

pagbibigay ng trabaho at livelihood sa mga apektadong residente, pagpapatayo ng town centers na mayroong recreational areas, markets, church, schools at hospitals. "Andyan na tayo sa difficult level, which is the cleanup. The more difficult part is the relocation of over 220,000 households. But the most difficult is to maintain and sustain its clean condition for the next generation," dagdag pa ng kalihim.

Aniya, pangunahing layunin na maibaba ang coliform level ng tubig sa Manila Bay at iba pang daluyan ng tubig na nakakonekta sa makasaysayang karagatan.

Bago ang paglulunsad ng Manila Bay rehabilitation ay umabot na sa 330 million MPN (most probable number) kada 100 milliliters ang level ng fecal coliform sa tubig dito, kumpara sa katanggap-tanggap na level na ayon

sa class SB ay 100 MPN/100ml lamang.

"There are about 47 esteros leading to Manila Bay and we will be cleaning all these esteros one at a time or simultaneously," ani pa ni Cimatu.

Sinabi pa ng dating hepe ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), ang tinatawag na "ground zero" o ang konsentrasyon ng rehabilitasyon ay sa area ng Manila Yacht Club hanggang sa United States Embassy kung saan ang solid at water pollutants ay nagtatagpo at ang fecal coliform count dito ay napakataas.



NOON pa man maganda na ang impresyon ko sa Manila Bay.

Sa tuwing mapapadaan ako sa Roxas Blvd., hindi ko talaga maiwasang hindi mapatingin sa baybaying dagat ng Maynila.

Natutuwa ako sa mga taong namamasyal na doon kahit na nababalutan ng basura ang dalampasigan nito, hindi ko lang nga pwedeng buksan ang bintana ng sasakyan para 'di ko maaamoy ang mala-kanal na amoy nito.

Pero kahit ganu'n din narayo pa rin ang lugar.

Dito sila nagpapaaraw

at nagpapahangin lalo na sa umaga.

Sa hapon naman, pasyalan para abangan ang paglubog ng araw.

Romantiko rin ang lugar para sa mga magsing-irog.

Perfect place din para sa mga pamilya at mga magbabarkada para magbonding.

Naalala ko pa nga nagkaroon kainan at mga Bar sa tabi nito noon, Bay Walk kung tawagin nila.

Kaya lang siguro nakadagdag sila ng dumi at basuri sa tubig dagat.

Kalaunan, tinanggal ang mga ito dahil sa ingal at 'di raw magandang tig-

nan.

Naging pasyalan na lang ang lugar.

Wala silang pakialam kahit na mala-dagat na basura na ang kasa-kasama nila sa dalampasigan.

Sa bawat paghampas ng alon at may kasama itong mga basura na naiipon sa paligid na mula sa ibat'ibang bayan na nasa paligid o katabi ng Manila Bay.

Saludo ako sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) at sa local na pamahalaan ng Maynila dahil naisipan nilang linisin ang Manila Bay.

Lalong lumutang ang ganda nito.

Sobrang namangha

nga ako roon sa mga photos sa Facebook, lalo na yong sunset.

Wow pang postcard talaga ang dating.

At ito namang mga kababayan ko, hindi makapag-antay na tuluyang malinis ang dagat.

Ipinagbabawal pa nga ang pagligo dito, pero matitigas ang ulo.

Sabik na sabik silang magswimming.

Anong sinabi ng Boracay sa dagsa ng mga tao sa Manila nitong mga nakaraang araw?

Hindi nila alintana ang mga sakit na makukuha nila sa maruming tubig dagat.

Sana hindi lang ningas kugon ang gating pamahalaan sa pagpapaganda at paglinis ng Manila Bay.

Sana tuloy-tuloy na ito

para naman, makita pa ito ng ating mga future generations.

Makapamasyal at makapag-swimming pa doon ang aking magiging mga apo.

Nagsimula na ang bukung liwayway sa Manila Bay.

Akalin n'yong, ilang Pangulo ng bansa na ang nagdaan, ngayon lang yata may nagtangkang linisin ang Manila Bay.

Sabi nga roon sa usap-usapan sa isang kanto, si Tatay Digong lang pala ang sagot para manumbalik ang kagandagan nito.

Siya rin daw ang nakapagpaayos at nakapagpalinis ng Boracay.

Sana pagkatapos ng Boracay at Manila Bay, Pasig River naman.

BUKANG LIWAYWAY SA MANILA BAY



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Manila Bay

WOMEN TALK



Dulce Reyes

ONE of the favorite places of Manila residents before the onset of World War II was Roxas Boulevard, formerly known as Dewey Boulevard.

If you browse through the internet and search for videos or photos of the then boulevard, you cannot but feel nostalgic.

It was a scenic, especially due to the famous sunset, clean and tree-lined boulevard.

After the reconstruction of Manila after the war, especially during the 50s and 60s even up to the 90s, it was still a favorite place, especially the Manila Bay area.

Those who had ailments like asthma were encourage to go and take a stroll along the parkway to savor the clean air and clean environment.

But then came pollution.

Due to poor planning as to the disposal of waste, garbage like plastic and the like, slowly but surely, Manila Bay became a smelly polluted place.

You may not notice it as you cruise by the bay but in some areas, you can see the proliferation of garbage and the smelly surroundings.

Where and how did garbage accu-

mulate in this area? It was not a sudden thing but it was something that happened through the years.

And when floods came, these trash would spillover to the boulevard, shocking Metro Manilans and yes, those tourists composed of balikbayans.

What a shame for us all.

And to think all these went viral for all the world to see. It has to take this administration to once and for all do something, like what they did for Boracay.

It was only a matter of time that this scandalous situation would result in closures and penalties.

How did it reach this terrible situation?

Why was the law not strictly implemented? All those establishments that were penalized are just the tip of the iceberg, so to speak. What about the other establishments?

How do they dispose of their waste? There should be no favoritism here. Every building, restaurant, residence along Manila Bay must contribute and do its part in cleaning up the area.

There is no turning back as the situation has already reached its worst. If volunteers are needed then by all means call for help.

We all have a stake in keeping this favored relaxation area once again pollution-free.

Add more trees.

Make a comprehensive solid waste management in the area and penalize heavily those who are not compliant.

We need to clean up the area and do it well with the proper solutions for establishments on how to dispose of their own trash.

Bring in the experts and implement their recommendations, once and for all.



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Erring LGUs

EVERYTIME a low-lying area goes under murky floodwaters after a heavy downpour, people always attribute it to clogged esteros, rivers, drainage canals, rivers, creeks and other waterways.

That's why the Filipino people cheered when the government issued show cause orders to many Local Government Units (LGUs) for failing to submit a 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP).

Of the 108 mayors issued the show cause orders, 78 are from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), according to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

DILG Secretary Eduardo Año signed the orders last Wednesday and the mayors are expected to receive the documents by early next week.

"We don't want another case of Manila Bay. These LGUs have, unfortunately, been accustomed to leniency," said Año, a former chief of the powerful Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The government, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other state agencies, has launched a massive clean-up of the historic and sun-kissed Manila Bay.

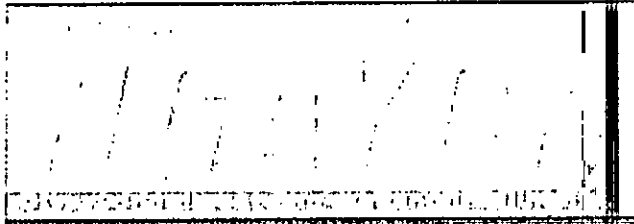
After years of neglect, the heavily-polluted Manila Bay is no longer fit for swimming, prompting government to fence off the area, a favorite destination of foreign and local tourists.

The erring mayors have to submit within 10 days from receipt of the orders a notarized explanation on why no administrative case be recommended against them for not submitting the SWMP.

The submission of SWMP is a requirement of Republic Act (RA) No. 9003, otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Law, according to Secretary Año.

We share the view of Año that concrete actions should be undertaken to prevent environmental degradation similar to the situation in Manila Bay.

The erring mayors have no choice but to submit and implement their solid waste management plans if they are to avoid facing legal actions.



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Editorial

Huwag maligo sa Manila Bay

MASYADONG mataas ang level ng coliform bacteria sa Manila Bay na kapag na-exposed sa tao ay magdudulot ng sakit. Ang fecal coliform ay bacteria na nagmula sa dumi ng tao at hayop. Galing ito sa mga poso negro ng establimento na nakapaligid sa Manila Bay. Mula sa poso negro, dadaloy ito sa mga estero at sapa at saka hahantong sa Manila Bay. Noong nakaraang linggo, apat na establimento na walang waste treatment plant ang ipinasara ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Una nang ipinasara ang Manila Zoo dahil lahat nang dumi ng mga hayop doon ay direktang bumabagsak sa isang estero at mula roon, tutungo sa Manila Bay.

Walang ibang hantungan ang dumi at mga basura kundi ang Manila Bay kaya naman napakarumi nito at delikadong pagliguan. Kamakalawa, nakita ang makapal na burak at mga basura sa ilalim ng dagat. Ang makapal na burak ang patunay na sobrang dami ng dumi na nalluwa sa makasaysayang dagat noon pa man. Mahabang panahon nang nasalaula ang Manila Bay at walang Presidente noon na nagpakita ng kamay na bakal para linisin ito. Tanging si Presidente Duterte ang nagpakita ng bangis para linisin ang Manila Bay gaya nang ginawa niya sa Boracay na sinalaula rin ng mga resort owners at walang disiplinang mamamayan.

Mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang pagtatapon ng basura o kahit ano pa mang dumi sa Manila Bay. Huhuhitin ang magtatapon at pagmumultahin. Bawal maligo sapagkat delikado sa kalusugan. Hindi pa maayos ang Manila Bay kaya nararapat na huwag hayaang makalusong sa dagat ang mamamayan.

Noong Martes, maraming tao ang naligo sa Manila Bay sa pag-aakalang malinis na ito. Wala silang kaalam-alam na basura lamang ang naalis sa paligid at hindi ang bacteria sa tubig. Puwedeng makainom ng tubig na may bacteria at humantong sa pagkaka-sakit. Posible ring magkaroon nang maluhang sakit sa bawat ang pagbababad sa Manila Bay.

Tama ang ginagawa ng Manila Police District (MPD) na bantayan ang dalampasigan ng Manila Bay para walang makalusong at makapaligo. Ngayong papalapit na ang summer, tiyak na marami na namang dadagsa rito para maligo. Dapat namang ipaliwanag pa ng DENR sa mga tao na matagal pa bago mapaliguan ang makasaysayang lawa dahil ubod pa ito ng dumi.



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Duterte lauded on Manila Bay resurrection

By Itchie G. Cabayan

COMEBACKING Manila Mayor Alfredo S. Lim yesterday lauded President Rodrigo Duterte for doing what initially seemed impossible – restoring Manila Bay to a clean promenade area once again.

Lim made the statement when he went jogging at the Baywalk area yesterday morning and then saw for himself the cleanliness of the place and the continued efforts of various groups both from the government and private sector to rid the area of all forms of trash that are constantly brought to the shores by waves.

On seeing Lim, who was clad in a white shirt and white shorts and rubber shoes, hundreds of strollers – young and old – and even groups of clean-up volunteers, rushed to his side for selfies, group picture-taking or simply to kiss or shake his hand or hug and kiss him, as they also vowed to support him in the coming polls. He is the mayoral bet of the ruling Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) of President Duterte.

Lim lauded the various groups that were in the area to participate in the voluntary clean-up of the bay, among them the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC) staff led by its executive director Penelope Belmonte and which, it was learned, had been doing so for the past couple of years, the MMDA, non-government organizations including the group "Angkas" composed of motorcycle riders, Toyota Makati staff, barangay offi-



FORMER Manila Mayor Fred Lim (middle, wearing shorts) with NPDC executive director Penelope Belmonte at the baywalk. Photo by JERRY S. TAN
 cials from various areas, student groups and even policemen.

The former mayor expressed awe at the high level of energy of those who volunteered to join the clean-up activities and praised them for their concern for the environment and for taking time out to contribute to government efforts.

"Not only did President Duterte succeed in making the Manila Bay clean again. He was also able to stir among the public volunteerism and awareness about how important it is to keep our surroundings and waters clean and safe," Lim said.

During his reign as mayor, he made sure that there was a regular, weekly clean-up at the Manila Bay area, that it was kept free from obstructions.



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Balita

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAMAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANGSA

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Kailangan sa Manila Bay rehab: Disiplina

Pagbabago sa kultura o ugali ang kailangan ng mga Pilipino kung desidido ang bawat isa na maibalik ang ganda at mapangalagaan ang Manila Bay.

Ito ang binigyang-diin ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu tungkol sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

"If they ask me what is the most difficult part in rehabilitating Manila Bay, I would say it is to change our people's behavior and attitude," giit ni Cimatu.

Gayunman, sinabi ng kalihim na ang nakikita niyang interes at kagustuhan ng maraming tao na makiisa sa

rehabilitasyon ay nagpapalunay na may pag-asa pa para sa pagbabago.

Nitong Enero 27, maligít 5,000 tao ang nakiisa sa massive cleanup activity sa Roxas Boulevard sa Maynila bilang panimula ng Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

Nasa P42 bilyon ang inilaan na pondo ng pamahalaan para sa proyekto, na pangungunahan ng 18 ahensiya ng pamahalaan.

Nakatuon ang programa sa pagpapababa ng coliform level sa lawa bago ito ganap na isailalim sa rehabilitasyon.

Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz



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 advokasiya 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, binigyan-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 Pilipino sa kasalukuyan at paghahanda sa darating panghenerasyon. Ayon sa balita, noong nakaraan pang buwan inaprubahan ng Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang reabilitasyon 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.



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EDITORIAL

CARTOON

10 FEB 2019

DATE

Kaisa ang Antipolo City sa MANILA BAYanihan

NAKIBAHAGI ang lokal na pamahalaan ng Antipolo sasabayang clean-up drive ng mga sapa, estero, at ilog napatungo sa Manila Bay noong Enero 27, 2019 bilang suporta sa National Launching of Manila Bay Rehabilitation ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pangunguna ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Tinatayang nasa 350 na tao ang dumalo sa programang ito. Nagtipon-ti-

pon ang mga volunteers sa Southville 9, Boso-boso River, Bgy. San Jose at Pinugay, Antipolo-Baras, Rizal.

Ayon kay Mayor Jun Ynares, suportado ng Antipolo City ang layunin ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Maynila at ng administrasyong Duterte na isailalim sa matinding rehabilitasyon ang Manila Bay kasunod ng matagumpay na pagsasaayos ng Boracay.

Naniniwala rin si Mayor Ynares na "bago natin linisin ang Manila Bay,

dapat din pagtuunan ng pansin ang mga ilog, estero at mga daluyan ng tubig na konektado dito."

Sa pamamagitan ng paglijinis ng mga ito ay nakakapag-ambag tayo sa layuning buhayin muli ang ganda ng Manila Bay," dagdag pa niya.

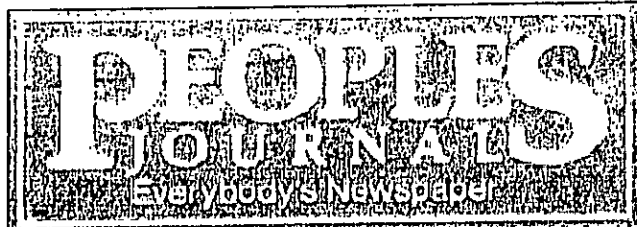
Sabay-sabay na nagpu- lot ng basura at nagtanggap ng burak ang mga kawani mula sa City Environment and Waste Management Office (CEWMO), Bgy. San Jose, Munisipalidad ng Baras, Provincial Environment and

Natural Resources (PENRO), DENR-Mines and Geo-sciences Bureau 4A (MGB), at ng Eastern Rizal Miners Association (ERMA).

Samantala, kinilala naman ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) ang lungsod ng Antipolo bilang Hall of Famer ng Manila Bayani Award noong 2018 dahil sa walang tigil nitong pagpapatupad ng mga pangkalkasang programa katulad ng Linis-Creek Program sa 16 na barangay sa lungsod.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Strategic Communication Initiatives Service



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Antipolo joins Manila Bay rehab

THE local government of Antipolo joined the clean-up drive of bodies of water leading to Manila Bay last January 27 as part of efforts to support the national launching of the Manila Bay rehabilitation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) led by Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Approximately 350 people joined the program. Volunteers converged in Southville 9, Boso-boso River, Brgy. San Jose and Pitugay, Antipolo-Baras, Rizal.

Mayor Jun Ynares said Antipolo City supports the advocacy of the city government of Manila and the Duterte administration to rehabilitate Manila Bay following the successful restoration of Boracay. Ynares believes that before Manila Bay is rehabilitated, the bodies of water leading to it should be cleaned first. He added that by joining the cleanup efforts, Antipolo and volunteers are contributing to the drive to restore the beauty of Manila Bay.

Employees from the City Environment and Waste Management Office (CEWMO), Barangay San Jose, Municipalidad ng Baras, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (PENRO), DENR-Mines and Geo-sciences Bureau 4A (MGB) and Eastern Rizal Miners Association (ERMA) helped pick up trash and declog the tributaries leading to Manila Bay.

Meanwhile, the Department of the Interior and Local Government cited the Antipolo government as a Hall of Famer at the Manila Bayani Award in 2019 because of its continuing efforts to implement environmental programs like the Lina-Creek Program in the city's 16 barangays.



Kaisa ang Antipolo City sa MANILA BAYanihan

Nakibahagi ang lokal na pamahalaan ng Antipolo sa sabayang clean-up drive ng mga sapa, estero, at ilog na patungo sa Manila Bay noong Enero 27, 2019 bilang suporta sa National Launching of Manila Rehabilitation ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pangunguna ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Tinatayang nasa 350 na tao ang dumalo sa programang ito. Nagtipon-tipon ang mga volunteer sa Southville 9, Boso-boso River, Brgy. San Jose at Pinugay, Antipolo-Baras, Rizal.

Ayon kay Mayor Jun Ynares, suportado ng Antipolo City ang

layunin ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Maynila at ng administrasyong Duterte na isailalim sa matinding rehabilitasyon ang Manila Bay kasunod ng matagumpay na pagsasa-ayos ng Boracay. Naniwala rin si Mayor Ynares na bago natin linisin ang Manila Bay, dapat din pagtuunan ng pansin ang mga ilog, estero at mga daluyan ng tubig na konektado dito. Dagdag pa niya, sa pamamagitan ng paglilinis ng mga ito ay nakakapag-ambag tayo sa layuning buhayin muli ang ganda ng Manila Bay.

Sabay-sabay na nagpulot ng basura at nagtanggap ng burak ang mga kawani mula sa City En-

vironment and Waste Management Office (CEWMO), Barangay San Jose, Munisipalidad ng Baras, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (PENRO), DENR-Mines and Geo-sciences Bureau 4A (MGB), at ng Eastern Rizal Miners Association (ERMA).

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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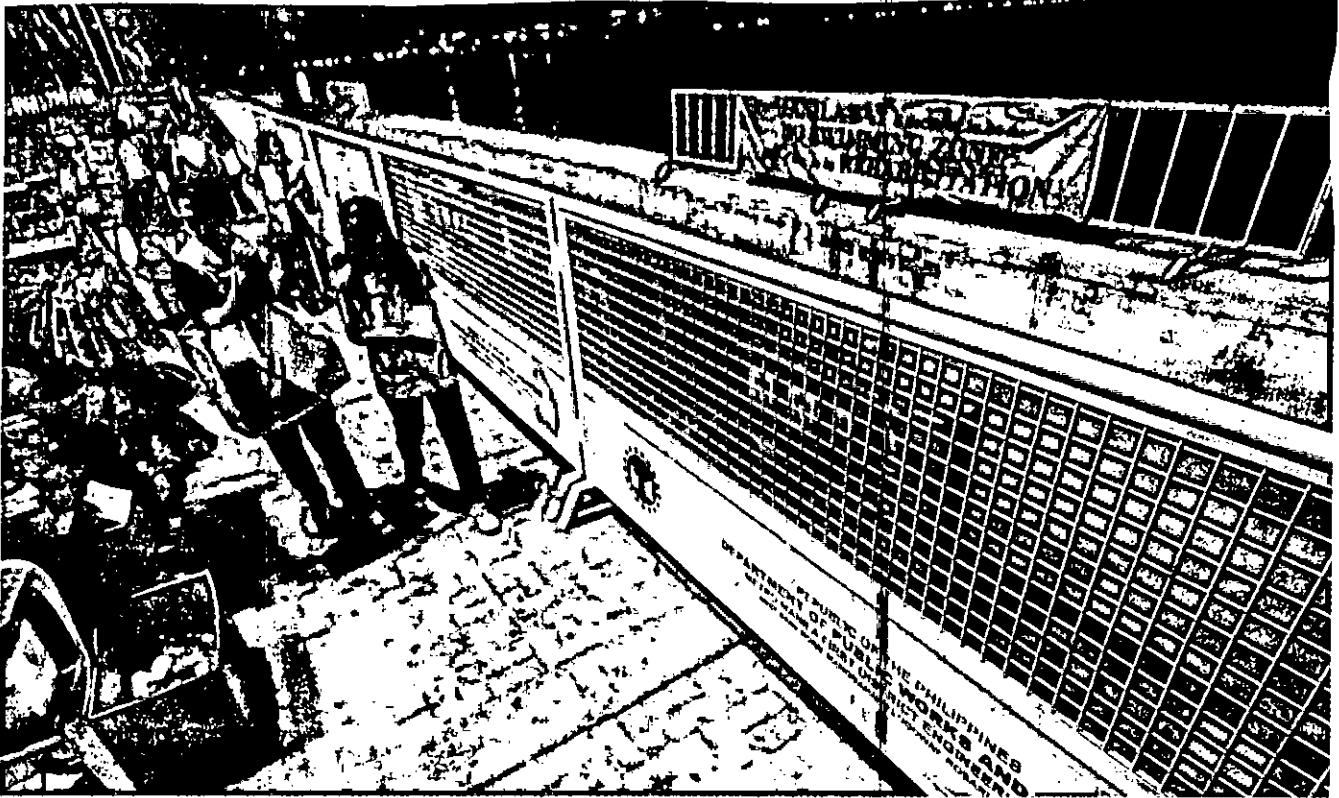
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OFF LIMITS - In an attempt to prevent the public from swimming in Manila Bay, barriers along the baywalk have been installed by the Department of Public Works and Highways amid the bay's rehabilitation activities. It was recently bared that swimming in Manila Bay is not safe due to the high levels of fecal coliform found in the waters. (Jansen Romero)



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**SWIMMING IN MANILA BAY IS TEMPORARILY PROHIBITED
THE BAY WATER IS DANGEROUS TO HUMAN CONTACT**

FOR A CLEANER BAY. Volunteers clean a portion of the Manila Bay on Saturday, days after authorities put up notices banning swimming in the polluted bay. PHOTO BY RENE H. DILAN



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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PRRD declares Boracay 'closed' to the rich

By GENALYN D. KABILING

The island of Boracay is now "closed to the rich people" amid the ongoing land reform program, President Duterte declared Friday.

The President said he has placed a portion of Boracay under land

reform so the island's natives could finally own properties. The land reform beneficiaries, he said, could sell their lands after 10 years to have a chance to earn millions and improve their lives.

The law prohibits agrarian reform beneficiaries to

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transfer awarded land during a 10-year holding period. Only transfers through hereditary succession or to the government or another beneficiary are allowed during the period.

"Wala na kayong makuha diyan sa Boracay na ano. It's closed to the rich people. What remains there, para sa tao lang," he said during the peace and order summit for barangay officials in Albay.

"Sinabi ko sa mga natibo, it's already worth millions. Now, 10 years from now, because you cannot sell it, let your great-grandchildren enjoy. Para naman 'yang katrigo, kadugo ninyo makahawak ng pera na milyon. And I hope by that time walà na tayo dito sa mundong ito, that will also have a chance to improve their lives," he said.

Duterte said he was not trying to be hero by implementing the land reform program in Boracay. "Hindi ako nagpapahero. It's not a matter of making myself smell good. I don't need it. Sinabi ko, I hate it," he added.

The President distributed agricultural lands last November to indigenous peoples and farmers of Aklan following the reopening of the Boracay. The world-famous island resort was shut down for six months last year to pave the way for massive rehabilitation amid pollution woes.

Duterte advised the new landowners to cultivate the land and reap the

benefits. He said they could sell their properties after the 10-year prohibition to boost their income.

Mariano blamed over slow land conversion

Meanwhile, President Duterte has cleared Agrarian Reform Secretary John Castriciones of accountability and instead blamed his predecessor, former Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael Mariano for the slow pace of land conversion cases in the country.

The President, upset with the delays in the processing of land conversion applications due to red tape and corruption, said Castriciones was not at fault since he was only appointed last year.

"Meron balita diyan nag-walkout ako. Kasi may mga dumating sa aking reklamo. Sabi, pending diyan sa conversion sa DAR. Hindi kasalahan - bago lang ito si Castriciones, eh. 'Yung si Mariano. Two years na [There was news about my walkout because a complaint reached my desk. It has been pending in the DAR conversion office for two years. It was not the fault of, Castriciones is just new. It was Mariano]," he said during the peace and order summit for barangay officials in Albay, confirming reports that he walked out of the Cabinet meeting Wednesday.

Also during the said Cabinet meeting, the President said he was dismayed

to find out that a project has been pending before the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) for 25 years.

He said when officials presented the long list of requirements needed for land conversion, he decided to leave the Cabinet meeting and let Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea preside.

"Sabi ko kay Medialdea, sila kahapon, kayo na lang magusap diyan [I told Medialdea talk among yourselves] because the way that you are presenting a graft-free rules and regulations, it ain't nothing but crafted really, not by them, itong sabi kong gobyerno na wala itong katapusan," an exasperated Duterte said.

"Even if we elect five leaders or five-one guy and let him handle government for five terms, wala talagang mangyari [nothing will happen]," he said.

Duterte said he asked Castriciones for an update of the requirements for land conversion. The list includes several clearances from NEDA, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, other agencies and concerned local government unit. "Dalawang pages puro clearance [Two pages all seeking clearances]," he lamented.

He maintained that corruption must be eradicated to help promote the country's progress. "This country can hardly move if there is no law and order. Second, this country will be lost if graft and corruption will continue," he said.



Enforcing the laws

The Ecological Solid Waste Management Law or Republic Act

EDITORIAL

9003 requires provincial, city and municipal governments to draw up and submit long-term plans for garbage management. Under RA 9003, the reports are supposed to be submitted for approval to the National Solid Waste Management Commission, a multi-agency body under the Office of the President.

RA 9003 was signed into law by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo less than a week after she assumed the presidency in January 2001. Was the law deliberately ignored? Or did the tumultuous period after Arroyo's installation at Malacañang through people power make certain local government units overlook the new law? Eighteen years later, over 100 LGUs have yet to submit their solid waste management plans.

Last Thursday, the Department of the Interior and Local Government ordered 108 city and municipal mayors to submit notarized explanations on why they should not face administrative charges for failure to comply with RA 9003. The DILG issued the show-cause orders amid the ongoing cleanup of Manila Bay and surrounding waterways as well as the continuing rehabilitation of Boracay. DILG officials said

the mayors are from across the country, but 78 of them are from

the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

In fact there are other laws involving public services that have been ignored by local government officials, from provincial governors to mayors and barangay personnel. They are tasked by law, for example, to prevent squatting, whether on public or private property. Yet a number of local officials even encourage squatting, to create a patronage base that they can count on for votes.

In certain areas, local officials also lead in blatantly ignoring environmental laws to benefit their personal or partisan interests. They allow the indiscriminate reclamation of lakes and seas and the proliferation of fish pens even if the projects cause massive flooding and threaten aquatic resources. Killer landslides have been caused by deforestation that was allowed or tolerated by local officials.

The DILG has called the attention of local executives to the law on solid waste management. The department should not stop there; many other laws, if fully and effectively enforced by local officials, would dramatically improve governance and the delivery of basic services.



EDITORIAL

Erring LGUs

EVERY time a low-lying area goes under murky floodwaters after a heavy downpour, people always attribute it to clogged esteros, rivers, drainage canals, rivers, creeks and other waterways.

That's why the Filipino people cheered when the government issued show-cause orders to many local government units (LGUs) for failing to submit a 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP).

Of the 108 mayors issued the show-cause orders, 78 are from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), according to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

DILG Secretary Eduardo Año signed the orders last Wednesday and the mayors are expected to receive the documents by early next week.

"We don't want another case of Manila Bay. These LGUs have, unfortunately, been accustomed to leniency," said Año, a former chief of the powerful Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The government, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other state agencies, has launched a massive clean-up of the historic and sun-kissed Manila Bay.

After years of neglect, the heavily-polluted Manila Bay is no longer fit for swimming, prompting government to fence off the area, a favorite destination of foreign and local tourists.

The erring mayors have to submit within 10 days from receipt of the orders a notarized explanation on why no administrative case be recommended against them for not submitting the SWMP.

The submission of SWMP is a requirement of Republic Act (RA) No. 9003, otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Law, according to Secretary Año.

We share the view of Año that concrete actions should be undertaken to prevent environmental degradation similar to the situation in Manila Bay.

The erring mayors have no choice but to submit and implement their solid waste management plans if they are to avoid facing legal actions.



DENR TELLS PUBLIC

Spare the trees of ads

If the offender is a corporation, partnership or association, the penalty shall be imposed upon the officer or officers thereof responsible for the offence

By **Kuhlin Ceslie Gacula**

As the official campaign period for the 2019 national and local midterm elections nears, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) warned that posting campaign materials on trees is strictly prohibited.

In compliance with Republic Act 3571 or the "An Act to Prohibit the Cutting, Destroying or Injuring of Planted or Growing Trees, Flowering Plants and Shrubs or Plants of Scenic Value along Public Roads, in Plazas, Parks, School Premises or Any Other Public Ground," DENR is urging the public to stop posting campaign materials, advertisements and announcements on trees by using nails which could potentially damage them.

Anyone caught violating the said law will be subjected to punishment.

Former President Ferdinand Marcos' Presidential Decree 953 or "Requiring the Planting of Trees in Certain Places and Penalizing Unauthorized Cutting, Destruction, Damaging and Injuring of Certain Trees, Plants and Vegetation," states that "any person who cuts, destroys, damages or injures, naturally growing or planted trees of any kind, flowering or ornamental plants and shrubs, or plants of scenic, aesthetic and ecological values, along public roads, in plazas, parks other than national parks, school premises or in any other public ground or place, or on banks of rivers or creeks, or along roads in land subdivisions or areas therein for the common use of the owners of lots therein, or any species of vegetation or forest cover found therein shall, be punished with imprisonment for not less than six months and not more than two years, or a fine of not less than five hundred pesos and not more than five thousand pesos, or with both such imprisonment and fine at the discretion of the court."

Anyone caught violating the said law will be subjected to punishment.

The only exceptions is when the cutting, destroying, damaging or injuring is necessary for public safety or the pruning thereof is necessary to enhance beauty, and only upon the approval of the duly authorized representative of the head of agency or political subdivision having jurisdiction therein, or of the Director of Forest Development in the case of trees on banks of rivers and creeks, or of the owner of the land subdivision in the case of trees along roads and in other areas therein for the common use of owners of lots therein.

"If the offender is a corporation, partnership or association, the penalty shall be imposed upon the officer or officers thereof responsible for the offence, and if such officer or officers are aliens, in addition to the penalty herein prescribed, he or they shall be deported without further proceedings before the Commission on Immigration and Deportation," the decree further states.

"Nothing in this Decree shall prevent the cancellation of a license agreement, lease, license or permit from the Government if such cancellation is prescribed therein or in Government regulations for such offense," it added.

DENR is encouraging the public to be more observant and familiar with actions prohibited during the election campaign period especially in posting tarpaulins and campaign advertisements.

Meanwhile, the DENR will be working together with the Department of Education (DepEd) in the promotion of planting native trees in public schools nationwide.

DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas Leones said the School in a Garden Project or SIGA aims to teach children about the importance of trees and forests and help them become an environmentally conscious generation.

"We hope that through the SIGA program, we are able to instill in the young minds how significant forests are to their lives, so that the heritage of environmental conservation continues," Leones said.

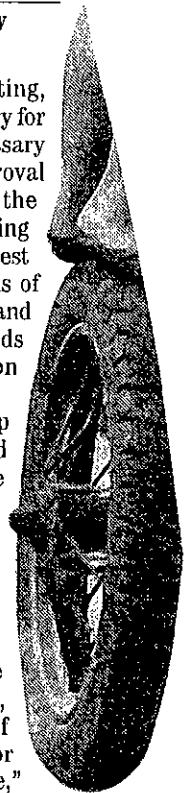
Leones said the DENR and DepEd will soon sign a memorandum of agreement to formalize their partnership.

The SIGA program is a revival of a past DepEd project that

and fire trees, which are colorful and flowering all-year round.

The trees, according to DepEd Undersecretary Alain Pascua, will be planted not only within school campuses, but also in neighboring areas.

enabled students to plant medium-sized flowering trees similar to the concept of cherry blossoms in Japan. It aims to showcase trees that are endemic to the Philippines, such as banaba





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PUBLIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Mariano blamed for land conversion delays

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has blamed former Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael Mariano for the backlog and delays in the conversion of land.

Duterte cleared Agrarian Reform Secretary John Castricones of any accountability.

Duterte, who has complained of the tedious process for land use conversion cases, blew his top and stormed out of a Cabinet meeting last week over a case that has been pending for two years at the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

"*Meron balita diyang nag-walk-out ako. Kasi may mga dumating sa aking reklamo. Sabi; pending diyang sa conversion sa DAR. Hindi*

kasalanan; bago lang ito si Castricones eh. Yung si Mariano. Two years na (There was news about my walkout because a complaint reached my desk. It has been pending in the DAR for two years. It was not the fault of Castricones; he is new. It was Mariano)," the President said in his speech during the peace and order summit for *barangay* (village) officials in Legazpi City, Albay on Friday night.

Mariano was one of several leftists appointed by Duterte in 2016. The Commission on Appoint-

ments, however, rejected his appointment as DAR chief in 2017.

Duterte said the red tape involving land use conversion cases frustrated him since it was an opportunity for corruption.

He said requirements for land conversion included several clearances from the National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, other agencies and concerned local government units.

"Clearance, clearance, clearance, about 30 clearances. There is always a table there for corruption," the President said.

"This country can hardly move if there is no law and order. Second, this country will be lost if graft and corruption will continue," he added.

In a press briefing on Friday,

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alex Nograles said the DAR committed to resolve land use conversion requests as fast as possible, but the agency also relayed concerns about the process of getting certifications from other government agencies.

He said the DAR and several other government agencies would craft a memorandum that would shorten the application period from two to three years to 30 days.

"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.



NEW TECH HELPS CLEAN SIARGAO'S WASTEWATER

THE Philippines is known for its white-sand beaches and turquoise lagoons. It is home to renowned surf spots, one of which is the famous "Cloud 9" waves in General Luna, Siargao. However, beach resorts on the island have been facing a pressing issue on wastewater treatment, which has an effect on the sustainability of Siargao's tourism.

"The previous septic tanks of the resort have a bottomless design, so the wastewater drains straight into the sea. The contamination of the water is one of the biggest problems of resorts on the island," Editha Gonzales, former general manager of Travellers Pension House and Beach Resort in General Luna, Siargao, said in mixed Filipino and English.

Cleaning up wastewater has been a real challenge and poses a serious environmental threat. To address this concern, the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) supported a research project to develop a wastewater cleanup technology.

The Eco-Friendly Septic System, or Eco-Sep, is a self-sustaining, portable and movable wastewater-treatment system that uses an

innovative combination of bio-stimulation and filtration enhanced with organominerals, a technology developed by Dr. Merlinda Patencia through the support of DOST-PCIEERD.

The Eco-Sep's Vigormin Organo Mineral (VIOM) is an odorless, white powder composed of various organominerals that has the capability to neutralize the odor and mucky color in wastewater or septic water.

Its application significantly improves water quality based on the effluents standards set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Following the successful tests of Eco-Sep in the sewerage systems of the bunkers of Super typhoon Yolanda survivors in Palo, Leyte, in 2013 and on materials-recovery facilities (MRFs), hotels, jetty ports and households in Boracay in 2015, DOST Caraga installed and field-tested Eco-Sep in selected tourism areas and environmentally compromised areas through a DOST-PCIEERD-funded project, titled "Field Testing of Eco-Friendly Septic System for the Tourism Sector in Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte," Project FRESH.

"Since Eco-Sep was installed here at the resort we have a proper drainage for wastewater.



TRAVELLERS Pension House and Beach Resort in General Luna, Surigao del Norte TRAVELLERS BEACH RESORT

We use it watering the plants. It has no odor and clean. We thank the DOST for making us a recipient of Eco-Sep," Gonzales said.

She also thanked the DOST for providing the resort one-year supply of VIOM. She noted that after a year of full implementation of the improved sewerage system through Eco-Sep, their resort is proud to have met the effluent standards set by DENR.

Enjoining the jump-start, Sugba Lagoon in the municipality of del Carmen also on Siargao Island will also be launching its Eco-Sep on February 10.

Realizing the positive outcome, other hotels, beach resorts and local government

units on the island have inquired and expressed adopting Eco-Sep.

Dr. Enrico Paringit, executive director of DOST-PCIEERD, expressed assurance that such projects in the future will continually be supported.

"We will continue to provide solutions to societal problems through strategic research and development," he said.

Paringit said that the DOST-PCIEERD will take the lead in conducting collaborative efforts to maintain and protect the environment and the country's ecotourism through science and technology interventions. **S&T Media Service**