

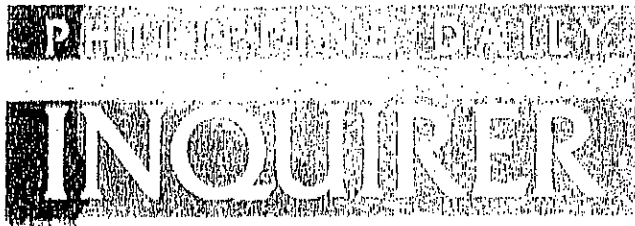
DATE : 16 FEB 2019

DAY : Saturday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



RESORT REMOVES STRUCTURE ON ROCK FORMATION AMID DENR CRACKDOWN

By **Gabriel Cardinoza**
@gabrielcardinozaINQ

BOLINAO, PANGASINAN— The management of a beach resort here voluntarily dismantled a concrete gazebo that it illegally built on top of a rock formation following a warning it received from local environment officials.

Angelo Reyes, pollution con-

trol officer of Treasures of Bolinao Beach Resort at Barangay Patar here, said they had taken down the structure to comply with the notice of violation issued to them last year.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the Ilocos region said the resort's gazebo and "floating" bridge on top of a rock formation were illegal

structures.

Notices of violation

The beach resort was one of the 811 establishments, including government buildings, that were issued with similar notices in May last year for building structures inside foreshore areas and no-build (salvage) zones in this town.

Patar, a coastal village facing

the West Philippine Sea, boasts of a long stretch of white sand and coral line beaches, which, some tourists say, are better than those found at Boracay in Aklan province.

Resort workers took down the gazebo hours before Carlito Tuballa, DENR regional director, and his team arrived to start the dismantling.

DENR records showed that

some 2,090 notices of violations were served in different areas in the Ilocos region, with 491 issued in San Fabian town, 677 in Alaminos City, and in San Juan town in La Union and Pagudpud town in Ilocos Norte.

Deferred

But the demolition of the floating bridge was deferred after the resort owner submitted

to the DENR a pleading justifying its construction.

"When the bridge was built 20 years ago, there were no regulations yet about building structures on coral rocks," Reyes said.

The beach resort was one of those that pioneered tourism in this town and the bridge was once the "landmark of Bolinao tourism," he said. INQ



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LONG-TERM PROGRAM

MWSS URGES MASTERPLAN FOR CLEANUP, REHABILITATION OF MANILA BAY

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has called for the crafting of a masterplan for Manila Bay not only to clean up the polluted bay but also to ensure that sewerage and wastewater problems are addressed over the long term.

The MWSS also directed its two concessionaires, Manila Water and Maynilad Water, to reengineer and fast-track their

wastewater treatment projects to arrest the deterioration of the waters of Manila Bay.

"We welcome all efforts of collaboration to clean up and rehabilitate Manila Bay. However, I strongly recommend that a masterplan, which should have been done long time ago, is needed right now to properly address the sewerage and waste problems in Mega Manila," said MWSS adminis-

trator Reynaldo Velasco.

He noted that Manila Water follows a used water master plan as approved by the MWSS while Maynilad has its roadmap to attain 100-percent sewerage coverage also by 2037.

Shared responsibility

"The rehabilitation of Manila Bay waters is a shared responsibility and does not depend only on the two water con-

cessionaires," Velasco added.

Local government units and ordinary citizens have to do their share, he said.

Maynilad has invested P23.3 billion in wastewater projects since 2007.

By 2020, its sewerage coverage will increase to 26 percent.

On the other hand, Manila Water expects its sewerage coverage to increase to 22 percent by 2022.



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Manila Water denies it's not addressing pollution

By Rio N. Araja

EAST zone Manila Water Co. Inc. on Friday denied allegation it was not helping to address pollution at Manila Bay.

At a roundtable discussion in Quezon City, Jeric Sevilla, Corporate Strategic Affairs head, said representatives of the water firm were not given the chance to speak well about its efforts to help in the rehabilitation effort to save Manila Bay during a Senate inquiry.

Members of the House of Representatives, including former Manila mayor and Buhay Rep. Josefito Atienza, hit Maynilad Water Services Inc. and the Ayala-led Manila Water for failure to deliver sewage treatment facilities that were supposed to be built and operated a long time ago.

According to Sevilla, the company has "consistently intensified its campaign toward proper wastewater management" in its coverage area through its used water master plan.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources kicked off the P47-billion cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay on Jan. 27.

Secretary Roy Cimatu called on the cooperation and participation of the stakeholders, including the two water concessionaires of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Sevilla said Manila Water would invest P115 billion in capital expenditure for its used water master plan to ensure full sewerage service coverage by 2037.

He said they had invested P33 billion in wastewater infrastructure from 1997 to 2018.



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LGUs told: Clean up rivers and estuaries

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu called on the 178 city and municipal mayors to do their part in the Manila Bay rehabilitation by cleaning up the rivers and estuaries leading to the heavily polluted body of water.

Cimatu said these esteros have to be cleaned up even if it takes one or two or three years as part of the program to bring Manila Bay to its old form.

"We have to clean all 47 esteros and all the riv-

ers that contribute to the pollution of Manila Bay. Walang maiiwan, iisa-isahin natin," Cimatu said during the Local Executives' Forum on the Ma-

nila Bay Cleanup, Rehabilitation and Preservation Program held in Manila last Monday.

The DENR chief cited Republic Act 9003 or the

Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 which states that LGUs are primarily responsible for waste segregation and disposal. Joel dela Torre



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95 LGUs lumabag sa environmental laws ng Manila Bay – DILG

BINALAAN ni Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Sec. Eduardo Año ang mga local government units (LGUs) na hindi makikipag-cooperate sa kagawaran sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Ayon kay Año, sasampahan nila ng kaso sa Ombudsman ang mga alkaldeng hindi makikipagtulungan.

Batay sa isinagawang assessment ng DILG, nasa 95 LGUs o 53 percent sa 178 LGUs ang tinukoy na lumabag sa environmental laws kung saan ito ay mula sa Metro Manila, Regions III, IV-A na nakakasakop sa Manila Bay Watershed Area.

Sinabi ng kalihim na base sa 2018 Regional Inter-Agency Committee table assessments and on-site inspections, ang naturang mga LGUs ay hindi tumatalima sa mga umiiral na environmental laws.

Pero tiniyak naman ng opisyal na 16 dito ay may malalang problema na siyang prayoridad para tulungan.

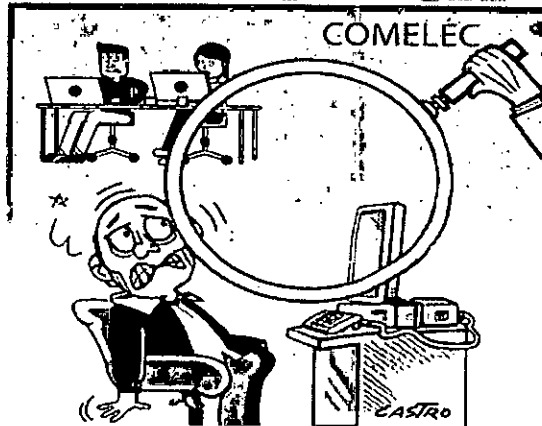
Kaugnay nito, sa panayam ng Bombo Radyo kay DILG A Sec. Jonathan Malaya, kaniyang tutulungan ang mga LGUs lalo na ang mga kulang sa resources.

Pinag-aaralan narin umano ng DILG na bumuo ng Manila Bay Rehabilitation Task Force na binubuo ng iba't ibang task groups gaya ng Law Enforcement and Security Task Group; Barangay Clean-up and Enforcement Task Group; Informal Settler Families Relocation Task Group; LGU Supervision and Capacity Development Task Group; and Inspection and Permit Issuance Task Group.

Sinabi ni Malaya na mahigpit nilang imonitor ang mga LGUs lalo na sa Compliance Assessment tool para sa compliance sa Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, the Clean Water Act, the Urban Development and Housing Act, the Water Code, and other related environmental laws.



Editorial



Sulat kay Editor

'Di lang Manila Bay ang i-rehab

Dear Abante,

Sinabi na ni DENR undersecretary na kailangan na ng agarang rehabilitasyon sa Tullahan River. Kinakailangan na ng malawakang clean-up at dredging dahil sa dami na ng basura sa ilalim ng ilog. Ang Tullahan River ay karugtong ng Manila Bay, kaya tiyak na ang basura na inaanod sa Tullahan ay siguradong babagsak sa Manila Bay.

Kailangan linisin ang pinakapuno, hindi iyong nakikita lamang dahil hindi rin magtatagal ay lalabas din ang tunay nitong anyo. Sana ay matuto ring maging ang mga namasyal sa Manila Bay na huwag nang magkalat at huwag maliligo dito dahil hindi pa safe ang tubig ng Manila Bay para liguan, lalo na sa mga bata. Kung hindi maiwasan ang mga ito, marapat na isarado muna sa publiko ang Manila Bay sa Roxas Boulevard para maiwasan ang insidente katulad ng pagkalunod ng isang bata.

Malaki na nga ang pinagbago ng Manila Bay ngunit kulang pa ito para masabing puwede ng lumangoy ulit ang mga tao dito. Napakataas pa rin ng coliform level ng tubig sa Manila Bay, na nakakabahala pa rin para sa kalusugan na gustong sumuong dito. Dapat ay pinasara muna ang Manila Bay at saka lamang buksan pag mayroong clean up drive.

Marami na ulit ang bumibisita ngunit hindi naman marunong dumisiplina sa sarili dahil nagtatapon pa rin sila ng basura. Mayroong nabalita na natiketan ang isang lalake dahil sa pagtatapon nito ng basura sa Manila Bay. Sana ay higgitan ang mga taong pupunta sa Manila Bay para sa tuloy-tuloy ang paglinis nito.

Ariana Davidson
Makati City



Cleaning up Manila Bay

Manila Bay was considered one of the world's greatest harbors as it allowed trading between the natives of Manila and merchants from other countries. It was a haven for boat enthusiasts, couples, and those who seek some rest and recreation. It was also the backdrop for historic Battles of La Naval de Manila and Manila Bay.

The modernization of the areas surrounding Manila Bay, however, took its toll on its calm and clean waters. Esquire Magazine earlier reported that in 2018, some 80 tons of garbage washed ashore following days of rain. Massive amounts of wastewater infiltrated the bay, with fecal coliform level at 330 million for every 100 milliliters.

The acceptable level is 100 million for 100 ml for recreational water, which is for bathing, swimming, and fishing.

In a statement, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said that an interagency task force would be created to bring down said coliform level to make the bay suitable for swimming by De-

cember 2019 under its P47-billion Manila Bay Action Plan.

Said force would consist of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine National Police (PNP) Maritime Group, Philippine Ports Authority, Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Manila Waters Sewerage System, and the Local Water Utilities Administration.

In the meantime, government employees, volunteers, and stakeholders participated in cleaning the bay and its connecting rivers and waterways. President Duterte meanwhile directed owners of nearby hotels to install water treatment systems for proper waste disposal or face closure.

"If there are no tourists, then so be it. We will not die," said Duterte in a speech during this year's Barangay Summit on Peace. "You do something about your waste there or otherwise I will close it. That's for sure."

Efforts to rehabilitate the bay came a decade after the Supreme Court directed petitioners—government agencies

forms of contact recreation, in the case of MMDA, et al. v. Concerned Residents of Manila Bay.

In this case, the Supreme Court declared that the petitioners' respective charters and enabling statutes and pertinent laws enjoin them to perform certain functions relating directly or indirectly to the clean-up, rehabilitation, protection and preservation of the bay. They are prohibited from choosing not to exercise these functions.

Moreover, Section 17 of the Environment Code, as amended, states that where the quality of water has deteriorated to a degree where its state will adversely affect its best usage, the government agencies concerned shall take such measures as may be necessary to upgrade the quality of such water to meet the prescribed water quality standards.

In this regard, Section 20 of the Environment Code, as amended, directs DENR, in coordination with other government agencies, to facilitate containment, removal and clean-up

operations, at the expense of the persons polluting the bay.

Meanwhile, Article 51 of the Water Code prohibits the building of structures within a zone of three meters in urban areas, 20 meters in agricultural areas, and 40 meters in forest areas.

Accordingly, the DILG and the concerned local government units (LGU) must likewise ensure that the non-complying industrial establishments set up the necessary wastewater treatment facilities and infrastructure to prevent their industrial discharge, within a reasonable period. Non-complying establishments will either be shut down or directed to transfer their operations.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court observed that nearby establishments and informal settlers rampantly and repeatedly violated the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act by littering, dumping waste matters in roads, canals, esteros and other public places, operating open dumps, and openly burning solid waste, among others.



PROPERTY RULES

SARA MAE D. MAWIS

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), MMDA, PCG, PNP Maritime Group, then-Department of Education, Culture, and Sports, Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Budget and Management, and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)—to clean up, rehabilitate and restore the bay, and to maintain it fit for swimming, skin diving and other

Likewise, the pollution of the bay and dumping of petroleum, radioactive, and otherwise noxious substances, and disposal of infectious wastes from vessels violate pertinent provisions of Republic Act Nos. 9275 and 8550.

"The cleanup and/or restoration of 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," declared the Supreme Court in the MMDA case. "It is imperative that the wastes and contaminants found in the rivers, inland bays, and other bodies of water be stopped from reaching the Manila Bay."

Thus, the Supreme Court issued against petitioners a "continuing mandamus," in which under extraordinary circumstances, it may issue directives with the end in view of ensuring that its decision would not be set to naught by administrative inaction or indifference.



Medium Rare

Jullie Y. Daza

Bay watch

AS Ted Failon put it, we're cleaning up Manila Bay now for future reclamation?

If a survey were to be taken, how many percent would approve of the cleanup? 101 percent! How many would want their bay reduced by reclamation? Zero or below-zero?

It's a case of serendipity that the news of hundreds of volunteers working to rescue a slice of Manila's precious scenery was just what the nation needed to wake up to the possibility of a further degradation of a true icon.

Bobby Joseph, Manila Yacht Club commodore and the best tourism secretary we will never have, trusts in the "militarization" policy of Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, a man of few words, when he declares that there won't be any reclaiming, at least not for now. Militarization, in this sense, means a reprise of the Boracay rehab where soldiers and police took charge of Mission Almost Impossible and closed down the cesspool in paradise for six months to restore it to its near-pristine beauty. Then Tourism secretary Wanda Teo, who blew the whistle on the decay of Boracay, described General Cimatu as "matapang" (fierce)

and results-oriented.

To imagine that the Manila Bay re-do is but a reprise of Boracay is a big mistake. Commodore Joseph: "Boracay is only one percent of Manila Bay's problems. Bulacan, Pampanga, Cavite and Laguna all discharge their wastes into the bay!" Boracay was off limits for 180 days; Manila Bay needs 3,650 days to be great again, funded in its first year by P4.7 billion that DENR will source from fines and penalties paid over the years. "No cash out."

The Commodore's in his element when he talks about the bay (granting, no conversion of any of its 22,000 ha into 22 reclamation projects) as a shelter for the club's marina and how it's a second home to young men who are being trained to sail here and abroad, where the pay is \$2,000 to \$3,000. As someone with businesses rooted in tours and travel, wine, restaurants, even a wine museum, he is at the right time and place. In May, Manila will host the centenary of Manila Rotary Club, the oldest in Asia. Rotarian Bobby expects 5,000 members from the Seven Seas to come, fall in love with Manila, the bay and its sunset.



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Ang aming pananaw...

MALAKING PAPEL NG LGUs SA MANILA BAY REHAB

NAGPATAWAG ng pulong ang Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) nitong Lunes sa mga alkalde ng Metro Manila at iba pang bayan at lungsod sa mga probinsiya sa paligid ng Manila Bay, bilang bahagi ng kabuuang pagsisikap na malinis ito makalipas ang mahigit 11 taong kawalang aksiyon na nauwi sa kasalukuyan nitong kalagayan.

Ayon kay DILG Secretary Eduardo Año, nasa 178 alkalde ang inimitahan sa pagpupulong na paunang pagsisikap ng kagawaran upang suportahan ang rehabilitation program ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), sa pamumuno ni Secretary Roy Cimatu. Ngunit apat sa mga alkalde ng Metro Manila ang hindi dumalo, kasama ang iba pa sa 178 alkalde ng mga bayan sa paligid ng Manila Bay – sa Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, at Cavite.

Sumasalamin ang kanilang pagliban sa unang pulong sa matagal nang pagpabay sa Manila Bay. Kapag nagpatuloy ang ganitong gawi ng mga alkalde, lalo na ang mga nasa Metro Manila, ang kabuuang pagsisikap na malinis ang Manila Bay ay nahaharap sa pagsubok.

Mahalaga ang suporta ng mga alkalde upang mapigilan ang polusyon sa Manila Bay. Sinimulan na ng DENR at iba pang national government agencies ang kampanya sa pagpapasara sa Manila Zoo at ilang kainan at hotel sa pagdiretso ng kanilang mga dumi sa Manila Bay, ang operation of treatment na inihanda ng dalawang water utilities ng Metro Manila, at ang pagbuo ng plano na paalisin ang daan-daang pamilya mula sa kasalukuyan nilang kinalalagyan sa kahabaan ng mga ilog.

Ngunit kinakailangang makiisa ng lahat ng lungsod at bayan na nasasaklaw ng Manila Bay para malutas ang dambuhalang problema at masunod ang utos ng Supreme Court na nagdesisyon noong 2008.

Sinabi ni Cimatu na tatagal ng pitong taon bago matapos ang proyekto. Kinakailangang pag-aralan ang maraming proyekto sa iba't ibang bahagi ng pagpapalano na maaaring palitan, gaya ng 10 mungkahing reclamation projects sa look.

Ngunit posibleng ang pinakamalaking papel ay gagampanan ng local government units sa pangunguna ng mga alkalde ng mga lungsod at bayan na pangunahing pinagmumulan ng polusyon na sumira sa Manila Bay.



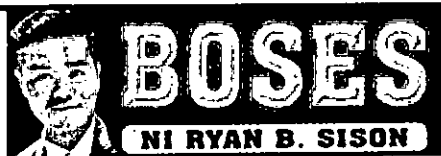
PASAWAY, ganito maihahambing ang 95 local government units (LGUs) sa mga lugar na malapit sa Manila Bay watershed area dahil ayon sa Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), bigo ang mga itong sumunod sa environmental laws na isa sa mga dahilan kaya napabayaang ang nasabing lugar.

Matatandaang, noon ay napakaraming basura at sobrang itim ng tubig ng Manila Bay, pero ngayon, nagkakaroon na ito ng buhangin at natanggal na ang mga basura sa tulong ng mga boluntaryong ahensiya, estudyante at mamamayan.

Gayunman, ayon kay DILG Secretary Eduardo Año, ang naturang bilang ng mga lungsod at bayan ay 53 porsiyento ng kabuuang 178 LGUs sa Metro Manila, Central Luzon at Calabarzon.

Aniya, sa pagsusuri ng DILG, 16 na bayan at lungsod na inay pinakamalalang problema ang prayoridad na tulungan ng ahensiya para maireresolba ang environmental problems ng mga ito.

Samantala, kahit hindi pinangalanan ang mga pasaway na LGU, hiling natin na matuto na sila at pangalagaan na sana



Para sa matagumpay na resulta ng rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay; pakikipagtulungan ng LGUs, kailangan!

nila ang kapaligiran hindi lang para sa ikagaganda ng kalikasan kundi maging sa ikabubuti ng ating kalusugan, in short, huwag maging makasarili!

Gayundin, nagbabala ang kalihim sa mga LGU na kung hindi makikipagtulungan sa rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay ay posibleng makasuhan o magkaroon ng disciplinary action mula sa pangulo.

Kaya ang panawagan natin para sa lahat, bukod sa ginagampanan natin ang ating tungkulin bilang Pilipino o maging sa gobyerno para sa ikauunlad nito, magbigay din tayo ng malasakit sa bayan at kapaligiran!



GOOD RIDDANCE

by ARLIE CALALO

RESILIENCY PROGRAM VS CLIMATE CHANGE

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has urged governors from climate vulnerable provinces to fully implement a government program that would help protect communities from climate-induced disasters and spare future generations from the worst impacts of climate change.

"Climate change is already here, and it will be here for the next generations. It is now, therefore, our obligation to take this program for implementation, so that the next generations will have a guide."

He made the appeal during the planning and convergence budgeting on the Risk Resiliency Program for the eight priority climate vulnerable provinces held recently at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Central Office in Quezon City.

The eight provinces are Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Samar, Sarangani, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands.

These provinces are vulnerable on their high susceptibility to climate hazards such as flooding, rainfall-induced landslide, storm surge and drought.

The DENR chief told governors that the decisions they make today will have lasting consequences for future generations.

VM Joy vows strong housing ordinance

Quezon City Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte has pledged to strengthen the implementation of the ordinance providing more affordable and safe housing for informal settler families in the city.

"I want our city to have a more affordable housing project for our residents. We

already have an ordinance for this but I think we can step up our implementation so that more families will benefit from this...This was actually started by Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista, through the Bistekville, but we still want to find ways on how we can make it cheaper than the current P450, 000 price."

"We will not offer it for free, but we will make sure that our residents will not be burdened so much by the payment."

In September 2018, the city council passed the Comprehensive Socialized Housing Code of 2018 authored by Councilor Marivic Co-Pilar to provide affordable and adequate housing for the low-income sectors in the city.

The ordinance also ensure access to employment and services within socialized housing areas while increasing the availability of cheaper and safe housing units for the informal settlers.

"My goal is to keep QC residents within our city. I don't want them going to Rizal, Bulacan, or elsewhere just to find some place to live in. If you are from Quezon City, then you should be living here in Quezon City," VM Joy said.



Asean transboundary protected areas: Directions

INTERNATIONAL environmental treaties like the World Heritage Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity show that the concept of national sovereignty must be tempered by the recognition of an interest of the international community in the conservation of resources found in different jurisdictions. The fact that states voluntarily accept limitations on their sovereignty by agreeing to international obligations to conserve some of their natural resources provide a basis upon which bilateral agreements on border area management may be developed.

With the emergence of the new thought on national sovereignty, transboundary protected area (TBPA) management came into fore. Referred to here are transborder parks, transnational parks, transfrontier reserves, friendship parks — meaning, protected areas that meet across international borders.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) is not wanting in transboundary protected areas. Among them:

Turtle Islands Heritage Area (Philippines and Malaysia) – In 1996, Malaysia and the Philippines entered into a memorandum of agreement for the establishment of the Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area consisting of six islands designated by the Philippines and three islands designated by Malaysia, which are habitats of the endangered green and hawksbill turtles. The agreement calls for an integrated management program which highlights, at the minimum, the following: (i) implementation of a uniform approach to conservation that is oriented towards wise management of the protected areas; (ii) establishment of a centralized marine turtles database; (iii) development of information awareness programs for the inhabitants of the



AMBASSADORS' CORNER

AMADO S. TOLENTINO, JR.

islands; (iv) implementation of a staff training program; and (iv) development of ecotourism projects. A joint management committee may recommend to their respective governments the enactment of such laws as may be necessary to attain the objectives of the agreement.

Heart of Borneo (HoB) Initiative (Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam) – While most of Borneo (the world's third largest island) is Indonesian territory (Kalimantan), the rest is covered by Malaysia's Sarawak and Sabah. Brunei Darussalam is also located in the island.

Right in the middle of Borneo is vast forested land where the headwaters of major rivers are located. The expanse is known as Heart of Borneo. Super rich in biodiversity, many indigenous tribes live in the area, each having a unique culture and language.

In 2007, the three countries agreed to establish a network of protected areas and sustainably managed forests. Resource assessments, science expeditions, community development and other related activities are continuously undertaken to enhance the management and conservation efforts within the HoB.

Sulu Sulawesi Marine Eco-region (Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines) – An area of about 900,000 square kilometers of marine resources, the area is beset by piracy and illegal fishing. Be that as it may, conservation initiatives in the eco-region is being undertaken by NGOs led by WWF and Conservation International. A network of marine protected areas was established accompanied by law enforcement support in priority conservation areas.

A 2009 report indicated expansion of the total "no take" zone in three corridors of the seascape.

Reserves (Malaysia and Indonesia) – A very ideal buffer zone exists between Indonesia and Malaysia on account of the fact that it is uninhabited for military and security reasons. Malaysia declared the zone (Lanjak Entimau) in Sarawak a reserve, which prompted Indonesia to establish an adjoining reserve Gunung Buntuang dan Karimung (Indonesian Borneo).

Worth mentioning as candidate Asean TBPA is the Preah Vihear temple site between Cambodia and Thailand. Although decided by the world court in favor of Cambodia, the concept of functional sovereignty should be considered to make the area an Asean tourism resource, a cultural heritage of both Cambodia and Thailand aside from a religious destination in the Asean jurisdiction. In short, the change of perception of the role of sovereignty in relations between states regarding their environment should be characterized by equitable utilization ultimately redounding to the benefit of the Asean region.

Bilateral agreements create transborder protected areas. TBPAs can only be effectively established if there are responsive legal instruments and institutional arrangements for their protection/management. This is brought about by the uniqueness of frontier areas in the sense that they presuppose two or more governments as well as two sets of legal base, providing the necessary authority for action.

Among practical management activities which could be the object of joint cooperative efforts are: law enforcement, border crossing, permits, customs clearances, regulations, search and rescue operations, local people/tribal communities concerns, wildlife disease prevention and control, fire prevention and other emergency procedures, and species

re-introduction and nonindigenous species introductions. Regular staff exchanges, shared research and results projects, complementary publications, and compatible communication systems could be worked out too.

Special consideration should be given to sustainable activities of the resident population, be they cultural minorities or migrant settlers. Such cooperation efforts could be further enhanced by joint staff training programs and complementary public information, awareness and education. TBPAs would mutually benefit too from joint tourism marketing efforts which could lead to development of sites adjacent to the protected area, thereby highlighting their role in regional development. To address all of these types of activities, close coordination is required of the protected area authorities from both sides of the border.

What bodes well for transboundary protected areas is the current general acknowledgement that the world is becoming not only economically but ecologically interdependent. This was brought about by widespread interest in unified action to control borderless environmental problems like air and water pollution and environmental issues like biodiversity loss and nonindigenous species introduction which cannot be solved unilaterally by national governments. This is where the potential lead role of the concept of transboundary protected areas come in.

In 1988, border parks proponent John Macleod asked, "Why not seed the borderlines of the world with peace parks, nature preserves and wilderness areas that encourage cultural and physical respect for and appreciation of wildlife and irreplaceable landscape?"

And, as Henry Thoreau wrote, "...in wilderness is the preservation of the world."



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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Holcim heeds EMB, closes cement plant

By **LYKA MANALO**

MABINI, Batangas — The cement manufacturing company in this town that was ordered by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) to cease operation has complied with the order.

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Calabarzon, Officer-in-Charge, Noemi Paranada, had ordered the closure of Mabini Grinding Mill Corporation (Holcim Philippines Inc.) in Barangay Pulong Balibaguhan, saying it failed to abide by its Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).

Paranada's order was served by EMB representatives to the company's plant manager, Alex Garcia, on Wednesday.

Paranada's order stated that the company's existing EED only covers the establishment of a bulk terminal facility for stor-

age with a port facility project.

Holcim Phils. Communication Manager, Don Gil Carreon in a statement said the company is temporarily closing its plant in compliance with EMB's order.

"Our company is submitting itself to the legal process on this matter. We will also continue to cooperate with authorities and work with all stakeholders towards a positive and fast resolution of this issue," the statement read.

"However, we stand by our position that our Mabini plant should be allowed to operate. It adheres to relevant local and national laws and operates consistently with our values of health, safety, integrity and sustainability," the statement added.

Holcim Philippines is one of the leading building materials companies in the country, and is a member of the Lafarge Holcim Group, the world leader in the building materials industry.