

DATE : 21 FEB 2019

DAY : Thursday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Adopt disaster mitigation plan, climate vulnerable provinces told

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu has urged governors from 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," Cimatu said last Thursday, warning of a great fallout from climate change.

Cimatu made the appeal during the planning and convergence budgeting on the Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) for the eight priority climate vulnerable provinces held at the department's 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, who chairs the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), told governors that the decisions they make today will have lasting consequences for future generations.

"You leave behind in the provincial capital this program. This will be the template of the younger generations to achieve what we intend to do, what the national government intends to do with this program," Cimatu said.

The RRP is a convergence program of the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR. It envisions strengthening the resilience of natural systems and the adaptive capacities of vulnerable groups and communities to curb future risks and disasters.

Aside from Cimatu and the governors of eight priority climate vulnerable provinces, the meeting was attended by representatives from Department of Agriculture, National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Public Works and Highways and Department of the Interior and Local Government.

"We need to increase our efforts in resiliency and strongly urge renewed cooperation from key national government agencies with our concerned provincial governments. It should be a collective undertaking, and in doing so, we can create great solutions together," Cimatu said, noting that mainstreaming climate change and disaster resilience concerns is "a crucial task for everyone."

At the meeting, provincial governors presented the current situation of climate vulnerabilities in their respective jurisdictions.

The meeting was intended to discuss the climate vulnerabilities in the priority provinces, and reinforce government thrust for a more prudent and targeted spending by fostering collaboration among agencies in planning, budgeting and implementing priority resilience programs and projects in these provinces.

Cimatu said that also discussed during the meeting was the CCAM-DRR Roadmap for 2018 to 2022, which serves as "an important guide for the implementing agencies in the programs and projects to mainstream climate change and disaster risk reduction in a vision to build adaptive and resilient communities."

The Roadmap also aims to establish climate-resilient communities and their enhancement in the 17 climate vulnerable provinces and major urban centers such as Metro Manila, Cebu, Iloilo and Davao.



63 establishments on LLDA's crosshairs

By Kuhlín Cestle Gacula

The Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Manila and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) were among the 20 establishments allegedly dumping untreated wastewater into Manila Bay.

No less than the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) tagged the historical CCP in Manila and the OWWA building in Pasay City as contributors to the high coliform level in the bay famous for its sunset.

LLDA handed CCP, OWWA and 18 others with notices of violations (NoV) of Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004. The agency issued five cease

and desists orders (CDO), 12 notices of violations and three *ex-parte* orders (EPO) against the establishments.

The faucets, outfall pipes, sinks and lavatories of firms issued with CDO were sealed.

Issued CDO were the Macapagal Boulevard branch of a popular fastfood chain, a kitchenette on F.B. Harrison Street in Pasay City, a chicken specialty restaurant, a caterer and a Japanese food outlet, the last three located in Malate, Manila.

Eleven firms had been earlier issued CDO as LLDA cracks down on erring establishments in line with the government's

rehabilitation and clean-up effort in the heavily polluted Manila Bay.

LLDA general manager Jaime Medina reported to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu the agency's latest actions and the results of water tests done last 31 of January.

Among the 12 establishments issued NoV were two high-rise condominium buildings and a motel, namely the Heritage Condominium Corp. in Malate, First Marbella Condominium on Roxas Boulevard and the Harrison Lodge.

Several other hotels and condominium properties were handed NoV and EPO by LLDA.

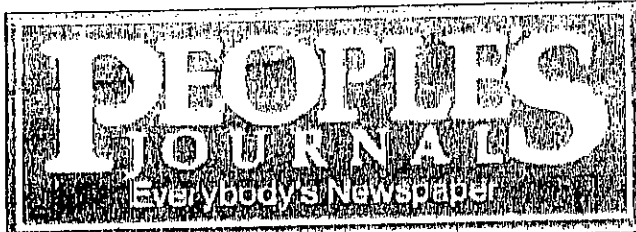
The faucets, outfall pipes, sinks and lavatories of firms issued with CDO were

sealed. They will pay fines from 20,000 to P200,000 per day until such time that corrections and remedial measures are set in place.

"However, if the result of the water sampling indicates an exceedance of the effluent standards by about five times, an EPO shall be imposed and for non-compliance with any of parameters, a NoV shall be issued," Medina said.

According to Medina, establishments issued with EPO are given 15 days to submit an explanation and a remedial plan.

In total, 63 establishments had been issued by LLDA with violation citations since the launching of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program on 27 January, comprising of 16 CDO, 12 EPO and 35 NoV.



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CCP, OWWA among Manila Bay polluters - LLDA

By Joel dela Torre

THE Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) has cited 20 more establishments including the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) for improper disposal of wastewater into Manila Bay.

Of those found violating the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, five were issued cease and desist orders (CDOs); 12 notices of violations (NOVs) and three ex-parte orders (EPOs).

Among the establishments issued with CDOs were Jollibee Foods Corp. on Macapagal Blvd, Pasay; Heng Feng Kitchennette on F.B. Harrison Street in Pasay; Max's Restaurant in Ermita, Manila; and Lamer Catering and Nihon Bashitei Japanese Food, both in Malate, Manila.

LLDA General Manager Jaime Medina said the new issuances were based on the results of inspections conducted and laboratory analysis of the wastewater samples taken as of last January 31.

He said the wastewater discharges of these erring establishments were found not conforming with the effluent standards for Class "SB" waters or safe for recreational activities such as swimming.

The OWWA building on F.B. Harrison and the CCP's main and annex buildings that house its production design center are among the 12 establishments issued with NOVs along with the Heritage Condominium in Malate, First Marbella Condominium on Roxas Blvd., and the Harrison Lodge on F.B. Harrison.

Also issued with NOVs were Ma. Natividad Building in Ermita, Manila; Marina Square Properties Inc. in Malate, Manila; Federal Land, Inc. in San Rafael, Pasay; Gold Quest Premiere Resources Inc. and Libertad Tourist Development Inc., both in Barangay 76, Pasay; and Wellcross Freight Corp. on Harrison St. in Pasay.

The three establishments issued with EPOs are Aloha Hotel on Roxas Boulevard; Sarmiti Food Corporation (Shawarma Snack Center) in Ermita; and Orix Auto Leasing Phils. Corp. in Pasay City.

LLDA said the faucets, outfall pipes, sinks and lavatories of firms issued with CDOs were already sealed.

These establishments were ordered to pay fines from P20,000 to P200,000 per day until such time remedial measures are made.



Govt may tap foreign loans for P47-B Manila Bay rehab

BY BERNADETTE D. NICOLAS
@BNicolasBM

THE government may turn to foreign loans to raise the P47 billion required for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said on Wednesday.

Budget Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno told reporters in a news briefing that the government is still looking for sources of funds to bankroll initiatives aimed at cleaning up Manila Bay.

"We can't rule out the possibility of foreign loan financing. The economic managers are constantly looking for the lowest cost of financing," Diokno told the BUSINESSMIRROR via SMS.

"Since the Manila Bay rehab is multiyear and green, we might be able to raise foreign funds [carrying] low interest rates," he added.

Diokno also revealed that the government has already acquired a foreign grant for the crafting of the Manila Bay master plan, which is now on its second phase.

Malacañang said the money for

the rehabilitation of the historic bay will likely be sourced from the Road Users' Tax.

"The money from the Road Users Tax [may be used] because we will still continue to collect tax, it's just that the money will go directly to the National Treasury," Diokno said.

"And if I remember right, the fund has at least P45 billion; by this time, it's about P50 billion because we collect something like P1.5 billion every month, so we'll see if we can tap that. The P47 billion needed is not just for one year because the rehabilitation is a multiyear activity," he added.

The bill abolishing the Road Board, which currently manages the tax collected from road users, is now awaiting the President's signa-

ture. The measure was transmitted to the Palace on February 8.

Cash-based budgeting

DIOKNO also said the government would still push through with the shift to cash-based budgeting despite the removal of cash-budgeting provisions in the bicameral conference committee's version of the General Appropriations Bill.

"The content and form of the budget is an Executive decision," the budget chief said, adding that Administrative Code of 1987 allows the cash-based budget.

According to Section 36, Chapter 5, Book VI of Executive Order 292 or the Administrative Code of 1987, "an operational cash budget shall be implemented to ensure the availability of cash resources for priority development projects and to establish a sound basis for determining the level, type and timing of public borrowings."

"Some governments are even moving toward accrual-based systems, which are the next step after cash budgeting. We will fall far behind if we do not implement this now," Diokno said.

The DBM said the shift to cash-based from obligation-based budgeting will hasten the implementation of projects. A cash budget would also reflect "more accurately" the annual outputs and outcomes of the government, according to

“We can't rule out the possibility of foreign loan financing. The economic managers are constantly looking for the lowest cost of financing... Since the Manila Bay rehab is multiyear and green, we might be able to raise foreign funds [carrying] low interest rates.”

—DIOKNO

the DBM.

The proposed P3.757-trillion national budget for 2019 has already been approved by Congress but it has yet to reach the desk of the President. Congress is targeting to submit the money measure to Malacañang on March 1.



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Pampanga River polluters: 56,000 houses, firms

Waste thrown into 264-km waterway end up in Manila Bay

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
—More than 56,000 houses and business establishments in Central Luzon have been polluting the Pampanga River that drains to Manila Bay.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and local governments found that 49,179 houses, 7,020 commercial establishments and 102 factories near the 264-kilometer-long river did not have proper sewage collection and treatment facilities.

In a report released at the Inquirer's request to check the agency's compliance with a 2018 Supreme Court order to agencies to clean up the Manila Bay, the DILG said it had helped 20 local governments in Nueva Ecija, 14 in Bulacan, 14 in Pampanga, nine in Bataan and three in Tarlac pass septage and sewage management ordinances.

At least 24 towns and cities have similar local laws proposed to their legislative councils.



RIVER POLLUTION Thousands of houses and commercial establishments have turned the Pampanga River into a dump, contributing to the pollution of Manila Bay, where the waterway drains. —TONETTE OREJAS

Difficult task

The DILG said it helped local governments finalize their 10-year solid waste management plans, with 50 of these approved and 40 pending with the Environmental Management Bureau.

Relocating households away from riverbanks appeared to be a more difficult task for both local governments and housing agencies.

There were also local shelter plans but these did not cite

accomplishments, according to the DILG.

In 2018, the Clean Water Act of 2004 (Republic Act No. 9275) had not been complied with by highly urbanized cities outside of Metro Manila, a report to the Senate environment committee showed.

This was despite the national sewage and septage management program drafted by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the P650-million subsidy

for sewage projects.

Subsidy increase

Last year, the National Economic and Development Authority increased the subsidy to such projects to 50 percent each.

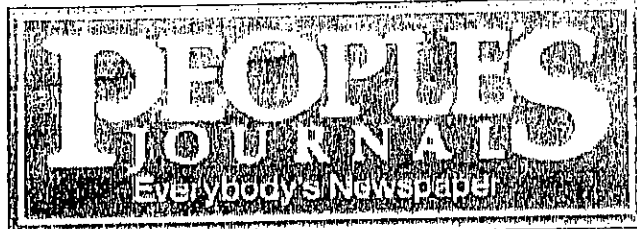
A DPWH study showed that the country had invested very little in proper sewage collection and treatment.

"More than 20 million Filipinos do not have access to improved sanitation. Many

who have toilets do not have septic tanks. Many septic tanks have open bottoms and are not regularly desludged," the study noted.

Moreover, septage removed from septic tanks is often not properly treated, it said.

"The effects of this neglect include economic losses exceeding P78 billion per year, 55 deaths per day, and damage to ecosystems and biodiversity," it said. —TONETTE OREJAS INQ



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BJMP joins Manila Bay clean-up drive

THE Bureau of Jail Management and Penology – National Capital Region has strengthened its objective of community public service by participating in the Manila Bay clean-up drive.

BJMP-NCR director Chief Supt. Ignacio Panti last Saturday led his officers and men in cleaning the shoreline of the Manila Bay on Roxas Boulevard.

The group raked sacks of trashes and other toxic wastes.

Dubbed the “Battle of Manila Bay,” government agencies led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources



OFFICERS and men of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology rake trash from the shoreline of the Manila Bay on Roxas Boulevard.

(Photo courtesy of BJMP)

and Department of the Interior and Local Government started the daunting task of cleaning the high polluted bay and vowed to bring back its glory, where people can again swim

and enjoy its pristine waters.

Panti said the BJMP is deemed to both serve the persons deprived of liberty and be of service to the community.

Joel dela Torre



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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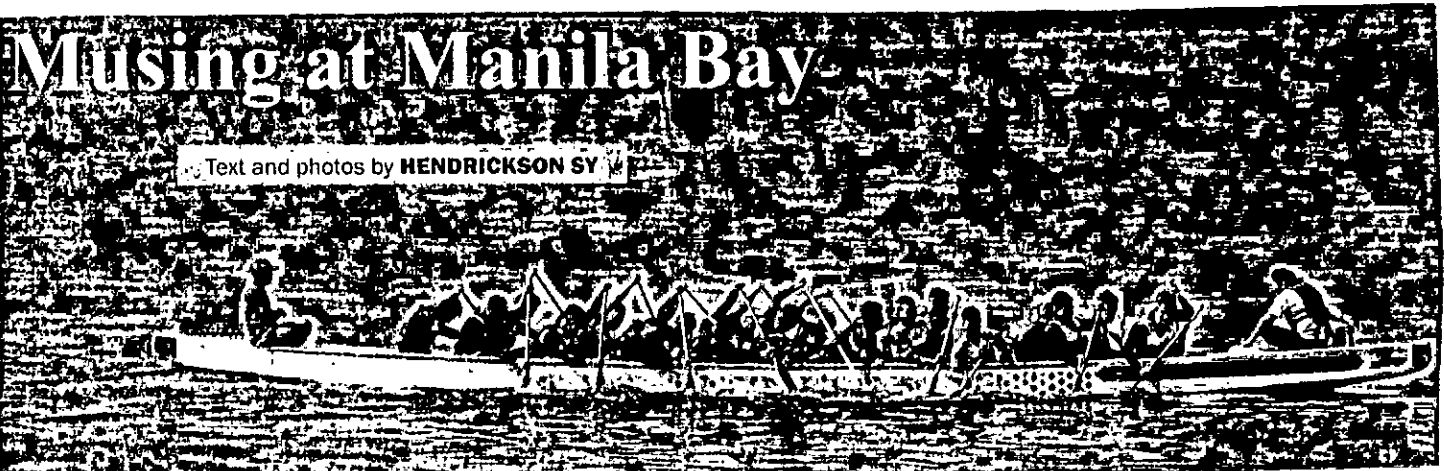
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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Musing at Manila Bay

Text and photos by HENDRICKSON SY



Three weeks after the kick-off of the cleanup drive of the popular Manila Bay, I decided to visit the area to see what the buzz is all about. Why not? The cleanup was the talk of town and in social media because of the drastic improvement since the start of the rehabilitation. It even attracted people to swim in its waters. However, it is not encouraged due to sanitary reasons.

When I arrived early Saturday morning, I can see that the rehabilitation drive was sustained. There were booths in the bay walk area to monitor the progress and maintain order. That day, several groups were there - groups of friends to an entire staff of a company were present to lend an arm and volunteer their time in removing trash in the shores.

Armed with rice sacks and makeshift tongs and strainers, they tried their best to clear the waters of debris. A dragon boat team even passed by the area where the cleanup was happening, as if cheering the volunteers for their hard work with the steady beat of their drum.

After taking several photos of the area, I left Manila Bay with a smile on my face. The fact that we have finally taken action means we are already halfway towards our goal. I sincerely hope this is a start of a continuous drive to bring back the glory days of Manila, including the bay area. It is my wish to see the waters become swimmable again. That would even make the famous Manila Bay sunset much more magnificent.





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Bato-bato
BALANI
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Rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Dating Manila Bay bye-bye

DATI-RATI'Y mabaho at masangsang ang amoy sa Manila Bay mga 'igan. Ngunit ngayo'y mistulang bay na bay na ang Baywalk sa lungsod ng Maynila na lakbohan at pasyalan ng mahihirap nating kababayan partikular ang masang Filipino.

Ang siste dito mga 'igan, umarangkada na naman ang mga tarantado at tiwaling mga lingkod bayad 'este bayan. Akalain ninyong pinayagan na namang tayuan ng mga 'vendor' ang kahabaan ng baywalk at nagkalat pa ang mga motorcycle, kariton na sagabal sa mga nagda-jogging.

Mantakin n'yong naka-park sa loob pa mismo ng Baywalk! Sus ginoo! Tinitirahan na naman ng kung sino-sino, na dapat ay talagang lugar-pasyalan lamang ng pamilyang Filipino at maging ng mga 'foreigner' sa bansa.

Matatandaang isinailalim sa rehabilitasyon ang isla ng Boracay, kaya naman naging usap-usapan mga 'igan ang Manila Bay na siya namang isununod dito, bagamat gugugol nang mahaba-habang panahon at pondong bilyon-bilyong piso. Sa simula'y kinakailangan ang task force na binuo ng iba't ibang ahensiya na pangungunahan ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu at sa pakikipagtulungan ni Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Afo.

Sa ngayon mga 'igan, tuloy-tuloy na ang Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project. Inumpisahan na ang talakayan hinggil sa mga hakbanging isasagawa para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay. Tuloy-tuloy na rin ang malawakang inspeksiyon, malalim na imbestigasyon, at siyempre ang matalinong auditing sa mga estruktura na nakapaligid sa Manila Bay, partikular ang paligid na konektado rito.

Sa napipintong pagbabago, tuloy-tuloy na ang komprehensibong pagpapalano at tapat na paglilingkod para sa matagumpay na rehabi-



DENR urges candidates to make campaign 'environment friendly'

SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union – As local candidates for the 2019 elections prepare intensely for the campaign period to kick off on March 29, a Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) field official has urged politicians to make the campaign "environmentally friendly."

Lawyer Lito Salatan, DENR's Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer for Western Pangasinan, appealed to local candidates and their supporters to spare the trees from partisan politics amid the proliferation of "advocacy materials" of politicians seeking elective posts in the May 13 midterm polls.

Salatan said no campaign materials should be nailed or hooked up on

the trunk of trees or be dangled on branches, adding that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) has assigned common poster areas where campaign materials of candidates are to be displayed.

"Trees are not common poster areas and whoever puts or hangs campaign materials on trees can be charged with election offense," Salatan, a former municipal vice mayor before he joined DENR in 2015, said.

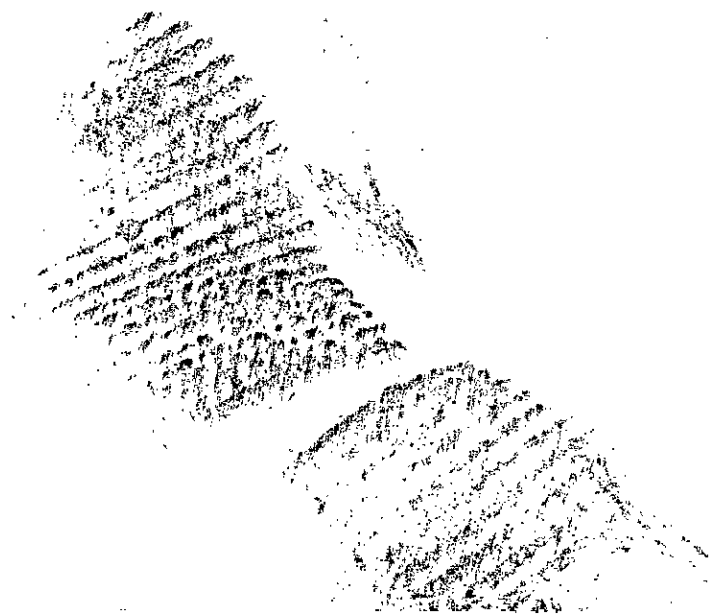
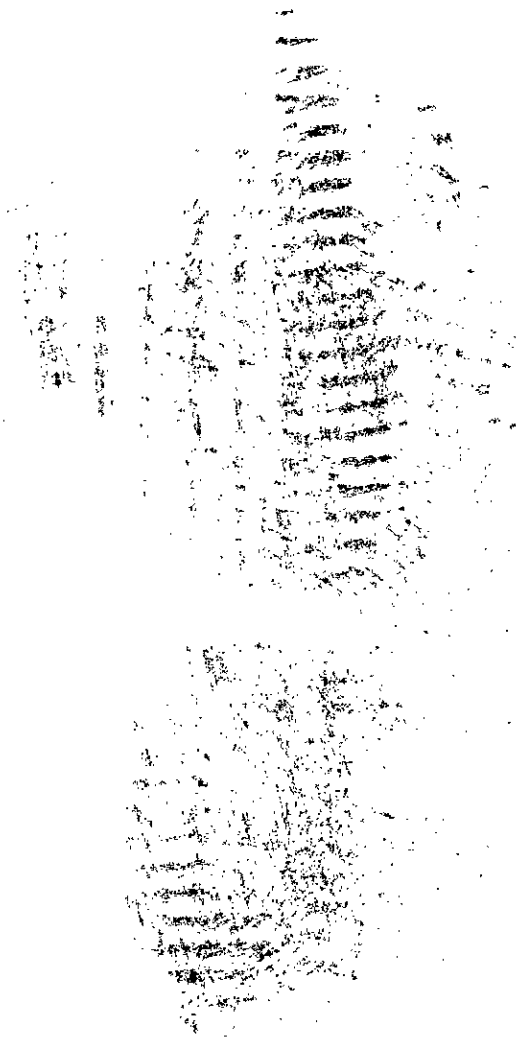
Should candidates and their supporters spoil the greenery, Salatan warned that the CENRO's Task Force Baklas will take the campaign materials down and cooperate with Comelec for the prosecution of those responsible.

"Trees should not be involved in partisan politics by not making them carry campaign materials for or against candidates," he said, noting trees should rather be "mute witnesses" of peaceful and orderly polls.

He said that he will seek an audience with local bets to persuade them to comply with Republic Act 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act especially during campaign rallies.

He suggested that in the campaign sorties, candidates and their supporters should "clean as you go" and bring their own waste baskets to make sure the venues where they hold their rallies would be free from litter and trash.

– Jun Elias





Zamboanga bans use of plastic bags

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Mayor Beng Climaco has urged shoppers and market goers here to use paper or *buri* bags instead of nonbiodegradable plastics.

Climaco signed Executive Order BC453-2019 banning the use of nonbiodegradable plastic bags during weekends as part of the local government's ecological solid waste management program.

The order enjoins all business establishments, markets and residents not to use plastic bags.

Climaco said most plastic bags were considered nonbiodegradable, being made from a polymer — polyethylene — that could not easily be decomposed by microorganisms and would remain as environmental pollutant, thus posing health risks to marine life.

She cited data on waste characterization showing that non-

biodegradable waste accounts for 40 percent of the total garbage disposed and 17 percent of these are plastics.

"This [executive order] is an initial priority action on waste reduction for non-biodegradable materials toward the enactment of an ordinance, proposing an inclusive approach to regulate the use of nonbiodegradable and disposable plastic bags as bagging materials, including the enforcement of regulatory procedures on the use and trade, and the penalty clause thereof," Climaco said.

She also instructed the Zamboanga City Health Office and Zamboanga City Environment and Natural Resources Office to conduct massive information and education campaigns on the effects of the use of plastic bags on the environment. **AL JACINTO**

SHOOTING STRAIGHT

BOBIT S. AVILA

The Freeman celebrates a hundred years!

Tomorrow, Feb. 22, *The Freeman* will be celebrating its 100th year of existence... with moments of interruption during World War II. Just a few weeks ago, the University of the Visayas (UV) celebrated its 100th year since Papa Inting and Mama Pining, the founder and co-founder of the school build it, not realizing that it would last a hundred years. Today UV and *The Freeman* are managed by the second generation Gullases – Dr. Jose Gullas and Eddie Gullas – and I’ve been writing in this newspaper known for its no nonsense journalism that is totally fair and without fear, serving the people of Cebu and its neighboring islands with the truth and factual journalism. Kudos to *The Freeman* staff and the Gullas family!



I just got a comment from my good friend, fellow Cebuano Atty. Antonio Oposa who wanted to clarify what I wrote in a text message when he said, “I just read your column, just a little not... the case was filed in Jan. 1999 in the RTC of Imus. The trial took three years, then to the Court of Appeals for almost 4 years then finally to the Supreme Court that decided this case in Dec. 2008 one month short of ten years of litigation. I was one committed soul without resources, without even moral support, waged a lonely battle against practically the whole government. Buang nga Cebuano! Instead, the Cebuano was the object of ridicule for being the lawyer of the fish who cannot pay attorney’s fees.”

Atty. Oposa will be in Cebu City this Friday to talk at the St. Theresa’s College (STC) about certain laws we should all be aware of. For instance Republic Act. 6716 *An Act Providing for the construction of water wells, rain-water collectors, development of springs and rehabilitation of existing water wells in all Barangays of the Philippines.* This is a law few local government officials know even exists, much more all the barangay captains that the DPWH should provide them with water wells with their own funding. This law was enacted on March 17, 1989. Has this law been implemented fully by the DPWH? We should ask these officials.

Then there is an Executive Order No. 774 Reorganizing the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change signed by then Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. This shows you what a remarkable President she was in her time.

Please read Section 2 of this Executive Order. “Task Group on Solid Waste Management – (a) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall lead a Task Group in the implementation of solid waste management. It shall target the reduction of solid waste generation by fifty percent (50%) within the next six months. All local governments are hereby enjoined to fully implement the law on solid waste management. The President or the PACC on Climate Change shall visit the regions, provinces, towns and cities every week until it is proclaimed that the Filipino people shall have fully integrated into the mainstream of their thought their personal environmental responsibilities and thereby effectively implement the Solid Waste Act.

(b) The DENR shall report to the President in person or through the PACC every Friday during the weekly visits to offices and regions to campaign for responsible solid waste management.

(c) With the Department of Health, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System shall enjoin the private sector, such as sludge excavation contractors and water concessionaires, to undertake a methane recovery program from human and animal waste and convert it into cooking gas and other forms of energy.”

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AVILA From page 9

Section 12. Task Group on Agriculture. – (a) All Agricultural lands shall be immediately identified and delineated with clear boundary markers on the ground. Every effort shall be exerted to cleanse the fields of chemical pollutants, and extend and persuade owners and caretakers to produce nutritious food crops in a sustainable manner.

(b) Public open places space along sidewalks and portions of roads and parking lots, which shall be rendered irrelevant by the mind-shift to non-motorized and collective transportation systems, shall be devoted to productive use through sustainable urban farming. These spaces shall be planted with, among others, nutritious fruit crops,

vegetables, spices and medicinal herbs. All persons who live in the city who wish to care for a plot of arable land to plant their vegetables shall be provided a stewardship agreement. This agreement shall bind the holder to sustainably use the land, plant it with food and other plants like nutritious vegetables, fruits, flowers, spices, etc. and receive benefit from its produce.

Thank you Tony for telling me about these laws that few people knew existed and thanks for always fighting for what is good for the Filipino people

Email: vsbobita@gmail.com



My planet: 'How do I love thee?'

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The reason for recycling

Text by **SUSANA P. GUERRERO**

(Part 2 of 2)

We always say that necessity is the mother of invention. In times of war and political upheaval, the struggle for survival has triggered an extraordinary flow of creativity around the world.

Some of the best recycling ideas are the products of the climate of thrift and self-reliance that flourished during hard times. But in the emergence of the modern "throw-away society", those diverse traditions of recycling and reusing are being revived by artists, designers, and eco-warriors alike.

From the wisdom of bygone days to innovative ideas from contemporary artists and designers around the world, recycling ideas are boundless if only we let creative juices flow.

Recycling in our country is still evolving. We have a long way to go, but nonetheless recycling is moving from its supporting role in waste disposal to a preferred method of getting the maximum return from a shrinking supply of limited resources.

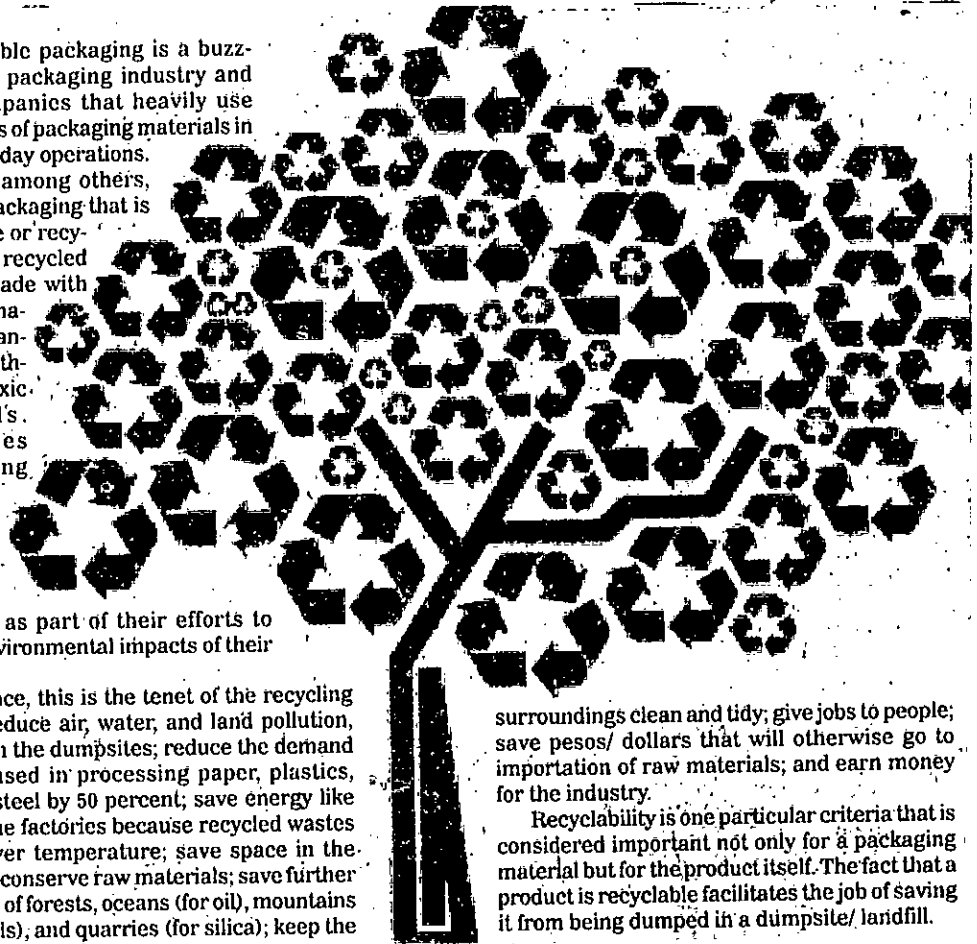
Home composting is by all means encouraged - it's just about the easiest recycling that we can all do - and this greatly reduces our garbage. Nearly two-thirds of our garbage consists of materials that could be successfully composted.

Sustainable packaging is a buzzword in the packaging industry and among companies that heavily use various types of packaging materials in their day-to-day operations. It involves, among others, the use of packaging that is compostable or recyclable, with recycled contents, made with renewable materials, or manufactured without using toxic chemicals. These types of packaging materials are now being used by a growing number of companies as part of their efforts to limit the environmental impacts of their products.

In essence, this is the tenet of the recycling industry: reduce air, water, and land pollution, especially in the dumpsites; reduce the demand for water used in processing paper, plastics, glass, and steel by 50 percent; save energy like fuel oil at the factories because recycled wastes melt at lower temperature; save space in the dumpsites; conserve raw materials; save further destruction of forests, oceans (for oil), mountains (for minerals), and quarries (for silica); keep the

surroundings clean and tidy; give jobs to people; save pesos/ dollars that will otherwise go to importation of raw materials; and earn money for the industry.

Recyclability is one particular criteria that is considered important not only for a packaging material but for the product itself. The fact that a product is recyclable facilitates the job of saving it from being dumped in a dumpsite/ landfill.





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Recycling myths

Critics of recycling all too often cite economics of recycling in a bad light, but they fail to take into account the hidden costs of, for example, cleaning up the pollution caused by landfill and transporting of raw materials.

Myth #1: "There's no point in recycling because all the stuff just gets dumped and wasted away."

Recycling is worthwhile and is getting better all the time as more and more people put out clean, sorted material for recycling and the technology to sort continue to improve.

A visit to an MRF (Materials Resource Facility) fascinates me. In First-World countries, waste materials for recycling travel along conveyor belts, tumbled through huge revolving drums, passed under powerful magnets, or laser beams that can identify the types of

materials like plastics and dumped into appropriate chutes for processing.

The recycling idea in our country – which had existed in the form of the "bote-garapa" buyers – had taken root and continue to spread.

Myth #2: "It costs more to recycle than to produce things from new materials."

This is not true. Many recycled products not only save energy and water but also reduce raw material usage and the associated energy and pollution caused in the process of obtaining the raw materials.

For example, it is far better to be constantly recycling aluminum than wastefully mining out the finite stocks of bauxite and causing unnecessary pollution and wasting energy in the process. Man's heavy use of paper is a big burden on the environment.

Seventeen trees have to be cut down for every ton of virgin paper produced. Manufacturing one ton of recycled paper results in 74 percent less air pollution and 43 percent less water pollution compared to the manufacture of paper using virgin wood pulps.

A healthy trade in used paper is helping mitigate the paper problem. Some paper companies take back used paper, shred it into pulp, and use it wholly or in combination with virgin pulp to make new paper.

Myth #3: "It costs more to recycle than it does to throw trash away."

Trash collection costs our government P8 billion annually in Metro Manila alone (real cost has been disguised due to subsidized landfill costs).

In 2002, the Philippine Business for the Environment (PBE) organized the Recyclables Collection Events (RCE)

which was held as a fitting celebration of Earth Day. The organization calls for the prevention of dumping of recyclable wastes in landfills.

Since then, an increasing number of large companies have partnered with PBE in their RCEs. The RCEs clearly set the stage for a cascade of economic and environmental, besides simply providing a platform for the collection of recyclable wastes. It is interesting to note that some RCE partners like SM Supermalls and Ayala Malls, have even taken their involvement further by conducting year-round recyclable collection at their respective malls.

For years, the RCEs have caused not only the collection of recyclable materials that would have filled up huge landfill space, more importantly, they have also contributed in gradually bringing the country a step closer to becoming a recycling society.

'Home composting is by all means encouraged – it's just about the easiest recycling that we can all do – and this greatly reduces our garbage. Nearly two-thirds of our garbage consists of materials that could be successfully composted.'

Myth #4: "Recycled products are of poor quality."

Products made from recycled materials are every bit as good as (if not better than) products made from raw materials.

For example, throughout the world, military and commercial aircraft use retread tires, considering this is an area where safety is paramount. Aluminum and glass, and some plastics can be recycled indefinitely without losing its quality. Paper can be recycled a number of times and reprocessed into other products.

One of the Philippines' best export products are bags (with at least 30 different styles), tents, beach umbrellas, mats, raincoats made from discarded doypacks and paper. They have found a receptive export market among Europeans, Americans, and Japanese who even compete over available supply.



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November 26, 2018

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
No. 004

Subject : Amending Section I of Memorandum Circular No. 2016-001 Requiring Online Submission of Compliance Monitoring Report under the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System to include non-Environmentally Critical Projects (non ECPs)

In the interest of service and in order to improve the implementation of PD 1586 or the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System through the use of information and communications technology (ICT) pursuant to RA 8792 or the Electronic Commerce Act of 2000, the coverage of application of Memorandum Circular No. 2016-001 issued on 18 January 2016 is hereby expanded. Henceforth, Section I of said Circular will read as follows:

Section 1. Applicability

The proponents of Environmentally Critical Projects (ECPs) and non-Environmentally Critical Projects (non ECPs) are required to submit Compliance Monitoring Reports through the EMB online system. The EMB Central Office will evaluate all CMRs of ECPs while the EMB Regional Offices will evaluate all CMRs of non ECPs submitted online.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and upon submission of three (3) certified copies thereof to the Office of the National Administrative Register of the University of the Philippines Law Center.


ENGR. METODIOS U. TURBELLA
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